Students wait for tickets at UT game

by Audrey Watstrom

After waiting years for a football rematch against the University of Texas, some Rice student fans arrived at Saturday's game only to wait a little longer.

Some students were delayed as long as 45 minutes outside the gates of Reliant Stadium Saturday, the first matchup between Rice and UT since 1999. The problem arose from a shortage of student tickets.

Athletic Ticket Manager Alesis Williams said 350 tickets, originally reserved for Rice students, were sold out by Reliant staff that Rice student tickets had ran out and more tickets were on the way.

When the reserved tickets were gone, the Athletics Department had to purchase tickets for the remaining students from the SPECTERS, Page 5.

Honor penalties determined Tierless system maintained in Consensus Penalty Structure

by Brooke Lathrum

After gathering student opinion, the Honor Council adopted a tierless penalty structure similar to last year's at its closed meeting Sunday.

Each year the Honor Council votes on the CPS, a system of maximum penalties for various categories of Honor Code violations. This year's CPS, like last year's, designates a blanket consensus penalty of an F in the course plus a two-semester suspension for all offenses, regardless of the assignment's weight in the course grade. Under the new CPS, students who turn themselves in without outside pressure face a maximum penalty of an F in the course.

Honor Council Chair Keith Henneke said the council adopted a lower penalty for those who accuse themselves so students would not worry about being suspended if they came forward.

"The council wanted to protect students who might feel very guilty about violating the Honor Code, and want to turn themselves in, but at the same time [are] worried they might get suspended," Henneke, a Jones College senior, said.

The council also decided to maintain the blanket penalty structure, which does not take into account the value of an assignment in the awarding of a punishment. In past years, the CPS was tier-based — the maximum penalty awarded for cheating on an assignment depended on what percentage of the final grade the assignment was worth. Henneke said whether or not to keep the blanket penalty structure was the most contentious issue debated at the meeting Sunday.

"A lot of people on the council feel that cheating is cheating, regardless of the value of the assignment, whereas others feel that if it's only worth 5 percent of your grade, then it's a more severe violation than if it's worth 30 percent of your grade," Henneke said.

The council based its decision in part on an online student survey conducted in the week leading up to the meeting. According to results provided by Henneke, 513 students took the survey, of which 74 percent were undergraduates and 26 percent were graduate students. Thirty percent said they thought the maximum penalty for cheating ought to be suspension, and 33 percent said they thought the maximum penalty ought to be an F in the course plus a two-semester suspension. Fifty-four percent favored a blanket penalty structure, and 46 percent favored a tier-based structure.

Henneke said he was pleased with the number of students who responded to the survey.

"I thought we did a very good job of getting the word out to everybody," Henneke said.

The council held a two-hour open forum before discussing and voting on the CPS See PENALTIES, Page 6.

Esther will require advising

by Katherine Corley

A freshman will no longer be able to usurp a senior's spot in a class after the new online registration system, Esther, goes into effect. The system stands for "Employee and Student Tools, Help, and Electronic Resources." Esther, a paperless system to be fully deployed Nov. 17, will allow undergraduate students to register in order of their classification based on credit hours. Registrar Jerry Montag said seniors will be able to register beginning Nov. 17, juniors Nov. 18, sophomores Nov. 19, and freshmen Nov. 20. Pre-registration ends Nov. 22.

All graduate students will be able to register beginning Nov. 17, Montag said. Montag said the system will help ensure upperclassmen can enroll in classes required for graduation.

"Some of our freshmen and sophomores tend to be a little more aggressive in registering for courses," Montag said. "We hope to bring a level of fairness to that.

Will Rice College senior Casey Ford said the thinks professors already give priority to seniors registering for their classes.

"The classes that are limited enrollment usually give priority to seniors anyway, so I don't think there's anything wrong with filling that," Casey Ford said.

Esther will be partially implemented Oct. 15, when students will be able to view their academic history and demographic information, Montag said. The system will be fully operational Nov. 17 for spring semester course registration, he said. Students will be able to access Esther from any computer on or off campus.

The new system will allow students to see available courses and register instantaneously online, Montag said. The system will not allow students to register for courses at conflicting times or for courses that have reached their enrollment cap, he said.

In early November, the Registrar's Office will send students personal identification numbers that will allow them to log into Esther and view course offerings for the spring semester. Undergraduate's login PINs will be sent to their colleges via campus mail, and graduate students' PINs will be sent to their department, Montag said.

In knowing course offerings, each student will meet with an academic adviser, who will base the student a release form. The student will submit the release form to his college coordinator in order to receive a registration PIN, a different PIN from the login PIN.

"The order of registration will change slightly from the student's perspective," Director of Academic Advising Michele Duelly said. "The students will have to meet with their adviser before they can access the registration system.

Will Rice College Coordinator Cece King said she does not mind that the system will give college coordinators more responsibility in the registration process.

"It will give me more contact with the students, especially those that don't come in too often," King said. "It will force them to come see me."

The registration PIN will be student-specific and time-sensitive, allowing the student access to course registration on Esther only See ESTHER, Page 4.
Letters to the Editor

Our last issue featured the first installment of a series of stories about the upcoming registration process for classes. Since then, the administration has announced that registration for classes will begin in mid-September. This has led to a lot of discussion and debate among students. Some are concerned about the fairness of the new system, while others feel that it will make the process more efficient. There are also concerns about the impact of the new system on academic performance. It is clear that the administration is aware of these concerns and is working to address them. However, it is important for students to understand the implications of the new system and to be proactive in planning their schedules.

First, let's consider the issue of fairness. The new system will allow students to register for classes based on their class standing, with seniors getting priority on the first day, followed by juniors, sophomores, and freshmen. This is a significant change from the current system, which allows all students to register at the same time. Some students have expressed concern that this will make it harder for underclassmen to get the classes they need. However, the administration has assured us that this is not the case. They have stated that the new system will allow students to register for the classes they need, regardless of their class standing.

Secondly, the administration has assured us that the new system will make the registration process more efficient. This is important, as it will allow students to focus on their studies instead of worrying about registering for classes. However, some students have also expressed concern that this will make it harder for them to find housing. The administration has assured us that this is not the case. They have stated that the new system will allow students to register for classes in a way that is consistent with their housing plans.

Finally, some students have expressed concern that the new system will make it harder for them to get the classes they need. However, the administration has assured us that this is not the case. They have stated that the new system will allow students to register for the classes they need, regardless of their class standing. In short, the new system will allow students to focus on their studies instead of worrying about registering for classes. We encourage all students to take advantage of this new system and to register for the classes they need.
Don't paint marriage, bigotry with same brush

The following is the fourth in a column series on gay marriage.

**Marriage**

Marriage is not a right. As a society we do not legally recognize any different right of man or a certain privilege for a marriage between two people.

In truth, the argument that marriage has to fulfill a unique role for society, and not simply be the same as any two people who are already married, is the reason why we have the argument on same-sex marriage without the right of anyone who is not already married. It is not necessarily that the arguments against gay marriage are wrong, but just that we are not using the same arguments that simply to seek to preserve the institution itself.

**Alessandra Gonzalez**

I don't think anyone can pre-suppose that the arguments against gay marriage are wrong, but that the arguments against the marriage of people who have chosen to marry themselves is not simply the same arguments that are used to justify the institution.

**Alexandra Gonzalez** is a Hansen College junior.

**What's wrong with this picture?**

The commandments' questionable morality

A few weeks ago, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore publicly announced that he would speak on the role the Ten Commandments have in the foundation of our law and society. In my opinion, Moore was at the center of an attempt to discriminate against the Jewish community, and against the adherence of the moral, Jewish federal building by being ordered to do so by a federal judge.

Menewise than usual means that the display of the commandments in public places is unconstitutional. However, all attention has been paid to the moral precepts of these Christian dictators themselves.

Central to Moore's argument is the claim that the commandments are a foundation — not only for law but also for general moral consciousness. But an examination shows this claim to be pure fiction.

The first four commandments are rarely deemed as a moral content in any Jewish setting. They are often used to prove a point, or as a way to bring attention to a particular issue. The opposite is true of the moral teachings of Christianity, where the commandments are often used to justify a particular action or to prove a particular point.

What Moore seeks to demonstrate is that the commandments are in actuality a militarily individualistic purview. A few weeks ago, Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore publicly announced that he would speak on the role the Ten Commandments have in the foundation of our law and society.

The absence of a commandment relating to the protection of the weak? After all, parents traditionally compel their children's respect anyway, sometimes in ways that are not necessarily traceable to God. Is it not the case that God's forefront laws are unapparent to the senses, or that the moral law is not necessarily traceable to the natural law? If we consider God's commandments as a set of moral rules that are meant to be followed, we can see that they are not necessarily traceable to the natural law. If we consider the moral law as a set of moral rules that are meant to be followed, we can see that they are not necessarily traceable to the natural law.

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Garret Merriam

Garret Merriam is a graduate student at Rice University. His argument is often used to justify a particular action or to prove a particular point.

The solution to the problem is unclear. The United States cannot stop trading with nations like Ecuador for fear of wrecking the structure of the system of free trade that is in place. The solution is not right for the United States because it is not right for the United States to be the leader in the search to find a solution.

**Bob Moore** is a Sid Richardson College junior.

**The Rice Thresher**
POLICE BLOTTER
The following items were reported to the University Police for the period Sept. 15-21.

Academic Buildings
Jessie H. Jones Graduate School of Management
Sept. 15 Computer stolen.

Other Buildings
Gymnasium
Sept. 18 Wallets and keys stolen.

Rice Stadium
Sept. 21 Items from the Rice Stadium found in the Greenbriar Lot.

Parking Lots
West Lot
Sept. 19 Parking gate arm missing.

Preferential registration debuts in Nov.

ESTHER, from Page 1
until Jan. 16, the end of the first week of spring semester classes, Daley said. After Jan. 16, students wishing to change their schedules will need to meet with an academic adviser and obtain a new registration PIN.

Students must meet with an academic adviser and get a new registration PIN each semester. They will be able to acquire the PIN before the beginning of registration but will not be allowed to access the system until registration begins.

"The nature of the system is hopefully to encourage students not to leave things until the last minute," Daley said. Although registration using the Esther system will be paperless, students will still need to go to the Registrar's Office to designate courses as pass/fail or audit. Montag said his office has yet to determine how students will register for courses requiring the permission of the instructor.

Many students said they are looking forward to spending less time in line.

"[Paperless registration] is great," Lovett College sophomore Linda Pham said. "That's how everything should be done."

Add/drop deadlines and late fees will function as before under the new system, Montag said. Students wishing to enroll for more than 20 hours will still need permission from Vice President for Student Affairs Zenaido Camacho, he said.

To educate students about Esther, the Registrar's Office and Academic Advising will hold information sessions in each of the colleges, pass out question-and-answer sheets, send e-mails directly to students and meet with the college coordinators and advisers.

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A smooth opening for the King

Sid Richardson College sophomore James McCarthy caps a smoothie for Hanszen College senior Kevin Bowen Wednesday. Smoothie King, located in Sammy's, opened Tuesday.

STUART SINCLAIR/THRESHER

STUART SINCLAIR/THRESHER

STUART SINCLAIR/THRESHER
Policing offensive signs

Rice University Police Chief Bill Taylor said RPUD officers were present at the game to serve as a buffer between stadium security staff and students.

Student Association President Michael Leggett said he offered his assistance to RPUD officers, who told him relevant staff had requested that more offensive messages on signs or T-shirts be covered because the game was being nationally televised.

Leggett and several college presidents explained the situation to groups of students displaying inappropriate messages, most of whom were cooperative, Leggett said. Will Rice College junior CW McCullough was a member of one of the groups approached by Leggett.

"Out of the four signs we made, one was confiscated, one was covered so that we couldn't hold it up anymore, and two were fine," McCullough said. "If the game hadn't been aired on ESPn[2], it wouldn't have been a problem.

McCullough said he and his friends put up a "Longhorns, Short dicks" sign after Leggett asked them to stop holding it up halfway through the first quarter.

Rice students spelling out offensive messages with letters painted on their chests were also asked to cover the inappropriate messages. At one point, even students with non-offensive slogans such as "Rice" or "Owls" were asked to put on shirts.

President Malcolm Gillis visited fans in the student section during the game. Some students said they saw Gillis speak with RPUD staff, and soon afterwards students with non-offensive painted words removed their shirts again without further incident.

Gillis could not be reached for comment as he was out of town.

We're going to get a lot more applicants for next year, because there's no longer this $400 prerequisite to take the class," Flansbaum, a Lovett College senior, said. "The quality of our EMTs will only improve."

Flashbaum said REMS has had difficulty filling its schedule in the past, and some shifts have been understaffed. On average, about 15 of the 20 students who took the class prior to the fee waiver went on to volunteer for REMS. Flashbaum said. Under the new policy, the class will yield more guaranteed volunteers.

The funding will allow REMS to hire highly qualified instructors. Flashbaum said. Past courses were taught by Rice EMTs.

Carnacho said the funding for this year's course, like the last year's, is temporary, with $60,000 coming from the budget and $5,000,000 coming from the President's Office's budget. However, funding for future years will be built into the budget.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Student Association met Monday. The following were discussed:

- T-shirts and NCA Championship baseball T-shirts are available for order on the SA Web site.
- The deadline for clubs to register with the Club Office is Wednesday. The registration form is available online at http://128.42.185.24/ Cusa2/2003/default.htm.
- The senate approved C.R.A.E.T.E. (Caring Rice students Encouraging Art Through Education), which will organize art outreach programs at local elementary schools. Anyone with questions should contact Lovett College sophomore Matthew Baker at mban@rice.edu.
- SA Parliamentarian C.W. McCullough presented a list of amended proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws to be voted on at the next SA meeting.
- The NCA Championship trophy from the 2003 College World Series was awarded to Will Rice College to Lovett College. The trophy will rotate between the two colleges for one week.

The next meeting will be Monday at 10 p.m. in Farnsworth Pavilion in the Student Center.

REMS funding permanent

Rice Emergency Medical Services can continue offering its aspiring volunteer basic Emergency Medical Technician certification free of charge. President Malcolm Gillis approved permanent funding for the certification class, Health Sciences 105, last Thursday.

Student Association co-President Michael Leggett said the SA petitioned on behalf of REMS for $21,000 per year of permanent funding for the course, which is offered in the spring. Beginning last year, Gillis and Vice President for Student Affairs Zenaido Camacho provided temporary funding to wholly subsidize the $490 fee previously paid by each student in the class for supplies.

To receive the subsidy this year, students in the course must sign a contract stating they will volunteer for REMS at least one year. REMS Captain Peter Flansbaum said.

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MIT honors West
for Rice's bioengineering
department. "It was really exciting to be
named for the award," West said.

"She's a really good teacher," said
Biomedical Engineering Department
chairman David Parmelee.

"It's great for the department," it's great for Rice University," West
said. "I hope that kind of recognition for one of our faculty." Parmelee said.

"This is a really good group of people who
were also recognized," West said. He was
recognized for his work growing coronary arteries
in the laboratory for use in coronary artery bypass grafting. The project
is currently in animal trials. West is also working on research projects
involving the detection and destruction of cancer cells by nanoparticles.

"It was really exciting to be
awarded the award," West said.

"I think the honor Council did a
wonderful job of recognizing the diverse
opinions and thoughtfully addressing the issues," said West.

Will Rice College junior Der-
rick Brown, one of the students
who attended the meeting, said he feels
the council made a special effort to listen to non-members.

"Keith made a really good point
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Philosopher kicks off lecture series

by Ian Evershart

SCOLLOPed shame punishments are inhumane and have no place in a modern society, philosopher Martha Nussbaum said Monday.

Nussbaum, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School, kicked off this year's President's Lecture Series with a speech titled "Shame, Stigma, and Punishment." The lecture was co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Culture.

"Shame is pervasive in our culture," Nussbaum said. Physical and mental disabilities, appearance, gender, sexual orientation and other personal attributes can all lead to feelings of shame. "Every person in society looks out at the world from the perspective of normality, and if what he or she sees when looking in the mirror does not conform to that norm, shame is the likely result," she said.

"There've been experiencing a lot of theft in their locker rooms, and especially their football room," Marshall said. "They estimate there has been about $30,000 worth of loss since January." Marshall said UIU's police provided RUPD with a possible suspect and information on the suspect's vehicle.

"UIU has given us a new spread of a suspect that they think could be responsible," Marshall said. "We are going to take it back to our investigators to see if they can identify the suspect."

"Guilt contains in itself the separation between the person and the person's act, and is thus fully compatible with respect for the dignity of the person," she said. "By both holding people responsible for their crimes and then offering them ways to make reparation and reintegrate themselves into society, we can strengthen people's reparative capacity, treating offenders as people from whom good things can come."

Nussbaum also addressed traditional attitudes about handicaps and disabilities. All people have weaknesses and thus are handicapped in some way, Nussbaum said. People with life-long disabilities should be allowed the same self-respect as supposedly "normal" people.

"If we are to give every normal the social condition of self-respect, we must at the same time think about the self-respect of people with disabilities and try to devise ways to recognize and support their full humanity and individuality," she said.

The three remaining speakers in the 2003-'04 President's Lecture Series are Amartya Sen, winner of the 1998 Nobel Prize in economics;纪委书记 Barry Lopez, author of Dreams and Hell, and host of the "Dreams" series; and Nyameko Barney Pityana, vice-chancellor and principal for the University of South Africa, and former SA senator and Wiess junior Dustin Stephens, who is now studying environmental work and I think "we've got high hopes for what we can accomplish."

Nussbaum condemned "shame punishments" that stigmatize the offender, saying they typically punish the person rather than the crime. She said punishments based on guilt such as imprisonment and fines are inhumane and rehash old ideas.

"Shame is the likely result," she said. "We are going to take it back to our investigators to see if they can identify the suspect."
Esther Update!

You will use the Esther system to register for classes for Spring 2004!

From the Office of the Registrar & Academic Advising...

Esther (Employee & student tools, help, & electronic resources) is the new Web-based information tool that students can begin using on Wednesday, October 15, 2003. The following are some of the features Rice students will have access to:

As of October 15, 2003

- View your demographic information on file
- View the Course Catalog & the Schedule of Course Offerings for Spring 2004
- View your academic history through Summer 2003

Coming in November, 2003

- Register, add/drop courses for Spring 2004
- View your account balance information

Coming in 2004

- Perform degree audits
- Request official transcripts on-line
- Review your Student Financial Services information
- Esther replaces SISWEB as your comprehensive, on-line information source

Login Information

By October 14, 2003, you will receive the information you will need in order to log-on to Esther.

Advising/Registration Information

Undergraduates will need to see their academic advisor prior to Spring 2004 registration. (Note that registration begins on 11/17/03.) After discussing your spring course selections, your advisor will provide you with a form to take to your college coordinator. Your college coordinator will then issue you a Registration, Add/Drop PIN. You will need a Registration Add/Drop PIN to be able to register for classes. This PIN can only be obtained after you have seen an academic advisor.

More information will follow regarding Esther and the new advising processes. Look for details in future issues of the Thresher and around campus as well.
Installation has elements of childhood, mass culture

Ian Garret
THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

This piece is no exception, for it turns the gallery walls into the manifest situation of everything your childhood fort could be and more.

Inside the gallery a carrot chain gang greets visitors as they enter the fort through the guillotine gate. Each of the rooms is assigned to a type of explorer who could live in the fort. The music room is surrounded by chicken wire and has guitars, recording equipment and other effects hanging before a translucent plastic orange roof. Interesting in light of recent history — Branch Davidian cult leader David Koresh originally desired to be a star — it disturbs as it engages.

The roof is the kitchen/labatory, where hanging lights and bottles combine with edible and inedible items in a manner of flashing lights recycled from the artistic duo’s MIR 2 contribution. Outside this room is a sink and garbage disposal fountain, piped with PVC pipe and potty. To the left are the world explorer’s room, the classroom, the scientist’s room, and the philosopher’s room.

This is a piece that yearns for interaction.

The explorer’s room is lined with trophies from around the globe, and a long hall is lit with treasured nuances and Halloween masks. The classroom, though, is for the most dedicated of frontiersmen. Through a large opening in the corner of the fort, one can first enter the preparation area, reflect on a youthful playfulness and serious reflection on societal ideas.

The processing involves painting, rewiring, and other forms of manipulation to alter perceptions. It is not just a ley of someone’s trash thrown together, but a conscious, intelligent assemblage, even if appearances suggest otherwise. The concept of “discomfort” enters the installation because the fort was created in response to the artist’s sense of uncare. The fort as an outpost speaks to ideas of avant-garde, the frontier, facing a boundary. This piece is no exception, for it turns the gallery walls into the manifest situation of everything your childhood fort could be and more.

= Gallery Manager Joie Anderson explains the artist’s intent in The Recreation of Fort Discomfort at the Rice Gallery opening on Sept. 18.

Charlotte (Scarlett Johansson) and Bob (Bill Murray) strike up a friendship based on their mutual loneliness in Tokyo.

Study the power of non-verbal communication

Raj Wahi
THE ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

That’s what makes it so disarming when writer-director Sofia Coppola combines the sincere, lyrical story with unsung “innocuous” series of sometimes confusing meaninig. The film is still one of the best of the year, but if Coppola had exercised more self-control she could have made one of the best ever, and that’s a superlatively rare feat.

Bob (Bill Murray) and Charlotte (Scarlett Johansson) arrive in World as two jet-lagged, lonely travelers. Bob is a washed-up associate producer while spending a few days in Tokyo. Bob, a washed-up associate producer who rarely sees his wife and kids, is in Tokyo to make a quick $2 million shooting a whiskey commercial. Charlotte is there with her husband John (Giorgio Riva, Boiler Room), a rock band photographer who leaves his wife alone at the hotel while he rubs elbows with stars and frits with a VIP Hollywood starlet (in a don on Anna Paris, from The Hot Coco).

Wired, bored, and desperate to escape the vacuous outside world, Bob and Charlotte start to develop a friendship. Instead of throwing them together with an overly dramatic introduction, though, Coppola wisely lets them take their time approaching each other. They cross paths several times, having little more conversation and little more than that as they gradually draw on them that they might be able to have an interesting — perhaps even rewarding — conversation.

When they finally do talk to each other, they humanize each other in elegant, lengthy sequences but in a backward, elliptical approximation of other thoughts and feelings. Mostly they talk about the concrete details of their lives, revealing that they both are unhappy in their marriages. Coppola’s characters with melancholy humor on his status as a has-been, and Charlotte, a recent college graduate, admits that she doesn’t know what she wants to do with her life.

Though entitled The Recreation of Fort Discomfort, the fort is a great deal of fun. All its parts are found items that have been “processed.” The processing involves painting, rewiring, and other forms of manipulation to alter perceptions. It is not just a ley of someone’s trash thrown together, but a conscious, intelligent assemblage, even if appearances suggest otherwise. The concept of “discomfort” enters the installation because the fort was created in response to the artist’s sense of uncare. The fort as an out-post speaks to ideas of avant-garde, the frontier, facing a boundary. This piece is no exception, for it turns the gallery walls into the manifest situation of everything your childhood fort could be and more.

Tentative touches and gazes that say the things language cannot.

All of this sounds fairly ordinary, yet the conversation is remarkable because Bob and Charlotte say something to each other with so much richness and nuance, through a variety of numeric cues, such as when Bob touches Charlotte’s face with an intimate mix of bowdlerization and fatherly protection. This, I think, is the part of the movie that sticks. — Coppola recognizes that verbal communication is often incomplete, and that the most touching details of human interaction are the silences, tentative touches and gazes that say the things language cannot. The actors know this too, and they’re up to the task. Murray, better known for his disdainful humor than his dramatic acting (though he actually good at both), is excellent as a man whose permanently bemused expression conceals a surprising vulnerability, particularly evident during a long-distance call to his frustrated wife. The mixture of Murray, Page 12
Romantic comedy has more realistic ending than expected

Bai Wahl
THESSALONIKI STAFF

"What it is about love that makes us so stupid?" asks Frances Mayes (Diane Lane, Unidentified), the heroine of writer-director Audrey Wells' "Under the Tuscan Sun." That question represents the central falacy of Frances' attitude towards romance, an error that she will spend the bulk of the film discovering and rectifying.

See, love does not make us stupid. If anything, love is the true lover's weapon. Hormones, desperation and low self-esteem make us stupid.

To cheat her, Frances' friend Patty (a wonderful Sandra Oh, Dancing at the Blue Moon) buys her a ticket for a 10-day tour of Tuscany, where Frances decides on a whim to buy and renovate a villa as the first step in starting a fresh life. All is well and good for a bit (though Wells devotes so much time to these expensively scenic shots that we start to wonder how much of her decision to make the film was motivated by her desire to photograph Italian scenery).

The remainder of the movie, which is significantly better than the preceding scenes, follows Frances as she attempts to make new friends and looks for a worthwhile romantic partner, with far more success in the former endeavor than the latter. We perceive that while she at least has enough self-respect to dump men who treat her badly, she hasn't quite figured out how to avoid getting involved with such men in the first place.

Take, for instance, Frances' relationship with Marcello (Italian star Raoul Bova). Apart from the fact that she meets him in a scene that is significantly better than the preceding scenes, follows Frances as she attempts to make new friends and looks for a worthwhile romantic partner, with far

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Glittering performance and set may blind ballet neophytes

Ruon-Hui Hsu for the Houstonian

Houston Ballet's extravagant production of Charles Perrault's Sleeping Beauty captures the spirit of traditional French court ballet at the end of the 16th century. Its lavish sets, spectacular costumes and eloquent choreography create a veritable dreamworld. However, while the production is a classic example of the style, it is held back by careful attention to detail.

The redeeming factor of the production at this performance was Houston Ballet's principal Lauren Anderson's Carabosse. Anderson delivered a dynamic and scintillating performance on the evil fairy and provided the necessary contrast to the film's main characters. However, while Anderson's portrayal is magnificent, it is overshadowed by the brilliance of the rest of the cast, especially the corps dancers, which, while artfully executed, were not as exciting as the solo performers.

The setting and costumes, designed by Kenneth Beaton, are a treat for the eye. The use of the royal court's grandeur and opulence is spot on, creating a sense of grandeur and excitement. However, while the sets are magnificent, they are slightly inaccessible to those unfamiliar with the Russian tradition.

True to the Russian tradition of FRANCESCA, the sets look like something out of Louis XIV's palace.

The story was composed by Peter Black and Edward; and is an example of the true Russian high romantic ballet style. The Houston Ballet Orchestra, under Ermenio Florio, gave a very tasteful, if uneven, performance.

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The female perspective

By Jon Schumann

There was a time in films when female directors received little respect or recognition. In fact, the Oscars did not nominate a woman in the Best Director category until 1976 when Lina Wertmuller made the cut with Seven Beauties. Then we had to wait 17 years for Jane Campion to be the second female on the shortlist for The Piano.

Still, a female director has never taken the prize home, but I have a feeling this may change soon. Over the last decade, more female directors have been equally accomplished peers. In fact, the Oscars did not nominate a woman in the Best Director category until 1976 when Lina Wertmeier made the cut with Seven Beauties. With new films from Sofia Coppola and Audrey Wells reviewed in this week’s section (See Stories, Pages 8 and 10), it seems only appropriate to highlight their equally accomplished peers.

Jane Campion (The Piano, The Portrait of a Lady, Holy Smoke!, In the Cut)

With The Piano, Campion not only created one of the most sumptuous romantic tales ever filmed, but got an Oscar nod (if not a direct stare). Many refer to her as a “feminist” filmmaker since most of her films take on a female perspective that challenges popular notions, ideas, and expectations. In fact, The Piano is one of few only films to take female lost seriously. Her latest, In the Cut, which plays like a Looking for Mr. Goodbar for the new millennium, stars Meg Ryan in a serious, sexy role and is currently garnering raves and stirring up controversy at film festivals around the world.

Sofia Coppola (left) and Kirsten Dunst discuss the next scene in The Virgin Suicides.

Lisa Cholodenko (High Art, Laurel Canyon)

Possessing an extraordinary ability to pull wrenching, textured work out of her actors, Cholodenko is at the forefront of independent film today. She transformed first Packer Ally Sheedy and current indie film “It Girl” Patricia Clarkson into heroin-addicted lesbians in High Art and captured Frances McDormand as a fierce L.A. record producer in Laurel Canyon. As a writer, she has an uncanny ability with dialogue. Take this sparkling lines from Laurel Canyon when a record producer (McDormand) is on the phone with her label: “Pushing for Christmas (release date) and radio play will never amount to anything but a whole lot of shit and wrapping paper.” Now that’s talent.

Martha Coolidge (Rambling Rose, Introducing Dorothy Dandridge)

In addition to helming these great films, which boast star-making performances by Laura Dern and Halle Berry, respectively, Coolidge is also the president of the Directors’ Guild of America, in itself an important step for female directors. With Introducing Dorothy Dandridge appearing on HBO, Coolidge represents a growing number of avant-garde artists gravitating towards premium cable channels to premier their work. Other A-listers who have done this include Miller Nichols, Norman Jewison and Mira Nair.

Mary Harron (I Shot Andy Warhol, American Psycho)

Harron proves a female director can provoke and shock audiences with grit and graphic violence. Her films so far offer two very different views of New York City: I Shot Andy Warhol details the raw street life of Valerie Solanas (Lilli Taylor), who shot pop icon Warhol, while American Psycho, based on the Bret Easton Ellis novel, tackles 1980s materialism, serial killing and the Wall Street jet set.

Nicole Holofcener (Walking and Talking, Lovely and Amazing)

Another female auteurist director, Holofcener has written and directed two witty, intelligent films that examine women’s lives and relationships with men and each other. Catherine Keener stars in both films and seems to embody the neurotic insecurities and cynicism found in Holofcener’s well-drawn characters.

Audrey Wells plans the next shot of Under the Tuscan Sun.

Julie Taymor (Titus, Frida)

Bringing the same visual wizardry employed in Broadway’s The Lion King to the screen, Taymor is quickly rising to be the century’s most recognizable female talent. Last year’s Frida was very well-received, garnering six Oscar nominations and winning two statuettes. Even those who were not a fan of the film’s script commended Taymor’s lush and subtle visuals.

Rebecca Miller (Personal Velocity)

Miller’s directorial debut, Personal Velocity tells the story of three women at a crossroad in their lives. There’s Delia (Kyra Sedgwick) who is leaving an abusive relationship, Greta (Barker Pawel) who has received a major promotion at her publishing company and Paula (Fataura Bha) who is an unknown woman expecting a baby. Miller, daughter of famed playwright Arthur Miller, wrote and directed this intimate study of the choices and dilemmas facing women today, which is based on her collection of short stories of the same name.

Audrey Wells (Guinevere Under the Tuscan Sun)

Her intelligent, tart script for the romantic comedy The Truth About Cats & Dogs solidified Uma Thurman’s appeal and showcased Janeane Garofalo’s comic genius. Under Wells’ direction, the artsy and little-seen Guinevere challenged social norms regarding relationships, while Under the Tuscan Sun provides a visually pleasing vehicle for the oh-so-lovely Diane Lane.
Rebuilding a villa, life

ITALIAN, from Page 10
one thing, I wish the film had been about Sandra Oh's character, who is potentially more interesting than Frances but is inevitably relegated to the role of Asian-sidekick-with-

attitude. Despite the limitations of her part, Oh is able to bring a surprising amount of nuance and vulnerability to what could easily have been a flat, standards-sec-

ondary character.

Additionally, I could have done without the heavy-handed voice-over narration, the subplot involving a pair of love-stricken teenagers and the girl who has too near the beginning

of the movie—though I should note that, in an encouraging step towards the abandonment of gay stereotypes, not a single gay character speaks with a lip in this movie.

For all its faults, the movie is actu-

ally quite a bit better than I would expect for a romantic comedy. While the aforementioned voice-over narration, the finding love sometimes takes a while, and that

there are indeed ways to find fulfill-

ment in the meantime. Most romantic comedies would have us believe that

it takes a maximum of two hours to

find love. It's refreshing to find a movie that knows better.

Exhibit ‘discomforting’

HIDEOUT, from Page 9
in place that yards for interaction. The

artists extend an invitation to

me to the television classroom in the

fort to view your own videos. You

are encouraged to explore behind

doors and challenged to find your

own way through the structure.

Part of what makes this a great

exhibit is the inclusion of interested

students and the building process and

the invitation extended to these stu-

dents to add their own creative

touch to the fort. This is a fort of

artists interacting with the Rice Uni-

versity Art Gallery. Not only is this

installation site-specific in its cre-

ation, but, in its execution—it has

been formed by the hands of its

audience.

Fort Discomfort also contains

many ideas from an American per-

spective. The idea of a fort as pro-

tection—In this case a floppy fort

providing inadequate protec-

tion—is very timely. However,

this is less a statement on our bor-

ders or defense and more about

addressing fear and paranoia hin-

dering our imagination and cre-

ativity. With all these ideas in

mind, the fort becomes a place for

the artists of Rice to find safety in

creativity and encourages them

to move toward the frontier with-

out losing in fear.

Being lonely together

MURRAY, from Page 9
of sadness and wry detachment in

Murray's voice and eyes is just

enough to make us identify with

him, without presenting him as a

villain. (Coppola is also careful to

make the wife, who is heard but

never seen, into a believable char-

acter instead of a shrill caricature.)

As good as Murray is, though,

it’s Johansson who gives the film’s

most stirring performance.

Johansson deftly conveys the sense

of bewilderment and depression one

would expect in a bright, lonely

young woman overwhelmed by the

stress of sending her marriage and

being married in a big, unfamiliar

city where she doesn’t know anyone. What’s most

remarkable about Johansson is that

she never condescends to her charac-

ter or to the audience. Every detail

of her lonely performance in this movie

shows that she is an actress of forni-

able intelligence and intuition.

It’s tempting to give Lost in Trans-

sition a perfect rating, considering

it beats the two best of the world

characters I’ve seen in any movie this

year. However, there are a handful of

glaring miscalculations on Coppola’s part that are tough to ignore.

The most egregious failings of the movie are Coppola’s attempts to

generate laughs with cheap shots at

Japanese accents, coupled with

Bob’s inexplicable, jarring shifts into

“ugly American” mode whenever he

speaks to a Japanese person. I also

could have lived the rest of my life

quite happily without the non-

sequitur butt shot that opens the

movie, as well as a particularly ill-

advised anorexia joke that almost

made me yell at the screen.

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The Caffeine Fix

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by Jonathan Yardley

It was a long time coming, but the...
The volleyball team opened West-
Soccer, from Page 13

"Work ethic rubs off on the people around me." Furin said.

Midfield is just to work hard constantly and hopefully have that hard-working offense. "Really good to be able to do against teams of equal ability," said Anderson.

"Every goal came pouring in against Delta. With Shockley, Barber, and the rout was on."

Junior forward Janelle Cowley set up Serrano for a diving header and broke up the defense starting in the midfield, joining freshman Tessa Elliot, who scored her first appearance of the season, and sophomore forward Ashley Anderson — Ashley Anderson Sophomore forward

FOOTBALL, from Page 13

Defense to focus on Chang

"That's a scary thing about Hawaii is hyping as a Heisman candidate. Against UNLV, Chang threw for 303 yards and two touchdowns in last year's game at Rice Stadium. Chang threw for 520 yards and two touchdowns to edge Rice 35-29.

Hatfield hopes that can get a performance reminiscent of linebackers Dan Dawson (Brown '90) from two years ago, when Dawson intercepted three of Arizona's passes and earned National Defensive Player of the Year honors after returning one of the interceptions for a touchdown. Dawson is now playing for the Wichita Stealth in Arena Football 2.

"They are going to look to see if Dawson's not playing again," Hatfield said. "In Timmy Chang's freshman year, I think Dan had three interceptions, including the big [touchdown return] that turned things around when things weren't going our way."

Hatfield said he hopes the beginning of conference play can inspire the Owls to earn their first win of the season.

"Our goal this season was to work hard every day and go to a bowl," Hatfield said. "We know we can win this bowl by winning the conference. We've got to start playing by our best."
the favorite to repeat as WAC
seasons, leaving the Broncos
2004 schedules.

Outlook: Although the Broncos
WAC: 8-0 (1st)
Current record:  2-1
had their 13-game winning
Outlook: Although they have a
highlight last year, the Bulldogs
2001 All-American wide
returns from a knee injury after
offense. For more than 1,700 yards
kickoff specialist Sione Pote
sitting out last season.
last year.
for their high-powered offense.

3. Boise State Broncos
Current record: 2-1
2002 record: 13-1
WAC: 8-0 (1st)
vs. Rice: Oct. 25
Outlook: Junior quarterback

6. Louisiana Tech Bulldogs
Current record: 2-2
2002 record: 6-6
WAC: 3-5 (Tied-6th)
vs. Rice: Nov. 29
Outlook: The Golden-Hurricane
continue to struggle on
defense and will need time to
perfect its new 3-3-5 defensive
set under new head coach
Steve Haughlove.

7. Rice Owls
Current record: 0-3
2002 record: 4-7
WAC: 3-5 (Tied-6th)

8. SMU Mustangs
Current record: 0-3
2002 record: 3-9
WAC: 3-5 (Tied-6th)

9. UTEP Miners
Current record: 0-4
2002 record: 2-10
WAC: 1-3 (Tied-10th)

10. Tulsa Golden Hurricane
Current record: 3-5
2002 record: 3-5
WAC: 1-3 (Tied-10th)
vs. Rice: Nov. 8
Outlook: The Miners are
inexperienced players on the
team as they have a shot of
placing high in the WAC
season.

Second-quarter barrage sinks outmanned Owls
by Dylan Hedrick

Although the game against
13th-ranked University of Texas
was a blowout as expected, the football
team can take some positives away
from its 48-7 loss Saturday at Reliant
Stadium and build upon them for
the upcoming Western Athletic Confer-
cence games. Head coach Ken
Hatfield said he knew the rout was a
possibility.

"That's what I was afraid
would happen, and it's exactly
what did happen," Hatfield said.
"Texas has good players and
excellent coaches, and they
worked together to correct
deficiencies they had against
the Owls last year." Hatfield
said he knew the rout was a
possibility.

Hatfield said the Owls have
every game played, regardless of the results:
the fewest yards gained by an opposite
team this season. Hatfield said the Owls
had some players out of the game due
to injury, including 34 points in the
second quarter.

The highlight of the game for
the Owls was a 57-yard drive which
included 34 points in the second
quarter.

The onslaught came after
12 scoreless minutes, as UT
scored six touchdowns on its next six
drives, regardless of how we played
the first 12 scoreless minutes, as UT
scored six touchdowns on its next six
drives.

"Playing Texas in our third
game, after they had beaten us,
was something very special,
regardless of how we played the
first two games," Dendy said.

Dendy said the Owls will
come this weekend as they
will face Boise State, who have
won three games.

"We've lost a game that we
shouldn't have, and we've
played poorly in two others,"
Dendy said. "I don't think anybody's
down on the season yet,"
Dendy said.

Hatfield said that with every
game played, regardless of the result,
the opponent's performance on the
team gains more confidence —
even during losses.

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~ Mohammed

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Questions? Contact Vicki Seefeldt West, vickisw@rice.edu
FRIDAY
Registrar deadline
Today is the deadline for changing Spring 2003 classes designated "Pass/Fail" to a letter grade. It is also the last day for instructors to submit final grades to clear grades of "Incomplete" from Spring 2003 classes. To do so, swing by the Registrar's Office by 5 p.m.
Return of the Sanctuary
The Sanctuary is back. Come by Willy's Pub in the Ley Student Center at 7 p.m. for a Poetry Slam. For questions, or to sign up, send an email to jb3269@rice.edu, or visit the Sanctuary's Web site at http://www.rice.edu/~poetry.

SATURDAY
"Oh, aye, baby. The other other white meat. Baby, it's what's for dinner."
The Rice Players present And Baby Makes Four, by Paula Vogel and starring Kate Gurba, Vincent Malouf and Amira Vogel and starring Kate Gurba, Vincent Malouf and Amira Vogel. Performances will also be held Sept. 27 and Oct. 2-4. Shows begin at 8 p.m. in Hamman Hall. For reservations, call 713-348-1000.

WATER POLO TOURNAMENT
The Rice Men's Water Polo Tournament will be held this weekend at the UT Houston Recreation Center. Rice plays today at 1:30 p.m. and 6:45 p.m., and tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

TUESDAY
Jones wins again
Jones College Theater will hold auditions for Jones Night of Scenes tonight, tomorrow and Thursday at 8 p.m. in the Jones Continuum. Bring your own scene to read or select one to direct. Public performances will take place in November. For more information send an e-mail to helin@rice.edu.

WEDNESDAY
Baker Institute Event
Former Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Helmut Kohl will be visiting the Baker Institute today from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. The subject of his presentation will be transatlantic relations. For reservations, send an e-mail to bjprr@rice.edu or call 713-348-5794.

THURSDAY
Mercedes-Benz Center
Chris Marker's Atavism and La Jete will both be playing tonight at the Rice Media Center. Both films are in French in English subtitles. The showing begins at 8 p.m., and admission for students is $5. For more information, visit http://rimecinema.rice.edu.

FRIDAY
Registrar deadline part deux
Today is the deadline for withdrawing or dropping to part-time status with a 40 percent refund of tuition. To do so, visit the Registrar's Office by 5 p.m.

Rice Media Center
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Crop Circles Found

The Rice University grounds crew has discovered patterns in the hedges in the Quad that resemble crop circles. "They are not crop circles, in the hedges. They probably should not have been there," said groundskeeper Willy McWillerson.

The University has formed a committee to investigate the phenomenon. The committee, composed of astronomy professor Reginald J. Dufour, statistics professor David W. Scott, Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the U.S.S. Enterprise, and New York Times owner George Steinbrenner (who sources say is just on the committee to recruit players other than the Cuban and Hebrews and Inter), has met three times in the past week in order to determine the source of this menace to the campus.

"During one particularly heated discussion, fueled by a volatile combination of a dozen Dunkin' Donuts and a Chipotle burrito each, professor Scott threatened to create a new component, which he has christened 'Phuctane' due to its unique chemical structure. We like the name phuctane. There is a lot of comic potential there."

Scott was subsequently expelled from the board.

When asked to comment about the disturbance, Captain Picard responded, "Captain's log, stardate 65 27-3. Beam, Scottie."

The committee has plans to meet this Tuesday in order to explore theories and marketing options for the quad. The Office of Finance and Administration has reportedly submitted a plan to the committee to secure the quad via a system of entry gates.

Professor Discovers Phuctane

Last Wednesday night, while performing ground-breaking research in a private laboratory, a Rice professor discovered a new compound, which he has christened "Phuctane" due to its unique chemical structure. We like the name phuctane. There is a lot of comic potential there."

"I mean, come on. Phic. Tainc. Phuctane. What could be plumper? So to save ourselves the trouble of writing all the pharmacy stuff the middle and to save you the trouble of having to read it, we'll just skip right along to the end of the story."

"Don't tell anybody, ok?" Dr. John L. Margaree allegedly has already made plans to phlorinate. (Like toothpaste.)

OZONE! NOW PROVEN TO REGROW HAIR BEFORE AFTER

Research on the long-term effects of the drug ecstasy: The University of Texas Houston Health Center is seeking volunteers age 18-30 who use the drug ecstasy to take part in a research study on the effects of ecstasy on memory and brain function. Participants will be asked searching questions about your mood, taking some cognitive tests and some tests of brain function. Volunteers who do not use ecstasy are also needed for studies on mood and attitudes. Test materials are available for your time. Confidentiality is assured. Please call (713) 906-2749 for more information.

Psychology/education majors wanted to provide ABA therapy for 2-1/2-year-old child. No experience necessary, will train. Flexible hours Mon.-Sat. 7:30-11:30. Two positions, start immediately. (713) 966-2479 for information/Interview. Montrose area.

Listed under "Miscellaneous".

Gillis to Father Camacho's Children

On Friday the 13th, President Malcolm Gillis will become the Godfather of Vice President of Student Affairs Zenaida Camacho's beautiful, happy, smiley, oh-so-lovely children.

The Rice Thresher "I can't wait to see the kids run down the aisle as the baby is delivered."

"I think of us like crack addicts—we can never get enough. So, send us more e-mail at backpagethrasher".