The faculty voted at its Nov. 11 meeting to reinstate a two-day spring recess in the 2004-'05 academic calendar and to compensate for the missed class days by adding two days to the semester. Although the faculty is responsible for setting each year's academic calendar, in order to speed the process of deciding on a calendar for 2004-'05, the faculty voted to allow Faculty Council and University Council to look at the draft of the calendar, including the dates of the break and whether the two days of classes would be added to the beginning or end of the spring semester.

At a special meeting Nov. 19, Faculty Council recommended a calendar that included three additional class days at the beginning of the spring semester and a two-day spring recess. An ad hoc committee convened by Assistant to the President Mark Scheidt (Huskey '82) amended the Faculty Council recommendation to include an earlier spring semester starting date and the additional reading day. The committee included Vice President for Student Affairs Zenaida Camacho, Speaker of the Faculty Ed Adkin, Student Association to President Ryan Debnath and Michael Logg, and Graduate Student Association President Robert Cardwell. Registrar Jerry Montag formulated the calendar proposals.

"I think that the committee that Dr. Scheidt put together wanted to put forward the best calendar based on the recommendations from the faculty, and that's why I think it's been approved," Montag said.

University Council voted to amend the ad hoc committee's proposal so that once-a-week seminars and labs would meet on the reading day during the last week of classes and then voted to accept the proposed calendar. All lecture classes will end Thursday, April 28, while labs and seminars will have the option to meet Friday, April 29. Scheduled exams in spring will begin on Wednesday, May 4 and end on

See CALENDAR, Page 6

Last Thresher

Since it's the last day of classes and the Thresher staff has finals too, this will be the last issue of the semester. Don't worry, though; we'll return after break with our Jan. 16 issue.

Break out the tapeworm

The semi-annual Gillis-Camacho study break will be held Sunday in the Student Center from 9 to 11:30 p.m. The theme this year is "Gilligan's Island. The Final Tour." As usual there will be tons of food and entertainment from groups including Spontaneous Combustion and the Philharmonics.

How to pantomime Orgo?

Sid Richardson College senior Jeff Jones tries to guess what fellow Spontaneous Combustion member Wiess College senior Andy Perez is acting out during their joint show with the Philharmonics Tuesday night.

White House house counsel to speak at commencement

by Ian Echebar

Alberto Gonzales (Lovett '79), the legal counsel for the White House, will deliver the commencement address at Rice's 2004 commencement. The President's Office received written confirmation of Gonzales' acceptance Tuesday, Assistant to the President Mark Scheidt said.

A committee of undergraduate and graduate students formed last year gave President Malcolm Gillis a list of about 19 potential speakers. Gonzales narrowed the list to 30 names. Gonzales was selected after several other candidates— including the Dalai Lama, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, actor Tom Hanks and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice— either declined or were unable to commit to speak.

Sid Richardson College senior Andy Weber, who served as the undergraduate representative on the committee, said he is looking forward to Gonzales' speech.

"We've never had an impressive person with a great story, one of our great-est Hispanic achievers, and at the same time, he's a Rice alum," Weber said. Gonzales, who transferred to Rice two years after at the Air Force Academy, went on to Harvard Law School and later became the first Hispanic Justice on the Texas Supreme Court.

In Jan. 2001, shortly after being named White House counsel, Gonzales told The Thresher that coming to Rice was a child-hood aspiration.

"When I was 12, I got a job selling drinks at Rice Stadium, on Saturdays for the Owls and on Sundays for the Oilers," Gonzales said. "At the end of the games, I would walk up to the top of the stadium and watch the undergraduates. It had to think about how wonderful that would be."

See COMMENCEMENT, Page 7

Rice policy announced

Admission guidelines adapted to Court's ruling

by Brooks Latham

In light of this summer's Supreme Court ruling in Gratz v. Bollinger, Rice will again consider race as an important factor in the admissions process. In the affirmative action case, the court is allowing colleges and universities to use race as an admissions factor, provided that educational diversity contributes to the institution's mission and that it is a "narrowly tailored," "race-neutral" way to achieve that goal.

Earlier this semester, the Board of Trustees and Faculty Council approved resolutions that concluded that the University's affirmative action program is a "narrowly tailored," "race-neutral" way to achieve that goal. The recommendations were made to the full admissions committee.

Members of the admissions board have been given new instruction for evaluating applicants. Vice President for Enrollment Ann Wright said. Under the new policy, members may mention an applicant's race and ethnicity in summary descriptions of candidates presented to the full admissions committee. Rice has never used race or ethnicity as a factor in admissions since the ruling in Hopwood v. Texas. After the U.S. Court of Appeals decision, applied only to the University of Texas at Austin, the 5th Circuit has decided to take the case on appeal.

An on-campus group that included members of the General Council's office drafted the race and ethnicity guidelines and fully reviewed the Supreme Court's decisions. General Counsel Richard Zansitis said. That group solicited input from the academic community and the student body.

See ADMISSIONS, Page 5
Self-scheduled exams serve no purpose at a school with a strong Honor Code. At Rice, they are a meaningless inconvenience and a waste of time at a point in the semester when time is precious.

In terms of academic integrity, nothing besides take-home exams belong at Rice. Students are more than capable of performing appropriately on take-home exams — not opening their notes if they are not supposed to, not consulting with one another, and so on. In the rare cases when students do violate the Honor Code, the Honor Council has shown itself able to handle both large- and small-scale cheating incidents.

However, it is appropriate to have scheduled finals in classes that are too large to facilitate timely grading of a take-home exam due the last day of finals.

These are the only two types of exams that should be conducted at Rice; self-scheduled exams constitute an unnecessary middle ground. And though they add nothing, they take much away.

Each semester, Student Association Senate members have begged to students to spend one or more exam periods proofreading the tests — graduates could use working on their own final projects or papers instead of attempting to be productive while sitting on the floor of Sewall Hall. However, the practice of making an exam mean a trip through the long lines of the Registrar's Office during the hectic period of mid-November, which is certainly a bureaucratic experience we could live without. Finally, though some in-class exams are inevitable, they should as a rule be avoided as much as possible because they increase student stress; a student who realizes the day before a test that he or she needs to study more is unable to change his or her testing plans.

Final exams at Rice should either be scheduled or take-home — either administered by professors at a previously set time or taken by the student when most convenient. The intermediary option of self-scheduled exams is a useless drain on students’ resources and should be eliminated.

**Changed faculty deadline could stress students**

We are concerned by the decision to move the faculty deadline for submitting final grades to Dec. 22 in fall 2004. We fear the change will increase disregard for General Announcements policies that protect students, which are already frequently ignored.

The early deadline for grade submission could cause professors to move final exams they would normally give during the final period to the last week of classes in the fall in order to ensure they have enough time to grade the exams by the earlier deadline. As a result, the already stressful and exam-heavy last week of classes could be made even worse.

A rule in the General Announcements forbids professors from giving “final exams” (which have a specific definition) at any time except during the finals period. The Committee on Examinations and Standing also recommends in the General Announcements that exams not be given at all during the last week of classes. Faculty clearly do not follow the latter recommendation — among others, an Organic Chemistry test was given Wednesday that involved roughly 10 percent of the undergraduate student body. We fear the changed deadline will cause them to ignore the rule as well.

While it might be nice to get fall grades a week or so earlier, we are not willing to sacrifice our sanity during the last week of classes for such a minor convenience.

Every semester, complaints about finals policy surface, and then re-submerge with the start of winter or summer break. We hope a campus-wide discussion will soon commence that will take a longer, more productive look at such issues as the due date of a final paper, or whether professors should be able to make a take-home final exam due earlier than the last day of the exam period. The system may be working fine, but no one will know, and it will certainly never happen unless we talk about it.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Play review was incorrect, incomplete

To the editor:

I’d like to say a few things about Joseph Scherman’s review of Terra Nova’s Cymbeline, which was published in Thresher Nov. 21. While I’ll be the first to admit that it is by far not a single play to follow, there are several things that I feel were incorrect about your review.

In the first scene of the second act, where the characters are in the forest where Scott’s character has dinner before leaving, I saw that he is supposed to have hallucinations. Being in sub-freezing temperatures in January for several mornings will do that to people.

Second of all, Scherman left out several excellent performances from the play. Most notable, I feel, is Burford, who played Evans; he was surprisingly adept. Very few people can do the “going crazy from a concussion in cold weather” act as Burford did.

I would like to add that while I do know several people involved with the play, my many questions about what didn’t understand (which was at least half the play) have yet to be answered. As such, I don’t feel that saying that I have inside information about the play would be a good criticism.

Andrew Collins
Traffic/Security Clerk
Rice University Police Department

**Students missing out on football experience**

To the editor:

Much has been written online at http://www.ricefootball.com (a Rice athletics fan site) about why Rice students don’t support Rice football. I’m sorry, there is limited support at present. But it reminds me of my school days when we thought there were more important things than going to a football game. There was Vietnam, the Beatles, smorgasbord and some one night called “in- ward soul searching.” Football and the like were treated as unimportant, even stupid.

But these days could return. The energy and the camaraderie that I could have enjoyed, the security (albeit sometimes nuts), might have been much more readily accessible at football games.

I would have even approached a class like the study of the Vietnam war and said “Great game! Ber, for the most part, I missed out.

But it’s not the football game — one of the better rallying points for a school body. The MOB is there, the cheerleaders, former students. It is time to emerge because “It’s a beautiful day for outdoor foot- ball!” (Dec. 8). I don’t know why that quote refers, you’ve missed something special at Rice? Plainly, we do.

Lloyd Stewart
William Masterson as President of the Board of Trustees: The MOB is there, the cheerleaders, former students. It is time to emerge because “It’s a beautiful day for outdoor football!” (Dec. 8). I don’t know why that quote refers, you’ve missed something special at Rice? Plainly, we do.

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Guest column

Class councils could supplement colleges

The following is the fourth and final column in a series on the college system.

We two would be some of the first to laud the role of student government in our campus and support the idea of an accountable student government. We believe that student government helps many students feel more engaged and, in turn, inhibits profligate behavior. The recent look at exclusivity at Rice could bring back to Rice.

Even with the most students' fear of the social system is perfectly inexcusable. But in the fight rush-hour traffic on my way to school. I was completely irrational. I was made fatigued president by the administration's rash decision to raise our blood levels. I was more tired than I've ever been with Robert Redford ... I mean a war and a really boring movie.

By no means should each class council be the same. We hope that they would be different as the people who compose each class. That could be the beauty of it — all four different divisions could interact with each other.

We recently inquired of the process: One representative student from each class will be added to the Rice administration. But we've talked for a while about the idea of a student council, which we believe is a real possibility and a great idea, that could happen in the near future. Since this is the trend, if it continues, could bring back to Rice.

We should not overlook that this unity occurs. These are just a few examples of what's been done by our class council. We were prompted by an article in the New York Times about Robert Matthews is a Will Rice College junior. Class of 2005. Student and Student Administrative vice president. Houston College Junior and Class of 2003 Council member and Student Administrative vice president. Houston College Junior and Class of 2003 Council member. Robert Matthews contributed to this column.

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Esther Update!

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

All degree-seeking students, please note this important information...

REGISTRATION CONTINUES TO BE OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS!

Thanks to everyone for making our first Esther registration a success in progress!

A few things to remember...

1. YOUR LOGIN PIN IS PERMANENT
   • You will not automatically be reissued a new login PIN every semester.
   • Remember your PIN so you will always have access to your academic information.

2. REGISTRATION/ADD DROP PINS ARE TIME SENSITIVE
   • If you are an undergraduate student, the RDA PIN you were issued by your College Coordinator will expire on January 16, 2004.
   • If your PIN expires and you wish to register or add/drop, you will need to make an appointment with your academic advisor to discuss your courses and obtain a PIN release form. Take this form to your College Coordinator who will give you a new RDA PIN.

3. WEB REGISTRATION WILL BE SHUT-DOWN FROM 12/18/03 – 01/05/04
   • This accommodates end-of-term processing and office closures due to the winter holidays.
   • You will not be permitted to add or drop classes during this time.

4. IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO GRADUATE IN 2004
   • You must file an application for degree with the Office of the Registrar immediately, if you have not already done so.

5. GOOD LUCK ON FINAL EXAMS!

6. HAVE A SAFE & ENJOYABLE WINTER BREAK!

The Office of the Registrar
Race, ethnicity now being considered

ADMISSIONS. In an open letter to the students of the Faculty Council, and faculty who have been or are currently on the admissions board, President Malcolm Gillis said that new admissions policies will help the university meet its goal of enhancing diversity.

"For years, the University has been deeply committed to pursuing educational diversity because it enhances the learning environment and enriches the educational experience at Rice," Gillis said. "This improves the quality of a Rice education for all involved and makes Rice a better university.

Wright said that "it's hard to foresee how the new policy will change the racial makeup of the class matriculating in fall 2004, as Rice has devoted much attention in recent years to attracting minority applicants."

"Even under Hopwood, we were able to recruit under-represented minorities," Wright said. "It's just that once we got to the admissions stage we had to drop all of that. So I think that if we are successful again in recruiting a good class of applicants, we should be able to raise the number of under-represented minorities.

For the second time around, it will consider race and ethnicity in its admission process, the University of Texas announced it will also consider race and ethnicity, though not as stand-alone reasons, in its admission process.

Phyllis Huang, one of three undergraduate representatives to the University Standing Committee on Admissions, said she learned about the new policy at a meeting held Nov. 17. She said admissions officers will include race and ethnicity in summary reports to the committee but use stand-alone responses for admitting applicants. An applicant's race might be mentioned in con

"We have simply added two "plus factors" to an already rich and complex consideration.

— Malcolm Gillis

President

The following items were reported to the University Police for the period Nov. 18 - Dec. 1.

Residential Colleges

Academic Buildings

Keck Hall

West Lot

Abercrombie Lot

Other Buildings

Rice Stadium

Academic Buildings

Parking Lots

South Colleges Lot

West Lot

Other Areas

Rice Blvd.

President's Drive

Off Campus

Facilities and Engineering

POLICE BLOTTER

Nov. 19 Bicycle stolen.

Nov. 20 Stereo stolen from a vehicle.

Nov. 22 Vehicle damaged.

Nov. 23 Female arrested for public intoxication and transported to Harris County Jail.

Nov. 24 Individual reported someone had removed the BMW sticker from his vehicle.

Nov. 24 Window broken on a vehicle and items stolen from the vehicle.

Nov. 24 Individual who had just returned from a hunting trip reported bows, arrows, flashlight and 12-gauge shotgun stolen.

Nov. 24 Individual reported someone had removed the BMW sticker from his vehicle.

Nov. 25 Money stolen.

Wondering what to do over Spring Break?

Spend time having fun, serving the needy and learning about different cultures!

To learn about and apply for Alternative Spring Break trips to Mexico, South Dakota, and Colorado, visit http://www.rice.edu/service or come by the Community Involvement Center.
CALENDAR, from Page 1
May 11 for non-graduating students. "University Council members were concerned mainly about offering the quality of instruction that Rice students deserve and demand," Kevin Bailey, an undergraduate representative to University Council, said.

Under the calendar proposed by the ad hoc committee — and the one approved by Gillis — the first day of the fall semester was moved from Aug. 30 to Aug. 23, with classes ending for next year. Students and faculty members had expressed concern about the late ending date for final exams. Students said ending exams so late in December would not allow enough time for travel before Christmas.

Scheid said the late grade submission deadline did not allow the Registrar's Office sufficient time after calculating students' GPAs to contact academically ineligible students before they returned to campus. He said none of the members of the ad hoc committee opposed moving the starting date of the fall semester forward.

Students said they are pleased that winter break will start earlier than originally proposed. Jones College freshman Carla Martinez said she would prefer to spend more time with her family during winter break rather than have a longer summer break.

The addition of the reading day at the end of the spring semester appeased students who were unhappy that the recommended calendar added three days to the start of spring semester rather than only the two needed to counterbalance the added two-day mid-semester recess.

Grahmann said he conveyed students' concerns about the added day to the ad hoc committee.

"I'm happy it's a reading day, and I think it's evidence of how students are being heard," Leggett, a Wiess College senior, said.

Martel College junior Kraig Stansifer said the additional reading day will decrease students' stress levels during the exam period.

"It gives everyone a chance to prepare for exams, and usually there's a lot of projects and tests during the last week, so it kind of gives everyone a break," Stansifer said.

Scheid also said he was pleased the reading day was added into the spring semester.

"The one thing I was happy with is the addition of one reading day gives a little more time to get ready for finals, which I think is important," Scheid said. "One thing I noticed since I was here as a student and Crownover said he will impact the search process but decided not to go away for the holidays, but added it is a quiet period," he said. "Holidays don't affect us — there are competing events."

The committee last met Monday, and Crowell said the next committee meeting has not yet been scheduled.
Gonzales selected as speaker

COMMENCEMENT: From Page 1

Weber said he attended a speech Gonzales delivered at the Baker Institute of Public Policy in the fall of 2001 and found it enjoyable and informative.

Some students said they disagree with the decision to choose a commencement speaker with political affiliations.

Kevin Bailey, president of the Rice Young Democrats, said Gonzales’ close connection to the Bush administration is a cause for concern.

“He’s a wonderful Rice alumnus and has a pretty remarkable career, but the administration he represents goes against the progressive nature of what Rice stands for,” Bailey, a Brown College senior, said. “I think Gonzales being a commencement speaker is problematic, especially given the role he played in the administration.”

Marc Fortin, a Brown junior, said he would have preferred a different choice for commencement speaker.

“Now is a time when there’s a lot of political angst, so bringing someone associated with the White House could make a lot of people angry, because a lot of people don’t like the White House right now,” he said. “I’d prefer to see someone in science — in the sciences, and I think this is more of a science-oriented campus — but it’s good that it’s an alumnus, and he’s got a good position.”

One student said they did not object to Gonzales’ affiliations.

Marc Gonzales Jr., a senior in the history department, said Gonzales’ role as a commencement speaker is problematic.

“The fact that he is being a commencement speaker is problematic, because he is an alumnus and has a lot of associations with the Bush administration,” he said.

Other students, however, were not concerned.

“We have a lot of students who are world citizens and are interested in the nature of what the administration is doing,” Weber said. “I think they should be concerned, but they can do their part by voting.”

The students were subsequently transported to Harris County Jail, where they were held overnight. The driver of the cart was charged with a felony, and the two passengers were charged with evading police, a misdemeanor.

The driver declined to comment until the legal charges in the cases against him were resolved as well. His arraignment was not present at the meeting.

The college president and Rice College Republicans President Casey Grohner said he does not believe Gonzales’ associations with the Bush administration will be a problem.

“Despite the fact that he was appointed by President Bush, there’s probably plenty of things he can talk about on the judicial side of things — his school, that part of his life — that doesn’t have to do with Republicans and Democrats,” Grohner, a Lovett College sophomore said. “I don’t think he’s going to make this political rally.”

Felony charge dropped in cart theft

The Student Association met Nov. 24, the following were discussed:

• SA President Michael Leggett announced the student poll question that appeared on the Homecoming Elections ballot is available on the SA Web site.

The Thresher wishes you a happy holiday season.
Nice back-up band

Wiess College senior Andrea Shank (bottom right), a soprano, sings a solo at the Rice Chorale and Shepherd School Chamber Orchestra concert Tuesday evening.

New staffer to help clubs raise funds

by Audrey Walstrom

With the creation of a new staff position, the Development Office will begin targeting young alumni to raise funds for Student Affairs programs. The assistant director of Development - Student Affairs will work with Student Affairs staff and student organizations to coordinate and improve fundraising for student programming. A search committee will review candidates during the spring semester, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Cheryl Matherly said. “The idea is that young alumni closely identify with their undergraduate experience,” Matherly said. “Now there is a process for young alumni to give back to things that were important to them.”

Motherly, who will lead the search effort, said although other divisions of the university have development officers, Student Affairs has never had such a position, though such a position has been considered for several years. Young alumni have not always been adequately targeted by the Development staff in the past, Matherly said.

Student involvement in the search is important because the new staff member will work closely with student organizations, Matherly said. She said she has asked the Student Association co-presidents and the president of Rice Program Council to recommend students to serve on the search committee. The assistant director of Development - Student Affairs will focus on raising funds for the residential colleges, student organizations and cultural events, among other things.

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The assistant director of Development - Student Affairs will focus on raising funds for the residential colleges, student organizations and cultural events, among other things. Such beneficiaries will likely interest young alumni, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs John Hutchinson said.

“We think there are people who would be interested in contributing to Student Affairs programming,” Hutchinson said. “This gives us the opportunity to target those people who would be interested in those kinds of donations.”

A strong candidate for the position would have a good knowledge of student life at Rice, a background in development, and skills working with young donors, Hutchinson said. SA co-President Michael Leggett said he hopes the position will benefit undergraduates. “If the position can raise money for student organizations, that’s great,” he said.

- MONDAY -
KARAOKE STARTS @ 9PM

- TUESDAY -
4.50 DOMESTIC PITCHERS ALL NIGHT

- WEDNESDAY -
GRADY GAINES
MICHELOB ULTRA PINTS $1.25 ALL NIGHT

- THUR/FRI/SAT -
DJ RED

OPEN AT 4 PM DAILY

HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY (4-9pm)
$4.50 DOMESTIC DRAFT
POOL TABLES, GOLDEN TEE, MEGATOUCH

December Special
All Month Long

Happy Hour
4PM-9PM

$3.50
Domestic Beer Pitchers

Monday Thru Saturday
(Closed Sundays)
Jonathan Schumann
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

During the holiday season, nothing beats an epic film. This year boasts several megahits — In the
nia's Law trekking across Appalachia to reunite with lost love Nicole Kidman in Old Mountain Road, Tim McGraw and Robert Flanagan in Big Fish, a more personal epic that explores a family's growth over the years.

"the last samurai"

The Last Samurai, from director Ed Zwick (Legends of Fall), is sure to battle at the box office with these other giants. The film, which stars Tom Cruise as a disenchanted Civil War vet, hits theaters today amidst great critical and commercial anticipation. Cruise has not opened a film during the holiday season since 1999's Magnolia, in which he was part of a large ensemble. While I approached this film with critical killers ready (the uninitiated traders make the film look like a weak Gladiator-esque retread), I left the theater impressed and moved at this thoroughly entertaining and luminously moving saga.

While Zwick's tale is admittedly a derivative of other films that have come before, most notably Kevin Costner's Dances with Wolves, he steals more from himself than from other filmmakers (the final battle sequence, while reminiscent of Mel Gibson's Braveheart, more closely resembles Zwick's own Glory). This is not necessarily a flaw — the epic style is one of cinema's richest genres. Zwick's work here is fresh and exciting, and in many ways superior to both Costner and Gibson's previous directorial efforts.

Cruise walk-on-simulatedly-charged ground as the flawed Nathan Algren, who is chosen by the government to teach his troops Asian fighting techniques in preparation for their upcoming battle against rebel samurai warriors. Algren finds more fulfillment as a warrior than in his new job. This lack of purpose begins to change when, after a thrillingly choreographed battle sequence in which the Samurai defeat the Japanese forces, Algren becomes the rebel army's captive and is forced to stay with the samurai through the winter season. Much like Costner's decorated soldier in Dances with Wolves, Algren reluctantly joins an enemy nation, only to use the course of the film, tests their ways are not savage, and that Western ideals have turned their land and history.

Kan Wanatabe (left) costars as Katsumoto, the enemy-turned-friend of Tom Cruise's character Nathan Algren.

TANGENT OF CRUISE CONTROL

Flamenco group brings culture conveniently to campus

Flamenco is a style of dance, music, and guitar playing that began to develop in southern Spain about 900 years ago, when several ethnic groups were forced together under the persecution of the inquisition. Muslim, Jewish, and Christian cultures all added elements to this rich tradition of music and dance. While flamenco is colorful and distinct, into the traditional style we know today during the late 19th century, during its golden age. Some have even compared parallels between the development of flamenco and jazz. Both were created by traditionally presented groups and lyrics and expressions were usually derived from the pain and poverty those groups experienced. They both have an improvisational style, and have become popularized within the last century — elevated to high culture despite their lower-class origins.

While Algren is certainly well versed in traditional flamenco — he is a master of the guitar and has been playing that began to develop in southern Spain about 900 years ago, when several ethnic groups were forced together under the persecution of the inquisition. Muslim, Jewish, and Christian cultures all added elements to this rich tradition of music and dance. While flamenco is colorful and distinct, into the traditional style we know today during the late 19th century, during its golden age. Some have even compared parallels between the development of flamenco and jazz. Both were created by traditionally presented groups and lyrics and expressions were usually derived from the pain and poverty those groups experienced. They both have an improvisational style, and have become popularized within the last century — elevated to high culture despite their lower-class origins.

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Christmas is the official marketing overdrive holiday. I'm pretty sure it surpasses Valentine's Day—I know decidedly non-Christian people who go so far as putting up Christmas lights and trees, as well as swapping gifts. This attitude is evolving in a way that Valentine's Day can't match. Valentine's Day has chocolate, flowers, and cards, but Christmas warrants an unapologetic party. This year, the Christmas tunes started ringing through the shopping malls at least a week before Thanksgiving. Nothing adds to the cloying overkill of a giant, commercialized holiday like Christmas quite like a nice side of hot music. Nothing adds to the cloying overkill of a giant, commercialized holiday quite like a nice side of hot music.

Jenny Jones (Tommy Lee Jones) and Maggie Gilkeson (Cate Blanchett) are an estranged father and daughter brought together in the search for Maggie's kidnapped child. Jonathan Schueman THE RICE BASEBALL TEAM

The film features Australian sensation Lucrenh Black (Elizabeth) as Maggie Gilkeson, an independent and headstrong frontierswoman. Living with her two daughters (Thoroan's Evan Rachel Wood and The Hunted's Jenny Boyd) and her live-in lover (Better Company Men's Aaron Eckhart), she makes her living as a healer, which appears to be the closest thing to a doctor that existed in the 19th century Old West.

In the film's opening scene the audience witnesses Maggie extract an old woman's rotten tooth. This graphic, on-nerve episode sets the tone for the rest of the film. Clearly, Howard has moved past his typical directing style, which involves syrupy emotional manipulation rather than raw depiction of daily life.

With The Missing, Howard takes risks and relies on tough, conflicted characters and excellent lead performances to achieve a character-driven modern classic. There are no typical Howard plots here. While James Horner's score is beautifully composed and effectively used, it never dominates the action. Though I was emotionally invested throughout the entire film, I never felt manipulated. Howard deserves praise for abandoning his own clichéd style and revitalizing his career, not to mention the Western genre, in the process.

After seeing the film, I've decided the Western life of chopping wood, skimming deer and breeding horses is not for me. These chores involve hard work and elbow grease— I am capable of the former but tend to avoid the latter. These activities dominate daily life, but the ladies appear to be doing fine on the farm. That's until Maggie's estranged father (Tommy Lee Jones) shows up. She immediately rejects his presence and refuses to let him back in her life. At this point, and for much of the rest of the film, the audience is left in the dark as to why Howard deserves praise for abandoning his own clichéd style and revitalizing his career, not to mention the Western genre, in the process.

This song is intoxicating: Petty is of this song like the plague. This song probably isn't really good. But, the repetitious and infectious, hard-nosed lyrics almost seem like a parody of commercial jingles. Important note: The second Guitar Guy commercial of this song is the cover, not the original. It's the only song the entire film, I never felt manipulation. Howard deserves praise for abandoning his own clichéd style and revitalizing his career, not to mention the Western genre, in the process.

Central to Fight Tonight," by the Ramones. In true three-chords, two minutes Ramones style, the song is absolutely sing-alongable. Nothing adds to the cloying overkill of a giant, commercialized holiday... quite like a nice side of hot music.

"Santa Baby"—professionally the Madonna or Everclear version. No one can quite match Madonna's trustworthy voice on a song that resists every temptation, except maybe Everclear, with their guitar-driven pop cover. In any case, "Santa Baby," in any version, is flat delicious.

"Santa Claus is Comin' to Town," by Bob Dylan. If it's a recipe for holiday cheer, this song probably is pretty damn good. Dylan's version of a classic, and a hit in the late '60s, is only marginally better than the original. Dylan's version is the closest thing to a doctor that existed in the 19th century Old West.

The effect is overwhelming, far as putting up Christmas lights and trees, as well as swapping gifts. This attitude is evolving in a way that Valentine's Day can't match. Valentine's Day has chocolate, flowers, and cards, but Christmas warrants an unapologetic party. This year, the Christmas tunes started ringing through the shopping malls at least a week before Thanksgiving. Nothing adds to the cloying overkill of a giant, commercialized holiday like Christmas quite like a nice side of hot music.

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When Kathy attempts to reacquire the house, the Colonel refuses to sell it back to the county for less than four times what he paid for it, having purchased it exclusively to resell, and being quietly desperate for the money.

The film, from first-time director Vadim Perelman, who also wrote the screenplay, coasts uneasily on the strength of its acting talent. As the Colonel, Kingsley is an extremely compelling character. The other two Behranis, wife Naderah (Shohreh Aghdashloo) and son Esmail (Jonathan Ahdout), greatly shore up the otherwise weak film, and the audience cannot help sympathizing with the family.

Kathy is not nearly as empathizing with the family. Meanwhile, Iranian immigrant Colonel Massoud AmirBehrani (Ben Kingsley), a recovering alcoholic who is a house cleaner, wakes up one morning to an eviction notice, due to an error somewhere in the county bureaucracy. He has a widow's walk added onto the roof of the house, where Naderah is extremely gracious, and Esmail lends him his skateboarding equipment to maintain his family's somewhat believable or even plausible.

Rather than struggling with the moral question of who deserves the house, audience members will likely just dislike Kathy and wish she'd leave the poor Behranis alone.

In one scene, when the Colonel has a widow's walk added onto the roof of the house, Kathy charges up the ladder onto the roof to demand what is going on, storms back down, and steps, barefoot, on a nail-riddled board. The workmen drag her into the house, where Naderah is extremely gracious, and Esmail lends her one of the Ace bandages he normally uses for skateboarding.

On the upside, the score by James Horner (The Missing, A Beautiful Mind) is beautiful, and the cinematography by Roger Deakins (O Brother, Where Art Thou?) is equally appealing. In particular, set dresser Gene Serdena is doing an excellent job, capturing the elegant illusion the Behranis build on shaky foundation of weak directing and poor script.
Howard breathes life into genre

BLANCHETT, from Page 10 anomalously exists between the two. But, with this cloudy motivation, Blanchett’s stellar acting convinces the audience that there are concrete reasons why all is not well between the two.

It is difficult to decide who the star is. Is it Blanchett? Jones? The seductive Western landscape?

After he leaves, tragedy strikes when her lover is murdered and her older daughter Lily (Wood) is kidnapped by a mysterious witch doctor. With her younger daughter Dot (Boyd) in tow and the reluctant help of her father, Maggie sets out onto the untamed frontier to reclaim her daughter.

The film is at its most exciting during this search, when Salvatore Totino’s breathtaking cinematography perfectly captures the vast Western landscape. While the standard elements of an adventure film are present — there are shoot-outs, floods and snakes — the relationship between Maggie and her father drives the action. It is refreshing to see a filmmaker such as Howard choose to make a character-driven thriller, rather than a special-effects-driven action movie.

Because Howard and screenwriter Ken Kaufman (who based the film on Thomas Eidson’s novel, The Last Riders) position this relationship as central, the lead actors’ performances are integral to the film’s success. Thankfully, Blanchett and Jones come through. Blanchett’s work alone is enough to hold the film together. With rare as an institution in the Western landscape, Southern psychic in The Gift, and a terrorist in Heaven, she has experienced something rare and memorable.

Blanchett has easily become our generation’s most capable and charismatic actress. This is perhaps her finest portrayal since her star turn in Elizabeth. Her Maggie is a fierce, stubborn woman. Here, Blanchett expresses a vast range of emotions not so much through dialogue as through her distinct and invariable face and body.

While the film is epic — the battle scenes are some of the best in recent film and the shots of the Japanese landscape are breathtaking — the relationship between Katsumoto and Algren anchors the film. Like The Missing (See Review, Page 10), The Last Samurai offers a fascinating and complicated relationship at its core. The two men begin as enemies — their conversations limited to terse exchanges — and evolve to be brothers on the battlefield.

May will compare The Last Samurai to Braveheart, particularly because of their similar final battle scenes. The more perceptive filmgoer will recognize thematic similarities as well. Both films are about honor, about the challenging balance between virtue and violence during war. The Scots fighting for their freedom against England are not too distant from the samurai fighting to preserve their way of life.

In the end, Zwick offers a moving and timely film about honor in war. After viewing the film, it is difficult not to apply its morals to our country’s current military campaign. While honor lies above all else, the preservation of history is paramount. Even in its inevitable conclusion, the vicissitudes in battle most ultimately recognize the ceremony and customs of a defeated culture.

Surprisingly good: Cruise’s acting and Zwick’s directing

WARROOM, from Page 9 wunderer believable and laudable. I have never found his acting to be anything more than slightly above average (he reached this level in Jerry Maguire and Magnolia, thanks largely to near-brilliant ensembles in both instances). Here, he acts as he has never before — more naturally and exposing more vulnerability than in his habit.

While I approached this film with critical daggers ready ... I left the theater teary-eyed and moved at this thoroughly entertaining and immensely moving saga.

Like his best previous work, Cruise has an astounding supporting cast here, led by the charismatic Japanese television star Ken Watanabe as Katsumoto, leader of the Samurai army. Watanabe possesses a philosophical likeness to Chow Yui Fat and a profound emotional range. As the courageous, principled general, Watanabe offers a strong, believable facade, but also puts forth an engaging and effective vulnerability that brings the audience closer to his character.

Like the film itself, the battle scenes are some of the best in recent film and the shots of the Japanese landscape are breathtaking — the relationship between Katsumoto and Algren anchors the film. Like The Missing (See Review, Page 10), The Last Samurai offers a fascinating and complicated relationship at its core. The two men begin as enemies — their conversations limited to terse exchanges — and evolve to be brothers on the battlefield.

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NOTE: The Rice Counseling Center will remain in Lovett Hall and will maintain normal hours of operation. Call 713-348-4867 for an appointment.

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Men's basketball drops UH to retain Bayou Cup

by Adam Tabakin

The Owls' 76-46 win over crosstown rival University of Houston was that we started pushing the ball," said Rice guard Chris Hernandez. "We weren't content with what we were doing and we went for it. We had our own momentum going and we knew we could get the win if we just kept pushing." The Owls outscored the Cougars 24-11 in the second half and put the game out of reach with an 18-4 run.

"We have any reason to be upset or angry, we should point at ourselves. Against good teams, you got to make free throws," said Rice coach Mike Montgomery. "The biggest problem the Owls faced was our free throw shooting, which had been a strength in years past. Rice made only 10 of 22 free throws in the first half, finishing the game shooting just 52 percent from the free throw line." Gillespie said. "I don't think there's any reason for us to hang our heads or be disappointed." Wilson said. "We lost the game, it's sad because we come into every game with confidence. Nothing is going to make it better; we should point at ourselves. Against good teams you got to make free throws." If anyone can hit free throws, it's Rice. The Owls are the fastest team in the country, and they've proven they can win on the road with their sharpshooting. Gillespie said. "We had a little bit of everything, and that's going to pay dividends for us as the season goes on. You've got to be pleased when you win on the road, particularly against a team of Rice's caliber.""The biggest problem the Owls faced was our free throw shooting, which had been a strength in years past. Rice made only 10 of 22 free throws in the first half, finishing the game shooting just 52 percent from the free throw line." Gillespie said. "I don't think there's any reason for us to hang our heads or be disappointed." Wilson said. "We lost the game, it's sad because we come into every game with confidence. Nothing is going to make it better; we should point at ourselves. Against good teams you got to make free throws." If anyone can hit free throws, it's Rice. The Owls are the fastest team in the country, and they've proven they can win on the road with their sharpshooting. "We had a little bit of everything, and that's going to pay dividends for us as the season goes on. You've got to be pleased when you win on the road, particularly against a team of Rice's caliber.""The biggest problem the Owls faced was our free throw shooting, which had been a strength in years past. Rice made only 10 of 22 free throws in the first half, finishing the game shooting just 52 percent from the free throw line." Gillespie said. "I don't think there's any reason for us to hang our heads or be disappointed." Wilson said. "We lost the game, it's sad because we come into every game with confidence. Nothing is going to make it better; we should point at ourselves. Against good teams you got to make free throws." If anyone can hit free throws, it's Rice. The Owls are the fastest team in the country, and they've proven they can win on the road with their sharpshooting. "We had a little bit of everything, and that's going to pay dividends for us as the season goes on. You've got to be pleased when you win on the road, particularly against a team of Rice's caliber.""The biggest problem the Owls faced was our free throw shooting, which had been a strength in years past. Rice made only 10 of 22 free throws in the first half, finishing the game shooting just 52 percent from the free throw line." Gillespie said. "I don't think there's any reason for us to hang our heads or be disappointed." Wilson said. "We lost the game, it's sad because we come into every game with confidence. Nothing is going to make it better; we should point at ourselves. Against good teams you got to make free throws." If anyone can hit free throws, it's Rice. The Owls are the fastest team in the country, and they've proven they can win on the road with their sharpshooting. "We had a little bit of everything, and that's going to pay dividends for us as the season goes on. You've got to be pleased when you win on the road, particularly against a team of Rice's caliber."
Lady Owls look to rebound at home in Hackerman Invitational

by Amber Ohermeyer

Although the women's basketball team lost its first three games, things are looking up this weekend as the Lady Owls host the seventh annual Gene Hackerman Rice Invitational at 7 p.m. tonight and tomorrow.

The four-team tournament will feature Rice, SFA and UC Irvine at 3 and 7 p.m. each night. The tournament opens tonight against UC Irvine, the Owls will face the coupling tomorrow against SFA.

The Owls are looking to rebound after a 65-46 loss to the Owls University at 5 p.m. before Rice takes on Stephen F. Austin State University at 7 p.m. The losers meet at 3 p.m. Sunday for the championship.

"We like hosting our tournament every year, and hopefully we can take care of business against Stephen F. Austin on Friday and have the opportunity to play Baylor, a Big 12 team, on our home court," head coach Crissy McKinnney said.

"These games are going to show us where we need to be and where we need to go."

— Michelle Woods

Junior forward

The Owls continue to face tough teams during the winter break, hosting unbeaten Stanford, Texas A&M and Rice this year.

"Those games are going to test us ready for conference play," McKinnney said. "It isn't necessarily as strong as some of the teams we'll face in conference, but it will help us prepare for those games."

The Owls have gone 4-0 on the road this season, and already have a 5-2 record overall. The Owls have improved their defense in the past few games, holding opponents to 59.5 points per game.

"We've been playing good defense on the road the past few games," McKinnney said. "We've held teams to 50 or less, and we've been playing better defense overall."

The Owls are looking to continue their defensive improvements at home against UC Irvine and SFA.

"Our defense is really good right now," McKinnney said. "We've been holding teams to 50 or less, and we're really good on the road."

The Owls will face UC Irvine at 7 p.m. tonight and SFA at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

— Michelle Woods

Junior forward

Powderpuff playoffs take center stage

by Jonathan Turlley

Weather permitting, the Powderpuff season will come to a close this weekend, with the semifinals set for tomorrow and the championship game set for Sunday night.

Rice 42-0 and Lower 62-2 play at 3 p.m. tomorrow in a rematch of their regular-season contest, won by Rice 14-13. Old rivals Sid Richardson 69-3 and Weiss, who have met in the championship the last two years, play at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Klein won the regular season meeting 25-9 Thursday night and Weiss won in Sunday night at 7 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Jones edged Baker 16-5 in overtime Monday night to win the men's college basketball championship. The Hard Men lost in last year's championship game, but junior Most Valuable Player Nick Jacobsen led the way this year.

Rice had advanced to the championship game with a hard-fought 55-52 win over Westsider in the semifinals Nov. 30. Weiss finished in third place in the tournament, but were looking for their second title in three years.

Open Freshman Basketball

Market beat the Freshmen 67-64 Sunday night in the championship game. The Owls hosted the Freshmen for a 67-64 victory Tuesday night to claim the men's volleyball championship.

College Sports Roundup

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Volleyball losses in WAC first round again

by Scott Selinger

Although the volleyball team was dominant at home in securing fourth consecutive winning season, the Owls 13-14 were crosswalked after several missed opportunities.

For the Owls, the 2003 season is one of the most memorable in school history. The Owls lost in the first round of the Western Athletic Conference tournament and fell to University of Nevada 30-18, 33-31, 30-21 Nov.21.

"Our season turned out a lot like last year," Carter said. "We didn't expect anybody we should've beaten, and there were some games we definitely shouldn't have won. We would've been nice to get 20 wins." The Owls finished the season with a 28-6 record and a new leader in the nation's all-time digs list and fifth in assists.

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Record rushing attack paces Owls to La. Tech win

by Dylan Hedrick

The football could play its first six games of the season again, the Owls would be confident of their chances of playing in a bowl game later this month.

With a 5-7 overall record (6-3 Western Athletic Conference), Rice is not eligible for a bowl game thanks to its sub-.500 record. But after starting the year 1-5, the Owls did, however, end the season successfully with a 4-2 record, including wins in the final three games of the season for the first time since 1973. Rice's final two wins came against the University of Texas-El Paso 14-14 Nov. 22 and Louisiana Tech University 44-14 Saturday.

"Nobody could have started off harder than we did with a lot of inexperience, and thus to lose your starting quarterback in the first game with a couple of broken ribs—that throws you behind a little bit," head coach Ken Hatfield said. "In losing those first five games, I guarantee you that it was a very difficult situation. It took a lot of character from our seniors and our whole team to continue to want to practice hard each and every week."

"It was a sad day, but I was glad that I could go out and have a good game on my last go-around."

— Robbie Beck
Senior fullback

Over the last three games of the season, Rice's option attack has been unstoppable, averaging 45 points and 544 yards of total offense per game. The defense has also stepped up its play, holding opponents to an average of 16 points per game and forcing seven turnovers in the games.

The Owls saved their best for last, setting a school and conference record for rushing for 672 yards Saturday on the road at La. Tech, which included three players with more than 100 rushing yards.

"That's exactly how you want to go out," senior fullback Robbie Beck said. "The [La. Tech] win is a big win with breaking those records. I'm glad seeing everybody doing well in that last game. The scoring gap spread apart — all the running backs, both quarterback backs. We were just out there playing for each other and I had a really good time."

Beck scored three touchdowns on his way to 128 yards, and senior quarterback Kyle Herm gained 111 yards with a touchdown. Sophomore fullback Thomas Lott led the team in rushing with 127 yards on just 11 carries.

Rice also set new school records in total offense with 734 yards, breaking the previous record of 690 set in 1953 against Arkansas; most first downs gained at 35 and most rushing attempts with 96. Rice ran for 3,607 yards this season, breaking the old record of 3,660 set in 1997.

Since Navy, currently 246 yards behind Rice, has two games remaining. Rice should finish second nationally in total rushing yards.

"It feels real good to know that we got out when we are playing at our best. I would rather go out guns-a-blazin' than shooting blanks."

— Kyle Herm
Senior quarterback

Rice alum seeks assistance with caring for small children. Professional couple in West University with great kids ages 4 and 2. Mom works from home and needs a break now and then. Will pay $15 per hour. If interested call Kathleen at 347-731-7229.
Taking our best shot

A selection of the best Thresher pictures look back on fall-semester varsity sports.
FOOTBALL
RICE 49 LOUISIANA TECH 14
November 26, 2003 — Memorial Athletic and Convocation Center

Rice (7-5, 5-3) 37 7 14-49
La. Tech (6-7, 5-3) 7 7 0 7 7 7 7 7

Final State Rice La. Tech
Score 18-21 30-33 30

Rice — Beck 6 run (Landry kick) 5:42
Rice — Beck 12 run (Landry kick) 3:33
La. Tech — Norwood 9 pass from McCown (Scobee kick) 0:19
Rice — Beck 14 run (Landry kick) 3:27
Rice — Kramer 1 run (Landry kick) 10:21

Freshmen — Beck 37, Kramer 24, Johnson 17, Mitchell 12, Landry 11
Sophomores — Rice 89, La. Tech 71
Juniors — Rice 77, La. Tech 63
Seniors — Rice 71, La. Tech 60

Men’s Basketball
RICE 62 HOUSTON 82

Shottenkirk 10 — Guard
Herm 25 — Forward
Beck 15 — Guard
Landry 13 — Guard
Henderson 6 — Guard
Kramer 2 — Guard

Rice — Herm 2-3-0-42, Henderson 1-2-0-19
Passing Yards (net)
Henderson 12-87, Rucker 8-84, Kramer 11-62

With Overdraft Courtesy
733
La. Tech 5-57, McCarley 4-41, Young 2-22

Errors
Rice (19-10)
Digs
Rice 57
La. Tech 44
Blocks
Rice 34
La. Tech 32

Freshmen — Rice 2030
La. Tech — McCarley 83
Juniors — Rice 1117, La. Tech — Service 1116
Seniors — Rice 930, La. Tech — Service 730

Assists — Rice 15-15, La. Tech 12-12

CROSS COUNTRY
LOUISIANA STATE 73 RICE 51
November 21, 2003 — Strahan Coliseum, San Marcos

Total of 252 runners, 6,000 meters

Men’s
Kate Gorry (Rice) 20:54.9

Women’s

LOUISIANA STATE 73 RICE 51
November 20, 2003 — Katy Course

Rice — Herm 25 -2-0-42, Beek 6-12-0-32, Henderson 1-2-0-19
Passing Yards (net)
Beek 12-24-0-51, McCollum 6-14-0-38, Rucker 8-12-0-32

Rice — Herm 17-115, Beek 13-108
With Overdraft Courtesy
733
Henderson 12-87, Rucker 8-84, Kramer 11-62

Errors
Rice (19-10)
Digs
Rice 57
La. Tech 44
Blocks
Rice 34
La. Tech 32

Freshmen — Rice 2030
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Kate Gorry (Rice) 20:54.9

Women’s

SWIMMING
NORTHERN INVITATIONAL
November 17, 2003

Team standings (total of 4 teams)
1. Northeastern 1.951.5
2. Rice 794.3
3. Southern Illinois 734.5
4. Ohio State 605.0

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• Free of Monthly Fees
• Free Check Card
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FRIDAY

Last Chance to Sleep During Class!

Today is the last day of classes. Cherish this long-awaited moment. Yeah, and for you lazy freshmen, today is the last day for seniors to drop classes. So please, drop that Mech Lab pronto.

Recital Conference

The Department of Religious Studies will sponsor a conference "The Return of the Repressed: Working Through Freud and Religious Studies" at 7 p.m. tonight at Baker Hall. Arrive early to get a seat.

Gene Hackerman Rice Invitation

The Rice women's basketball team will host SMU tonight and tomorrow night at Tudor Court. The first game starts at 5 p.m. and the Lady Owls play Stephen F. Austin at 7 p.m. Get loud, get pumped.

IM Sports Registration

Today is the last day to register with the intramural sports department for badminton doubles, racquetball doubles, billiards, college soccer and basketball. Entry forms are available at http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~ims/.

Shepherd School Symphony

The Shepherd School Symphony Orchestra performs tonight at 8 p.m. in the Stude Concert Hall. Admission is free. For more information, contact Tom Littman at (713) 348-4933.

Fusionco Dancing

The Fusionco Dance Company performs in Asia tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. in Hamman Hall. Tickets are $20 for general admission and will be discounted to $10 on Friday night for Rice students. For more information, or for tickets, call (713) 348-PLAY.

SATURDAY

Finals! Students, remember that there are no excuses for missing a final exam. What about sexual exhaustion you say? Write with your other hand.

Today marks the official start of finals, but only self-scheduled ones. Scheduled finals begin on Wednesday. Jump on it.

Posada

Tonight HACER presents Posada, a cultural event that celebrates Latin culture with dances, songs, poetry, music, and great food. The procession begins at Baker College at 6 p.m. Dinner and entertainment are then presented in the Grand Hall of the Student Center at 7 p.m. Tickets are $1 for Rice students and $5 for non-Rice community. If you would like to help or find out more information, send an e-mail to ecmcrxv@rice.edu.

What do you get when you drop a mantissa in a mine shaft? A flat minor.

Come see Clive Scadroworne work his magic on the piano tonight at 8 p.m. in the Duncan Recital Hall. Admission is free. For more information, contact Tom Littman at (713) 348-4933.

MONDAY

What race is never run? A swimming race.

(Wow ... worst joke ever.)

Come to the Rice Pool today at 12 p.m. to watch the swim team leave the University of Kansas in their wake. The swimming ows are hot after their impressive second-place finish at the Northwestern Invitational in November.

Gilligan: "I just like to say that if Ginger and Mary Anne continue to ignore me, I want to be voted off the island."

Tonight President Malcolm Gillis and Vice President for Student Affairs Zealander Camacho will host the "Gilligan's Island: The Final Tour" study break. Come meet the entire island gang as you relax one more time before finals begin. The break will be held from 9-11:30 p.m. in the Student Center.

Tuesday

Dots for Dummies

The Department of Physics and Astronomy hosts Kamal S. Shankar of Yale University today at 4 p.m. in 166 Herman Hall. Shankar will be presenting a seminar on condensed matter. So get excited and think small!

DNA Personals: I've been single stranded for too long! Lovely ATGCAATG would like to pair up with a congenial TACGATAC.

Dr. Chandrasekhar Kalidasan of Rutgers University will present a lecture on "Unraveling Protein - DNA Recognition Mechanisms" this afternoon at 4 p.m. in 102 Keck Hall.

What is an astronomer's favorite meal? Launch.

(That was worse than the swimming one.)

The James A. Baker Institute will host Guy Bertrand of the University of California as he presents the heart-stopping lecture "Stable Carbenes, Diradicals, and Tetraradicals" this afternoon at 4 p.m. in 102 Keck Hall.

THURSDAY

A neutron walks into a bar and has a drink. When finished, he asks the bartender "How much?" The bartender replied, "For you, no charge.

The Department of Chemistry will host Dr. Charalampos Kalodimos of Emory University to give the last lecture in the three-week series on space science. "Stable Carbenes, Diradicals, and Tetraradicals" this afternoon in 180 Dell Butcher Hall at 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

All my bags are packed, I'm ready to go. I'm standing here outside your door, I'm so tired from finals, I could die. We love you John Denver!

What are you still doing here? Why on earth haven't you packed up and left yet? Well, since you are around, you might want to turn in your take-home finals and papers by 5 p.m. or suffer the consequences.

HOW TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

Deadline is Monday at 5 p.m. prior to Friday publication. Submit items to:

Shepherd Mall Calendar

Campus Mall Calendar

Editor, Thees, MS 524

Calendar submission forms are available on the Provost office door.

Submissions are printed on a space-available basis.