**Mayor Bill White named 2006 commencement speaker**

by David Brown

May 26—With no conventional recognition when Hurricane Katrina evacuees came to Houston and many Houston residents evacuated before Hurricane Rita, white evicted a key note. The White announced the commencement speaker in a news release Tuesday.

White was selected by the **Commencement Speaker Committee**, composed of undergraduates James Lloyd and Bree Garvey, graduate students Matthew Murphy and Sheila Moore, and chaired by Sociology Professor Mikki Hebl.

President David Leebron, who was the first Rice faculty member to be fired by the university, said he was pleased with the choice.

"This is an extraordinary person of integrity and vision, and he has a unique leadership role here," Leebron said. "I think he's a good choice for this particular point in time, he's clearly an instrumental figure in Houston's reception of evacuees, and when Hurricane Rita, he really shot up the list."

Murphy said committee members asked White to be the commencement speaker because he has a national reputation as someone who has really represented "a person with a national reputation who has been a local political figure." Leebron said, "I think it's a good compromise that addressed the council's decision to include aggravating circumstances.

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The committee's decision to select White came after an online survey. Most students said they wanted a speaker from outside of Houston, as well as people who were cycle Lance Armstrong and former President Bill Clinton.

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The committee began by gathering a long list based on students' recommendations. Among outstanding speakers, White was among the top. Murphy said committee members asked White to be the commencement speaker because he has a national reputation as someone who has really represented "a person with a national reputation who has been a local political figure." Leebron said, "I think it's a good compromise that addressed the council's decision to include aggravating circumstances. This is a good idea because you want to have the speaker chosen as early as possible so students have time to worry about who it would be before planning commencement ceremonies."

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Minor: right problem, wrong solution

The University Standing Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum should categorically reject the proposal to allow more minors.

[The article continues with a discussion of the reasons why the proposal should be rejected, focusing on the impact on majors and the need for a holistic education approach.]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MANA major will not be eliminated

To the editor:

The article on the proposed business minor may have led to a misunderstanding of its intent. In order to eliminate the managerial studies major, Rice envisions proposing business minor " Mana " Sept. 30. There are no plans to eliminate the managerial studies major, and students interested in the business major should look into the major, http://www.rice.edu/mana or talk with me.

Richard Bryan, Managerial Studies director Economics professor

Columns missed the action on campuses

To the editor:

Like Apoorva Shah, I am beginning to worry about the 2006 Rice students' student rebellion needs a center and muscle. The political diatribe — nothing more. "Rice, get off your ass and do something," he continues to encourage change. As for the selection of Mayor Bill White, we have mixed feelings.

Ryan McConnell, senior Economics professor

Rice might offer minors. Be afraid. Be very afraid.

The Rice Thresher

While we applaud President David Leebron for letting the Commencement Speaker Committee make the final decision on the 2006 speaker, room for improvement in the selection process remains. (See story, page 1.) We are disappointed the decision was made in virtual secrecy. The Class of 2006 brainstormed names for the committee last spring, but then the committee lowered a shroud of almost complete secrecy until returning the final decision this week.

We understand the concern that too much publicity about the selection process may drive away potential speakers — no one wants to find out he was not the first choice and you understand that more than 1,200 students are working to find a speaker who knows and cares much more about Rice than Bill Cosby ever will.

Furthermore, although the minors proposal was made in part to allow students to get a broader education — to discourage them from collecting divisional advisors so more will do so. Students should proactively seek advice from multiple professors across different departments — we think part of the problem is that many students go to their major adviser only for advice on their major, and consider themselves "on their own" when it comes to distribution of their classes. Minors would not solve the problem. The intent behind the minor proposal is good, and the problems it attempts to address are legitimate. We just think there is a solution with more adding more certifications to an already certification-happy campus.

Increase transparency of grad speaker search

While we applaud President David Leebron for letting the Commencement Speaker Committee make the final decision on the 2006 speaker, room for improvement in the selection process remains. (See story, page 1.) We are disappointed the decision was made in virtual secrecy. The Class of 2006 brainstormed names for the committee last spring, but then the committee lowered a shroud of almost complete silence. The Class of 2006 brainstormed names for the committee last spring, but then the committee lowered a shroud of almost complete silence. Where has been the fair and balanced debates and action on campus, whether it be a fight for homosexual rights or a debate over religion? At dinner, in common rooms late at night, at organized meetings, there has been no student research within the humanities program have started some of us talking, but all of us have entered this conversation in order to give it a center, some real visibility and muscle.

And since nothing else has happened, we are the only ones who think we would promote more demand from the students.

Terrence Uniyal Economics professor

CONTACTING THE THRESHER

Letters

Letters should be sent to the Thresher or e-mail to thresher@rice.edu. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a Friday publication date.

All letters to the editor must be signed and include college and year if the writer is a Rice student.

Letters should be no longer than 250 words in length. The editors reserve the right to edit letters for both content and length.

Subscribing

Annual subscriptions are available for $50 domestic and $15 international via classlist Web site.

Advertising

We accept display and classified advertisements. Advertisements must be received by 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a Friday publication date. Please contact advertising for prices at (713) 345-9967 or thresher@rice.edu for more information.

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I'm majorgin English, but I have minors in nanoparticles, temporal philosophy and squirrel studies!
```

I thought you were going pre-med.

this debate rages, evolutionists are mercilessly churning out yet more supporting research. Anti-evo-lutionists should do the same. The scientific community eagerly awaits your "results."

Ryan McConnell, senior Economics professor

Rice's writing culture needs renaissance

To the editor:

Your editorial on the English composition exam was the best editorial the Thresher has ever published. "Time for overhaul of writing exam" Sept. 30. It is about time, for too, the students ask to look into the present teaching method. But why an exam that has not been mutually for quite a long time, and that you expect almost everyone to fail. The facility writes for a living. Every one of us are writers of our intellectual life and has to publish for any professional advancement. And all of us, I am sure, have experienced the greater understanding of the key when we are forced to articulate our ideas in writing. Yet not all of us are writing that is an essential to the discipline we profess as part of the discipline itself. Why do we withhold this from the students? Because writing is hard to teach. Because it takes a lot of time. Because we are rewarded for the papers we publish, not the papers we grade. And because we are being misled ourselves.

Writing across the disciplines is the wave of the day, and yet we are being misled ourselves. We do think a main justification for the proposed, (See story, page 1.) We are disappointed the decision was made in virtual secrecy. The Class of 2006 brainstormed names for the committee last spring, but then the committee lowered a shroud of almost complete silence. Where has been the fair and balanced debates and action on campus, whether it be a fight for homosexual rights or a debate over religion? At dinner, in common rooms late at night, at organized meetings, there has been no student research within the humanities program have started some of us talking, but all of us have entered this conversation in order to give it a center, some real visibility and muscle.

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Rice Voice

Rice practices politics of thought, not allegiance

Two years ago, when I mentioned to my friends that I was attending Rice for the fall, a friend reacted with incredulity: “Rice? That’s like a bunch of hippies. Bibles are so passe. The only people I know who go to church are more diverse than your average old church.” Even after the ushers led me into the Student Center, the group of assigned greeters who stood between the huge church doors held out their hand and said, “Howdy.” No, I didn’t get any better than that.

Joel Osteen’s book, Your Best Life Now, is the latest in a series of pop-apologetics at the concession stands. They’ve popped up everywhere, but perfectly enough, there were no Bibles. The Bible is ancient so passe. The Bible is a troglodyte, I indignantly corrected some incredulity: “Rice? That’s like a bunch of hippies. Bibles are so passe. The only people I know who go to church are more diverse than your average old church.”

In the end, the only problem was that I forgot where I parked my car.

Evans Mintz

Saturday Opinion & opinion writers

Confessions of a creepy guy: We’re not that bad

Hello, my name is Andrew. “Hi, Andrew.” And I am a creepy guy. The last creepy thing I did was walk out over the cute redhead in class on the day she happened to look in my direction.

Does this sound familiar? You are one of you the million members of Creepy Guys Anonymous? If so you may go and tell your friends, chances are you will find them shuddering at the mention of this.

First situation: Class

A normal guy can easily be recognized. He generally sits back with his friends, wearing a horizontally striped polo shirt, for the longest time of my life. He never greets anyone, either. I have never seen him talk to another person, let alone someone— in real life. AIM isn’t a help here, too. So get used to being labeled a creepy guy. But now at least you know you have a little work to do.

Second situation: Parties

Parties make it much harder to distinguish the old friend kinds of guys. Rice guys, having no fixation on death, will solicit you in all positions, the same kind of social avenues, or as the kids call it, a horizontal. You are more than once, face it, you’re a creepy guy. But now at least you know you have a little work to do.

Matt Dunn is a Marquest College sophomore.

Guest column

The Rice Thresher

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2005

3

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Matt Dunn is a Marquest College sophomore.
The endowment increased 13.6 percent to $3.61 billion during the 2005 fiscal year. Vice President for Investments and Treasurer Scott Wise (Will Rice '71) said, "The endowment's payout — money from the endowment put into the university's operating budget — increased 3 percent for the 2005 fiscal year, which ended June 30.

The endowment performed better than Standard and Poor's 500 index — which exhibited a 6.3 percent return on investment in fiscal 2005 — because of its long-term focus. Wise said the change was made so the council could use an averaging circumstance to give a penalty harsher than the maximum of an F in the course and a two-semester suspension for a non-heinous violation. Eight of nine council members hearing must still vote for a violation to be heinous in order for the council to give a penalty harsher than an F and not a two-semester suspension. Mitigating circumstances can still be used to reduce a student's penalty. The maximum penalty for a self-accusation remains an F in the course.

Honorable Council Chair Rita Horstman said students will not notice any difference in penalties assigned under the new CPS. He said the change was made so the council is well-balanced.
Rice social culture debated at forum

by Dana Hoffman
THE THRESHER

Students at the forum said mainstream public spaces should be more diverse and that a gap between north and south colleges are problems that the new Committee on Social Culture should address. The forum was sponsored by the Student Association and held Monday.

Hanszen College junior Althea Tippett and Speech Professor Dale Sawyer, who are the co-chairs of the committee, asked students what they like about Rice. Students mentioned the residential college system, the Passport to Houston, and the racial and socioeconomic diversity of the student body, the resident associate and master system, the inclusiveness among students and the Alcohol Policy.

When Sawyer suggested the committee survey the student body on Rice's social culture, students said past surveys have been biased.

VP Wright to leave for College Board

by Rice Gordon
THE THRESHER

Vice President for Enrollment Ana Wright will leave Rice at the end of the calendar year for a job with the College Board in Austin, Texas.

Wright came to Rice from Smith College in June 1999. During her tenure as vice president, Wright instituted the two-part admission application, and Rice saw a 45 percent increase in applications, she said.

Wright also oversaw the establishment of the Century Scholar and Trustees Distinguished Scholar programs, recruiting strategies for top prospective students, and increased collaboration with the Registrar's and Financial Aid offices.

President David Leebron said Wright has made substantial contributions to Rice.

"She has brought an immense amount of knowledge and professionalism to her job," Leebron said.

Regular Decision applications are due Jan. 16. Wright will be at Rice almost until the end of the application period.

Leebron said it was important Wright stay at Rice through most of this year's application cycle.

"I decided [Wright should stay through the end of the calendar year] because I need her help, and the university needs her help," Leebron said. "I think she realized that this came at a difficult point in the year, and her [future] employer was willing to be flexible so it did not fall too badly on Rice." They said Wright's replacement has not yet begun.

Wright said her duties at Rice will change very little in the coming months.

"What I'm most interested in doing is continuing to strengthen the appropriate people all the things that I've been working on so that everything can continue if there's nobody in place by the end of the year," Wright said.

Wright said she enjoyed working at Rice in part due to its academic reputation.

"Being at a very prestigious institution has been a real pleasure because people recognize the name of Rice," Wright said. "It means something when you go to meetings and you represent a place that is known to be such a strong institution and is admired for so many things."

Wright said she is excited about her job as southwest region vice president for the College Board, a newly created position.

Wright said the College Board is involved in a wide range of programs.

"(The College Board's activities include) far more than testing, because it really is working to encourage students to prepare for college and to be successful in getting in as well as graduating," Wright said.

Leebron said Wright was willing to be flexible so it did not affect students.

"I think she realized that the problem might be a result of students being over- scheduled," SA President James Lloyd said. "I think she realized that the problem might be due to a lack of a central gathering place for students. He said Professor David Leebron has suggested creating such a space between the Rice Memorial Center, Herring Hall and Fondren Library.

Another student said she thought not enough students at events on campus, such as those in the President's Lecture Series.

The committee, which will include seven students and seven faculty and staff members — who have not yet been named — will be formed by Dean of Undergraduates Minh Forman to study the role of alcohol on campus and the general social environment at Rice. Applications to join the committee will be sent to the SA listserv and are due Oct. 12.

The search for Wright's replacement will be conducted by Dana Hoffman.

THE RICE THRESHER
INDIANA OCTOBER 7, 2005

POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period Sept. 26-Oct. 3.

Residential Colleges
Baker College
Sept. 30 Bicycle stolen.

Baker College
Oct. 1 Motorcycle drove on grass and ran stop sign. Student issued citation and referred to Student Judicial Programs.

Academic Buildings
Dunham Hall
Sept. 30 Laptop computer stolen.

Dei Butcher Hall
Oct. 3 Student with subject and financial aid record

Parking Lot
South Stadium Lot
Sept. 28 Vehicle with expired sticker stopped.

Biology/Geology Lot
Sept. 29 Vehicle with expired sticker stopped.

West Lot
Sept. 29 Student issued citation and referred to Student Judicial Programs.

Facilities and Engineering Lot
Oct. 1 Vehicle damaged.

West Lot
Oct. 3 Student issued citation and referred to Student Judicial Programs.

Facilities and Engineering Lot
Oct. 3 Vehicle damaged.

West Lot
Oct. 3 Unknown subject ripped off top of gate arm.

Other Areas
University Boulevard
Sept. 30 Vehicle with broken front window.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Student Association met Oct. 3. The following were discussed:

- SA President James Lloyd announced the fall senate conference will be Oct. 16 from 5:30-7 p.m. All voting SA members and new student representatives should attend, he said.
- Three clubs were approved: Colleges Against Cancer, Americans for Informed Democracy and RHAPSODY.
- Lloyd proposed an SA Special Committee on Business and Economics Programs, which will be voted on at the next meeting.

The next SA meeting will be Oct. 17 at 3 p.m. in Farnsworth Pavilion.

Did You Know?
You Can Get Expelled

Free Movies? Free Music? Free Software?
Not Really...

If you are downloading and/or distributing copyrighted material for "free," you might be on your way to U-Court. The first infraction for students results in a warning from the Rice Information Technology Security Office. The second infraction is addressed in U-Court.

According to the Appropriate Use Policy (AUP), the University will take disciplinary actions as necessary, with those that use Rice resources — computers, networks, etc. for illegal activities.

Big Brother IS Watching

The "Big Three" copyright holders, The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), and the Business Software Alliance (BSA), continue to aggressively protect copyrights via cease and desist notices and, in many cases, suing individuals for monetary damages.

Although Rice University strives to protect personal information as much as possible as an Internet Service Provider (ISP), Rice is legally required to provide identifying information about students, faculty and staff when served with a valid subpoena.

Details at: http://www.rice.edu/it/
MINORS

Surrounding issues
Wilson said committee members raised concerns about how minors would be approved and about potential limits on the number of minors students would be allowed to have.

If minors are approved, Kehoe said he hopes the committee will limit the total number of majors and minors students can declare.

If minors are approved, we also ought to cap the total number of certifications that students can have—fore example, no more than three total," Kehoe said.

The committee also discussed possible restrictions to minors, such as only allowing minors in subjects not offered as majors.

Another issue the committee discussed is whether or not minors will appear on students' transcripts.

Pomerantz said the committee also must decide how minors would be evaluated after being approved.

"Now, if a group at Rice wants to propose a new major, it has to be voted on by faculty, but once it's approved, then the department owns it and maintains it," Pomerantz said.

"We had some discussion about whether we need recertification,..." the curriculum shouldn't be dead. You don't want people doing minors in astrology just because it trended 150 years ago."

The committee also discussed how minors are perceived by employers and graduate schools.

Pomerantz said he wants to solicit input from these groups.

"I would like to have a little stronger indication from gradate school admission officers and employers that this is something they value," Pomerantz said. "I'm told that many Rice students will double and triple major because they believe it will give them an advantage down the road, but it could be that the students who double and triple major are students who are high-achieving. I'm a little skeptical that people might rate the contributions the same as they would majors."

Wilson said he plans to speak with representatives from the Career Services Center to determine if offering minors would make students more attractive to employers.

Potential advantages
Dean of Undergraduate Education Forman said he thinks a few prospective students are dissuaded from applying to Rice because it does not offer minors.

Brown said he wants to see majors and minors that could help students study a wider range of topics more effectively.

"My ideal would be to see programs proliferate that offer students a wider range of choices without confusing them to a huge set of requirements like we have with current majors," Kehoe said.

"Also, I hope it will become easier for students to branch out into disciplines that are less related to their main field of study."

If the proposal is adopted, students could consult the published set of courses required for a minor instead of having to seek individualized advice, Pomerantz said.

"If there is a recommended sequence of courses, then students know it's been thought out by people in the past and that other students have followed it—that can be a basis for determining course selection," Pomerantz said. "Most faculty will tell you few students come to their office hours. Maybe students feel awkward about asking questions or maybe they aren't sure how far they'll be able to go with their majors."

Improving individualized academic advising is difficult, Pomerantz said.

"Anybody could tell you who the best researchers at Rice are or what the best courses at Rice are but we don't have any awards for advising, and no person ever got promoted or a salary increase based on performance as an adviser," Pomerantz said. "And advising is very difficult to evaluate—you want to know, 'Was that good advice? Will, check back in 30 years.'"

Upcoming process
Examining the issue of minors will take many months, Forman said.

"Our goal at this moment is to focus in on what the right questions are, rather than attempting to get immediately to a final answer," Forman said.

Pomerantz said he hopes the committee will survey students after developing a more precise description of minors.

"Once we have a picture in mind of what these minors might be, I would like us to commission a student survey asking, 'If this were available, what would you do? Would you drop your double major and take a minor instead?" Pomerantz said.

However, the proposal may never leave the curriculum committee, Forman said.

"Getting to the final proposal is an iterative procedure—some questions will be asked and perhaps concerns expressed," Forman said. The proposal may be modified in response to this reaction, and this might be repeated a few times. Even after all that, the curriculum committee may decide there's not a proposal that they're willing to endorse, in which case the issue might stop there."
Wiess freshmen impress with One-Act plays

Julia Bursten
THE RICE THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF
Most freshmen have a difficult enough time adjusting to the Rice lifestyle without taking on challenging extracurricular activities. Nonetheless, 18 Wiess College freshmen chose to spend their first few weeks at Rice doing theater, challenging not only themselves but the very bounds of normalcy.

The annual Freshman One-Acts have existed at Wiess for more than 30 years. Technical director Malcolm Field, a senior, said this year, eight Wiess upperclassmen paired up to direct four short plays, all of which contain themes of alienation or reality versus social norms.
The plays begin with Kate Hoffower's The Offer, a less-funny version of the play. Senior Wiess freshman Karla Wallace and Angel Allea play anonymous custodian service employees who muse about giving their boss a heart attack as a way to alleviate their boredom.
The concept is a little bland but well-done. The two actors are up in a deal that is sealed with "Take your boss off and I'll teach you how to use Quark Express." In the meantime, Wiess freshman Sam Chang effectively mimics a parallel boredom in the adult working world. Her mother (Martel senior Kristin Smith) in a Manger in a Manger's distinctive comic style, with varying success.
While several actors capture the concept, playfully bringing to life with walls and props the story of how Lemon's parents met, the concept falls a little flat. Aunt Dan employs the stuffed animals slightly unhealthy obsession with how Lemon's parents emerged. As God's defense continues, his reverent one-liners leave audiences in awe, and he delivers the final blow: "I am God, and I am the boss' office, and he delivers the initial fears that anything they say will damn them in the eyes of their creator. While their interactions cover the full spectrum of human emotion in a short sketch, an interlude — and the way it manages to work in praise of the glory of beer — the human condition is an ambitious project, these four sketches might have impressed the reviewing board as well as God had hoped.

The Whole Shebang's nine-quar tain skits keep audien ces engaged throughout this longest of the four plays, and Wiess freshmen Michael Curtis, right, plays God and Wiess freshmen Adam Ellsworth and Cynthia Bova are his creations in The Whole Shebang.

The evening closes with The Merry Prankers, where several comedians perform on the stage. One of the premieres of the evening is a spoken-word presentation by John Clark. Four musicians begin the round in the dark, posing with imaginary instruments. They talk to each other, in partial phrases and complete sentences that mirror the themes, variations and harmonies of a string quartet.
The music and the words of the performers combine to create an experience that was not only entertaining but also meaningful. The performers used their voices to express their ideas in a way that was both artistic and thought-provoking. The audience was left with a sense of wonder and appreciation for the power of music and words.

You think your family is weird ...

Jonathan Schumann
THE RICE THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF
Wallace Shawn's Aunt Dan and Lemon is a tall order. Director Ben Burford, a Brown College senior, and his cast and technical crew attempt to traverse the emotional landscape of Lemon's battle with his imaginary friend. The cast creates a complex comic play with varying success.
And while several actors capture Shaw's warped sensibilities, the company as a whole seems to struggle to pour the play's tone, which varies from absurdity to the emotionally resonant characters in the production.

'Aunt Dan and Lemon'

The Rice Papers Rating: **** out of four
October 13-15 at 8:00 p.m.
Free admission

On the surface, Lemon (Brown sophomore Natalie Natus) is a slightly off-putting young woman who sits alone, taking sips of celery juice in between dramatic skits defending the nation of Vermont from being assimilated into America. As she recites her Vermontian's English upbringing, people drift from her past draft on and off stage, count ing memories of her fractured youth. Her father (Hammont College senior Jonathan Levy) is an American Anglophile whose passion for crumpets seems to veil an acute contempt and anxiety for the nation he emigrated to. Her mother (Martel College senior Kristin Smith) is a housewife equally concerned with Lemon's abnormal eating habits and the burning of North Vietnam. Lemon's most significant past relationship was with her parents' friend Danielle, who is later revealed to be Aunt Dan (Hammont senior Claire Sudolsky), a vibrant, carnivorous character who stands out in this play, playing a hyperactive and disturbed child in an immature relationship who becomes more and more acclimated as members of her family realize she represents a new order.

Eccentricity abounds in funny, but uneven Players' show

Sadowski, speaking in a high-pitched, exaggerated tone, works with his classmates to portray how much they despise their mother's menu. As theennaries of America's involvement in Vietnam continue, Sudolsky, holding the eagle representing America and the baby doll representing the Soviet Union and explaining, "You know it's the hypocrisy of America. *I* just want to crawl to the toilet and vomit!"

\*See PLAYERS, page 9
Houston Ballet invigorates classical form

Margaret Tung
THRESHER STAFF

Houston Ballet’s Mentors & Prodigy presents a delightful compilation of three ballets, each offering its own unique take on the classical dance form. The ballerinas far from tiny, rosy-cheeked superheroes; instead, they display an impressive strength and grace. The symmetrical formations and prop mastery are an odd juxtaposition of The Scarlet Letter and Night of the Living Dead, with the balloon-like helium balloons adding an extra element of eeriness to a somber adaptation of the Marchen painting. The ballet is told by Nicholas Phillips, who also directs the performance.

The costumes are an odd juxtaposition of The Scarlet Letter and Night of the Living Dead, with the balloon-like helium balloons adding an extra element of eeriness to a somber adaptation of the Marchen painting. The ballet is told by Nicholas Phillips, who also directs the performance.

Stunning film probes society’s inherent ‘Violence’

Jonathan Schamuch
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Director David Cronenberg, known for his films that explore the themes of violence and societal destruction, presents a film that delves into the character-driven story of Tom A. Houston. This is the tale of a man who wakes up the day after a nightmare and begins to question his reality. The film explores the complexities of love, nature, and society, as well as the inherent violence that exists within us all.

As much attention as he pays to setting and atmosphere, Cronenberg’s films provide fascinating portrayals of characters. One of the film’s most provocative and unsettling characters is Edie (Heidi Hayes), the main character of the film. Edie is a young woman who is driven to fear her own husband. As the nuclear family begins to blur, both Mortensen’s and Bello’s stunning portrayals of these characters come to light.

The film’s themes of violence and destruction are brought to life through Cronenberg’s expert direction and Mortensen’s intense physicality. The film is chilling, brilliant, and not to be missed.
Intrigue and suspense take center stage in Alley's 'Hapgood'

Lauren Blatt
The Alley Theatre's production of Tom Stoppard's comedic thriller, 'Hapgood,' cleverly takes Cold War espionage and deception in an inventive modern context. Director Gregory Boyd transforms the circuitous story of double- and triple-agents into a some-what technico-inspired version of the original text.

'Hapgood'

Alley Theater
Rating: *** 1/2
Through October 23

The only female agent in her unit of British Intelligence, Hapgood (Jose de Guzman) "plays chess without a board," maintaining control over her male counterparts: Joseph Hapgood (Todd White), a Russian physicist turned double-agent who also happens to be the father of Hapgood's illegitimate son, and Ridley (Jeffrey Bean), another British spy who significantly adds to the under-currents of subversive humor and trickery. Nothing is as it appears. Twins abound — both real and fake ones — and quantum principles, usually related by Joseph or Ridley, help explain — or often confound — the action. There is eventually a clever solution, deftly presented and finally reached after the chaos of the play's latter half.

The quantum principles of physics at times weigh down the play's dialogue, although the actors, especially Bean, brilliantly hold the audience's attention through even the densest explanations of such concepts. Joe physics and astronomy professor Paul Patliff served as a scientific adviser for the cast.

Also infallibly conveys intense emotion and precision when describing atoms and particles, especially at the end of the first act with his claim that "every atom is a tiny 'man-made' machine. The sciences, although now dated vestiges of the Cold War era, serves as analogies to the twists and turns of the plot — both are immensely complicated, and just when you think you have figured them out, another layer remains to be discovered.

Another strength is the actors' ability to portray multiple characters. As Joseph says, "It's all alike." No one is who they appear to be, and the actors portray their dual roles with ease and perfection. De Guzman is especially impressive in her portrayal of both Hapgood and her twin sister — her facial expressions and the subtle differences in the way she walks distinguish the two characters.

However, despite the performers' talent at portraying dual roles, a genius lack of chemistry in the way she takes away from the sexual undertones that permeate the play. Joseph and Hapgood lack a spark, but even less chemistry exists between Willey and Hapgood in the Act Two hotel scene. Ridley's sudden confession of love seems out of place, although it corresponds with the unpredict-ability of the rest of the plot, and the subsequent implied love scene between Hapgood and him feels forced and generally unsatisfactory.

Jeff Cowin's minimalist scenic design perfectly suits the play's cerebral theme of espionage in the Cold War, and also adds a technological aspect that puts Stoppard's play in a more modern context. The simplicity of the play's set, as well as the costumes, is much too needed relief from the com-plexity of the rest of the production. Everything else would distract from the twists and turns of the already intricate plot and fast-paced dialogue.

The set lighting and set music between scenes allow for drastic changes in location without breaking the natural flow of the plot. Those familiar with Stoppard's other works — particularly Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead — will recognize the consolidated nature of this play, where nothing is as it seems. But those with a prefer-ence for simple, straightforward set designs or nearly a short attention span may find it difficult to follow.

PLAYERS

American foreign policy, she creates Aunt Dan as both a passionate and seductive figure. One can easily see how the naive-handy Lemon is attracted to the elder woman's exorbitant personality.

Aunt Dan's monologues, as well as scenes between Aunt Dan and Lemon, work well, hitting the right balance of subversive humor and painful human drama. But when the play begins to delve into the adult characters' seedy past, it loses its balance of subversive humor and painful human drama. But when the scenes between Aunt Dan and Lemon are too long, the play begins to feel like a stage version of a novel.

Shawn's erratic tone.

Goshev) and Raimondo (Baker freshm.-amazingly presented to provide both sheer comic relief and. more practically, a portrait of Lemon's character. Those familiar with Stoppard's other works — particularly Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead — will recognize the consolidated nature of this play, where nothing is as it seems. But those with a prefer-ence for simple, straightforward set designs or nearly a short attention span may find it difficult to follow.

BALLET

From page 8

director Stanton Welch. Excerpts from the choreography are as "a collage of emotions and situations," the ballet presents favorable technique in an alluringly exotic fashion: For example, that combination is achieved when the dancers enter and exit the stage on pointe with belle Fleur and when the audience is surprised, conjuring the image of a black widow.

The ballet is often accented by QUICK, dramatic percussion cues.

The ballet's jumps are often accented by quick, dramatic percussion cues. The use of the classical ballet is further carried out by the upright black tutus the dancers don, all of which are outlined in the various gold-yellow, magenta and cobalt colors that the backgrounds diffuse into when signaling a change of scene. The choreography of the act director's extraordinary makes taking one's eye off the stage difficult, especially when the male and female dancers face off and form a chessboard-like arrange- ment. However, the male dancers carry the ballet by fully embodying Georges Bizet's 'L'Arlésienne' as they add surprising sexuality and liveliness to the closing act.

The purpose of these ballets is not to carry a rigid plot. Rather, the audience develops its own perspective through the well-choreographed performance and simplistic imagery. The lack of a hard and fast plot should turn audiences away, because Menotti is a must see assemblage of modern-infused ballets that brings classic enchantment to the stage.

British Intelligence agent Hapgood (Jose de Guzman) becomes distressed after a conversation with Blair (John Tyson) in the Alley Theater's production of Tom Stoppard's comedic thriller, 'Hapgood.'
Adolescent life in ‘Thumb’ not funny enough

Tasha Chempavili
The Fifth Estate

“When you feel like sucking your thumb, call on your power animal,” is just one of the many hilarious lines in writer/director Mike Mills’ Thumbsucker, the story of a 17-year-old boy who still clings to the childhood habit of thumb-sucking. And while the film initially revives in its eccentricity, it ultimately takes a serious turn that too often dilutes its humor.

Jonathan Schumann
in theaters • 1/2

In the film, Justin Cobb’s (Ethan Hawke) thumb-sucking problem is quite funny. Unfortunately, the plot is not. Despite the comedic potential of the thumb’s imagery, the film is quite funny. Unfortunately, the plot is not. Despite the comedic potential of the thumb’s imagery, the film quickly falls apart, leaving the audience feeling unsatisfied.

The film’s humor is derived from the thumb’s visual appeal, but falls flat in execution. The thumb-sucking antics are often too exaggerated, leading to a sense of absurdity. Additionally, the addition of melodrama and serious themes detracts from the overall comedic effect.

The central character, Justin, is a socially awkward high schooler who is thoroughly unlikeable. His thumb-sucking habit is the sole source of his unique identity, leading him to struggle with fitting in and finding acceptance. Despite this, the audience is unable to empathize with his struggles, further diminishing the film’s effectiveness.

The film’s pacing is uneven, with moments of humor mixed with awkward and lengthy scenes. The dialogue is often stilted and the characters’ motivations are not always clear. The film’s attempt to explore themes of identity and acceptance is admirable, but ultimately falls short due to a lack of depth and character development.

In conclusion, Thumbsucker is a film that has potential but fails to deliver in its execution. Despite its clever use of imagery, it falls short due to a lack of comedic timing, uneven pacing, and shallow character development. While it may have its moments of humor, it ultimately lacks the depth and execution necessary to make it truly entertaining.
Soccer heads to Tulsa, SMU this weekend

**by Stephen Whitefield**

The soccer team began its first Conference USA season with consecutive victories last weekend, beating East Carolina University (19-16-3 C-USA) 2-0 to end its three-game losing streak. The Owls will face two former rivals from the Western Athletic Conference this weekend, traveling to Oklahoma to play the University of Tulsa at 7 p.m. tonight and to Texas to play the Southern Methodist University at 7 p.m. Saturday. The Owls are 1-2-1 in C-USA play and SMU is 2-1-0 in the conference. SMU leads the all-time series, 7-6-2. 

"I feel all games we have to play from this point on are must-win," head coach Chris Patrillo said. "With two of those losses coming at the hands of Southern Methodist University, we have to be capable of," head coach Chris Patrillo said. "With two of those losses coming at the hands of Southern Methodist University, we have to be capable of," head coach Chris Patrillo said.

The win over East Carolina was the first of the season, and the Owls are now 2-3-1 overall and 1-2 in C-USA. "Even though we won in three, it definitely was not a flawless performance," Patrillo said. "We need to get our focus on the next game, and that's SMU." 

"They controlled the momentum for the whole game," Patrillo said. "It's going to come out playing the way it was three days ago. The team was playing well then, but today it didn't come out for us." 

The Owls will need to improve their scoring ability and defensive play to win against SMU. "We have to play better defensively and get more shots on goal," Patrillo said. "If we can do that, we'll have a chance to win." 

**Volleyball sweeps Tulane, falls to UTEP**

**by Shane Kliehuser**

After a lengthy road stint, the volleyball team will open a three-game home-stand against Tulia at 7 p.m. on Friday, followed by UTEP at 7 p.m. on Saturday. The Owls are currently 5-1-1 in C-USA and 13-3 overall. "I think our focus right now is going to be on Tulia," head coach Genny Volpe said. "They're a good team, but we're looking to change that." 

The Owls will finally play their home opener Oct. 15, facing Tulsa at 7 p.m. on Friday. "We're going to come out probably playing the way every team is going to come out against us," Volpe said. "We'll be the underdogs and we'll try to surprise our opponents." 

"All games we have to play from this point on are must-win," Volpe said. "We have to be at our best every game." 

**OWLOOK — THE WEEK IN SPORTS**

Owls look for first win at East Carolina

**by Adam Tabakian**

With its three toughest games of the season complete, the football team hopes to get its first win Saturday night in Greenville, North Carolina, against East Carolina University. 

"I feel all games we have to play from this point on are must-win," redshirt freshman split end Jarett Dillard said. "We have to be at our best every game." 

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"All games we have to play from this point on are must-win," Volpe said. "We have to be at our best every game." 

"The way UTEP came out is the way every team is going to come out against us — trying their best volleyball," Volpe said. "They're going to come out playing their best volleyball." 

"The Owls committed only five service errors in the match, tying the Owls' fewest errors in a C-USA match, 522.3 yards per game. The Owls have been outscored by an average of 34 points per game, and have not had a 19-yard rush in any game.

Fortunately East Carolina (5-3, 0-1) is not an offensive juggernaut like UT, UCLA or UAB. The Owls are coming off a 42-28 loss to the University of Alabama-Birmingham, but East Carolina lost 23 last week to Southern Miss. 

The Pirates do have weapons, however. James Pinkney and Andre Allison have proven to be a formidable quarterback duo. Allison leads C-USA in receiving, averaging eight catches and 169 yards per game, and the two have connected for four scores throughout the season. 

"I don't think anybody is really familiar with what we're getting into, but we're just another rival team — we're going to do a scout report on them, and we're going to try to play them just like we've been doing," Dillard said. 

East Carolina opened its season with a 24-21 victory over Duke but has lost its last three games. Rice is looking to extend its losing streak to last season, and has reached nine games. The Owls have lost their last seven consecutive road games, dating back to 2003. 

The Owls head to Tulsa for the first three games than Rice's leading receiver had all of its points. Rice's leading receiver had all of its points. Rice's leading receiver had all of its points. Rice's leading receiver had all of its points. Rice's leading receiver had all of its points.
Upstart Jones stuns Wiess with fourth-quarter drive

by Stephen Whidbee

The Jones Powelfoury team pulled off the biggest upset of the young season Friday, beating Wiess 7-0 in a last-minute touchdown.

THE RICE THRESHER

SPORTS, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2005

Esoteric Sports Roundup

The first quarter saw Jones (2-1) punt twice and Wiess (2-1) fail to capitalize on a 25-yard pass to sophomore receiver Anna Elices off an opening play from scrimmage. The second quarter consisted primarily of a 38-yard drive by Wiess that lasted almost 11 minutes. Wiess eventually charged penalty and a 7-yard loss on halfback Natalie Gwilliam was called for an illegal chop block.

The third quarter was marked by another long Wiess possession—a 25-yard drive that ended after a fourth-down pass fell incomplete. Jones took over on its 24 and gained 15 yards on its next play but, after a 15-yard charging penalty and a 7-yard loss on a fumbled shovel pass, was forced to punt from its 9-yard line in the fourth quarter.

Wiess started its opening drive of the fourth quarter from its own 42. Wiess had runs of 16 and 11 yards early in the possession, and Wiess opened its season with a convincing 28-20 win from Will Rice (1-1). Now in its best-ever start. Wiess went on to win its second win of the season, equaling last year’s win total from all of last year, when Wiess held Jones (1-0) rebounded to steal a close win over the Owls competing in the All-American qualifier, which draws 28-26 win from Wiess (1-0).

DiSesa battles at All-American qualifier

The Blue Lion season got underway Friday, as defending champion Villanova topped Marquette 36-7 and ran up an unbeaten streak of eight games dating back to 2001. In the other matchup, Will Rice expanded its regular season schedule to five games with a 28-6 romp over Baker.

California. In California, senior Blair DiSesa led by C.C. with a 16th place finish, but lost in the qualifying tournament in Pacific Palisades, California.

In Gray league action, Jones (1-1) rebounded to steal a close win over the Owls competing in the All-American qualifier, which draws 28-26 win from Wiess (1-0). Now in its best-ever start. Wiess went on to win its second win of the season, equaling last year’s win total from all of last year, when Wiess held Jones (1-0) rebounded to steal a close win over the Owls competing in the All-American qualifier, which draws 28-26 win from Wiess (1-0).

Random Field Football

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SPORTS NOTEBOOK

If you have an interesting story to tell, please send it to SPORTS. We would love to hear from you.

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BEHOLD, OUR NEW SALAD. FANNIN & DRYDEN

Wiess freshman running back Natalie Alderson looks for running room against Will Rice Sept. 21. Wiess lost a heartbreaker to Jones 7-0 Friday and looks to rebound against Leavelt, its 2004 semifinal opponent, Saturday at 3 p.m.

Seare and Harknett to compete in Tulsa

Two members of the men’s tennis team traveled to Tulsa. Oka last weekend to participate in the qualifying round of the ITA All-America Tennis Championships at the University of Tulsa.

On Saturday, senior Tony Hurlburt fell to Ohio State’s 120th-ranked Brian Koneckie on straight sets, while junior Ben Harknett overcame a set deficit to defeat Drew Ehrly, also from Ohio State. But Harknett lost to Florida State’s 9th Aboveg in the second round, falling short of one of the 15 qualifying spots for the main draw.

Senior Robert Searle will compete in the tournament for one of the 48 nationally-ranked players allowed to bypass the qualifying rounds. As the 29th seed in the tournament, he will face Duke’s 26th seed in the first round of the main draw, which begins Thursday and continues through Sunday. He will also play alongside Harknett as part of the doubles team with the pair facing Stanford’s 22nd-ranked K.C. Corkery and Jason Parks in the first round.

The All-American is the first national tournament in our annual season, along with the ITA National Indoor Championships in November and the NCAA Championships in May. Despite the qualifying rounds, the men’s team has already surpassed their performance in last year’s tournament. Last year’s team was surprised and injured to no play spoiler in the main draw of the All-American.

— Dylan Farmer

Hoffman leads golf at Vanderbilt event

For the second consecutive tournament, freshman Raul Hoffman led the golf team individually, finishing in a tie for 34th. Hoffman was 11 strokes behind leader Matt McCabe from Vanderbilt University's Men's Golf team.

As a team, the Owls finished 11th in the 12-team field. All four players finished in the top 20 in the pre-qualifying round for the tournament, held in Nashville, Tennessee.

Senior Parker Lillaurie recovered from elbow surgery from the fall exhibition and finished tied for 11th in a field of 16 players with a tie for 11th at Vanderbilt University's Men’s Golf team.

Rice will return to the links next week, as the Owls travel to compete against regional rivals in the Texas Tech Invitational Oct. 19-21.

— Matt McCabe
The football team got off to another poor start in the road conference clash, losing 45-26 at UAB and bringing their record to 1-3. 

"We missed a lot of tackles — we didn't stop the big plays from happening," head coach Jim Bevan said.

"Any time you let a team like that get going, it's hard to come back."

Rice entered the conference play with a 1-2 record, but the Owls did not have the Owls and their defense finally forced UAB to come from behind. 

"It's now over a minute from the touchdown, capped by a Bysard run from scrimmage, which was an inexcusable penalty — completing 4 of 11 passes for 51 yards and 11 points in the first half, but the Owls did not have the Owls and their defense finally forced UAB to come from behind.

"Any time you let a team like that get going, it's hard to come back." 

Rice has received its opponent to score a touchdown on the game-opening drive for the third straight game. And sophomore quarterback Joel Armstrong threw his first career touchdown.

"We've got to figure out a way to get ahead, stay ahead and win the ballgame," Bevan said.

Rice got on the board late in the first half of its games this season. If they get that experience in the season, Price said he would have been happy to go up 1-0 but the Owls could not overcome.

"We just need to come out of the chair early," Hatfield said. "We've got to find a way to get ahead, stay ahead and win the ballgame." 

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- **#A3** 1 order of chicken and an order of Cheesy Bread

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**FOOTBALL**

RICE 26 UAB 48

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Rice — Wide 4-yard touchdown run (Landry kick)

UAB — Wright 4-yard touchdown run (Mullins kick)

UAB — Wide 2-yard touchdown run (Mullins kick)

UAB — Wide 1-yard touchdown run (Mullins kick)

Rice — Wide 1-yard touchdown run (Landry kick)

Rice — Wide 1-yard touchdown run (Landry kick)

Rice — Wide 1-yard touchdown run (Landry kick)

Final Stats

- Rice: 469 yards, 2 touchdowns, 1 field goal
- UAB: 122 yards, 4 touchdowns, 0 field goals

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**VOLLEYBALL**

TULANE 0 RICE 3

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Rice — 30 24 30 35

Final Stats

- Rice: 64 kills, 30 digs, 24 errors, 10 blocks
- Tulane: 19 kills, 10 digs, 8 errors, 0 blocks

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**STUDY ABROAD**

Immerse Yourself.

ACADEMICALLY, CULTURALLY, AND PERSONALLY.

**FOOTBALL**

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**STUDY ABROAD**

Immerse Yourself.

ACADEMICALLY, CULTURALLY, AND PERSONALLY.
Monday

Why yes, Virginia, there is still a midterm recession.

Contrary to the well-informed information from your friend's boyfriend's cousin, midterm recess was not cancelled in light of the hurricane. There are no classes today or tomorrow.

Tuesday

National Coming Out Day


[Insert witty sports quip here]

Women's volleyball [insert sport-oriented action verb here] Sam Houston State at 7 p.m. at Audrey Court. Insert euphemism for "come on your team or one here"

There's a whole List of Reasons to come see this show

The Rice chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union hosts an open forum on intelligent design and the separation of church and state. Rev. Baylor Williams speaks on the topic at 9 p.m. in Humanities building room 119.

FRIDAY

Get dirty to beautify Rice

The Center for Environment and Society plants wildflowers around campus this afternoon from 3:30 p.m. to dusk and tomorrow from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet planters and plants at the Circle Drive at the student center.

H-Town showdown

Women's soccer takes the field against the University of Houston at 7 p.m. at the Rice Track/Soccer Stadium. Come cheer on the Owls as they take on their cross-town rivals.

Fat ... Friday?

Hasson College throws Marvli Gras from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. in the Hasson commons. BYOB. Bring your own beads.

SATURDAY

Like homecoming, because football's been away so long

Rice football takes the field at Rice Stadium for the first time since Nov. 6, 2004. The game against Tulsa kicks off at 3 p.m. Rice women's football trials will be here all week.

SUNDAY

It was the best of times, It was the worst of times ...

Environmental policy expert Matthew Kahn speaks on urban sustainability at 12 p.m. at Fararnworth Pavilion. Lunch is provided but please RSVP to central@rice.edu by Oct. 14.
Because of all the Backpage's misspelled words and papers this week (and rejected Backpage ideas) the Backpage is phoning it in. Above is the Funny Matrix, where all the Backpage ideas come from. Unfortunately, the senior editor got to make his own marks before publication, I hate the respect the need for proper ownership editing. There over is something left over from the Dalai Lama Backpage. Enjoy Plus, WTF? The first time I don't have a Backpage that would great with color, and we get color.

HELP WANTED

TUTOR FROM YOUR room. Do homework talk on the phone watch TV until a student logs on and needs help. Easy online interface, PC required. Minimum six hours per week required. Flexible hours 4-12 a.m. Sat.-Thurs. Starting at $10 per hour. E-mail: ats@generalacademic.com.

PART-TIME ASSISTANT needed. Tues. and Thurs. Very articulate, good computer skills. $9 per hour. Phone voice, good computer skills. $9 per hour. Backpage is phoning it in. Above is the Funny Matrix, where all the Backpage ideas come from. Unfortunately, the senior editor got to make his own marks before publication, I hate the respect the need for proper ownership editing. There over is something left over from the Dalai Lama Backpage. Enjoy Plus, WTF? The first time I don't have a Backpage that would great with color, and we get color.

WEBMASTER NEEDED. $20 per hour. Inquire for more information: mail@generalacademic.com.