Forman announces curriculum review

by Sarah Baker
THRESHER EDITOR IN CHIEF

Dean of Undergraduates Robin Forman announced plans for a multi-year curriculum review at the fall faculty meeting Jan. 26. A committee will be formed to examine the undergraduate curriculum and recommend ways to improve it, Forman said.

"It's absolutely essential that we do this on a regular basis — that we have a kind of constant oversight and every now and then a really aggressive review process," Forman said.

Forman said he, President David Leebron, Provost Eugene Levy and the faculty senate are currently forming the committee, which will be composed of several faculty members and a few staff members and students.

Forman said he thinks the current curriculum is adequate, but that the university does not provide sufficient instruction in communication, which — along with distribution requirements — will be a major issue for the committee.

"I don't know how students have a clear sense of what the difference is between a distribution course and a course that is not accepted for distribution credit," Forman said. "Part of what I'd like to see come out of this is a greater appreciation for what it is we are trying to accomplish with our distribution credit."

In 1998, a curriculum review committee proposed a number of major changes to the curriculum after about two years of research. The proposal included a freshmen seminar requirement and more restricted use of the pass/fail option for distribution requirements and of Advanced Placement Credits.

The committee also proposed changing distribution requirements to a system of four categories called "Ways of Knowing." Students would have been required to take two classes in each of the four categories: historical thinking, textual analysis, social and cultural interpretation, and scientific and technical reasoning.

The system would standardize basic skills students should possess: writing, oral discussion and presentation, and quantitative reasoning.

The faculty voted down the committee's proposal in November 1998 because of concerns about the difficulty of implementing the system and the time students would need to fulfill the requirements. Faculty members passed a resolution in 1999 that they did not oppose the part of the proposal requiring students to take two distribution classes per year.

Honor constitution discussed at forum
Council may propose amendments to Article 12, panel size

by Belo Binder
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Possible General Election amendments to the Honor Council's constitution were the focus of a forum the council held at Willy's Pub Monday night.

The issues debated at the forum varied as students came and went, but a proposal to reduce the Honor Council's hearing panel size from nine to seven and a proposal to amend Article 12 were discussed most.

Under Article 12, a student accused of an Honor Code violation who withholds from Rice within three days of the accusation may retain credit for the course in question — and avoid any penalty — if he or she remains away from Rice for at least two semesters.

Several students at the forum were surprised to learn that students who invoke Article 12 because they are afraid of going before the Honor Council.

"I think sometimes people forget that we're students too," Thilo said. "We're separate from your professors and many times can adjudicate more even-handedly than your professors."

Wesley College sophomore James Fox said he was surprised to hear about Article 12 and said he is in favor of amending it.

"I was not even aware of it until now, so I can only imagine that most of the student body is not aware of it," Fox said. "They not only have a right to know, but they also have a right to decide whether it should be part of the Honor Code, because it may have eating its usefulness — whatever that originally was."

During the forum, Horstman also asked students if they thought reducing the size of hearing panels from nine members to seven would be helpful.

"I do not know how students have a clear sense of what the difference is between a distribution course and a course that is not accepted for distribution credit," Forman said. "Part of what I'd like to see come out of this is a greater appreciation for what it is we are trying to accomplish with our distribution credit."

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The system would standardize basic skills students should possess: writing, oral discussion and presentation, and quantitative reasoning.

The forum ended on the committee's proposal in November 1998 because of concerns about the difficulty of implementing the system and the time students would need to fulfill the requirements. Faculty members passed a resolution in 1999 that they did not oppose the part of the proposal requiring students to take two distribution classes per year.

Baseball opener
The baseball season begins with a game against Central Missouri State Saturday at Reckling Park at 2 p.m. The Owls, who are ranked 23rd nationally, return most players from the team that came within two innings of the College World Series last year.

Jazz fest
Today at 4 p.m. there will be a jazz concert in Ray Courtyard. The Owls Jazz Combo will play, and the Middle Eastern Club will serve free Middle Eastern food. Free hot chocolate will also be served.

QEP forum
On Wednesday, there will be a forum about the Quality Enhancement Plan from 6-7 p.m. in Farnsworth Pavilion.

Thilo, an Honor Council member, said Article 12 protects a student's right to plead "no contest," something that is sometimes invoked at other universities before returning to Rice, thus avoiding potential disciplinary action while remaining in college.

Honorable Council Chair John Horstman said he and other council members would like to amend the constitution so a student who invokes Article 12 would not retain credit for the course in question.

Horstman, a Sid Richardson College junior, said Article 12 protects a student's right to plead "no contest," but that the student should not receive potentially fraudulent credit.

Hanszen College junior Becky Thilo, an Honor Council member, said she agrees Article 12 should be changed.

"I think Article 12 is detrimental to the Honor System because it allows students to go around the situation rather than face the Honor Council," Thilo said.

Thilo said she thinks students sometimes invoke Article 12 because they are afraid of going before the Honor Council.

"I think sometimes people forget that we're students too," Thilo said. "We're separate from your professors and many times can adjudicate more even-handedly than your professors."
the Rice Thresher

Our wish list for the undergrad curriculum

Reforms to the undergraduate curriculum are a long time coming, so we are glad Dean of Undergraduates Robin Forman is starting a review of possible changes. (See story, page 1.) Given enough introspection and diverse input, the process should yield positive results.

Most of us won’t be around in 2009, when the curriculum review will probably take place; but Rice will have to bust out now what we would like to change — and not change — about the classroom experience

We are concerned about how Rice treats Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. Under the current system, students with sufficient AP or IB credit can graduate in four years by taking 12 hours per semester. This is unfair to students who attended high schools with smaller or non-existent AP or IB programs. We all got in, but those with less AP or IB credit are less able to become involved in extracurricular activities and less able to manage a high GPA by taking fewer hours.

It would be fairer to restrict the uses of AP and IB classes. These courses should still allow on students’ transcripts, but students should not be able to apply these hours toward graduation requirements of any kind — including total hours and distribution requirements.

Those wishing to graduate in fewer than eight semesters should still be exempted from these restrictions, and AP and IB credit should still be used for placement (as opposed to credit) if the student desires. Under these new rules, every Rice freshman would start on a level playing field, regardless of how well-off his high school or parents were, but would still be placed out of classes he had already taken.

Changing the rules about AP and IB credit may require changing graduation requirements as well. Since the average Rice student currently matriculates needing fewer than 120 hours to graduate due to external credit, actually requiring 120 hours — or more in some graduation requirements as well. Since the average Rice student currently matriculates needing fewer than 120 hours to graduate due to external credit, actually requiring 120 hours — or more in some majors — might be unrealistic. We also realize that a new AP/IB policy may make Rice less attractive to prospective students, but we think most schools of our caliber will soon adopt the same rules. Harvard and Yale already have.

So our goals for the treatment of AP and IB classes are just that: goals. We hope the curriculum review committee will move Rice toward the system we have suggested without unduly burdening students or making Rice unattractive.

The distribution system is well-intentioned but imperfectly implemented. We like having a small number of groups and hope that does not change, but we do think more courses should count toward distribution requirements. In particular, more upper-level classes should count, since they easily accomplish what a distribution course is supposed to: rigorously exposing students to a field.

On the other hand, some courses currently counted for distribution are not rigorous enough. We wish more of these classes followed the model of CHEM 121: General Chemistry — that class is challenging but designed for those with limited experience in the subject. And CHEM 121 is relatively unimpeachable for non-majors since most future chemistry majors take CHEM 151: Honors Chemistry instead.

In some humanities and social science departments, Rice has relatively light major requirements. We hope that stays the same. We also like that for the most part, Rice has a laissez-faire curriculum. Students can usually take any class if they can convince a professor they belong there, and we have nothing resembling the limiting core curriculum of the University of Chicago. Such academic freedoms allow students to explore and benefit from the full curriculum. But being able to choose which courses to take is only beneficial if the course offerings are diverse, so we hope that as the student body grows, the course offerings will as well.

Capstone research projects, while not for everyone, should be more available and encouraged. Undergraduate research is a strength that should be enhanced.

Finally, we reiterate that more freshmen should be required to take writing-focused freshman seminars. Currently, Rice does not teach writing well.

In general, Rice’s undergraduate curriculum works. The principles of distribution requirements and student choice are good ones, so we think the review committee will aim to refine, not rebuild, the curriculum.

Unsigned: editorials represent the majority opinion of the Thresher editorial staff.

In response to the overwhelming popularity of Rice’s World of Warcraft class, "How To Kill A Dragon".

I'm a level 32 night elf warrior!

...the school will begin offering another game-based course next semester.

Registration for "How To Feed A Hippo" will begin in April.

Letters

Column wrong on Mountain of laughter

To the editor:

Local "toumies," the residents of our adopted Haitian commune, cannot of course be expected to share our erudite understanding of the human condition, as Amir Conderacci and Trevor Pittenger rightly suggested in their review of audiences attending Brokeback Mountain ("Audience reaction to film cause for concern," Jan. 27). For sure, Roustomians probably never experience the free love displays so common in the pro-sex, progressive, avant-garde cities that are Baltimore and Indianapolis.

But perhaps concern could be directed toward greater causes. I am not a humor theorist, but I believe laughter is a common reaction to surprise. And while I would not pretend to speak for everyone, I would imagine that a sex scene, straight or gay, that includes details such as kissing spittle or graphic lubricant would make some in the audience uncomfortable.

Yet this critique misses the larger point that to legislate the proper "focus of the viewers’ attention" tend to move toward the "quaint and picturesque" is immature and presumptive. The symbol of Brokeback Mountain is that of an escape from the mores of society; Emnis and Jack could only express themselves and their love away from the condemning eyes of the judgmental. To expunge this theme from the act of viewing movies does not seem too difficult.

So while Conderacci and Pittenger are left "confused, disheartened and frustrated," maybe they could learn that frustration toward being more understanding of others and more critical of their own reactions to movies. And maybe they should catch the next great movie on DVD, so an audience's inappropriate reactions cannot bother them.

Phil Denver Baker senior

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Contacting the Thresher

Letters

Letters to the editor should be sent to thethresher@rice.edu. Letters should 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 name and year if the writer is a Rice student.

Letters should be no longer than 250 words in length.

The Thresher reserves the right to edit letters for both content and length.

Subscribing

Annual subscriptions are available for $50 international and $125 international via first class mail.

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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 our advertising manager at (713) 348-3067 or thethresher@rice.edu for more information.

Agreement on course evaluations needed

To the editor:

I would like to currently request that the faculty Senate and common ground with the Student Association over the accessibility of the written portions of course evaluations.

The creation of a new system, without the consent of the current faculty Senate, would certainly undermine the general process. The students’ demand is reasonable and could easily be accommodated.

However, the use of a committee charged with reviewing questionable comments must be accompanied by a safeguard. Evaluations deemed inappropriate should still be available, in a separate section, where any reference to the specific course or professor is omitted. This would allow the Rice community to monitor the job of the censor, students to reap the benefits of the written evaluations and professors to be free of verbal assault.

Gil Eiras
Economics graduate student
ECON 211 instructor

Dr. Bill's years of service deserve thanks

To the editor:

Bill Wilson is one of the most energetic and involved individuals on this campus. Beyond his duties as a professor, he has been an outstanding resident associate, a theater technician, a sound engineer, assistant dean of students, chief warden and a great friend to many of us.

He has dozes if not hundreds of stories he is reluctant to share of his personal involvement with students at all levels, in all matters. He has gone to the mat for students in trouble, and he watches out for us every single day.

I would like to thank him, both personally and on behalf of Rice College, for his years of unbridled service above and beyond the call of duty. Dr. Bill is truly one of a kind. He will be deeply missed.

Jack Hardcastle
Rice president
Better pro feedback would better students

I have a good life. I live to see and construct a truly first-class university—one that is the envy of America and beyond. I believe that the Rice community is strongly committed to excellence in all its academic pursuits. Giving back to the university is a priority for me, and I have done so in several different ways, including my recent gift to the Rice University Endowment Fund, which will provide ongoing support for the university's highest priorities.

However, I have always felt that the university should do more to improve its feedback system. I think that professors need to give their students more feedback, not just in class but also through more frequent discussions of their ideas. In particular, I believe that the university should consider providing more feedback to students during the quarter or semester, not just at the end of the course.

I have been involved in several initiatives to improve feedback at Rice, including the creation of a new course evaluation system and the development of a new feedback system for professors. These initiatives have been well-received by the university community, and I hope they will continue to be successful.

As a member of the Rice University Board of Trustees, I am committed to ensuring that the university provides the best possible education to its students. I believe that feedback is one of the most important tools that professors have to help students improve their work, and I will continue to work with the university to improve the feedback system.

Nathan Black

Guest column

Universal health care would care national ailments

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Of all the forms of inequality, lack of health care is the most shocking and inhuman." The suffering of one is the suffering of all — that is what the world's great scriptures and holy books teach us. Human suffering is too great. As long as there are sick and dying people in the world, we must do something about it. Universal health care is a step in the right direction.

More than 40 million Americans lack health insurance. In this climate of callousness, we must adopt universal health care. There is no longer a good reason for every American to be without health care. After all, what can be worse than the guarantee that every human being has to have health care in order to survive? Despite reservations by some, the issue deserves serious consideration before we leap to judgment.

Many oppose universal health care because they believe most of the uninsured are undeserving and have only themselves to blame. But less than 20 percent of the uninsured Americans have no medical problems at all. Many others have serious health problems, yet they are unable to afford the health insurance or jobs that do not offer it.

Those who suffer need health care. Universal health care is not a panacea. However, universal health care does have the potential to solve many of our problems. The United States spends more on health care than any other nation, yet it is still far from being ideal. We spend on average $9,000 per person per year on health care, yet our health care system is still one of the worst in the world. In fact, the United States is one of the few countries that do not have universal health care.

Adoption of a policy of universal health care would give the United States a system that is less expensive, gives physicians the freedom to deliver care, and gives all Americans a guarantee of dignity and hope. It would be a huge step forward for our nation. As President, I will work tirelessly to make universal health care a reality.

Akhil Srinvasan

THE RICE THRESHER

Editor

The Rice Thresher, the official student newspaper of Rice University, is published each Friday during the school year, except during examination periods and holidays, by the students of Rice University.

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Rice Voices

U.S. Muslim communities need American mosques

Professors actually have opinions of you. Would you never know the level of feedback given in some Rice classes

The second post sounds a bit more hopeful. The comment that professors actually have opinions of you was quite refreshing. Most of the time, students are left guessing what professors think of their work. The thought that professors do care about their students' work and have opinions about it is a comforting one.

The comment about the level of feedback given in some Rice classes was perhaps the most surprising. It was interesting to hear that professors in other departments give more feedback than in my own. I have always felt that the feedback I receive from my professors is often meager and lacks detail. It is refreshing to hear that there are professors who provide more feedback and are willing to take the time to discuss their students' work.

It was also interesting to hear that some professors are more approachable than others. It is reassuring to know that there are professors who are open to discussion and are willing to answer questions from their students.

Overall, the post was a refreshing reminder of the importance of feedback and the need for professors to take the time to discuss their students' work. It is important for students to have feedback that is helpful and constructive, and it is reassuring to know that there are professors who are willing to provide this kind of feedback.

Akhil Srinvasan is a Rice College freshman.

Nathan Black is a Lovett College senior and senior editor.

Richard E. Sivaganesan

Rice University President

To the editors of the Rice Thresher

I have received many letters and e-mails from students and faculty expressing their concerns and ideas about the university. I am pleased to see the level of engagement and interest in our institution.

As a leader, my goal is to ensure that Rice thrives and excels. I believe that we can achieve this by continuing to invest in our faculty, infrastructure, and programs. I am committed to creating a welcoming and diverse environment that fosters learning and growth.

I appreciate the feedback and input from the Rice community. I will continue to listen and learn as we work together to build a better Rice University.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Sivaganesan

Rice University President

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Rice Voices

U.S. Muslim communities need American mosques

The second more than forty years since Septem-
Archi Arts to have Masquerade theme

Numbers night club on Westheimer will be the site of the Masquerade-themed Archi Arts party, to be held Saturday, March 4.

Archi Arts, which is traditionally marked by hip locations, self-designed costumes and an art venue, is a fundraising event to help sophomore architecture students cover expenses for their annual mandatory trip to Paris during spring break.

Junior College sophomore Jacob Cacan, who is helping plan the party, said she is excited about this year’s theme.

“Architect Arts was originally a costume ball,” Cacan said. “Now, in its 85th year, it still keeps the tradition. This theme is really accessible to anyone who wants to show their personality in a new way, flare up a certain aspect of who they are or even become, through costume, something they wish to be secretly."

Planners said this year’s party will be in a larger, more extravagant urban setting. Brown College sophomore Alice Chai, who is also planning the party, said Numbers has a reputation as one of Houston’s more popular counterculture music venues.

Chai said this year’s theme gives students an opportunity to express their creativity.

“Students can make their own masks and create a costume to wear to going along with their own ideas,” Chai said. “Make it yourself, be creative, surprise us… Make a mask and then dress accordingly.”

Sophomore architecture student Will T. will sell tickets for $10 at each college’s commons during lunch starting Feb. 22. Tickets will also be available at Anderson Hall, Room 146 and can be bought for $15 at the door.

Architecture students have also designed T-shirts for the event, which they will sell along with the tickets. T-shirts will cost $10, and students can purchase a ticket, raffle ticket and T-shirt together for $20.

The raffle drawing will be held at the party.

The party will run from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Shuttles buses will take students from the Sallyport to the club every 15 minutes.

— Lauren Pitts

Cambridge exchange student selected

Sid Richardson College sophomore Andrea Dinneen was named the recipient of the 2006 C.D. Broad scholarship. The international scholarship is part of a one-year exchange program between Cambridge University and Rice.

Dinneen, a history and sociology major, will study in a program that combines sociology and psychology.

Dinneen will only be required to attend a one-hour tutorial every week, but professors recommend that students attend lectures.

Dinneen said she also plans to play soccer and lacrosse, travel and join clubs.

“Because she will not have very much class time at Cambridge, Dinneen said she thinks joining clubs will be very important for her experience.”

“You need something to take up the time,” Dinneen said. “I figure joining clubs will give me something to do and help me meet people.”

Dinneen said she is nervous and excited about going to Cambridge.

“I’m interested in experiencing a different political atmosphere because it’s really liberal there,” Dinneen said.

Director of Scholarships and Fellowships Mauro de Lorenzo said he was pleased Dinneen received the scholarship, which is valued at $20,000.

“Because was the strongest candidate, and we felt that she would make a very good use of the opportunity in Cambridge,” de Lorenzo said.

Rice and Cambridge alternate accepting Broad scholars every year. The current Broad scholar, Emile Chabal, is visiting Rice from Cambridge this year. Will Rice College senior Tera Pruitt was the Broad scholar in 2004-05.

— Sarah Taylor

ESPERANZA

Rice Program Council released data from its formats budget this week. RPC lost about $4,000 on Esperanza, which was held Nov. 12 at the Grand Room downtown. About 400 people attended the event.

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The net loss is similar to last year’s, when the event was held at the Grand Room downtown. About 400 people attended the event.

RPC lost about $4,000 on Esperanza, which was held Nov. 12 at the Grand Room downtown. About 400 people attended the event.
Hanszen College officer Alvarado returns from Iraq

by Kari Dutia

RUPD officer Pete Alvarado left a campus of underage drinkers for a different challenge: Alvarado served in the U.S. Army in Iraq, and now he is back keeping watch over Hanszen College.

Alvarado became a Rice University Police Officer in 2002. In 2004, he was called up for active duty by the Texas National Guard. Following two tours of duty, he was released from active duty Jan. 6 and returned to Rice.

Less than a month after being notified of his impending deployment, Alvarado was stationed for training at Fort Hood, Texas in August 2004. He later moved to Fort Polk, La. and was deployed to Fall All Fire Base in southern Iraq in early January 2005.

Alvarado, a sergeant, served primarily as a medic for regiments from Texas. He also worked as a medical administrator and a supply sergeant.

"I was in charge of training, supplying and all the administrative paperwork for my group," Alvarado said. "My whole job was to make sure that my 26 medics and my 50 plus soldiers were taken care of. I also worked along with other medical units that supported a total of 4,500 people.

Alvarado said his group of medics also treated Iraqis who did not have access to health care. There are groups of soldiers that are designated solely for civilian missions.

"We did medical civil affairs programs, where we had a lot of support from the community who would send in food, clothes for the kids and family clothes, school supplies, etc.," Alvarado said. "We would go out once a month and give them these things.

"I am not scared to get down to the student level and not play cop all the time. This is what my job is, but I am fair and always available."

— Officer Pete Alvarado

Alvarado said the soldiers were insulated from anti-war protesters in the U.S. and because the military is a different world and not play cop all the time, Alvarado said. "I can see more people now that I work during the day," Alvarado said. "I try to take all the calls (to RUPD) from Hanszen. I signed up to work the Hanszen Pub Night, because that is my college."

Hanszen College officer Pete Alvarado is back at Rice this semester after two tours in Iraq, where he served as a medic for regiments from Texas.


Alvarado received achievement and service awards, including a meritorious service medal, an army commendation medal, three army achievement medals and an army good conduct medal.

"It wasn't about the medals — that part of the fight is for America's freedom, and I feel like we did that for them," Alvarado said.

"I came back to work Dec. 30, and I've been working since," Alvarado said.

"Personally, I transitioned smoothly because I am a very active person, and I can't just sit around," Alvarado said. "I come back to work Dec. 30, and I've been working since." Alvarado received achievement and service awards, including a meritorious service medal, an army commendation medal, three army achievement medals and an army good conduct medal.

Military man

Alvarado comes from a family of soldiers. His grandfather served in World War II, most of his uncles served in Vietnam and his cousin reported for training Monday. Alvarado said he joined the Army to serve the U.S. and because the military is a unique and rewarding experience.

"The army is its own family — you have the opportunity to meet a lot of people (and experience things you wouldn't otherwise)," Alvarado said.

"This year, for example, we are going to England to train in the summer for two weeks. In the Army, we get to travel, to help other people — not only internationally, but state-wide as well.

Alvarado said the training he received as a medic — he is required to be EM Certified — has helped him as an RUPD officer.

College officer

Alvarado had been a Hanszen's college police officer since 2003.

The officers assigned to the college shift — between 6 p.m. and 2 a.m. — are responsible for interacting with and monitoring the college to make them safer, Rice Police Chief Bill Taylor said.

"The college officers get to work closely with the students to provide them with information that makes them less likely to be the victims of a crime," Taylor said. "It also makes recognition easier to the officer who spot someone who does not belong."

Alvarado has gone beyond those duties by involving himself with the college and its members.

Hanszen Resident Associate Pani Sutera

"He attends the cabinet meetings — even though he's not working at that time — and he engages himself," Sutera said. "He makes himself available to the students, so students feel comfortable calling him or seeking him out or asking him advice."

Hanszen Resident Wes Morris said Alvarado's interaction with the college continued while he was in Iraq.

"He was such a member of our family," Morris said. "It is year, for example, we're going to England to train in the summer for two weeks. In the Army, we get to travel, to help other people — not only internationally, but state-wide as well."

Alvarado sent occasional emails to the college listers, welcoming new students to the college at the beginning of the academic year and providing updates about his life. Hanszen members sent Alvarado several care packages.

"We had a special Police cabinet night," Morris, an English professor, said. "We collected personal items like movies, DVDs and books for him.

Hanszen senior Lauren Vanderlip said Hanszen sent care packages to Alvarado because he is an integral part of the Hanszen community.

"He was such a member of our college by them that it was only natural to send care packages periodically," Vanderlip said. "We also sent him emails on his birthday. I remember exchanging emails with Officer Pete while he was in Iraq — he actually spent time to reply to us individually, which just goes to show how much he cares about Hanszen.

Officers change shifts every six months, and although they can request shifts, sometimes they are assigned where they are most needed. Alvarado, who is assigned to a day shift, has also remained Hanszen's college officer. Taylor said.

"He took his job as a college officer very seriously, and even when he wasn't assigned to Hanszen at night, he still remained the person who interacted with the college," Taylor said.

Because RUPD is currently short two officers, Alvarado's decision to stay on as Hanszen's college officer has relieved some of the pressure on the force.

Hanszen member

Alvarado said his age — he will be 28 Feb. 15 — and personality have helped him form a close relationship with Hanszen students.

"He was truly concerned about Hanszen students' welfare," Malone said. "He always managed to make us laugh when he was telling us stories about the stupid criminals he had to deal with because they were funny and informative."

Alvarado said there is a benefit to having the day shift and remaining a college officer.

"I can see more people now that I work during the day," Alvarado said. "I try to take all the calls (to RUPD) from Hanszen. I signed up to work the Hanszen Pub Night, because that is my college."

The Future of Privacy: Rethinking Security Trade-offs

Technology, Society & Public Policy Lecture Series

Wednesday, Feb. 8 @ 4pm

Duncan Hall, McMurtry Auditorium

www.citi.rice.edu
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program (MMUP) at Rice University has three goals.

First, it seeks to increase the number of minority students, and others with a demonstrated commitment to eradicating racial disparities, who will pursue PhDs in core fields in the arts and sciences. In doing so, the program aims to reduce over time the serious underrepresentation on the faculties of individuals from certain minority groups, as well as to address the attendant educational consequences of these disparities.

Second, it seeks to nurture these students to be the researchers, teachers, and mentors of the highly diverse college student bodies of the future.

Third, it seeks to encourage study abroad experiences as part of their curriculum. The fields that the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has targeted for support are:

- Anthropology
- Art History
- Classics
- Computer Science
- Demography
- Earth Sciences
- Ecology
- English
- Ethnomusicology
- Foreign Languages
- History
- Literature
- Mathematics
- Musicology
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Theory
- Religion
- Sociology

Applicants should normally be completing their sophomore year as a student at Rice University. Selection will be based on a number of attributes including but not limited to academic standing and potential, life experiences and interests, commitment to building bridges in multicultural settings, and interest in pursuing graduate education. Students who participate in the program receive a yearly stipend of $2,000, work closely with a faculty mentor for two years, and are also eligible for participation in summer fellowship programs at the end of their sophomore or junior years. Finalists will be interviewed. Announcements will be made in March.

For more information and to download the application go to: http://professor.rice.edu/professor/Mellon_Mays_index.asp

Application deadline is February 2, 2006
HONOR

From page 1

would jeopardize accused students' rights.

Since a ruling of "in violation" requires a unanimous vote by the panel, some council members think decreasing the panel size could allow panels to more easily find students "in violation."

Horstman said he has seen cases in which the council voted 8-1 against a student, but he said he thought the verdict should have been "in violation" for all of those cases.

Honor Council External Vice Chair Andrew Roller said the goal of the forum was to give students a chance to present the Honor Council with questions or concerns in an informal setting.

Fox said he appreciated the forum but thought better publicity could have increased attendance.

Koller said he agrees the event could have been better publicized but that he thinks students are content with the Honor Code.

"I think the relatively low attendance shows that students are in general satisfied with the job being done," Koller said. "I think that if there was a serious issue with how we were doing our job, more people would have shown up."

Koller also said that the Honor Council plans to hold similar events in the future.

"Hopefully we can do this at least once a semester," Koller said.

POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period Jan. 25-Feb. 1.

Residential Colleges

Hanszen College
Jan. 25 Motor vehicle operated in unsafe manner and almost hit golf cart.
Baker College
Jan. 28 Student referred to Student Judicial Programs for minor consuming alcohol.
Weiss College
Jan. 29 Attempted suicide.
Weiss College
Jan. 31 Bicycle stolen.
Will Rice College
Feb. 1 Items from employee's lunch bag stolen.

Academic Buildings

Sewall Hall
Jan. 27 Wallet stolen.
Herman Brown Hall
Jan. 30 Harassment reported.
Kroc Hall
Jan. 31 Backpack stolen.
Space Science
Feb. 1 Suspicious person reported. Subject gone when officer arrived.
Kroc Hall
Feb. 1 Wallet stolen.

ParkingLots

Greenbriar Lot
Jan. 25 Motor vehicle burglarized.
West Lot
Jan. 31 Bicycle stolen.

Other Areas

Rice University
Jan. 25 Harassment complaint.
Entrance 2
Jan. 26 Gate damaged.
Laboratory Road
Jan. 28 Subject arrested for driving while intoxicated and remanded to Harris County Jail.
Off campus
Feb. 1 Bicycle stolen. Case referred by Houston Police Department.

Window wiping

Hanszen College senior Marcle Jackson participates in a Baker 13 clean-up effort, organized by campus Christian organizations, on Tuesday.

JOHN E. PARISH FELLOWSHIP

for Summer Travel

Wiess College announces competition for the 2006 John E. Parish Fellowship. The winner of the Parish Fellowship will receive support of approximately 2 months travel during the Summer of 2006. The purpose of the fellowship is to enhance the undergraduate education of the Fellow by broadening the range of experience via travel. All full-time returning undergraduates at Rice are eligible. For further information, call the Wiess College coordinator (713-348-5743), or see the web page at www.ruf.rice.edu/~parish. Deadline for application is Thursday, March 23, 2006.

hey brainy boy and wickedly good grades girl take a walk on the wild side.com

trade in your supersonic smarty pants for a lil somethin to get funky fresh.com

let your big bad brainy self sway to the beat of the h-town street sound.com
MFAH exhibit proves philosophically inspired

Rachel Green

Thursday, February 2, 2006

Xul Solar: Vision and Revelations
organized by the Museum of Latin American Art, showed at the Pinacoteca Do Estado de Sao Paolo, employs a traditional framework to present small, nontraditional paintings and sculptural works. Xul Solar, born Alejandro Schulz Solar in 1887 to parents of Larivian and Italian descent, was educated in Buenos Aires as both a musician and architect. Although he never made professional use of these studies, both influences are evident in the rhythmic nature and formal elements of many of his paintings. Solar later went on to Buenos Aires, where he started working with watercolor and tempera paints. As he mastered these creative media, he began exploring himself to the theosophy, a buddhist religious movement. When he returned to Buenos Aires, he introduced the idea of the total work of art and did not restrict himself to some medium, approaching his role as an artist through many creative avenues. Most significantly, Solar created two new written languages, which were designed both to express what he could not express in ordinary language and to be something "unanimously universal and uniquely American." Many of Solar’s own words appear in the paintings themselves. The works showcased in Vision and Revelations reflect Solar’s lifelong search for transcendence and understanding of spiritual and philosophical truths. In celebration of the exhibit, the MFAH purchased a Solar piece for its permanent collection.

Soler’s interest in astrology manifests itself in Maurice Sendak-like illustrations. Xul Solar: Vision and Revelations offersthe willing observer the chance to see how a truly visionary artist thought. As the name of the exhibit suggests, the small yet sentimentally prounoted pieces embody a man’s unending search for truth and understanding of various religious perspectives on possible answers.

Julia Bursten

The Inquisition, Who Knew?

I’m as sick of God columns as the next Rice student—probably more, because my desk is next to the opinion editor’s—but I saw something the other day that simply outraged me as a pop-culture-phile. What could possibly be at stake here? To discuss the trends of red letter reading, “Jesus died for Pedro” is a good start.

I get the idea of stealing pop paraphernalia for petty, personal gain, but these days they’ve been involved with Lorret College’s “Drink For Pedro” themed Beer Bike campaign last year. But I see a huge difference between modifying the iconic Jesus-themed Napoleon Dynamite logo in a cothruf and advertising it on a shirt as a public message of silent evangelism.

All this pop-plication of Christianity weakens the image of the Church.

Religion may not exactly be my specialty, but I do not remember seeing that shirt every so often being tossed on the student body than to see how a truly visionary artist thought. As the name of the exhibit suggests, the small yet sentimentally prounoted pieces embody a man’s unending search for truth and understanding of various religious perspectives on possible answers.

Julia Bursten is a Sophomore College student and arts and entertainment editor.

God goods insisting to religious, secular groups

It seems more than a little cheap to advertise religious beliefs by simply applying them to a cult film character. Seeing Jesus’ relationship with Pedro written on a few student's shirts ins't a subtle way to bring Christian culture to the university. It looks more like a non-judgmental pop slogan of its own.

Unfortunately, I cannot say the film's message is any more complex than the one given in the film at face value. Sure, a Jesus parallel could be drawn to Napoleon’s story. It is virtually impossible to find a story more American in terms of its message, so much so that I, as a non-practicing Jew who accept him into my life, am more likely to see Jesus himself.

I have a hard time believing that the film’s message is any more complex than the one given in the film at face value. Sure, a Jesus parallel could be drawn to Napoleon’s story. It is virtually impossible to find a story more American in terms of its message, so much so that I, as a non-practicing Jew who accept him into my life, am more likely to see Jesus himself.

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BASEBALL 2006

STORIES BY MATT MCCABE
LAYOUT BY MARSHALL ROBINSON AND MATT MCCABE
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARSHALL ROBINSON

position players • pitchers • lineup • alumni • schedule

B2 B3 B5 B6 B7
The freshmen base percentage with a .382 average Athletic Conference in hitting and on
ation. Savery led Rice and the Western Baseball America five position players. Savery, the 2005
up a 3-2 lead in the top of the eighth inning en route to a 9-6 loss.
return two of their three weekend ranked between fourth and seventh
inning as well as good baseball instinct. (He'll probably be the most underrated)
return two of their three weekend

"He's a team guy." Rodriguez led Rice in home
he has the edge entering opening day. However, Graham said he has made

Savery and Degerman — as well as young, probably the most

good ball player in the country. In

and hosts No. 5 Cal State Fullerton

The Rice Thresher

Oma

"Our team did not look like a less experienced team [at LSU last year]. The freshmen who were there stood up and were counted." — Wayne Graham


Who were there stood up and were counted.


Junior backstop Travis Buchanan, a starter at catcher and designated hitter since his sophomore season, was named to the all-region team for his performance in 2004. Buchanan has impressed from the left side. He's good, and freshman outfielder Kenny Ford has impressed from the left side.

Sophomore outfielder Tyler Henley, who led Rice in stolen bases with 22 last season, returns to patrol centerfield with his speed and exceptional arm. Baseball America rated Henley as having the best speed and

Sophomore infielder Jordan Dodson is the favorite to start at left
field. Dodson, who was named to the all-regional team for his performance in 2004, has impressive from the left side.

Sophomore outfielder Tyler Henley, who led Rice in stolen bases with 22 last season, returns to patrol centerfield with his speed and exceptional arm. Baseball America rated Henley as having the best speed and
doesn't, he'll be a great utility player and infielder.

Lehmann and Reagan are the top two catchers, Graham said. "Josh really has seemed to mature in his role this year. He's a really fine ballplayer." Graham said. "He's good, and Duplessis is fourth and he's good.

"Everybody has had their moments and innings," Graham said. "Our outs separated a young, fast, he's got great hands, and [he's]

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Savery, Degerman anchor rotation

The Starters

Left-hander Joe Savery

Right-hander Eddie Degerman

Right-hander Bobby Bell

Right-hander Tyce Tucker

Cox leads young, maturing Owl bullpen

The most pivotal member of the relief pitching corps is sophomore right-hander Bryce Cox, who has always had a dominant fastball that approaches 90 miles per hour, but has recently developed a slider he considers necessary to be a solid, closer.

"When you come up against top batters, it’s hard to have a lot of confidence when there’s traffic on base and you’re in the middle of the strike zone," Cox said.

Cox’s slider is the one weapon the Owls need to be able to win close games. His brother, Jesse, was drafted by the Texas Rangers during the 2008 draft.

"Pessa has been outstanding," Graham said. "He’s thrown a good changeup to go with his fastball and breaking ball."

Senior right-hander Bryce Cox enters the 2006 season as the Owls’ closer after leading the weekend-starter rotation last year with three saves, and coming off a successful summer season in the Texas Collegiate League, where he had a 2.40 record with seven saves and a 1.92 ERA.

"If [we] had to start tomorrow, the third weekend starter would be Bell or St.Clair," Graham said. "It’s important for [the relievers] to have a variety of pitch types and use them to their advantage.

"Bryce Cox is going to be a guy who we could throw into any game, no matter what the situation," Graham said.

"Cox, so far, has been everything we could hope for," Graham said. "If all the pitchers had last year, he would have had experience pitching in his life. He’s a good athlete, he’s got a great arm and he’s come up with a better breaking ball, which he didn’t have last year."

Outside of Cox, bullpen roles have not yet been assigned, but Graham has many options. If sophomore left-hander Colton St.Clair does not earn the third weekend rotation, he will probably be the eighth-inning setup man. St.Clair was the most effective reliever for the Owls in 2005, performing well in both long and short relief.

Rice (2-0) finished 2005 with great promise, recording saves against Central Missouri State, Texas A&M and Mississippi. However, Cox lost confidence in late February when, after a long game delay at Bickell Park, he gave up a three-run home run to 2006 Baseball America College Player of the Year Alex Gordon of Nebraska. Cox took his first loss as an Owl in that game, and his control was never the same after that game. By the end of the season, Cox was coming of solid summer performances in the Texas Collegiate League, where he had a 2.29 record with a 3.01 ERA in 11 innings of work.

"He presents problems [for hitters] not only when they are in the middle of the strike zone, but when they are down in the count, as well," Graham said.

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For questions, call (713) 348-3966 or send an e-mail: thresher@rice.edu.
With five starters returning to the 2006 lineup, head coach Wayne Graham will utilize his deep bench in constructing the lineup. Here are the likely combinations, depending on the opposing pitcher:

vs. right-hander

With the first five hitters in the lineup in place regardless of pitcher, Graham will probably insert freshman Kenny Ford and sophomore Bobby Bramhall into outfield or designated hitting roles to have five left-handed bats in the lineup. Bramhall is a better fielder than Ford, so Ford will likely be the choice to DH. This lineup also features improved speed — 41 of Rice’s 49 steals in 2005 came from this card.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Bats</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>13-TYLER HENLEY</td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>17-GREG BUCHANAN</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>20-Joe SAVERY</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>12-Josh RODRIGUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>11-DANNY LEHMANN</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>19-TRAVIS REAGAN</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>10-KENNY FORD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>4-BRIAN FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>3-Bobby BRAMHALL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

vs. left-hander

Rice can stack its lineup with seven right-handed hitters against southpaws. Sophomore transfer Chad Lembeck will likely be inserted in the outfield, and one of freshman Aaron Luna and redshirt freshman Adam Zornes will probably DH. This lineup showcases more power and maintains some speed with Lembeck. Rice was 14-5 versus left-handed starters in 2005.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Bats</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>13-TYLER HENLEY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>17-GREG BUCHANAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>20-Joe SAVERY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>12-Josh RODRIGUE</td>
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<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>22-Chad LEMBECK</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### RICE BASEBALL BY THE NUMBERS

- **Position**: The position of the player in the lineup.
- **Bats**: Whether the player is left-handed (L) or right-handed (R).
- **Name**: The name of the player.

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**ERA of Rice’s three weekend starters in 2005**

- Right-handers Josh Geer and Eddie Degerman and left-hander Joe Savery.
- Savery was second in the WAC with a 2.43 ERA.

**Combined batting average** (35-183) by opponents against Eddie Degerman.
- Degerman struck out 16 in just 7.2 innings of work April 9, 2005 against La. Tech in Ruston, La.

**WAC-leading batting average** for first baseman Joe Savery last year. Savery was named the 2005 WAC Player of the Year and the 2005 Baseball America Freshman of the Year.

**Attendance for the Rice-UT game April 20, 2005 at Reckling Park, the largest paid attendance in Reckling Park history**.
- Rice had an average attendance of 3,012 per home game last season.

**Consecutive three-game home series won by Rice**.
- This record will be challenged early in 2006, when the Owls face No. 5 Cal State Fullerton for a three-game series March 3-5.

**Rice losses in extra-inning games in 2005**.
- Rice’s improved bullpen should allow the Owls to pull out extra-inning games once again in 2006.
Former Owl catcher Hallmark joins team as assistant coach

Three of Rice's 12 head coaches are alumni, and Athletic Director Bobby May (Will Rice '65) also went to Rice. This season, the baseball coaching staff will include alumni Pat Hallmark (Brown '02), Hallmark joins head coach Wayne Graham's staff and brings in nine years of professional experience as a player.

"I was ecstatic when the opportunity arose," Hallmark said. "My career goal was to coach. I couldn't think of a better position to be in."

"You try not to fix what's not broken, but you don't want to let them fall into bad habits," Hallmark said. "For the most part, I try to listen and respect as much as I do coach Graham. [you still refer to him as "coach."] You'd be crazy not to."

Pat Hallmark
Assistant coach

Fellow alumni Zane Curry (Baker '02), who was Rice's volunteer pitching coach from 2000-03, now gives and contracts pre-baseball lessons and clinics. Curry, a catcher in his two seasons with Rice, helped develop five pitchers who were drafted in the first round of the Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft. Under his tutelage, Rice was among the leaders in the nation best 2.64 mark in 2004.

"Obviously Zane did a good job — we won a national championship with him as the pitching coach," Graham said.

Hallmark, a catcher and outfielder during his professional career, will primarily coach pitchers as a head coach at Dobie High School in Pasadena, where he coached for five years.

Hallmark is married to Jada Hallmark (Sid 02), who as Jada Sanders was a four-year letterwinner for the swimming team.

Hallmark, who coached at St. Thomas High School in Houston but has made an immediate impact on the players he works with.

"Coach Hallmark and I are pretty close — I'd refer to him as "coach," Hallmark said. "You try not to fix what's not broken, but you don't want to let them fall into bad habits."

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>February 20</td>
<td>4 CAL ST. FULLERTON</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26 &amp; TEXAS ST.</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 &amp; ST. JOHN'S</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 #UT</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>8. Memphis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31 * at Tulane (3 p.m.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 * EAST CAROLINA (1 p.m.)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 % LAMAR</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 # Texas Tech</td>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>9 * UAB</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30 * at UCF</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 * SOUTHERN MISS (7 p.m.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 at Oklahoma (7 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 at Baylor (9 p.m.)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>9.1 NCAA Super Regionals</td>
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### Tougher schedule awaits Owls

Rice enters the 2006 season coming off its 10th consecutive conference championship — nine in the Western Athletic Conference and one in the Southwest Conference — and 11 straight NCAA tournament berths. After amassing a 45-19 record in 2005, the seventh-ranked Owls look toward their 2006 schedule with confidence. Their non-conference slate is the third toughest in the nation according to Baseball America, and behind Boston College — who lost edge on Feb. 9 at Reckling Park and UCLA.

"I think it's a strong schedule, and our guys need to be prepared to handle what we've got," said basemans-chucker Bob Harvey. "It's not football where you have to win every game. In college baseball, it's okay to lose a couple of games. We go and have as tough a schedule as possible. It's only going to help us down the back end. Facing those teams early is going to help us mature quicker and hopefully be playing little better by the end of the season.""
RICE STUDENTS
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Kristen
Gambetta ’05
Houston 1836

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60 students placed as interns with Houston’s professional sports franchises since 2003.

WORLD SERIES

Jesse Roman ’06, Marcos Ramos ’05 & Adam Tabakin ’06 worked the 2005 World Series as members of the Houston Astros front office staff. Tabakin now works for Houston 1836.
Film confronts racial, social stereotypes with stale but comedic storyline

Tasha Chemplavil

The film "Something New," a romantic comedy, confronts the taboos of interracial and interclass dating in a superficial, not-tobos manner. Its contrived, romantic-comedy storyline, complete with a razzle-dazzle predictable ending, hides beneath the film's plethora of one-liners for passable—albeit shallow—viewing experience.

While criticism from Kenya's family's standpoint is interesting, Mark and Brian's relationship with Mark (Kevin Costner) is successful, handsomely and most importantly, it's real.

Every man is driven by the need to find his human connection. Mark's overarching acceptance of Kenya's deviations, whatever they may be, conveys to viewers as much as it does to his fellow characters. While Kenya is by no means an Oscar-worthy film, but it is amusing. The issues tackled couldn't have eclipsed the story and made a hard-hitting, thought-provoking film, but they were kept superficial. Allowing the audience to enjoy the film's lighthearted comedy without emotionally confronting the issue. The film gives viewers' brains a rest and simply entertains.

The actors are quick with the laughs, yet truly incapable of portraying any emotion with any kind of authenticity. Despite Debbie Doonugen, who plays the overly wooden, middle-aged Martha and holds a 7-Eleven Big Gulp and hamburger in almost every scene, seems especially comically. Dustin Anthony is comically as Kyle, a high-school dropout who works two menial jobs and ends each day by moking a joint in the trailer he shares, with his mother. However, it would be unfair to place all of the blame on the amateurs hired to star in "Bubble" Soderbergh does nothing with choreography or scripting to help them develop, further causing the cast to seem compliant and unintelligent.

Every prospective relationship is scrutinized for marriage potential, and Mark does not pass muster. Despite the insurmountable obstacles placed in front of the couple, the offscreen chemistry between Kathleen and Earl Billing's makes the audience root for the success of their relationship.

There are no memorable lines in the supporting cast. From Scott's Donald Faizon as Kenya's overacting brother to Desperate Housewives' Alter Wadison as her uptight, controlling mother.

The climax—when a police detective tells Kyle and then Martha that Rose has been murdered—is a particularly taxing example of the movie's many pitfalls. The actors are calm and laconic when they receive the news, making poor match for the emotional intensity the scene is supposed to express.

"Bubble" is a dismal and pondering hour-and-a-half lesson on the merits and PITFALLS of experimental filmmaking.

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And while the plot lacks innovation, the film is never predictably stereotypical plot twisted with interclass dating. Viewers see the expectations placed on a successful black woman of marrying age: To Kenya, confronting the prospect of marriage is hard enough without adding racial issues to the mix.

"Something New" compensates for its tired plot with genuinely FUNNY scripting.

The score is also excellent, featuring the artistic filmography and quality music are given artistic potential. The camera work is efficient and innovative, marked by quick cuts between scenes and extreme close-ups of the characters' faces.

The film deals with the taboos of interracial dating as well. Kenya is successful, just like the movie and family. Mark is also successful, giving him one more check on Kenya's list.

Brian, on the other hand, is a gardener hugging under the fantasy tale of landscape artist. Brian offers a first time to Kenya in a community garden, whereas dates with him are a little too fresh as dirty laundry, Kenya must decide whether to follow her brain or her heart.

The film confronts racial, social stereotypes with stale but comedic storyline.

Tanya Chumpavil

THRESHER STAFF

Jan. 27 release, but not because of its simple Price and the danger of piracy. But regardless of the movie's unconventional circulation, its content deserves some attention as well.

Unfortunately, "Bubble" is a dismal and pondering hour-and-a-half lesson on the merits and PITFALLS of experimental filmmaking. The actors are quick with the laughs, yet truly incapable of portraying any emotion with any kind of authenticity. Despite Debbie Doonugen, who plays the overly wooden, middle-aged Martha and holds a 7-Eleven Big Gulp and hamburger in almost every scene, seems especially comically. Dustin Anthony is comically as Kyle, a high-school dropout who works two menial jobs and ends each day by moking a joint in the trailer he shares, with his mother. However, it would be unfair to place all of the blame on the amateurs hired to star in "Bubble" Soderbergh does nothing with choreography or scripting to help them develop, further causing the cast to seem compliant and unintelligent.

Every prospective relationship is scrutinized for marriage potential, and Mark does not pass muster. Despite the insurmountable obstacles placed in front of the couple, the offscreen chemistry between Kathleen and Earl Billing's makes the audience root for the success of their relationship.

There are no memorable lines in the supporting cast. From Scott's Donald Faizon as Kenya's overacting brother to Desperate Housewives' Alter Wadison as her uptight, controlling mother.

The climax—when a police detective tells Kyle and then Martha that Rose has been murdered—is a particularly taxing example of the movie's many pitfalls. The actors are calm and laconic when they receive the news, making poor match for the emotional intensity the scene is supposed to express.

"Bubble" is a dismal and pondering hour-and-a-half lesson on the merits and PITFALLS of experimental filmmaking.

And while the plot lacks innovation, the film is never predictably stereotypical plot twisted with interclass dating. Viewers see the expectations placed on a successful black woman of marrying age: To Kenya, confronting the prospect of marriage is hard enough without adding racial issues to the mix.

Bryce Gray

THRESHER STAFF

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New football strategy is long overdue

Growing up in Austin, the capital of Longhorn country, I have become accustomed to following a college football team with a high profile. Saturdays in the fall always mean something—most Saturdays have been devoted to a game or an event, not necessarily related to football. In my home andmy extended family, football players are heroes. We have a history of cheering on our local Texas Longhorns from the stands of Darrell K. Royal Memorial Stadium. I have come to associate football with many fun and exciting things—winning games, going to games, and hanging out with friends.

However, I have missed the atmosphere that surrounded those gloriously sunny Saturdays. But I am not just talking about the student section. Beyond the hedges, hardly anyone in this city cares much about Rice football. Of course, Rice has to compete with three major sports teams and UH in a large city with plenty of sports and entertainment options. Developing a positive atmosphere around a football team, especially one with a poor record, is a monumental task.

Unquestionably, the Owls have always had to compete for entertainment dollars. They could not sell a program trying to make inroads into the community. No television or head coaching contracts with low attendance figures. Look at the soccer team, which averaged fewer than 100 fans per home game just three years ago. Thanks to an aggressive campaign both on and off-campus, soccer now has its own home game as the women's basketball team.

While there were a lot of student fans at the games last season, there were also several young boys and girls who played soccer. The soccer coaches host popular annual camps. Look at the soccer team, which averaged fewer than 100 fans per home game just three years ago. Thanks to an aggressive campaign both on and off-campus, soccer now has its own home game as the women's basketball team.

But stiff competition for the entertainment dollar should not deter a program trying to make inroads into the community. No television or head coaching contracts with low attendance figures. Look at the soccer team, which averaged fewer than 100 fans per home game just three years ago. Thanks to an aggressive campaign both on and off-campus, soccer now has its own home game as the women's basketball team.

The men's team improved its perfect record with ease last weekend. Defeating both Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern University, the Owls averaged 82.8 points per game last year. Obviously, winning alone does not equal box office success. I am so glad to see that practices will now be open to the public and that the athletic department is promoting the Blue-Grey spring game in April. What I am most glad to see, though, is how the new staff recruits. Graham and his assistants have turned what was considered one of Rice's weaknesses — its high academic standards — into a strength. This staff is not afraid of the big-name-state schools in this region. If a player is talented enough and makes good enough grades, Graham and his staff will recruit him no matter what other schools are after him. This approach has paid dividends already — the Owls have signed their strongest class in years.

Men's tennis sweeps Prairie View A&M, TSU

I noticed that, in the past, Rice football operated under a philosophy. The coach would recruit someone for kids during the summer and winter breaks, and I would not have been surprised if most of those kids saw at the game. Following the Owls after attending a camp is an accepted part of everyday life.

However, in its first weekend without Rice defeated Texas State University, a Division I-M school in San Marcos, in a 6-0 victory. The Owls host UH tonight and East Carolina Monday at Autry Court. Both games start at 7 p.m.

Men's tennis sweeps Prairie View A&M, TSU

The Owls look to extend home winning streak

by Anser Obernayer

With comfortable wins against the University of Texas-Dallas and Tulane University last weekend, the women's basketball team moved into a tie for sixth place in the Conference USA. Rice now trails second-place Southern Methodist University (11-10, 6-3 CUSA) and University of Southern Mississippi (9-11, 6-3 CUSA) by just one and a half games. The Owls will have a chance to continue to move up in the standings this weekend, as they play four games this weekend, including one against Rice University (17-7, 5-3 CUSA) tonight, and sixth-place East Carolina University (12-7, 4-4 CUSA) Sunday.

"We just finally got a good rhythm going. We're finally the team we know we can be — making great shots, making great passes and playing good defense."

— Lauren Neaves

Senior guard Rosyland Jeffaries attempts a shot in Rice's 82-69 win over Tulane Sunday. The Owls beat UH tonight and East Carolina Monday at Autry Court. Both games start at 7 p.m.

Senior guard Rosyland Jeffaries attempts a shot in Rice's 82-69 win over Tulane Sunday. The Owls beat UH tonight and East Carolina Monday at Autry Court. Both games start at 7 p.m.

"We knew [our opponents'] level of play wasn't going to be up to our standard. But I'm happy that we handled it without much screwing around."

— Efe Udugad (Baker '99)

Assistant men's tennis coach

by Dylan Farber

The men's tennis team improved its perfect record with ease last weekend. Defeating both Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern University, the Owls averaged 82.8 points per game last year. Obviously, winning alone does not equal box office success. I am so glad to see that practices will now be open to the public and that the athletic department is promoting the Blue-Grey spring game in April. What I am most glad to see, though, is how the new staff recruits. Graham and his assistants have turned what was considered one of Rice's weaknesses — its high academic standards — into a strength. This staff is not afraid of the big-name-state schools in this region. If a player is talented enough and makes good enough grades, Graham and his staff will recruit him no matter what other schools are after him. This approach has paid dividends already — the Owls have signed their strongest class in years.

But stiff competition for the entertainment dollar should not deter a program trying to make inroads into the community. No television or head coaching contracts with low attendance figures. Look at the soccer team, which averaged fewer than 100 fans per home game just three years ago. Thanks to an aggressive campaign both on and off-campus, soccer now has its own home game as the women's basketball team.
Thinking outside the box:

Owls capable of beating third-ranked Memphis

I have a very important yet somewhat surprising announcement to make to Owl fans.

Rice has a better chance to defeat the Memphis Tigers in men’s basketball than anyone left on Memphis’ regular-season schedule.

No, this is not a joke. The third-ranked team in the nation may very well lose Saturday at Autry Court.

OK, so maybe the Owls have lost to Texas, University of California-Los Angeles, Duke University, Gonzaga University, the University of Texas and the University of Alabama-Birmingham, just to name a few — and say our Owls are overmatched. The Tigers have beaten five of those teams, and their presence to the nation.

Rice has a chance to beat just about any team in the nation when they play in front of large home crowds like the one that showed up against UConn.

And if you really want to ask, you can point out that Memphis has a few outstanding players on their roster, including forward Rodney Carney, a man who has taken numerous little-known teams to prosperity and spent a couple of years coaching in the NBA.

But Rice has a chance to win the game. The Owls may not play well on the road, but they’re usually competitive at home. The loss against Tulane Saturday was probably the worst game I have seen this Owl team play, and Rice still could have won. The last game we had at home against a team of Memphis’ quality was against eventual national champion University of Connecticut in 2004, and the team only lost by nine points.

This year’s squad does not have Michael Harrison or Jason McKenzie, but they don’t sell them short, because they have a few talented players of their own.

Junior guard Morris Almond might be one of the most exciting players in the nation, with his outstanding shot and athletic ability.

When the shot clock is running out, junior guard Lorenz Williams routinely hits shots that would even cause Kobe Bryant to dread. Senior forward Jamal Moore is a force in the post. Everyone on the team is improving from game to game.

Autry Court can become overwhelming for any opponent thanks to its small size.

Rice has a chance to beat just about any team in the nation when they play in front of large home crowds like the one that showed up against UConn.

Rice had a chance to beat just about any team in the nation when they are focused and pumped up, which is exactly what happens when they play in front of large home crowds, crowds like the one that showed up against UConn, and the ones that always show up whenever the Owls are coached against UH. Autry Court can become overwhelming for any opponent, in spite of — and at times thanks to — its small size and close quarters.

Teams get rattled and shaken up by the heckling of a group of students whacking their bench for the whole game.

So don’t believe the naysayers, because this team has a game should be a good one — the Owls are good and the game could announce their presence to the nation.

Chris Pasich is a Covenant College alumnae and men’s basketball writer.
Football signs 18 recruits for 2006

by Nathan Hildebrand
THE RICE THRESHER SPORTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2006

Head football coach Todd Graham announced his first recruiting class Wednesday. With his recruits, 18 in all, Graham showed a strong preference for players from successful high school programs.

The class includes two quarterbacks, four wide receivers, two tight ends, six defensive linemen, two inside linebackers, two inside linebackers and a deep snapper. Two all-state performers—Joseph Agnew, a strong safety from Class 5A state champion Southlake Carroll High School, and Pierre Bessey, a quarterback from Spring Westfield High School near Houston—signed national letters of intent with the Owls.

After evaluating the team, the coaches decided their biggest need was speed, on both sides of the ball.

“Our focus was on fast, athletic performers—Joseph Agnew, a strong safety from Class 5A state champion Southlake Carroll High School, and Pierre Bessey, a quarterback from Spring Westfield High School near Houston—signed national letters of intent with the Owls.

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“Our focus was on fast, athletic

2006 FOOTBALL SIGNEES

| Name              | Position | Height | Weight | 40-yard dash | 5-foot-10 broad jump | Graduation | "Will Shoppa"
|-------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------
| Joseph Agnew      | DB       | 6-0    | 195    | 4.6          | 17                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Max Ansari        | LB       | 6-3    | 212    | 4.6          | 21                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Pierre Bessey     | DB       | 5-11   | 175    | 4.4          | 17                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Robert Calhoun    | LB       | 6-1    | 185    | 4.4          | 18                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Toren Dixon       | LB       | 6-0    | 200    | 4.6          | 19                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Evan Fennoy       | WR       | 5-11   | 175    | 4.4          | 18                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Wilie Garby       | WR       | 5-11   | 175    | 4.4          | 18                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Terrance Garbon   | DB       | 6-1    | 205    | 4.6          | 20                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Tyler Wardlow     | TE       | 6-6    | 210    | 4.5          | 21                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Brandon Long      | DB       | 6-5    | 210    | 4.7          | 21                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Drew Meckingburg  | WR       | 6-1    | 200    | 4.5          | 19                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Kartergues        | TE       | 6-2    | 205    | 4.6          | 20                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Andrew Novak      | WR       | 5-11   | 175    | 4.4          | 18                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Patrick Randolph  | DB       | 6-1    | 195    | 4.5          | 18                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Andrew Sandejobo   | RB/LB    | 6-1    | 210    | 4.6          | 20                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
| Corten Smither    | WR       | 6-2    | 200    | 4.5          | 21                   | 2005       | "Will Shoppa"
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The average 40-yard dash time for the wide receivers and defensive backs is 4.5 seconds.

15 of the 18 recruits are from Texas, and 15 (Texasians are from the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

"We plan on focusing most of our recruiting in the state of Texas — in the Houston and Dallas areas," Graham said. "But we also have contacts in other places all over the south."\n
The recruits — Agnew and two receivers — come from Carroll High School, which boasts a perennially strong football team.

"I have a great relationship with [Carroll head] coach Todd Dodds," Graham said. "They gave us three great recruits this year, and told me he'd bring three more next year."

Graham referred to district 11-5A defensive MVP Max Ansari as "the animal." Agnew played safety at North Garland High School, and will play either outside linebacker or defensive back for the Owls.

Robert Calhoun, an all-district running back for Duncanville High New, will play linebacker for Rice — the 6-foot-1 former tailback scored 13 touchdowns last season.

Another player of note is 6-foot-4 tight end Tyler Wardlow from Grapevine, an all-district pick at wide receiver. Defensive back Patrick Randolph, the son of defensive coordinator Paul Randolph, averaged 33.6 yards per carry at Bryant High School in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Graham said he expected the members of this class to compete for playing time immediately.

Graham had one month to assemble the class after being hired Jan. 1, and he said his staff's rapport with recruits was crucial in putting the group together in such a short time frame.

The class includes two quarterbacks, four wide receivers, two tight ends, six defensive linemen, two inside linebackers, two inside linebackers and a deep snapper. Two all-state performers—Joseph Agnew, a strong safety from Class 5A state champion Southlake Carroll High School, and Pierre Bessey, a quarterback from Spring Westfield High School near Houston—signed national letters of intent with the Owls.

After evaluating the team, the coaches decided their biggest need was speed, on both sides of the ball.

“Our focus was on fast, athletic
BASKETBALL
From page 10

The Owls now saw increased contributions from sophomore forward Tiffany Loggins this weekend. She scored 29 points in the two games, including a career-high 18 in Rice's 85-72 win over UTEP. Loggins has averaged 13.3 points over the Owls' last four games after scoring 5.1 points per game in their first 15 contests. And Loggins was 4-8 from three point range this weekend after taking just six three-point attempts in the SMU game and had a great game — was the main reason for the team's win.

"We've been struggling to get Tiffany to shoot the three," Williams said. "She loosened up a little bit in the SMU game and had a great game against UTEP. We're just glad that she's starting to be a little bit more offensive-minded because she's just been shooting the ball really well in practice."

Junior forward Lauren Neaves contributed a team-high 22 points and nine rebounds in Rice's 85-69 win over Tulane. Perhaps more importantly, Neaves confidently moved to the low post to the high in the Owls' win over Tulane, showing impressive if little-used ball-handling skills.

"With all of our players, we've tried to expand their games," Williams said. "We want all of our posts to be shooting the three." Despite her strong performance against Tulane, Neaves said the Owls' cohesiveness — Rice had a season-high 19 assists in the win — was the main reason for the team's win.

"We just finally got a good rhythm going," Neaves said. "We're finally the team we know we can be — making great shots, making great passes and playing good defense."

Before Friday's win against UTEP, the Owls had lost four consecutive games, although those four losses came against four of the top five teams in the conference standings. Williams said he was pleased with the way the Owls responded to their four-game losing streak.

"Eyes on the prize, but you lose four in a row, there's no guarantee that your team hasn't lost confidence in themselves or what the coaches are doing," Williams said. "But that didn't happen, and now we're back to .500 in conference — it was a big step."

'Anytime you have an injury, it opens the door for someone else to step up.'

— Greg Williams (Hanszen '70)
Head women's basketball coach

NEW SHUTTLE SERVICE
RICE UNIVERSITY TO TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER

EFFECTIVE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2006

SERVICE HOURS: MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 8AM-4:30PM, EVERY 30 MINUTES (Detailed schedule and bus stops are shown on the map)
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10 ret.
Robert Searle (RU) d. Kudzai Chindza (PVAM) 81, 4.
Filip Zivojnovic (RU) d. Xavier Godoy (PVAM) 81, 80
Jason Mok (RU) d. Luis Godoy (PVAM) 82, 81
Robert Searle (RU) d. Richard Vo (TSU) 6-3, 6-1
Christoph Mullet (RU) d. Kurt Gatdler (TSU) 6-1.
Robert Searle (RU) d. Ivan Avila (TSU) 6-2, 6-4
Rodrigo Gabriel (RU) d. Richard Vo (TSU) 6-0, 6-0
Dulgheru/Dtckes (PEP) d. Egic/Patenaude (RU) 9-7
Tracy Lin (UCLA) d. Christine Dao (RU) 8-0, 8-0
Anna-Viktoria Lind (UCLA) d. Tiffany Lee (RU) 4-8, 4-0
Dao/Lee (RU) d. Kissler/Jowc (PEP) 8-6
Riza Zalameda (UCLA) d. Blair Disesa (RU) 8-2, 8-3
Und/McGoodwin (UCLA) d. Egic/Patenaude (RU) 8-6, 8-3
Goslin 3-6 0-16
Flores 2-3 0-0 0, Wright 2-2 0-1 4, Carter 1-6 6-0, 0-0 0, McKee 4-5 5-3, Cunningham 5-10 0-0 14,
Neaves 2-5 00 4, Berezhynska 0-2 0-0 0, Prior 0-0 0-0 0. Prices may vary. Customer pays sales tax. Our drivers carry
less than $20. Delivery area limited to ensure safe delivery. Deep Dish Extra.

Take the 30 min. Rice Online Sexual Harassment Training Course and complete the online mastery test by February 22
and be eligible for drawings at your college for FREE ipod Namos and Shuffles
Upcoming study breaks for all participants with FREE Rice Bell Ice Cream and Papa John's Pizza!
You must take the course and complete the online mastery test to be eligible for door prizes and food. Study break dates forthcoming!

info: efrangaservices.edu

CALENDAR ITEMS

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2006**

**FRIDAY**

Bayou showdown
Watch the Owls beat the Cougs. Does anyone else think "Coug" is a silly abbreviation for "coyote"? If you answered yes to this question, go to Autry Court at 7 p.m. If you answered no to this question, I value your opinion very little but would still like you to be at Autry at 7.

Drop out, save money
This is the last day students can withdraw from the semester and receive a 70 percent refund. Every week after this one, 10 percent more is deducted from your refund. So if you need to withdraw for any reason, you should probably get on that ASAP. I wonder if "taking time to perfect hurrin' rollin' tech-nique" qualifies as a legitimate reason to take a semester off...?

**SATURDAY**

Jazz and food
Enjoy the jazz stylings of the Rice Jazz Combo in the Ray C. Norrell Student Center at 7 p.m. Discovery halls students are providing food for the evening. Not very often does one get a chance to see the seventh-ranked Owls take on Southwest Missouri State in a basketball showcase. Not very often does one get a chance to see the seventh-ranked Owls take on Southwest Missouri State in a basketball showcase. Not very often does one get a chance to see the seventh-ranked Owls take on Southwest Missouri State in a basketball showcase. Not very often does one get a chance to see the seventh-ranked Owls take on Southwest Missouri State in a basketball showcase.

**SUNDAY**

Super Bowl XL, that is. Watch the 40th Super Bowl with friends, alone or with a group of people you have never met. Whether you watch for the game or the commercials, odds are you will be watching in some capacity. Pull for the Seahawks, pull for the Steeler.

**MONDAY**

Hoop it up
Come to another Conference USA matchup for the women's basketball team against the Pirates of East Carolina. Tipoff is at 7 p.m., and popular heckling one-liners may include "at least we don't have scurvy" and "East Carolina is not a state." Perhaps I'm the only person who spends long hours contemplating the ridiculousness of East Carolina's geographic deficiencies, but somehow I doubt this is the case.

**WEDNESDAY**

Mi casa os squirrel casa
Today all Rice students are invited to build houses for squirrels to live in. Possible squirrel structures include lean-tos, yurts, log cabins, stone cottages, California ranches or your personal favorite; two-story Victorians with little blue shutters. How adorable is that? Picture squirrels in traditional dress, enjoying the new homes, stealing your food and staring at you like you're the one who did something wrong. Well, let me tell you how I feel about that. I paid good money to walk all over this campus and when I want to... Dictator Day
Whether you're a Castro fan or a Kim Jong II aficionado, celebrate your favorite hindrance to development in developing nations. Figure out a creative way to pay homage to a totalitarian, and then go all out. If RUPD asks why you declared martial law in West Lot, don't mention us.

**HOW TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS**

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

Submission methods:
- Fax: (713) 348-5238
- Email: thesorcerer@rice.edu
- Campus Mail: Calendar Editor
- Thresher, MS-524

Submissions are printed on a space-available basis.

**WHAT'S QEP?**

The goal of Rice University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is to enhance the Rice experience by embracing civic engagement through a program of scholarly research focused on the city of Houston.

**Student Forum on Rice University's QEP**

Wednesday, February 8 - 4:00-5:00pm, RMC Farnsworth Pavilion

There will be a short presentation on the framework for the QEP and the new Center for Civic Engagement and then we will form small groups for discussion and idea sharing.

- Learn about opportunities that are developing for students to integrate community-based work into their academic curriculum for course credit.
- Talk to faculty members that currently use community-based experiences as part of their courses.
- Give your thoughts on how specific disciplines can incorporate service in the public good into their curriculum.
- Share your thoughts on the greatest concerns facing the City of Houston.

For more information, please contact Mac Griswold, Director of the Community Involvement Center, by e-mail (griswold@rice.edu) or phone (713-348-6163).
Wheels are being taken out of the outer edges of the campus to the Hoth moon. However, since then they have returned to campus, only to find that their dear friends, the Sid backpack, have been captured by the vile Outside the Hutt and his bounty hunters.

In contrast to the Sid, the Sid backpack is in a real hard spot. But hindsight is 20/20 and now what to give the boot.

However, little do they realize that the original Alcohol Policy is now being replaced by an even more powerful Sexual Harassment Policy. The Policy is protected by a forcefield made out of millimana of the chauvinistic oppression of women.

but the fact that some of their oppressors by making out with each other and slipping up their shirts on a girls gone Wild video entitled "Gill Power." Then they will fire at the power regulator on the north tower, spreading a sense of humor throughout the Sexual Harassment Policy.

Policy and unifying the social code, preventing people from having it both ways.

The attack will also cause the policy to focus its weapon targeting system out on crudish student jokes, but instead policymakers who attack the gay community as a ploy to win votes and further divide the United States. It will also fire a cruise missile at Texas Senator John Cornyn ...

In fact, this sort of implications is just what the Sid wants.

"Give yourself to the Dark Side," Darth Brownback of the American Moon of Kansas said. "Let the Dark Side cloud your judgment and attack those who would be your allies for making jokes while ignoring your own leaders whose serious policy of sexual harassment threatens peace throughout the universe."

As for the Lacrosse Team, who cares, he has a cap and a cunny mustache. And what's the difference with Forman's robot brain thingy?...