East servery opens, serves crepes

By Hallie Jordan

Thresher Editorial Staff

The completion of East Servery and the Brockman Hall for Physics and Astronomy marks an end of a construction era at Rice, which started in 2009. Planning for both of these buildings began in 2000. East Servery opened on Monday and moved in to Brockman Hall is scheduled for February.

The servery’s opening also marks an end to the wave of south college construction that has been ongoing for the past several years. “It was a really great opening,” Director of Residential Dining David McDonald said. “The students seem to be very happy. It is just beautiful; it opened on time and there is nothing more we could possibly ask for.”

Since Monday, the servery has served around 1,000 people per day. McDonald said, This is about the number that was expected based on the population of Lovett Collegen and Will Rice College, whose commons are attached to the servery, and the anticipated interest from students at other colleges. “We prepare for an average and then have backup items, we didn’t run out of food or anything like that,” McDonald said. “A few extra 100 people per day may not make a huge difference.”

North and West Serveries each saw around 1,400 people per day and South around 1,200.

Some changes will be necessary because the old ones had poorly functioning equipment.

“Now the kitchen staff can produce higher quality meals and keep food costs lower,” Senior Project Manager Kathy Jones said. Jones College junior Michael Matthews said the physical aesthetic of the servery seemed to be its best quality. “I think the architect did a good job creating a nice space with generous natural light and interesting structure,” Matthews said. “But it suffers from the same problems as West in that it has a poor layout for actually getting food.”

East has enough space for three kitchens and is designed so that the Sid Richardson College Commons could easily be expanded and attached to the servery, Jones said. “It is designed so that we don’t have to spend a lot of money and effort to expand later,” Jones said.

Soon after the project was originally started, it was put on hold because of the economic recession in 2009. In addition, the idea to make enough space to possibly include Sid Rich in the future arose but was too costly to pursue immediately. Facilities, Engineering and Planning Communications Manager Susan Glenn said.

However, recession-induced decreased prices allowed the project to be funded, including the three-kitchen space, for the same price as the original two-kitchen plan.

“Usually, annual construction inflation is about 18 percent, but, since the recession, it has been quite low,” Project Manager Erik Knezevich said.

The Lovett Commons received a few crepes, and said it was an expansion from around 300 square feet and a renovated FOB with adjustable skylights.

The Will Rice Commons stayed the same, but the college received several new additions with the rest of their renovations. “Lovett really leaned the brand of convenience and noise through-out construction,” Glenn said. “That’s why we work out a construction time table and are such an accommodating group. We have a separate housing and dining services

BY ELLEN LIU

Thresher Editorial Staff

Closing the residential colleges for the second year in a row in an effort to save money, Housing and Dining once again offered alternative winter housing for the 23 days of the break the colleges were closed, this time at a Holiday Inn, to any students who could not go home. Twenty-seven students, both international and regular, utilized this option.

Housing Operations Manager Mark Chaszar said H&D measured anticipated utility savings by using a software program called Facility to track utilities by analyzing the history of usage from previous years while compensating for bad weather and the program allowed H&D to observe utility usage trends during the year to make an accurate prediction about money saved during winter break.

However, Chaszar noted that H&D is still calculating the actual amount saved. According to Contract Manager Carol Claverie, last year, H&D saved the money saved from closing the residential colleges to cover a portion of the cost of substituting winter housing. This year, the utility savings and additional funds gained from not providing housing will be put to other uses. “The savings can be spent in a number of different ways to benefit current students and those who will join the Rice community in the next several years,” Claverie said.

Before finalizing the alternative housing option, H&D conducted discussions with the Student Association’s Student Life Committee Chair Ben Chou said he began meeting with H&D in October and saw that the only winter lodging statement they had made was one line in a contract stating

A few college students, especially those without cars, will only have crepes at East Servery. Yam

I wonder if it’s BYOB...

The Student Association is hosting an open discussion about Rice’s alcohol culture and policy Monday night from 8-9. There will be a panel including both administration and student representatives present to help answer questions.

Got a photographic memory?

Tomorrow is the last day to return textbooks to the bookstore or lose your money. Missing a lunch today in case you feel like doing some light reading tonight, then returning them tomorrow. Please don’t make copies of the books you need. Please.

Stressed already?

We are. Luckily, Monday is Martin Luther King Jr. day. No classes, just extra time to sleep, get over that cold and finish up the year’s first problem sets. Also, if you’ve been too much to venture out into the cold, to eat some crepes at East Servery. Yam
The Rice Thresher

Editorial

GSA not a residential college

Diversity and inclusion. Unity and togetherness. Rice prides itself on its "one big happy family" philosophy. The attitude is actually a good one that promotes a pretty positive campus culture. But a line needs to be drawn.

Quite simply, the Graduate Student Association needs to become a more independent institution. It is not and never will be a residential college, so there is no need to continue the charade. There is no need to include the GSA in the traditions belonging to residential colleges such as intramural sports and beer bikes.

The primary problem with having GSA participate in intramural sports is the competitive advantage that the graduate students possess. They are often four to five years older and thus often have the advantage of having four to five years of extra experience in a given sport compared to an undergraduate counterpart. The graduate students who participate in intramural sports include individuals who are former collegiate athletes or alumni of Rice sports. This advantage is apparent with the GSA powderpuff championship team, which includes multiple former undergraduate powderpuff players. A match-up that pits rookie powderpuff players against six-year powderpuff veterans is not a fair match, as evidenced by the GSA powderpuff championship victory this past season against Lovett College.

Furthermore, GSA's membership exceeds that of a normal residential college by huge margins. This advantage allows GSA a greater pool of athletes to draw from. The Rice Student Government's involvement in intramurals is low, their overall pool of interested athletes still exceeds that of a residential college. The bottom line is that intramurals are about fun and friendly competition, not about peer pressure. The GSA is a peer to the residential colleges. If anything, allow the GSA to compete in a league of their own, forming teams along departmental lines.

Rice's graduate programs are respected by all as academic institutions and extra-curricular competitions. However, GSA's contribution to undergraduate life has extended a bit too far. Graduate students had their time in college, now it's ours.

Rahul Rohki

But every once in a while on Capstone Hill, you see a bill come along that is obviously above reproach, progressively well-partitioned, universally appealing —a bill so undeniably sweeping in its scope, so unimpeachable in its form, one could see right through the morass of stock phraseology, one could see right through the verbiage, one could see right through the rhetoric to the real question, a question that every single American citizen must ask themselves: How will this legislation benefit us?

The establishment of this ultimatum gives students fewer than 48 hours to arrive on campus, get settled, prepare for the semester and begin classes. This short time period for international students is remarkably brief. HD10 saved approximately $20,000 by closing down over winter break; only a minimal amount of the savings would be sacrificed by opening dorms. This is before the beginning of classes. Furthermore, by moving up the move-in date, students would have the luxury of purchasing cheaper weekday airfare.

There is simply no reason to not afford students the opportunity to move in a bit sooner that HD10 has allowed in the past. The Thresher hopes that, at the end of next winter break, students will be met with more southern hospitality.

University deaths a tragedy

Rice has experienced several losses over the past month. The deaths of two Owls during winter break — Denton Guinn, a Hanszen College junior and Brandon Cooke, a Baker College sophomore — have left a hole in our community. This is particularly true for sourced educational resource conservation, the remarkably tight window left for students' college had their time in college, now it's ours.

The Rice Thresher— that the Republican triumph in the midterm election lends them a President Barack Obama's health care legislation. Perhaps significantly, the Republican legislators have argued that their success at the polls in November simply the American populous disapproved of the Affordable Care Act — that the Republican triumph in the midterm elections lends itself to an imperative to repeal the bill. Taken at face value, this contri-

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Censorship of Huckleberry Finn propogates racism

As it doth dash any hope that the state of education might improve, the notion of banning books introduced recently that it will release a new edition of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn with the objection of teacher and others with "less offensive words." The reason for this change, they say, is that many school districts today refuse to teach the novel due to parent complaints.

Eric Harrison

What's troubling about this decision isn't the desecration of a great work in the fact that complaints from those that are more sensitive can get great books banned in schools, but that any person of even modest education can still begin to be aware if it were there such a thing as race at all. What a pathetic spectacle to see people decrying a book which attacks the racist diet of even the most liberal people and espouses and "celebrate"—the imaginary racial differences that spanned that era in the first place.

And what an embarrassment it is to have such a person in the White House. Dr. Obama and his associates have hijacked the show business world, and have done so in a manner that is not only offensive, but also embarrassing to the nation. The use of words like nigger is invaluable precisely because it serves as a reminder of how taboos are treated as fact. Who can be a racist that does not first believe there are such things as races? Who can be an anti-racist that does not believe in the existence of races? Who can be a black or white that does not believe in the existence of races? Who can be a person that does not believe in the existence of races? Who can be a human that does not believe in the existence of races?

The word nigger is invaluable precisely because it serves as a reminder of how taboos are treated as fact. Who can be a racist that does not first believe there are such things as races? Who can be an anti-racist that does not believe in the existence of races? Who can be a black or white that does not believe in the existence of races? Who can be a person that does not believe in the existence of races? Who can be a human that does not believe in the existence of races?

The concept of race has only one side, and it is uniformly hideous — those who think they can construe it in positive terms are fooling themselves.

Neeraj Salhotra

Neeraj Salhotra is a
Sid Richardason College sophomore.

Both conservative economists, like Paul Krugman, believed a stimulus was necessary to save the American economy from a depression. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was such a stimulus, and it was passed by Congress.

The Recovery Act was enacted almost two years ago and has, while it is invisible to the majority of people, saved the American economy from a depression.

The act was not the successful stimulus package that it was supposed to be, and it has not done enough for most people. However, it has done enough to prevent a full-blown economic disaster.

The Recovery Act was designed to stimulate the economy and create jobs. However, it has not been as successful as hoped. The act has created fewer jobs than anticipated, and the economy has not yet recovered.

The Recovery Act was not the answer to the economic crisis. It was a stopgap measure to prevent a full-blown economic disaster. However, it has not been enough to stimulate the economy and create jobs. The government has spent a large amount of money on the act, but the results have not been as expected.

Eric Harrison is a
Wits College alumnae.
The SA will next meet at 9 p.m. in the Farnsworth Pavilion on Jan. 17.

The following responses to student questions were noted:

- Director of Technology Kern Vljjayvargiya announced that the website http://www.textbookmadness.com is up and running for students to buy and sell textbooks, in place of the SA marketplace.
- Provost George McLendon, Vice Provost for Research James Coleman and Vice President for International and Interdisciplinary Initiatives Carol Quillen updated the SA on the current stage of the Rice Initiatives. McLendon initially spoke with Rice faculty last summer to find out what two or three things could cut across the departments of all the schools that Rice could be really great at. The topics that resulted were Biosciences and Human Health, Energy and the Environment and International Strategies. Now the Office is seeking student input to understand how best to determine the agenda and student curricula of these topics. McLendon, assisted by Coleman and Quillen, opened the floor for dialogue.
- The following to student questions were noted: As there is not a lot of natural incentive for faculty to do interdisciplinary research, the task forces, per initiative, will work to create new incentives. Examples are creating interdisciplinary undergraduate programs, hiring new faculty in interdisciplinary positions and investing in new facilities. Current curricula will not be affected by these potential changes; the initiatives will be supported by hypothetically new resources. If these resources are not forthcoming, something different will be done (unspecified; initiatives possibly altered or abandoned). Student opinion will be important for curricula development, as only students can determine which subjects will be engaging to them.
- Further queries can be addressed by contacting the Office of the Provost at mclendon@rice.edu.
- Director of Elections Ronnie Ken said elections have been moved up a week, and election packets will be distributed next week.
- Will Rice College Senator Renee Dudley announced the Alcohol Policy Forum next Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Farnsworth Pavilion, where ideas on how to improve Rice's "culture of alcohol" will be shared. The forum will address the alcohol policy initiative that was approved last week by both the Student Association and the Dean's Office.
- President Selim Sheikh said the deadline for the application to membership on the Asset Liquidation Funds Appropriation Committee would be Tuesday, 5 p.m. Applications should be sent to sapres@rice.edu with their resumes and questionnaires.
- H&D Director of Finance John Johnson announced the H&D fromage, a move with both Chasen and Clevenger to talk about the residence college closings and stayed connected with them while gathering student opinions.
- Clevenger said H&D had appeared strongly against subsidizing the hotel stay for those who needed alternative housing. According to a presentation about the tentative winter housing H&D put together at a senate meeting, "the classrooms have reduced three times their total savings of $1.25,000. Still, this year, including the $44,000 spent on various housing and the $13,000 of energy savings from last year, Clevenger said H&D had originally closed the colleges during winter break last year for three primary reasons: student safety, since fewer staff members would be on campus for support in case of an emergency, better allocation and use of funds and resources, and facilitation of maintenance without disturbing others. Clevenger presented several examples of improvements which were made to the colleges over the break and said that H&D will apply the savings from closing the colleges toward increasing the quality of student life through matching funds made available for student events, providing up to $5,000 of funding for and initiatives, and supporting initiatives like campus recycling bins and the Community Gardens.
- President Benjamin Chou '13 said H&D had acted according to their original research, but that was not to be, understand Chou said that his parents came to visit, would still have chosen to go home for the break because the cost of a flight back would not have been covered in the $30 spent on winter housing. "I believe we all would have liked it more to just stay on campus and enjoy glorious servery food everyday like we are used to, but I guess that is not to be, understand Chou said. "So I think that it is really nice of H&D to care about students staying in Houston for the break at all and even trying to help them save money."
Know how to turn this text sideways?

**Come work for the Thresher. We will pay you.**

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**New year ushers in rebuilt career services**

BY JOSH RUTENBERG

Career services will get a make-over for the new year, complete with a brand new name: The Center for Student Development, formerly the Center for Student Professional Development, will shift its focus in career development by increasing communication with potential employers and expanding information to students beyond traditional aspects of professional development.

The CCD, which counsels students in post-graduate planning, officially changed its name last Monday, CCD held an open house on Wednesday to inform students about the recent changes, review resumes and dispense information about upcoming events. The event took place at the Huff House, where the CCD is currently located.

CCD Intern Director Jackie Hing said the name change occurred because the center wanted to emphasize the change from just professional development to career development.

Hing said the changes mark a return to services that address broader needs of students' career development rather than keeping a narrower focus by only developing professional skills.

"One changing to the Center for Career Development reflects what we’re all about that it’s related to a student’s career development or post-graduate plans, it’s not just professional development," Hing said. "It also reflected a change in philosophy, a way of getting focus back to working with students and employers."

Hing said the goals of the CSSP had moved away from working with employees in recent years and that ultimately impacted students.

Hing cited developing stronger relationships with current employers and developing relationships "beyond the usual" with all employers as top priorities for the CCD.

The CCD will not only help students to seek strategies in career development, Hing said, but will also help employers with strategies in campus recruiting efforts.

CCD Communications Coordinator Beth Jablinski said the center will help employers and students benefit through new programs.

"It’s the opportunity to go beyond giving out information to students and employers," Jablinski said. "Ultimately, it benefits the students."

Jablinski said the CCD will start with organizations that have a strong presence at Rice, such as many companies from the oil and gas industry, but the CCD wants to eventually be able to reach out to students and inform them of openings and opportunities in all industries.

In addition to changes in philosophy, the CCD will also get a new website. Hing said the website will feature an instructional media library, including interviews with Rice alumni from all types of career backgrounds.

Hing said all current CSSP services will continue to be offered, and the CCD will serve as an expansion of existing services.

College representatives of the CCD, known as Professional Development Advisors under the CSPD, will once again be called Career Advisors, as they were before Career Services changed its name to the CCD in September 2008. Career Advisors will be similar to CSSP.

In that they will serve as the main liaison between undergraduate students and the CCD, former head PDA Venetia Han (Brown ’11) said.

Responsibilities of Career Advisors include helping students with resumes, giving interview tips and assisting in campus-wide recruiting events, such as career fairs and an annual chili cook-off.

Previously, the CSSP had conducted a series of weekly workshops, including how to write resumes, and what to say and what not to say during interviews.

"What we have started here is not just to provide the information, but really provide instruction and education," Hing said. "It’s talking (workshops) to a deeper, more instructional level."

While the new CCD website is not yet online, information about the CCD and the CSP can be found at the CCD’s website, ccsp.rice.edu.
The next construction projects in the works include improvements to the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies and the beginning of the James Turrell skylines installation in front of Alice Pratt Brown Hall in late March.

### INTERNATIONAL

**Flows plague Queensland, Australia**

Flows that began in December 2010 are still threatening Australia's northern state of Queensland. The floods have killed 14 people so far, and 90 people are missing. Though causing casualties to evacuate or stockpile food for emergency, the floods have also benefited the banking district of Brisbane. The coal industry and infrastructure have been heavily affected by the floods, and the local currency has been in four-week lows. The floods were expected to hit Brisbane, Australia's third largest city, yesterday and could potentially cost one percent of economic growth — approximately $13 billion.

Source: Reuters via The New York Times

**Salman Taseer murdered in Pakistan**

On Jan. 14, Pakistani court had ordered for campaigning against the blasphemy law and for supporting religious tolerance in Pakistan. His killer, one of Taseer's own bodyguards, said Taseer was murdered for campaigning against the blasphemy law and for supporting religious tolerance in Pakistan. His death has rocked the liberal-minded Pakistani People's Party, of which Taseer was a member. The party has also lost its majority in the provincial Assembly recently, as the Muttahida Qaumi Movement walked out of their coalition. The risk of di- vided opposition joining together before the next elections now poses a threat to the PPP. However, par- ties like the Pakistan Muslim League and the military are hesitant to take power while the PPP continues to have economic and political issues.

Source: The Economist

### BEYOND THE HEDGES

**White House and congressional leadership changes**

Veteran political manager William Daley, who served as com- mercial sec-tary for President Clinton, has replaced Rahm Emanuel as Obama's new chief of staff, the BBC said. Daley, who served in the Clinton administration, re- signed to run for mayor of Chicago. White House Press Secretary Rob- ert Gibbs resigned from his posi- tion to serve as an outside political advisor. While a string of economic departures has also occurred, Obama's former Chief Campaign Manager David Plouffe has replaced the president as a senior advisor. Among the shifts in congressional leadership due to a Republican ma- jority in the House of Representa- tives, John Boehner replaced Nancy Pelosi as speaker of the House, while Eric Cantor became the new House Majority Leader.

Source: Associated Press

### COFFEE

The Medical Center and even students in a social setting, "Faculty Fellow Ruth Kupperman, the director of the BBC, said.

Morrell College senior Nomi Levy said that she has coffeehouse in the BBC would be very convenient.

"I had friends that would run to the coffeehouse for Starbucks, but it takes so long to get there and it's expensive," Levy said.

Though Coffeehouse is still coor- dinating with the cut vendor, Cooper said they are excited to open. However, this trial run will determine whether coffeehouse agrees to stay in the BBC, the following year.

### SERVERY

**from page 3**

ability to carry out what the administra- tion says, we don't enjoy running fundraisers in this situation," said Gerald said that although finish- ing this phase of construction is a relief, it is also bittersweet.

"We had such a great team — it's kind of sad that it is over," said Gerald said. "We are losing a great group of people, but it has been such a wonderful experience with them."

The most construction projects in the works include improvements to the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies and the beginning of the James Turrell skylines installation in front of Alice Pratt Brown Hall in late March.

### CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

**Do This, Not That ... at the Career Expo**

Prepare for the Career Expo with this interactive session

Wondering how to interact with recruiters? What they expect? How to prepare? Join us next Thursday!

The Career Expo is Tuesday, January 25 from 11 am - 4 pm in the Grand Hall.

**All undergrads, non-MBA grad students, and post-docs interested in attending the Expo!**
"Dex" was kind, thoughtful

BY RUBY GEE
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

A service was held Monday for Hanszen College junior Dexter Gannon, who died of cancer. He was 20.

Gannon, a junior at Rice University, was a native of Tomball, Texas.

PADLEY ASKING QUESTIONS

Brandon Cook

David Waters

David Waters

The Shepherd School of Music lost three faculty members. The Shepherd School of Music lost three faculty members.

The Shepherd School of Music lost three faculty members. The Shepherd School of Music lost three faculty members.
The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program has three goals. First, it seeks to increase the number of minority students, and others with a demonstrated commitment to reaching racial disparities, who will pursue Ph.D. in core fields in the arts and sciences. In doing so, the program aims to reduce over time the subtle under-representation 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 motivate these students to be the university teachers, and members of the highly diverse college student bodies of the future. Third, it seeks to encourage study, research experiences as part of their research training. The fields that the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has targeted for support are Anthropology, Art History, Classics, Computer Science, Geography, Earth Sciences, Ecology, English, Ethnomusicology, Foreign Languages, History, Latin American Studies, Linguistics, Mathematics, Philosophy, Physics, Political Theory, Religion, and Sociology.

Applicants should normally be completing their sophomore year as a resident of 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 $3,000 work-study 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 year. Students will be considered. Applications will be due in March.

For more information and to download the application go to: http://diversity.rice.edu/mellon_mays.aspx

Application deadline is February 02, 2011

CONTACT
Dr. Roland B. Smith, Jr. or Gloria Rincon
Office of the Associate Provost, Rice University, 713-348-3668
The film opens with an older Mattie narrating the story of her father’s murder as the audience sees his body lying in the snow. This is the first, and certainly not the last, example of the Coen brothers’ macabre brushstrokes on the canvas of the American West. The story begins shortly after the homestead when the precarious teenage heads to the frontier to go off into the wild for some Old Testament justice. The Coen brothers craft True Grit with the exceptional care and detail that has catapulted them into Hollywood’s west. Like their Oscar-nominated No Country for Old Men, the movie is filmed in New Mexico, and the amazing scenery of platers and mountains is given ample and appropriate time for a genre that is as much about setting as it is plot.

Carter Burwell, while certainly no Ennio Morricone, crafts a soft, piano-heavy score that works well in the context of a movie that is more of a character study than a sweeping epic. Not surprisingly, the Coen brothers have written another amazing screenplay. Like many of their previous films, death and violence are central themes but are portrayed in a matter-of-fact, simple and unassuming way. At every master’s dictions, the brothers outdid themselves in the dialogue of the film. The combination of so-called “period English” language with the colloquialisms from the frontier create some of the greatest conversations heard in any Western.

The estimable acting of the film also deserves attention. Veteran actors Bridges and Damon deliver quality performances and the Academy is almost guaranteed to nominate the former for Best Supporting Actor. This is particularly noteworthy, considering the fact that John Wayne won an Oscar for playing Cooper in the 1969 version. While Bridges could never live up to “the Duke,” he does an excellent job filling his predecessor’s cowboy boots. The greatest performance belongs to 14-year-old Steinfeld. The relatively unknown actress holds her own with some of today’s biggest actors and succeeds in realistically depicting a character who is not only unempowering in the pursuit of justice but also a young girl with real emotions. The film depends on the juvenile thespians and Steinfeld deserves a nomination for Best Actress.

With so much derivativeivel coming out of Hollywood’s studios, the Coen brothers once again show that movies need not insult the intelligence of their audiences. The film not only entertains but also deserves a nomination for Best Picture.

While True Grit is an excellent film, its major strength is its supporting cast. The estimable acting of the film also deserves attention. Veteran actors Bridges and Damon deliver quality performances and the Academy is almost guaranteed to nominate the former for Best Supporting Actor. This is particularly noteworthy, considering the fact that John Wayne won an Oscar for playing Cooper in the 1969 version. While Bridges could never live up to “the Duke,” he does an excellent job filling his predecessor’s cowboy boots. The greatest performance belongs to 14-year-old Steinfeld. The relatively unknown actress holds her own with some of today’s biggest actors and succeeds in realistically depicting a character who is not only unempowering in the pursuit of justice but also a young girl with real emotions. The film depends on the juvenile thespians and Steinfeld deserves a nomination for Best Actress.

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What comes across as the pressure from her role, her competition with new company member Lily (portraying Saoirse Ronan’s Milla Kamin) and her developing sexual curiosity escalates. As Nina is pushed both emotionally and physically, her imagination consumes her, culminating in a dramatic opening night. Portman’s talk-show performance is worthy of the hype. For a long stretch of the film her expression is petrified in a gaze of pathetic fear, but Portman does a fantastic job overall, portraying a combination of vulnerability, paranoia, grace and raw ambition with a subtle intensity rare to her generation of actresses. Hermes is especially fantastic as Erica Sayers, Nina’s enormously over-bearing mother, who poorly handles her daughter’s (and her own) descent into self-destruction. Also notable is Kristen’s Lily, who offers a sassy, languid counterpart to Portman’s perfectionism.

Although the movie does feature some cliché horror film affects intended only to make you jump out of your seat, the film’s strongest feature is easily its editing. During Nina’s audition for Swan Lake, the cinematography was exquisite: close-ups of contorted ballet slippers and movements that mirror the ballerina’s collapse the beauty and violence of dance. Characters see themselves walking down the street and actors’ faces blend into one another, making the audience feel as if they are experiencing a schizophrenia stress breakdown along with Nina. The film’s churn, dissected

Black Swan: disturbing, beautiful and creative

EMILY NICHOL
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Swan Lake is an obvious bale-let to use as a foundation for a psychological horror film; it is a stage that is as much about setting as it is plot. The film not only entertains but also does an excellent job filling her predecessor’s cowboy boots. The greatest performance belongs to 14-year-old Steinfeld. The relatively unknown actress holds her own with some of today’s biggest actors and succeeds in realistically depicting a character who is not only unempowering in the pursuit of justice but also a young girl with real emotions. The film depends on the juvenile thespians and Steinfeld deserves a nomination for Best Actress.

Black Swan’s plot very loosely follows the plot of the ballet: Nina Sayers (V for Vendetta’s Natalie Portman) is trapped, not in a swath-by body, but in an overly competitive dance company, held captive by her bizarre and constraining mother (The Portrait of a Lady’s Barbara Hershey). Nina becomes increasingly self-destructive as pressure to make your dubstep Party is at Warehouse from their nation-wide tour. Warehouse is hosting an acoustic set, "The Night of the Irish" in order to make your dubstep experience more enjoyable.

Tickets are $20.

Exhibit策

STATION MUSEUM
555 HERMANN PARK
WWW.HMNS.COM

REX

The Houston Museum of Natural Science presents a new IMAX movie called Sex: In the 1960s, a Houston primary school is playing Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Mondays at 3 p.m. This filmic rite is about three menstrua-women, an upright midwife and their adventures with two elderly men at a bed and breakfast. Tickets are $5.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE
5555 HERMANN PARK
WWW.HMNS.COM
Classic Flicks: Adaptation presents hidden comedic gem

Charlie Kaufman, the screenwriter of Adaptation (2002), is one member of the sparse crowd of directors and screenwriters who force you to rethink of who, during the filming of Being John Malkovich (1999), Kaufman bends genres, characters and the limits of the human imagination. Kaufman’s faithfulness to reality ends; the events and emotions each character feels are all completely invented. His fictional twin brother Donald exists in Cage’s acting repertoire. But he plays the Kaufman twins so adroitly that one can even distinguish them. See the movie to find your- self laughing at the wrong moments.

Adaptation

Directed: Spike Jonze
Released: Dec. 6, 2002

An inconspicuous vein of comedy runs through all of Kaufman’s work. Embase Adaptation if you find yourself laughing at the wrong moments during movies and television shows, for it is not script to laugh during any moment of this film. Everything is funny. Alas, even film geniuses can be misunderstood. For example, Synecdoche, New York was neither a block-buster (it gathered $4 million on a $30 million budget) nor a popular critic’s darling. Adaptation was a moderate success at the box office, but of all Kaufman’s films, its blend of humor, narrative and lyricism is a way that is still paying art the loveliest of audiences the surprise of critics. Random Oscar trivia: When the Kaufman “brothers” were nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay, Donald became the first fictitious nominee to be a cover for a real person. (In the past, fictitious people, like Ian MeKle- lan Hunter (Roman Holiday), have won the Academy Award in lieu of politi- cally blacklisted nominees.)

Joseph Allencherill is a Will Rice College sophomore. Classic Flicks is a column reexamining and rediscovering the best that cinema has to offer. The audience also raises questions about mortal- ity and death. The fascinating clama- tion — they are both—he- cause of their “grit” and individu- alism but also their inability to fit into society. It is a truly American story and a welcome change to modern cinemas. The Coen broth- ers and their amazing cast prove that movies can have mass appeal without sacrificing their quality and that we still have a lot to learn and appreciate from Westerns.

John E. Parish Fellowship for Summer Travel

Wiese College announces competition for the 2011 John E. Parish Fellowship. A recipient of a Parish Fellowship will receive support of approximately 2 months travel during the Summer of 2011. The purpose of the fellowship is to enhance the undergraduate education of the Fellow by broadening the range of a unique, self-directed experience via individual travel. Be creative! All full-time returning undergraduates at Rice are eligible to apply. For further information, call the Wiese College Coordinator, Nancy Lenetz at 713-348-5743, or see the web page at www.rsf.rice.edu/parish.

Civic Research & Design Courses

Spring 2011

BIOE 360: Appropriate Design for Global Health (Professor: Rebecca Richards-Kortum)
BIOE 452: Bioengineering Design II (Professor: Maria Oden)
CEVE 512: Hydrologic Design Lab (Professor: Philip Bellentari)
ELEC 438: Wireless Networking for Under-Resourced Urban Communities (Professor: Edward Knightly)
SOC 308: Houston Sociology of a City (Professor: Stephen Klineberg)
SWGS 201: Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender Studies (Instructor: Brian Riedel)

Please refer to ESTHER for information regarding prerequisites and course requirements.
Tron: Legacy: Visually interesting, plot lacking

JOE DWYER
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Don't listen to the naysayers: Tron: Legacy is actually a really good movie. With jaw-dropping visuals, a thundering soundtrack composed entirely by Daft Punk and the revival and continuation of the story of the original 1982 Tron, it’s just plain fun to watch. The movie comes up lacking in plot — Legacy essentially recycles the original Tron’s story structure, with only a couple of nuances — but name the last time an effects-driven feature had a deep, philosophical storyline.

Garrett Hedlund, playing Sam, and Olivia Wilde, playing Quorra, try to escape The Grid in Tron: Legacy.

The movie comes up lacking in the same page. For this reason it’s felt more like one of those rebooted superhero origin films that are so popular nowadays, than an actual sequel. Legacy essentially re-buying the groundwork for what Disney hopes will be one of its pillar franchises in the coming years, similar to Pixar’s A Course of the Caribbean — a Tron television show, three park expansions, graphic novels and all manner of movie tie-ins are all in the queue, and it’s a shame because Tron is not widely appealing to a lot of people and doesn’t need the franchise treatment.

Disney’s brainwashing to mainstream audiences by trying to make Legacy as widely appealing as possible developer is one of the few remaining true to the film. Instead of being a smart, standalone, self-contained film, Legacy’s plot quickly hits just the necessary high points to set up the inevitable sequel before fading out with an ambiguous ending. The sense of wonder and discovery that is felt in the original Tron as the protagonist explore the fantastic new world of The Grid is diminished in Legacy, as the characters are pushed from one setpiece to the next.

Disney’s business and marketing practices aside, Tron Legacy is still one hell of a ride, especially in IMAX 3D. As now and more films lean on the use of computer-generated effects, it’s becoming harder to stand out, the original Tron was groundbreaking for its use of computer-generated visuals — so groundbreaking, in fact, that it was refused nomination for a Visual Effects Academy Award by the Motion Picture Academy because, at the time, using computers to create special effects was considered cheating. Legacy may not be innovative by today’s standards, but the visuals are stunningly refined.

The computer world of The Grid is a fully realized glossy, electric blue metropolis with some dirt around the edges, and the overall design and aesthetic of the film is spectacularly cohesive. Paired with super-smooth cinematography, the frenetic action sequences (Light Cycles, anyone?) more than make up for the bland attempts at exposition sequences. Legacy is a film that truly belongs on the big screen in order for the audience to fully appreciate all of its eye-candy. The small cast of characters works very well together — Olivia Wilde’s (“House M.D.”) role as Quorra is refreshing because she’s not just a brainless “look at me, I’m hot” sidekick to Bridges’ character; she possesses emotions and motivations of her own. Bridges’ character is a mix of Mr. Miyagi from The Karate Kid and The Big Lebowski, lending an easygoing attitude to an otherwise serious film. Hedlund’s role as Sam is predictably stubborn foil to his father, but he doesn’t look out of place in any of the film’s tense action sequences.

In the end, despite my skepticism that Disney will drive the Tron franchise into the ground with mediocre sequels and side-products, Tron: Legacy is not only one of the most visually arresting films to be released in 2011 but one of the most enjoyable as well. Just don’t go in expecting a deep story.
It is a good season for a freshman outside hitter and the Owls have big plans for her. She has been praised for her dedication to the team and her ability to impact the court, helping her team win games. It is a great season for the Owls, who are currently in first place in the Conference USA standings. With a 2-2 showing at the 2010-2011 season, the Owls have a promising future ahead of them. The Owls are in a position to win it all this year, as long as they continue to improve and work hard. With a strong defense and a solid offense, the Owls are a team to watch out for in the next few weeks. They have a tough schedule ahead of them, but they are confident in their abilities to win. The Owls are looking forward to a successful season and are working hard to achieve their goals. They are a team that never gives up and always fights to the end. With this mindset, the Owls are sure to have a successful season.
The first week of classes: a week of indo, where does your student start to see the new and interesting things and then decide to continue with the course...
Swimming looks to UNT after Owls capture three of four Florida meets

by Christine Jean

Reeling more losses than wins but still intact, the Owls team had elected themselves from their dentists by the end of 2010. However, three dual-meet wins and a stroke of season-best times later, the Owls have weathered a demanding start to the season against elite competition. Additionally, the team went through their usual rigorous winter training in south Florida to be up and ready for the remainder of the season and the Conference USA Championship Feb. 23-26.

Still, the Owls had business to finish before they embarked on said winter training. While many students were content on the last day of school on Dec. 3, the swim team was busy preparing themselves for a clash against eighth-ranked Texas A&M University at the Rice Aquatic Center.

Despite losing to the Aggies 157-106, the Owls pointed some impressive times and won four individual races. Junior Shelby Bottoms came back from a back injury to win the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:06.49. Freshman Chelsea Fong was 0.7 second shy of breaking her pool record for the 200-freestyle (1:51.88). Steinhouse later added to her season’s success with a win in the 200-backstroke (2:09.63) and her first 200-free victory at the collegiate level (1:50.93). Junior Nicole Dulioyce racked up another individual win in the 200-freestyle, with a season-best 1:56.22. Sophomore Danielle Spencer won the 100-free-medley by 0.8 second to post a season-best 56.19, and Steinhouse won the 50-free with a time of 24.61.

Ice finished strongly in the distance events, with Dulioyce posting a season-best time of 50.48 to win the 50-freestyle and junior Alex O’Brien taking the 1000-freestyle with a time of 10:26.11.

The highlight of the meet came from the foursome of sophomore Stephanie Wei, Steinhouse, Gean and Fong in the 200-freestyle relay. Fong came from behind to sprint to the end, allowing Rice to tie with the University of Denver. The tie allowed Demer to slip past Rice by a margin victory of 144.5 to 144.6. Rice beat the University of Cincinnati 184-119 and Florida Atlantic 189-93.

Head Coach Seth Houston paid credit to his swimmers’ effort, as some of them have been battling injuries.

“I was pleased with our team performances at [Florida International] and [Florida Atlantic],” Huston said. “Nicole [Dulioyce] stepped up and raced great. Chelsea Fong and Shelby Bottoms dominated their events. It has been frustrating to have so many injuries and so much sickness to date.”

The Blue and Gray will get their final chance to compete completely healthy today where they take on the University of North Texas. The Mean Green rank 12th in the CollegiateSwimming.com/CSM-C-USA Mid-Major Poll and defeated the Owls in their meeting last season, 112-110. The head-to-head matchup between these two Texas foes will start at 4 p.m. at the Rice Aquatic Center.

We're located two miles directly west of campus at 6218 Auden between University and Rice. Free round-trip shuttle service is provided each Sunday morning leaving at 9:15 AM on the loop in front of Rice’s Allen Center. A return bus leaves the church at noon.

See www.wubc.org for details, or call 713-668-2319.

THE NEW WEST U
EXPECT GREATER THINGS

West U Baptist Church invites you to worship, the study of God's Word and fellowship. Join us for our new contemporary Sunday worship service, Encounter @ 9:30 AM as well as a college-level Bible study class at 11 AM that is attended by many Rice University students and taught by Dr. Jim Tour.

Family 1 on Page 13

WOMEN FROM PAGE 13

of Tulsa, Houston and Southern Methodist University. Each of these schools has its own unique strengths. USTP had a standout season in 2010, taking the conference’s top honors in the Outdoor Championship, USTP, on the other hand, came out on top for the Indoor Championship last season. In addition, Ripper Kincaire of USTP placed fourth in the nation at the national cross country meet.

Today’s distance squad will also be formidable, and it had an impressive cross country season, qualifying for the nationals for the first time in school history. Houston traditionally has always had strong track teams, and just appears to be no different than the past.

Regardless of the level of competition from other schools, the Owls season goals remain unchanged: to win.

MEN FROM PAGE 13

which could see him place well as the heptathlete as well. As for the conference outlook, Houston still reigns supreme with its strong conference championship ships in the indoor meet. The Cougars generally dominate all short distance and jumping events, with strong performances in the throwing events leading them to large margins of victory.

The University of Texas-El Paso and the University of Tulsa are bolstered by their heavy emphasis on the distance events. The University of Memphis finished only 12 points behind Rice at the conference meet last year, and they have a reputation for having the top throwers in C-USA. Rice has little choice but to get better results from their throwers and sprinters, while continuing solid performances in the distance and jumping events and maintaining their place at the top of the heap of pole vaulters and heptathletes.
the Calendar
JAN. 14 – 20, 2010
follow us 24/7 at twitter.com/threshercal

FRIDAY
Something's coming... something good
Looking for something to do this weekend? Why not go see the touring production of Broadway's ever-popular hit West Side Story, rolling through Houston until Jan. 23. The show replicates the original choreography by Jerome Robbins and includes all the classic songs like "I Feel Pretty," "Tonight" and "America." Tickets are available at Ticketmaster, and the show plays at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts.

Carnage is hilarious
The Tony-award-winning comedy that took Broadway by storm, God of Carnage, about two couples who argue after their sons get in a fight at school, opens on Wednesday at Alley Theatre. The "promotions" tab and typing "student.""Best Taco!" (Taco Verde)

Huzzah for equality
It's Martin Luther King Jr. Day! Three cheers for three-day weekends. This is a university holiday, so there are no scheduled classes. Sleep in, lounge around all day in your pajamas and do whatever it is you do when you have free time. You could try and get a head start on your reading, but who are we kidding? No one is going to actually do that!

KEEP YOUR RECEIPTS
Today is the last day to return your books to the bookstore for a refund, for those of you that either changed your schedules or are one of those mooschers that buys the book to read until you get it used from the Internet (Ever heard of the library, bucko? That's what they are there for.) In any case, if returning books is on your to-do list, you'd better do it before the bookstore closes at 4 p.m. today.

The ultimate waffles
What better way to support a campus organization than by eating? This morning, Miss Red, the campus women's ultimate Frisbee team, will be selling waffles with chocolate chips, whipped cream and syrup for only $3.50 and other wholesomely delicious breakfast goodness for less than $5.50. You can find them in West Servery from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

MALIBU MEAL PLANNING
This day in history was more interesting than today.
Historically, Jan. 20 has been at least as interesting as today. In 1920, the first English Parliament conducted its first meeting. In 1792, a French Republic was declared, and in 1833, the slave trade was abolished. In 1941, the beer rationing act took effect.

For Once in my Life
Catch the screening of this uplifting and heart-warming film as part of the Houston Public Broadcasting System Community Cinema, about the Spirit of Goodwill Band, made up of 28 musicians who have severe mental and physical disabilities. The film, playing at 7 p.m. in the Film Auditorium of the Rice Media Center, offers a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes workings of the band, the personal struggles of the musicians and concert footage.

The 49th State

WEDNESDAY
Holidays in university
What do streaming video and public school have in common?
Find out today. The CEO of Netflix, Reed Hastings, will speak today at 6:30 p.m. in the Shell Auditorium of McNair Hall about difficulty sustaining excellent school districts, followed by a discussion with Hastings and Terry Grier, the superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, who has said he wants to make HISD the best public school district in the nation. The event is a joint effort by Rice Education Entrepreneurship Program and Houston's Knowledge Power Program.

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SUNDAY
The "Malibu Meal Planning"
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THURSDAY
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SUDOKU

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This sudoku was created and designed by Helen Shaw.
someone similar to me, and feel that adoption difficult). We are seeking and I now want a child, and to do so we
wedding anniversary. My husband and I are teachers wanted. Pay rate start at provided. Full and part time positions available. Dynamic and Energetic all previous renters Rice gradu-
CSPD changes name again
I've never been hired to work in career services, but even know it's a hard career to move to continu-
first week of classes
And last session of school, I wish I had some at SAP before now. I also wish that last sentence was a joke.
all playoffs begin
Cowboys aren't in it. Texans aren't now. I also wish that last sentence was a joke. It was James Kohli's birthday Wednesday (the 12th). If you see him you should give him a celebratory slip on the ass.

The Backpage is satire and is written by James Kohli and Connor Hayes. Bun B, if you read this, omgomgomg be our friend. @mebymemusic @fanofnaps

When Houston rapper Bun B made headlines worldwide earlier this year by announcing he had become a trillionaire and thus the single richest person in the history of the world, it seemed there was nowhere left to go. But having conquered the world of rap, Bun B decided to conquer the world of our hearts by teaching REL 155/315 Religion and Religion in America at Rice University. He was even exploited on court in a Heat jersey sometime last week. I repeat, this is not Photoshopped.

I'M A RICE

The Republicans love religion and the Democrats love hip-hop. It's an obvious choice.

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