Rondelet back after two years

BY RUBY GEE

Rondelet returns tomorrow at 7 p.m., after a two-year hiatus. While the location of the dance remains at the Treasure restaurant in the Texas Medical Center, several changes, such as the additional winter theme due to a change in event timing, have been implemented in an effort to revive the formal dance.

Rice Program Council Social Co-Chair and Interim Vice President Libby Ulman said that they had hoped to bring back the tradition in a slightly different way while maintaining the spirit of Rondelet.

"In the past few years, Rondelet has just kind of died out because of low popularity," Ulman, a Sid Richardson College sophomore, said. "This year, the idea was to revamp it, bring it back at a different time and hope to get people energized about it."

Tickets sales for the formal dance began Jan. 12, with a regular ticket costing $15. For $25, attendees can get a ticket and wristband for alcohol of age. Wristbands may be purchased at the door. According to Ulman, RPC had approximately $300 tickets out of the allotted 500 as of Wednesday.

Rondelet's return also marks a strength in the number of local events taking place on campus. Though the annual Rice Spring Carnival begins Feb. 21, a number of events also occur over the weekend of Feb. 18-20 in an attempt to combat alcohol-related problems.

"We are sitting at a moment of crisis," Hutchinson said. "The status quo cannot stand. We can’t wait for this to go away. Crisis presents itself as an opportunity. We need to collectively stand up as a community to say this cannot go on."

Though the panel discussed what the policy actually says, Hutchinson emphasized that the most effective way to combat alcohol-related problems is for students to care about each other and their community and not about law enforcement.

"The driving force of the policy is about care, not about legal issues at a private gathering," Hutchinson said. "Rice liberalized its policy with the belief that students would pick up the slack by taking care of each other."

One way students can work on supporting and looking out for one another is by notifying college chief justices of private parties, Rice College Chief Justice Jon Ede- mean said. According to the policy, if a party has a key, it must be registered as a private party.

"If you host a party, you are taking responsibility for all who consume alcohol," Hutchinson said. "Tell your chief justice for support."

Communication between students does keep the level of EMS calls significantly lower, Zaidi said. "Public gatherings that are planned will see a distinct decrease in EMS calls," Zaidi said. "However, people from private parties are found in a state when they need hospitalization immediately."

Several students in the audience questioned if more EMS calls could signify more faith in the service and not a rise in overly drunk students. "More EMS calls do show that our community cares, but we also know that some people have been found abandoned, suggesting that we have a ways to go," Hutchinson said.

"For a culture of care, we must help people not to go too far and intervene. We need to feel empowered to help people, which it or not we are the first line of defense," a student from a private party said. "The policy was written by and large by the students," Ostdiek said. "It is not something that is imposed on us but something the community has made. Everyone should have input."

" indexing
truly privileged to hear these intriguing ideas from a leader in the field. It is also true that that which fails to change, dies. Thus, it is time to address underperform and underwhelm with each year's standardized test—battled establishment such as the state educational system, which seems refreshing. This sort of overhaul seems particularly necessary for an environment of business, who found that companies hiring internal CEOs are more successful. School boards that are headed by elected officials have no continuity in leadership philosophy and can have the progress of a particular visionary at risk.

Hastings spoke from his background on education with fervent support for charter schools. However, it is important to note that substantial changes are made to the alcohol policy and no aggressive crack-down on the current alcohol policy's enforcement is necessary. Any occurrences like the one at the Law School where a situation of off-campus drinking instigated, instead, the change must be a grassroots one in which the students make the responsible decisions, allowing for continued enforcement of institutional goals. The Rice provost can also be placed into this cat, and it seems that the Rice Board of Trustees is responsible for picking Rice presidents, and thus certain basic goals can continue to be accomplished from administration to administration.

Hunting believes that the leadership of charter schools makes them particularly effective. School boards that are headed by elected officials have no continuity in leadership philosophy and can have the progress of a particular visionary at risk. After all, if students lack the common decency to care for each other, other entities such as RUPD may have no choice but to throw up their hands in frustration, and generally agree. Take a line from the comic books: With great power, great responsibility.

CEO's support remarkable

The Rice Education Entrepreneurship Program and the Knowledge is Power Program recently wooed Reed Hastings to speak at the university (see story, page 3). Hastings, however, is not the only CEO to address Rice students. toasted last week's student editorial on GSA involvement in college sports—"GSA not a residential college"—the GSA officers have decided to issue this response. In the online comments there are already several corrections and counterarguments to the poorly researched claim of competitive advantage. Since these points have already been made, there is no much reason to repeat them here, but what does need to be addressed is the narrow viewpoint displayed in this editorial, i.e., leadership, GSA members are Rice University students, part of Rice's "student body." This inclusiveness has been encouraged in recent years by the GSA's efforts alongside the SA to improve graduate-undergraduate relations. This includes graduate mentoring for undergraduates, and the recent and very successful Spring Break Match. Typically, last week's editorial does not carry the same sentiment. It plainly takes the opposite viewpoint, stating that graduate students should not participate in college sports and other campus recreational activities like beer, fraternities and sororities, as undergraduates. These activities are a respite from class and research that provide a social opportunity with other students. Close friendships are made through GSA sports. Also, involvement in such activities is not a "university experience." Employees at companies of comparable size to Rice University nearly always have opportunities for competitive recreational activities available to them, even though they are not in college. We strongly oppose re-creating the GSA from sports and recreational activities. It would not only be contrary to the inclusive nature of the campus community, but also take away recreational opportunities for graduate students. Nonetheless, we remain committed to efforts aimed at improving graduate-undergraduate relations and increasing interactions between graduate and undergraduate students, including friendly and fair competition. Graduate students are here, after all, for reasons other than existing Rice's national profile. We are willing to both listen and participate in discussions with sports representatives on ways to improve the fairness and competitiveness of the aforementioned sports activities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:
Last week's online poll results:

Should the Graduate Student Association continue to compete against the residential colleges in intramurals and Road Bike?

YES: 77

No: 35

Tie was broken by students in the SA.

Yvette "NY"

To the Editor:

Congratulations to the Thresher staff and students for an outstanding year. I know I speak for the majority when I say that the Thresher is a vital part of my college experience. It is a social opportunity with other students. Close friendships are made through GSA sports. Also, involvement in such activities is not a "university experience." Employees at companies of comparable size to Rice University nearly always have opportunities for competitive recreational activities available to them, even though they are not in college. We strongly oppose re-creating the GSA from sports and recreational activities. It would not only be contrary to the inclusive nature of the campus community, but also take away recreational opportunities for graduate students. Nonetheless, we remain committed to efforts aimed at improving graduate-undergraduate relations and increasing interactions between graduate and undergraduate students, including friendly and fair competition. Graduate students are here, after all, for reasons other than existing Rice's national profile. We are willing to both listen and participate in discussions with sports representatives on ways to improve the fairness and competitiveness of the aforementioned sports activities.

The Rice Thresher

What do you think about Rice's alcohol policy?

Last year's online poll results:

Yes, extra, extra! Note all about it.

Was this year's Rondelet a success?

Was this year's Rondelet a success?

Visit us online at the Thresher website after Saturday night.

I don't care.

This issue's poll: What do you think about Rice's alcohol policy?

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The Rice Thresher

What do you think about Rice's alcohol policy?
Rice University alcohol policy review: spring 2011

Drayton Thomas

This is cause for concern for several reasons. During O-week, I specifically remember an RUPD officer telling a 17-year-old to get his ass back in that dorm room. And yes, I said "ass." At Duncan College, RUPD officers entered two suites completely unannounced and confiscated any and all alcohol. This is a good faith contrat between RUPD and the student body that will always be upheld.

At this point I need to make a bit of a disclaimer. While I am not pleased with these events, I still think RUPD is a necessary role here, especially on campus and students will drink, the only question is whether you want students as a force to do in the combination of alcohol the drink.
Hastings said that the last big change in education was the rise of charter schools. "I'm quite ready to throw out the baby with the bath water," Grier said. "I've been a charter advocate for a long time, but charters have not been at it long enough for them to declare success." Grier said he worries that as charter organizations grow, they will begin to have the same bureaucratic responses to the problem that did not result in real change. Hastings said that the trend continues today with fears about globalization and that educators properly learn to be cynical in response to waves of misplaced blame and superficial political reactions. Jones College freshman Luis Fernandez said that, although he thought the ideas of democracy and having elected officials was essential to the idea of Americanism, he thought Hastings' proposal was interesting. "With a school board that re-elects itself based on merit, you get people looking out for the school," Fernandez said. "I take my hat off to charters like KIPP and YES, [but] I'm not sure that I'm quite ready to throw out the baby with the bath water," Grier said. "I've been a charter advocate for a long time, but charters have not been at it long enough for them to declare success." Grier said he worries that as charter organizations grow, they will begin to have the same bureaucratic responses to the problem that did not result in real change. Hastings said that the trend continues today with fears about globalization and that educators properly learn to be cynical in response to waves of misplaced blame and superficial political reactions. Jones College freshman Luis Fernandez said that, although he thought the ideas of democracy and having elected officials was essential to the idea of Americanism, he thought Hastings' proposal was interesting. "With a school board that re-elects itself based on merit, you get people looking out for the school," Fernandez said.
Flooding hits northwest U.S.

Heavy flooding in Oregon and Washington caused landslides that are shutting down roads. Several rains caused rivers to rise earlier, including the Snoqualmie River. U.S. Highway 20, also known as Santiam Highway, was closed after a mudslide cut a 200-yard path of mud, rock and debris hit the road. In Portland a section of the South- east Powell Boulevard southeast of 82nd Avenue was partially under water, while another landslide closed Highway 26 in Hillsboro on the westbound side. Roads in Manzanita and Poolesville as well as parts of Route 14, Route 401 and Route 508 have been closed due to landslides. Other weather was expected to help with clean-up problems. Source: CNN

Final report on Deepwater Horizon oil spill calls for more regulation

The commission on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, created by President Barack Obama last May, issued its final report. The report says blame on the three main companies involved — BP, Transocean, and Haliburton — because of safety regulation shortcomings. Failure to communicate between the companies as well as plain errors led to unnecessary risks were the ultimate cause of the oil spill according to the report.

Findings say that offshore drilling is acceptable if properly regulated and in some cases the report would call for its end. Self policing, supported by the final report, would include a separate safety body from the American Petroleum Institute that would be able to keep up with technological advances, including the rapid advances in deepwater and ultra-deepwater drilling. Many of the Despite this, the report still lowered without government legislation need to be involved for some aspects. Source: CNN

House of Representatives votes to repeal health care bill

The House of Representatives voted to repeal the Democrats' health care reform bill on Wednesday, with up to 251 to 189. Those in support of the repeal, who are mainly Republicans and Democratic Representatives Dan Boren of Oklahoma, Mike McIntyre of North Carolina and Mike Ross of Arkansas, all three of whom had re-elected the health care law last year. Through this action, the new House Republican majority confirmed its initial goal to begin dismantling President Obama's main domestic policy enactment.

Leaders of the Democratic-led Senate Impounded the House's call for repeal by stating that they would not respond to it. Still, House Republicans said they planned to proceed with their strategy to repeal and replace the health care reform bill. However, they will first need to propose alternative solutions that emphasize the free market process so as to limit health costs and increase coverage. They will also have to obtain a collective agreement for these solutions. Source: The New York Times

Protests wreak havoc in Tunisia; president facesアニ カー とき と

Amid protests and violence plaguing Tunisia, former president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled the country for Saudi Arabia on 23 years of autocratic rule. Faoud Mebazza, leader of the lower house of parliament, was sworn in as interim president last Saturday. Formal elections will be held in 60 days. Violence and death plague Tunisia for some time, as protests occurred more and more frequently after a student lit himself on fire in protest of poor economic conditions. A fire killed 42 people at a prison in Monastir and inmates in Mahdia, further down the coast, set fire to their mattresses in protest as a result of which soldiers opened fire in the prison. The death of the Mahdia prison let 3,000 inmates flee to avoid even more bloodshed. Further protests have broken out against members of Ben Ali's family and supporters. Source: Washington Times

Chinese President Hu Jintao visits Washington, admits China needs to work on rights

On Jan 19, President Hu Jintao of China arrived for a visit with President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C. The presidents held a press conference in the White House's East Room that focused on the nations' common interests but skirted around topics trade and human rights. The meeting showed that although the countries can't fix all points of tension, including China's currency policies, its human rights record and nuclear goals in North Korea, they can live with them.

China's Commerce Minister Chen Deming said that both leaders expressed their "strategic mutual trust" and that he is satisfied with the visit so far. Deming also pointed out that up to 10 contracts would be signed between Chinese and American government agencies and businesses. Source: Wall Street Journal

Skin cancer drug shows success in early trials

RG7024, a skin-cancer drug developed by Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche Holding AG, has demonstrated that it could help patients with advanced, late stages of the illness live for longer periods of time without worsening in condition. These positive results were collected in a late-stage trial on 675 pre-screened patients, RG7024 works by concentrating a part of the cell that scientists think is causing cancer in half of all metastatic melanoma patients. It attempts to keep a mutated form of the BRAF protein from acting.

According to reports, RG7024 is seen by analysts as capable of achieving tremendous market success of up to $1 billion or more per year of approval. However, the drug's side effects could prevent it from being accepted. Roche said these side effects included cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma — another type of skin cancer, rashes, joint pain, light sensitivity, hair loss and fatigue. Source: Wall Street Journal

"You can go about your business. Move along."
Hey. Maybe you noticed something about this week’s Rice Thresher. Yeah, a bit well. On a deadline?

E-mail thresher@rice.edu if you want a job making our newspaper better.

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Wilson Grant honorees named

BY BROOKE BULLOCK
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

In late November, five student-led projects received funding from the Dr. Bill Wilson Student Initiative Grant. The fund backs student-initiated projects that work to improve the quality of student life as well as the student's nameake, electronics and computer engineering professor Bill Wilson, suggested at the fund's creation.

Wilson was a Rice College resident associate for 28 years. The grant was established in 1999 by Wilson's alma mater to honor Wilson in his 20th year as an RA. The grant had its first recipients in 2000 and has continued supporting student-initiated projects ever since.

A committee consisting of the Wires masters, RA's and a Wires student from each year is in charge of electing groups who will be awarded the grant.

Wires College Coordinator Nancy Lemos said that the committee based its decision on three criteria: Is the project a student initiative? Who benefits from the project? Would the project appeal to Wilson?

Based on those criteria, the committee members rank all applications individually and then convene to make a final decision.

This year, three groups — Owl List, Rice University Bike Shop and Rice Emergency Medical Services — received full funding for their projects and two — RicEmpower and McMurtry — received partial funding to support their projects.

Owl List

Baker College junior Vivian Lorimer and Will Rice College senior, Konrad Stoick, applied to receive the Dr. Bill Grant after Kroel received an e-mail from Baker's initiative about the grant.

"We talked about how we get spammed through the college listserv, [and] we thought there had to be an easier way to do it.”

Konrad Stoick
Will Rice '11

She and Stoick were looking for ways to finance their idea for Owl List, a website where Rice students can buy, sell or advertise various items. Their idea came from a project to improve an on-campus group in an Entrepreneurial Leadership class at Rice.

Krol and Stoick began working with the Student Association to find ways to handle the multitude of e-mails concerning couches or apartments that come through the college listservs.

"We talked about how we get spammed through the college listserv, [and] we thought there had to be an easier way to do it."

Krol said that they have been working with Web Services and the SA's Student Life Committee to get their site up and running. They received $5,300 from the grant to fund the project. Krol and Stoick said they expect it to be completed by March 22.

Rice University Bike Shop

Sid Richardson College sophomore Michael Fried and his co-applicant Sid sophomore Ben Starkman proposed a student-run Rice University Bike Shop. Fried said he got the idea from a large number of bikes around campus with rusty chains or other problems.

"The Rice University Bike Shop's mission is to provide quality repairs at low cost and in a convenient location," Fried said.

The bike shop will be located in the Sid basement and offer basic repairs, as well as a few specialty ones, and sell bike accessories.

Fried said that one of their ideas is to repair the bikes collected through RUPID and return them through the shop.

Also, the bike shop is partnering with the bike sharing program to repair their bikes. The program, funded by REUK, provides Sid, Martel, Jones, McMurry and Brown Colleges with free bikes each to check out to students.

Fried received $640.48 to buy tools and supplies for the bike shop. Fried said that initially, only he and Sachs will be working the shop, and that any students who begin working there in the future will need to be proficient in bike repair. He said he hopes the bike shop will be up and running within a month, but definitely by Beer Bike Time.

EMS Dummies

EMS Education Lieutenant Emily Latimer, a Martel senior, and EMS Captain Hashim Zaidi, a Will Rice senior, applied for the grant in order to purchase new airway dummies for Rice EMS's EMT-Basic class and REMS duty crew.

Airway dummies approximately simulate a human torso including face, airway and lungs. They feature landmarks such as the sternum and rib cage so that chest thrusts, back blows and CPR can be practiced using the dummy.

They received $268.40 to purchase the new airway dummies.

Student Leadership Development: Civic Scientists

Evan College junior Karen Ayoub and junior Andy Ho submitted a proposal for their already-established RicEmpower service venture. Ayoub, RicEmpower's president and founder, and Ho, its Executive Committee chair, self-funded RicEmpower until they received funding from the Student Leadership Development: Civic Scientists.

"We want to give them a multi-level idea of careers in math and science," Ho said.

"RicEmpower was not well informed in high school about future careers," Ayoub said. "We thought RicEmpower would be an easier way to do it." Stoick said. "We thought there had to be an easier way to do it."

Konrad Stoick
Will Rice '11

RicEmpower works to show students that these subjects are viable paths in college and after college.

"Less and less people are going into science, math and medicine now," Ayoub said.

RicEmpower received $1,231.32 from the grant. The money from the grant will go toward dialogues the organization hosts for students in the Houston area.

More information about individual projects or joining RicEmpower can be found at its website: http://ricempower.rice.edu

McMurtry Classroom

McMurtry sophomore Ashley Purdon and her McMurry Amenities Committee Co-Chair, senior Chris Kopczyński applied for the grant upon recommendation of the McMurry president and masters.

Purdon said that McMurry already has a TV lounge area but needs a room that will serve as a classroom for fellow or club courses as well as a study room.

"McMurtry needed more spaces where it could be functional," Purdon said. "The [Dr. Bill Grant] will be used solely for a classroom with whiteboards and desks."

Purdon said that the room, McMurry 114, has already been painted, and some bookshelves have been bought.

Purdon and Kopczyński received $2,689 for their project. Their goal is to have the entire room complete by the end of the semester.

"We want to give them a multi-level idea of careers in math and science," Ho said.

"RicEmpower was not well informed in high school about future careers," Ayoub said. "We thought RicEmpower would be an easier way to do it." Stoick said. "We thought there had to be an easier way to do it."
MEET THE NEW RAs
Sid Richardson College and Martel College welcomed new residential associates this semester. The Thresher sat down with them to discuss traditions, buildings, historical figures, expectations and their favorite types of rice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>TIME AT RICE</th>
<th>FAVORITE RICE TRADITION/HOLIDAY</th>
<th>ATTRACTION TO SID/MARTEL</th>
<th>FAVORITE RICE BUILDING</th>
<th>FAVORITE TYPE OF RICE</th>
<th>BEST PART OF COLLEGE SYSTEM</th>
<th>FAVORITE HISTORICAL FIGURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;I'M THE WIFE.&quot;</td>
<td>NEW TO RICE</td>
<td>ENTERING AND LEAVING THE SALLYPORT</td>
<td>THE NONCONFORMIST ATTITUDE OF THE STUDENTS AT SID, AND THAT SOME STUDENTS LIKE REALITY TV</td>
<td>SALLYPORT; LOVETT HALL</td>
<td>BASMATI RICE</td>
<td>THE ABILITY TO COME TOGETHER AND CONNECT AT MEAL TIMES</td>
<td>OSCAR WILDE, NOT MY FAVORITE AUTHOR, BUT HIS IMPACT ON CULTURE IS INTERESTING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATIONS</td>
<td>10 YEARS</td>
<td>BEER BIKE</td>
<td>THE TRADITIONS SID CARRIES AND ALSO THE NONCONFORMIST ATTITUDE OF THE STUDENTS AT SID</td>
<td>SID</td>
<td>SHRIMP FRIED RICE</td>
<td>THE HIGH LEVEL OF INTERACTION BETWEEN STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF</td>
<td>FREDERICK DOUGLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTRITION/BODY IM-</td>
<td>1.5 YEARS</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING, BECAUSE I'M A FO'DIC</td>
<td>MARETTI'S GREEK HISTORY FIRST, ATTRACTED ME BECAUSE I AM GREEK</td>
<td>THE WELLNESS CENTER</td>
<td>BASMATI</td>
<td>GETTING TO BE PART OF STUDENTS' LIVES IN A POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE MANNER</td>
<td>THE FIRST WOMAN TO RUN THE BOSTON MARATHON. SHE MADE HEADWAY FOR ALL WOMEN IN ENDURANCE EVENTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE SPECIALIST</td>
<td>1.5 YEARS</td>
<td>OKTOBERFEST</td>
<td>THE ATMOSPHERE OF MARTEL AND THE GREEK TRADITIONS</td>
<td>THE REC CENTER</td>
<td>BASMATI</td>
<td>THE SENSE OF BELONGING TO A LARGE FAMILY</td>
<td>ANDREW HAMILTON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO RICE POSITION</td>
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Hey. It’s me again, the design guy. Maybe you don’t write but you can photograph or design? Also cool.

E-mail thresh@rice.edu if you want a job making our newspaper look really good.

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**CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

**Career Expo Spring 2011**

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Grand Hall, RMC

All undergrads, non-MBA grad students, and post-docs interested in full-time, internship, and summer opportunities!

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- Each organization’s description, website, & degree/major’s recruiting

**Dress is business formal / business casual**

**Rice ID required for admittance**

**Bring copies of your resume**

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**CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

713-348-6120 | csdp.rice.edu
The theme for this year's Rondelet is "Frozen in Time." As a nod to the original event, footage of Rondelets from the 1940s will be playing on a projection screen in a side room of the location. In keeping with the winter theme, decorations include an ice sculpture centerpiece.

Rondelet started in 1947 as a springtime dance that was part of graduation festivities. In recent decades, Rondelet has been held on the night of Beer Bike. According to Ulman, a significant difference this time around is the timing of the event.

"Especially second semester, people get really busy, exponentially so, and it's just plainly more difficult to get people to buy tickets," Ulman said. "The timing of this year's Rondelet makes it really the first major campus-wide event since we've all been back from winter break, so it's a good way for people to catch up with friends from other colleges."

This year's Rondelet will also feature a live band called Tiger Lilly. Ulman said that the Houston cover band will be playing popular music that people are going to recognize, such as Lady Gaga.

"I think it will work out really well. ... At Sid Rich we do [the '80s party] with a cover band, and people always like that because it's something different you don't usually get at a dance," Ulman said.

An array of finger foods, desserts and refreshments will be available at the dance. For students' convenience, there will also be a coat check.

Hanszen College senior Amy Lanteigne will be working as a photographer at the event. She will be posting portraits on Facebook and will have larger portraits available by request.

Ulman said that since Esperanza sold out early, they asked people to buy their tickets for its spring semester counterpart early. To encourage people to do so, RPC created a promotion where if students bought their Rondelet tickets before 5 p.m. on Jan. 14, they would have a chance to win a free pair of tickets to Cirque Du Soleil: OVO that will be coming to Houston in March.

McMurtry College senior Nora Xu said that while she does not plan on attending Rondelet, the timing of the dance is not the reason why she isn't going.

"I think the timing is great — it's a Saturday night, so people are going out anyway, and it's in the beginning of the semester, so most people are pretty free," Xu said. "The theme sounds really cute, but the downside is that maybe it makes dressing up for Rondelet more of a challenge, especially for the boys."

Wiess College freshman Alexa Juarez said that while she missed the Cirque Du Soleil promotion, she still plans to attend Rondelet with a group of friends.

"[The promotion] sounded cool, but wasn't a huge motivator for me to buy my tickets early," Juarez said. "I'm actually really excited for the event, though ... I think we will all have a great time."
Burn Season of the Witch

ANTHONY LAURELLO
THESSER STAFF

Every job involves peril, and when I took up the noble calling of reviewing movies for our fine newspaper, I knew I would be facing. I knew that carefully crafting articles would take my precious time, but I never imagined that supposed Crusaders said lines like “you saved my ass.” The set design and costumes of the film helped transport the audience into an episode of “Boardwalk Empire” or “Salem: Witches’ Princess.” Alternatively, one could watch an episode of our favorite trashy fantasy shows aimed at overgrown children who still live in their parent’s attic. The CGI is even worse and the various battles and supernatural monsters wouldn’t impress even if the film was released 10 years ago.

The acting in the film simply shows that top-notch actors should be more discerning in the roles they choose. Cage seems bored, and his uninspired performance merely reminds the audience of his destitute financial position and his inability to choose to perform in good movies. Those expecting Cage’s trademark insanity or impulsiveness will go home sorely disappointed. Perlman does a better job, but the veteran and accomplished actor can only do so much with the lines given to him.

Director Dominic Sena (the man who managed to make even Angelina Jolie unattractive in Gone in 60 Sec- onds) was the madman who helped birth this grotesque demon child of a movie, adding to an already dubious and undistinguished filmography. Sena decides to take the ridiculous- ly absurd subject matter seriously, therefore dashing any faint glimmer of hope that Season of the Witch could survive as farce. The dialogue showed no imagination or quality whatsoever and, despite a few pretenses at trying to sound medieval, the direction seems remarkably modern. While I am not a history major, I remain incredulous at the supposed Crusaders said lines like “you saved my ass.” The set design and costumes of the film helped transport the audience into an episode of “Boardwalk Empire” or “Salem: Witches’ Princess.” Alternatively, one could watch an episode of our favorite trashy fantasy shows aimed at overgrown children who still live in their parent’s attic. The CGI is even worse and the various battles and supernatural monsters wouldn’t impress even if the film was released 10 years ago.

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The Decemberists certainly like to keep an element of whimsy to their appearance, citing Grateful Dead as the band's official drink and claiming that they travel wearing Dr. Herring's Brand Double Balloons. This eccentricity carries over into their lyrics, which tend to be imaginative, conceptual and intellectual (nerdy) to the point of pretension. Their eccentricity carries over into their lyrics, which tend to be imaginative, conceptual and intellectual (nerdy) to the point of pretension. Their figures of the Gilded Age (in "Calamity Song"), the Decemberists have identified themselves as new age folk, The King is Dead in significant more country than the Decemberists have in their past albums. In fact, the album was recorded in a converted barn on a farm in Oregon, and many of the songs on the album feature instruments found in country music: fiddle, banjo and fiddle piano sounds reminiscent in "All Arthur." The Decemberists craft a rock ballad that maintains emotion without losing listeners. K.L.M.'s Peter Buck plays the guitar for "Down By the Water" and leaves a distinct R.E.M. imprint on the entire album. Buck also collaborates with the Decemberists on "Calamity Song" and "This Is Why We Fight" — which sounds like Modest Mouse got in a brawl with Death Cab for Cutie; it is simultaneously the most alternative and pop-sounding song on the album. Perhaps tamed from the less than stellar criticisms of Hazards of Love, the Decemberists have stayed from the "baroque-pop" sound that first garnered the band's popularity. Although they have detached from their own foundations, the Decemberists' adoption of "rock" blues and American folk is definitely a step forward from their arrant and operatic Hazards of Love. Although Castaways and Cutouts is still my favorite Decemberists album (they actually tell stories with their music! They make "Laurel and Hardy " rhyme? Who does that!), The King is Dead is a calm change from the sometimes overly cerebral Decemberists.

The Decemberists, with the help of Gillian Welch and Peter Buck, combine folk, pop, alternative and country sounds on their new album.

The Decemberists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artist: The Decemberists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Label: Capitol</td>
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<td>Released: Jan. 19</td>
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Emilly Nichol

Shredder Editorial Staff

Originally from Portland, Ore., the Decemberists released their full-length album, Contrary — all Cutouts, on independent label Blast in 2000. Now the Decemberists are signed to Capitol Records and are more popular than ever. Their previous album, The Hazards of Love (a rock opera of sorts), reached number 14 on the Billboard Top 200. Their newest album, The King is Dead, was released on Jan. 18, and is a mellow follow-up to The Hazards of Love.

The King is Dead

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011

Want to write for the Thresher?


WRITE FOR A&E

email: thresher-arts@rice.edu

The School of Humanities will provide up to five fellowships for summer 2011 to support undergraduate research in Europe. Eligible for the fellowships are Rice students who currently have the status of sophomore or junior and are enrolled in a Humanities course with a strong European focus. Depending on the research project, the fellowships typically range between $2,500 and $5,000.

The purpose of the award is to support students who wish to extend a pursuit of study with a research project based on research carried out in any of the European Union countries.

Projects can fall into any of the following areas: Art History, Film and Television History, History of Science and Technology, Intellectual and Cultural History, Law, Music, Philosophy, Politics and International Relations, Religious Studies, and Social and Political Thought.

Deadline for Proposals: March 25, 2011.

For application details, please contact: Christian J. Emden (emden@rice.edu)
Relish: NYC food like Houston's, but with more expensive Mexican food

"Going home for winter break is for tools."

"Yeah, I'm in NYC. We should do like a road trip or whatever..."

"Uh, where?"

"I dunno, Pete lives in Jersey; I guess we could go to New York..."

Times Square isn't that great, but otherwise New York City is just as cool as Houston, at least when it comes to Mexican food and beer.

THE BIG APPLE VS. BAYOU CITY

Like a road trip or whatever...

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011

we arrived in glorious Chatham, Kansas, the Maker's Mark distillery.

MANHATTAN EATS

Top 10 Late Night Takes: Two Boots


THE RICE THRESHER

A&E 11

Siegfried Bilstein
and Dan Nelson

And so we decided to embark on a journey to the urban cesspool that is New York City. After a three-day car ride with brief stops in Arkansas, the Maker's Mark distillery in Tennessee, and West Virginia (where bars are open until 1 a.m.), we arrived in glorious Chatham, New Jersey. Chatham was certainly the coolest place ever, but this is a column about New York City, so Chatham will have to wait until another day.

Full disclosure: We were only in New York for two days, so we totally know absolutely everything about it. Our editor says that in order to make this article, we need to compare New York to Houston, so we'll provide y'all with a handy Texas analogue to each restaurant we visited.

Times Square is so dumb. The buildings are plastered with giant advertisements for all kinds of shit — the place has sold literally every square inch to advertisers — and there are like a million people walking around in circles. However, Times Square is worth visiting because it's a spectacle of a place and you can get a pretty good meal at the Hard Rock Cafe.

We made an important discovery: In New York, if a restaurant has more than three locations, then it is required by law to list the calorie count of every single item on the menu. Needless to say, this leads to ordering lots of salad/dressing like a fatass, Texas Analogue: Hard Rock Cafe in Houston/House of Blues Foundation Room.

After a couple of beers at the Hard Rock, we proceeded to St. Mark's Place, where we stopped at a Texas-themed bar called Coyote Ugly. It was a total caricature of all things Texas, which should be expected from those damn North-eastern liberal communists, Texas Analogue: Key's in the Village.

Every time you order a drink, you get an entire free pizza. Not a slice of pizza. An entire, personal pizza. The quality of the pizza is irrelevant (awful), because it is free and you've probably reached the point in your night where you don't really give a shit about what your pizzas tastes like anyway, Texas Analogue: The Hoot.

The next day, we stopped by the Metropolitan Museum of Art to learn a little culture. Culture mainly consists of naked statues with missing body parts. We also learned that the Knish stand out of the museum allows you to get an authentic New York experience: buying greasy, delicious food from a dude in a cart. A knish is like a taco, except fried and made out of potatoes and originating from early 20th century Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants to New York, Texas Analogue: taco truck!

For dinner, we went to Rosa Mexicana, which is a sneaky, surprisingly incredible Mexican place located in Midtown Manhattan. (Pete's parents, if you're reading this, thanks so very much for taking us to all of these places. You are the best, and you have a lovely home.)

You should already know what great Mexican food is like, so since we have a lot to cover, we will just assume that this place has it, in addition to very alcoholic tequila-based desserts. Texas Analogue: Kenny and Ziggy's, a slightly pricey and authentic Jewish New York deli located in the Galleria.

As you can no doubt suspect, we spent the rest of the night bussing from sake bombs at a sushi place all too familiar with the ritual to some dusty NYC bars, New York is expensive. The most expensive, however, was a speakeasy we visited named Please Don't Tell, which one enters through a phone booth located in an unassuming hot dog place. Despite being a speakeasy, this place was super classy. We really have no idea why the hell they let us in. Still, the drinks were superb, which makes sense, given that they cost $15 on average. The speakeasy also sells hot dogs that are pretty cheap and equally superb, Texas Analogue: Buying greasy, delicious food from a dude in a cart.

Finally, before we realized that we had to run to catch the subway back to New Jersey, we ordered some authentic New York pizza. Featuring pizzas such as "The Newman" (sopressata and sweet Italian sausage on a white pie) and "The Dude" (essentially a bacon cheeseburger pizza), Two Boots in West Village is a really fun place to get late-night pie.

Texas Analogue: Star Pizza.

New York is a great place to visit with friends from school. Offering a wide variety of food, fun and other ways to spend all of your money, it's definitely worth visiting in order to experience a break from Houston. But we've only given it four out of five stars because if everyone in New York is an asshole, then we get to be assholes too, Texas Analogue: Lubbock.

Siegfried Bilstein and Dan Nelson are Wills College seniors.

Two reporters trek through the city that never sleeps in search of NYC restaurants with Texas equivalents.
Women go 1-1 against conference bottom-feeders

Women's conference woes continue in El Paso

Men's conference woes continue in El Paso

Men's conference woes continue in El Paso

Men's conference woes continue in El Paso
Swimming takes out UNT at home

by Christine Jeon

Sophomore Kylee Talwar competes in the 100-yard breaststroke against Texas A&M on Dec. 4. The Owls lost to their in-state rivals 137-104 but defeated North Texas last Friday and look ahead to meet with LSU.

Rice beat both U.S.C and UNT last year. The mean of LSU will be the Owls’ last before the CUSA Championships. Last season, Rice finished third in the final conference team standings (196) behind Southern Methodist University (207) and East Carolina University (202).

Ackerman described the third place finish as a disappointment, but credit the Owls with fighting hard in the last meet of the season. Despite the mean, Rice has been pushing for a historic meet against LSU.

"We are doing a lot of pacing and strategizing. We are in the best shape we have been all year. We have to be careful not to overtrain, as our team’s health is the best it has been all year. Right now we are hoping for injuries and sickness are behind us.

Head Coach Seth Huston shored up the team’s upcoming training schedule. "We are not taking any chances. We are doing a lot of pacing and strategizing. The team has been consistent all year so we have to be careful not to overtrain as our team’s health is the best it has been all year.

This year, we are looking toward conference as an opportunity to earn a major victory. This year, our most to date since 2007-2008 season. Their previous high was 10 of 14 events against Florida International. Rice also has four wins on the season, their most to date since 2007-2008 season.

"There is definitely extra pressure on the whole team to come together and perform well." said Ackerman.

"It’s like everyone says, ‘if you want to be the best, you have to beat the best’ and we have adapted this philosophy into our schedule this year,” Ackerman said.

"I think we will get to have everyone back at Houston.

Dr. Roger Patterson
Senior Pastor

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

The Rice Thresher

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Freshman and throwers shine for men's track

By Jonathan Myers

Staying with the field events,

THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Senior Ari Ince, typically a pole vaulter for the Owls, took a step outside her comfort zone and participated in the 400-meter leg of the distance medley relay.

"We need to make it a priority to catch up with other schools in the short distance," Warren said. "Obviously we didn't have our (distance) medley team out there at our last meet, so that's going to take some points away from us. But our throwers are going to have great potential, and our jumpers and vaulters will give us good results. And we expect our distance guys to be very competitive, additionally."
Save a trip to EX&S
Foreign food & film

FRIDAY 21

Save a trip to EX&S
Foreign food & film

SATURDAY 22

Old movies are the best
Of all the gin joints, in all the towns, in all the world, it walks into yours. Casablanca is being shown at the Film Auditorium of the Rice Media Center tonight and tomorrow night from 7 to 9 p.m. Come see the classic. World War II romance-drama from 1942, starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman and Paul Henreid. Brought to you by the Department of Visual and Dramatic Arts.

WEDNESDAY 26

Thirty Seconds to Mars
The rock band from Los Angeles is playing at the Verizon Wireless Theater downtown tonight starting at 7:30 p.m. You can still get tickets to see the band for $50 and up on Ticketmaster.

SUDDOKU

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HOW TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

The deadline for submission is 3 p.m. the Monday prior to publication. Submissions are printed on a space-available basis.

Submission methods
Fax: 713.348.5238
E-mail: thresher-calendar@rice.edu

WHAT TO WRITE THE CALENDAR?

Would you like the power to influence Rice’s student life? Have you ever wanted to experience the glorious feeling of knowing that your words are being read all across campus? Do you want to make a difference?

If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, this is totally the wrong job for you. Write for news or something.

But if you’re chill and cool, if you can whip around purses like Willow Smith whips her hair, and if you like keeping people informed whilst being able to crack jokes, you should write this page!

The job comes with tons of perks: get paid, free food, and the best part is you can write whatever you want on this page! Seriously. If you want, you could put monkeys on it for no reason whatsoever! Boom. How thoughtful he looks.

Interested? E-mail: thresher-calendar@rice.edu with your contact information and a little blur about why you want the job. Puns appreciated.
In a controversial move that will undoubtedly rage across online blogs and Twitter feeds for weeks, The Rice Thresher has confirmed the firing of Backpage editors James Kohli and Connor Hayes. Though the rumors had quietly gained steam for weeks regarding the inevitable firing of Kohli and Hayes, the actual termination of the almost impossibly charismatic duo stunned a Rice campus already in desperate need of leaders. And thus the question was asked:

"Who can we turn to now?"

But you already know the answer, dear readers. You never truly needed James and Connor, because the magic was inside you all along! Do you think you have what it takes to become the next Backpage editor?* Just send us a sample of funny material. We'll announce the hiring of Backpage editors James Kohli and Connor Hayes. Though the rumors had quietly gained steam for weeks regarding the in-

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

**r@ice.edu**

**HOUSING**

**WANTED**

- **EXECUTIVE/WEEKEND JOBS AVAILABLE**
  - $40/hr cash plus bonuses
  - Flexible schedule
  - Fun atmosphere
  - Great snacks provided

- **EGG DONORS NEEDED**
  - Anonymous Women, Ages 20-50, Strong Medical
  - Physical Health
  - Non smokers & Drug Free

**APPLICATION TO WRITE THE BACKPAGE**

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**WANTED**

- **EXECUTIVE/WEEKEND JOBS AVAILABLE**
  - $40/hr cash plus bonuses
  - Flexible schedule
  - Fun atmosphere
  - Great snacks provided

- **EGG DONORS NEEDED**
  - Anonymous Women, Ages 20-50, Strong Medical
  - Physical Health
  - Non smokers & Drug Free

**APPLICATION TO WRITE THE BACKPAGE**

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