HEAVY RAINS TAKE RICE BY SURPRISE

Flash flood hits Rice

By Seth Brown
THE OCEAN EDITORIAL STAFF

Students waking to their first classes of the year now had to get past more than just their snooze buttons. According to weather data on the university website, Rice's campus received 5.68 inches of rain Monday, flooding roads and parking lots and sending the student body scrambling to make their way to class.

The university sent a message over its emergency notification system at 8:04 a.m. to warn students, faculty and staff that roads on and around campus were flooding and that they should avoid travel until the water subsided.

See FLOOD, page 5

Whitehead tapped to command RUPD

Johnny Whitehead, the current chief of police at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, has been selected as the new chief of police and director of public safety for Rice effective March 1st.

Interim Captain Clemente Rodriguez has been in this position since Bill Taylor retired on Dec. 31 after 12 years of service.

"I am very excited about the opportunity and can't wait to get started," Whitehead said. "It's a great opportunity to be the next chief of police at Rice."

Whitehead was chosen from the position out of 200 candidates. The university used a national search firm to identify potential applicants. Asearch committee of 15 members, including undergraduate and graduate students, the captain of Rice Emergency Medical Services, Rice University Police Department officers and senior administrators — selected four finalists to be interviewed by 10 senior administrators, including President David Leebron and Dean of Undergraduates John Underhill.

This new job will not be Whitehead’s first leadership role in the police force. He has been working in policing since 1976 when he joined the Baltimore City Police Department. During his time in Baltimore, he rose to Chief of the Field Operations Bureau. For the past three years, Whitehead has been chief of police at UMBC. His force of 60 members oversees a campus of 20,000 students.

"We really think he is someone who has a good philosophy about college policing with a wide range in experience," Vice President of Administration Kevin Kirby said.

One thing Whitehead said he noticed while visiting Rice is that RUPD is already doing a good job of engaging with students on campus. He was happy to see officers eating in the servers and talking with students, he said.

"The police department is an integral part of the community and provides a safe environment that goes beyond crime issues," Whitehead said. "I am very excited about the opportunity and can't wait to get started."

Rice alumna Moyer honored by Time Magazine

Virginia Moyer

Voted one of Time Magazine’s “People who Mattered” for 2011.

By Molly Chiu
THE OCEAN EDITORIAL STAFF

As each year draws to a close, Time Magazine ranks the men and women whom they believe have made a significant impact in the societal sphere.

For 2011, Time Magazine’s "People Who Mattered" list this year, Virginia Moyer (Jones ’74) was chosen for her work as chairwoman of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and her counterintuitive recommendation against routine prostate cancer screening.

According to Moyer, the USPSTF, a non-federal, volunteer group of medical experts that reviews and makes recommendations about clinical preventive services like screening, counseling and preventive medications — made this recommendation about prostate cancer screening after an extensive review of the research.

"Large studies, including one of more than 100,000 men, showed no survival benefits to the screening," Moyer said.

Moyer explained that most forms of prostate cancer are relatively harmless because the cancer progresses very slowly or in some cases, not at all.

"The vast majority of men would never know they had it," Moyer said. "They would die of other causes and never have to be worried about prostate cancer."

In the case of aggressive prostate cancer, Moyer said that screening and early treatment have not shown any benefits.

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Virginia Moyer
Jones ’74

She added that prostate cancer screening actually presents more potential harms than benefits. Research shows that ninety percent of men diagnosed with cancer through screening will choose an aggressive treatment plan such as surgery or radiation. Five in 1,000 men die within a month of the surgery, and 20 to 30 percent experience incontinence or impotence.

Moyer said that although this recommendation against prostate cancer screening came as a shock to many people, she stands firm behind her recommendation.

"There are always going to be some people who benefit," Moyer noted. "Across the board, the harms outweigh the benefits."

Moyer graduated with a bachelor’s in psychology, and said that her Rice education prepared her to get her recommendation.

"Rice is a terrific institution," Moyer said. "It's a great opportunity and I can't wait to get started."

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Jones College biometric security underwhelms in practicality, overwhelms in price

Jones College will soon be furnished with biometric fingerprint security to limit access to external and bathroom doors (see story, pg. 4). While improving campus security should always be priority, this proposal fails to significantly enhance student safety for its hefty price tag of $3,000 to $5,000 per scanner. The current proposal plans to place approximately a dozen scanners in Jones, and there are plans to expand the biometric scanners to other colleges with common restrooms. The staggering expense associated with this initiative makes the implementation of biometric security around campus not only unfeasible but simply preposterous.

The fingerprint scanners would be attempting to solve a problem that simply does not exist. Scanner proponents state that the scanners will save students the four seconds required to type in the bathroom codes in the panels that currently exist; however, this minimal inconvenience certainly does not necessitate implementation of biometrics. Furthermore, while the fingerprinting would marginally improve security, there have been no reported trespasses of the university's residential college restrooms, and there simply is not enough of a threat to student safety to justify this presumptive, costly upgrade.

Aside from the exorbitant budget associated with the biometric system, the scanners will create a number of other problems and inconveniences. Jones visitors will have limited access to the building and restrooms. The four seconds that Jones students save by the removal of the current code input system will be quickly replaced by aggravating walks down the hall with guests to allow them into restrooms. Visitors who do not frequent the college will not spend the time to enter their fingerprint into the database, and even more regular guests may be hesitant to do so for reasons regarding the time required to do so or the possible privacy hazards associated with the system.

Rice University is by no means short of resources or facilities for its students and affiliated community; however, there are still a plethora of improvements that could more beneficially serve the community than the biometrics scanners. The fingerprint technology is undoubtedly innovative and trendy; Housing and Dining deserves kudos for attempting to think outside of the box. However, we should be sure not to make the error of valuing novelty over practicality.

New RUPD chief tasked with improvement of RUPD-student relations

Rice University has chosen Johnny Whitehead to succeed Bill Taylor as chief of Rice University Police (see story, pg. 1). Whitehead will arrive at Rice sporting an impressive résumé which includes university, private sector and public government security experience. He is certainly talented and qualified for the position, and the Thresher is impressed by the positive response he has generated amongst those who have interacted with him.

However, Whitehead is stepping into a police department which has only recently begun to more positively coexist with the students it is tasked to protect. The lead-up to and implementation of the university’s biometric system has caused hostility and tension between RUPD officers and students. While parts of the antagonism were unwarranted, there was a discernable friction between the student body and RUPD on many issues of alcohol policy enforcement (“Recent RUPD activity should be exceptions of the past,” Jan. 23, 2012). "RUPD acted alcoholic from college rooms,” Jan. 28, 2011; “RUPD new officer training will improve student-officer relations,” Oct. 6, 2011).

Recently, a maturation of the student body’s philosophies paired with more extensive outreach efforts by RUPD have begun to heal the schism that had developed over the previous 18 months. However, the task of improving student-RUPD relations is an ongoing process which is vital to student safety. The more trust that students have in campus officers, the more effective the officers will be able to be. The Thresher would like to extend a warm welcome to Whitehead, and we would certainly like to encourage the new chief to continue to focus on this aspect of improving student-RUPD relationships.
Rice university teaches accountability while offering ample support for students

Last week, perhaps yearning to be closer to a place I dearly miss, I logged on to the Theta's website to see what was new with all of you. The front page told me that Dean of Undergraduates John Borchert had lifted the ban on alcohol, and subsequent editorials highlighted the pivotal role that student cooperation played in the university's decision.

Op-Ed

While offering ample support for students and suspending all alcohol policies, we can call Emergency Medical Services, the Rice University Police Department, and the Rice's judicial programs are student-based judicial programs that make Rice University a model for student governance. Student-based judicial programs ensure that the decision of any student is reflective of the culture of the Rice community. This decision is based on the community's values and expectations, and it is made by the Rice community itself. The Rice community has the responsibility to ensure that the decisions made by the Rice community are fair and just. The Rice community has the responsibility to ensure that the decisions made by the Rice community are fair and just.

Christoph Meyer

While buying textbooks seems like something fairly straightforward, it really isn't. Rice students are accustomed to buying textbooks in the same manner as their masters, chief justices, and friends. However, we are not entitled to count the hours of community service instead of the credit hours of the course. These hours are too precious to waste on activities that don't matter. Our masters and college commanders are there for us when we do cross that line. The Rice administration and the Rice community work together to protect the university's interests and to ensure that the discipline of any student is reflective of the culture of the Rice community. This decision is based on the community's values and expectations, and it is made by the Rice community itself. The Rice community has the responsibility to ensure that the decisions made by the Rice community are fair and just.

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Zoe Zimet

I thought back to my recent graduation, and about how in just days before I was to walk, I drank too much tequila and made a mistake for which I still feel isolated to the university. It may be that this article may serve as a public apology and that my perspective as a young alumna may call attention to the personal accountability that Rice University encourages each undergraduate to foster.

The specifics of my offense are not important, other than to say that they involved consuming an excessive amount of alcohol and disrespecting university property. To blame for my actions, I chose to work with sufferers of drug and alcohol addiction, an opportunity that I now had wished I became aware of before it became a punitive measure. While listening to their stories ofRedux and regret, I was struck by the importance of not to say that they were not important, other than to say that they were not important, other than to say that they were not important.

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LITTLE WILLY’S SAYS GOODBYE IN RMC O’YEAH CAFE WILL TAKE OVER SPACE

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**ATHLETIC FACILITIES APPROVED**

BY JOHANNA OHEM THURSDAY EDITORIAL STAFF

With the start of a new semester comes a new addition to Rice’s north side of campus. The Rice University Board of Trustees approved the $44.5 million project, which includes renovations to the current football stadium and the addition of a new two-story medical center.

Rice president Bates Jones and the Rice Athletic Department have the luxury of giving priorities to their facilities because the football stadium is the main focal point of the Rice athletic program. The football program has seen more success in recent years with a home record of 12-3 and only one loss in the last three years.

The new 8,300-square-foot building will be located outside of the main gate and a grassy area for people to sit and watch games.

"We wanted to invest in the stadium because it’s historically and has some infrastructure issues in the past," Greenspan said. "It’s a good opportunity for the future, and we wanted to take the best care of our student-athletes." All the renovations are expected to be completed by the fall.

Director of Athletics Rick Greenspan said the athletic department is eager to work on the new facility with the help of alumni and friends and the support of President David Leebron and the Board of Trustees.

Greenspan said no construction will begin until the entire amount is either pledged or received. The new expansion is expected to open by fall.

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**H&B INCREASES BATHROOM SECURITY**

BY JEREMY CROWTHER THURSDAY EDITORIAL STAFF

Hang around Jones College long enough with a full bladder and you might notice several new touches to the restroom area.

Jones President Steven Boswell agreed, "Most people know the pass-codes and have a key, but for the most part they are propped open or had a sticky note with a PIN attached to the door," Boswell said. "We now use a new technology, and it is a lot faster that the old keypad locks, the new one is more secure and student-friendly." The security upgrade was adopted last fall, and Jones students were one of the few teams that hasn’t seen large-scale improvements to the restroom and concession facilities in the stadium.

"The new facility will take some stress off the facilities in Tudor Fieldhouse and have similar facilities to Tudor, but will be bigger and more comprehensive," Greenspan said.

Greenspan also has plans with the acquisition of the waterfront, creating a more receptive space. The appearance of the stadium entrance will be improved with the creation of an open plaza outside the main gate and a grassy area for people to sit and watch games.

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**BIOMETRIC SCANNERS INSTALLED**

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**ATTENDED ROBBERY**

Two men attempted to rob a university couple in the early morning between Entrance 5 and Wiess College.

According to a crime alert sent out by the Rice University Police Department, the man jumped out from behind some bushes and reached for the couple’s backpack but fled the scene after the consultant hit one of the men with his laptop case.

Interim Captain Clemente Rodriguez said that while the attack occurred around 5:30 a.m., the victim did not report it until 8:30 p.m. Rodriguez said RUPD has no strong leads to the identity of the two attackers but anyone else involved in a similar situation to report it immediately by using one of the blue light phones around campus or calling RUPD.

The consultant did not notify as quickly as we like—"he felt it was a situation he'd handled at the time," Rodriguez said.

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FLOOD FROM PAGE 1

"At the point that we saw our vehicles could not move around safely, we let the community know," Rice University Police Department Interim Captain Clemente Rodriguez said. "We wanted to make sure that we waited until the drainage could catch up with the weather."

Vice President for Administration Kevin Kirby said the university did not want students trying to drive through high standing water to come on campus.

Kirby, who is chair of the university's crisis management team, said the decision to use the emergency notification system was made based on the recommendation of Rodriguez.

Rodriguez said he had officers checking sections of the road where high water is common during heavy rainfall and that some officers opened a few of the campus's gates on University Boulevard to allow cars which could not move along the road to move to higher ground.

"I think we did what we could or as getting the alert out as soon as we were aware that there were flooding issues," Rodriguez said. "I think sometimes we're at the mercy of Mother Nature when these types of incidents occur."

Transportation Manager Elizabeth Glentower said the shuttle service was paused from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. after RUPD alerted the Transportation Department of the flooding in the inner loop.

According to Kirby, the university has made improvements to its drainage systems, and the only major upgrade that remains to be made is to a storm sewer on Alaimo Drive for which the university has applied for a FEMA grant. Kirby said that the rate at which water can drain from campus is limited by Houston's drainage mechanisms.

"The problems for the most part are not on campus but where the water is going," Kirby said.

A second message was sent out over the emergency notification around 1 p.m. to alert the Rice community that the water had subsided and that there were several stranded cars blocking Entrance 8.

Kirby said that because of last year's drought, the soil settled differently, which contributed to water from the flood getting into several basements, but he noted that as far as he knew, no basement experiments were damaged by the flood, and there was no major damage to any of the basements. Rodriguez added that there had been no reports of severe damage on campus, though he said the water was high enough that a lot of cars took water in.

Jones College junior Shwetok Molavi said he and a few friends put on their swimsuits, grabbed some beers and went out to West Lot after he heard that it had been flooding to check on his car. Molavi said, "A guy's tires were stuck, so we helped get them unstuck and on the sidewalk."

Molavi said that, despite the deep water, he still saw some cars go through the intersection and that people who had abandoned their cars in the deep water started coming back to try to move them. He and his friends helped push cars that could be moved. Molavi said, but some of them had electrical damage and couldn't be put in neutral.

Rodriguez said that he had not gotten any reports of injuries due to the flooding, but that in general, driving and walking in flood conditions is not advisable, since there may be sudden changes of depth which are not observable from above.

"I never try to drive through high water myself. It's not worth the risk," Rodriguez said. "Even walking through the high water, you have to be careful."
The day the rain came

Photos by Mathison Ingham

After receiving 4.98 inches of rain parts of campus flooded Monday morning forcing some off-campus students, faculty and staff to stay home until the water drained. Those on-campus who ventured outside braved water that was more than a foot deep in places. While some students waded across the Inner Loop to get to class, others put on their swimsuits and took advantage of the weather or helped stranded motorists move their cars out of flooded intersections.
Though he is not sure what kinds of changes he will implement, Whitehead said he is looking into expanding the Officer Academy and is aware of a community about police.

Kirby and Rodriguez both said that they thought that there were areas where RUPD could improve. Kirby said RUPD needs a new dispatch center and will probably re-implement rape defense classes. Rodriguez said he thinks Whitehead could improve RUPD by helping officers become certified in self-defense and firearms training.

"You have in this department a lot of individuals who have a strong commitment to the university but I would like to see us develop our leadership," Rodriguez said. "We need to emphasize making our officers the best brand of officer."

Rodriguez will continue working for RUPD in a leadership position that will be determined before Whitehead arrives.

"We're excited at RUPD about Chief Whitehead coming," Rodriguez said. "In my 10 years with RUPD, I've seen a lot of good things happen, and the department has continued to improve. He is going to hopefully bring some fresh ideas and unique ways of looking at things and help us tackle things we haven't done in the past."

Whitehead is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the Federal Executive Institute and the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Crisis Leadership in Higher Education Program. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University.

This cash award honors those who serve as a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. All "spirit of service" and acknowledges the efforts of those that serve, regardless of affiliation with a police department or other organization.

This scholarship honors one undergraduate at Rice for their community service outside the Rice campus community that embodies the Rotary motto of "Service above Self." The recipient must have at least one more year at Rice and maintain a 3.2 CPA. Deadline for Nominations: 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 22, 2012.

This scholarship honors one student who has demonstrated, by hours of hands-on service, a commitment to what Rice students are like.

Winners are chosen by an awards committee of professors and staff members. The committee looks closely at self-nominations as well as nominations from students, faculty and staff. Winners are chosen the same way. The winners are announced on the website a month or two before the awards ceremony.

Since the J.J. Kimble Award was established in 1983, 14 students from Rice University have been honored for their service and leadership.

Moyer said that she recommends that Rice students think outside the box and form their own opinions.

"You have to be willing to challenge the status quo," Moyer said. "Don't just think that because everything thinks that it must be right, Really think about it."

The Republican candidate won both the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary, the first non-incumbent Republican to do so. Despite a contest that had many front-runners, the original favorite looks set to win his party's nomination on Monday.

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Romney on the Roll

Rick Perry couldn't begin to touch him. Herman Cain's hopes went quickly from bright to dim.

Bachman had less than half a chance. Newt only rallied his stance.

He lost just like usual.

And his dealing with Santorum needed to be only causal.

He won Iowa by only eight votes.

But he won and deserved to claim it.

He chose to win in the Granite State and looks like Obama he will soon debate.

Unless a miracle happens he's ready for Romney.

The Republican candidate everyone did for sale

Mitt Romney won both the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary, the first non-incumbent Republican to do so. Despite a contest that had many front-runners, the original favorite looks set to win his party's nomination on Monday.
Come work for the Thresher. It’s buckets of fun and you get paid to boot. We’re always looking for good people to help us write stories, shoot photos, lay out pages, copy edit, and manage our web site. Interested?

THRESHER@RICE.EDU
Rice Young Democrats President Miles Bugbee came to Rice in 2008 at the peak of a presidential election — a time when the Rice Republicans were a defunct group and the Rice Democrats had only a handful of active members.

"I was kind of disappointed as a freshman because I was not looking at more people would be involved in politics of such a historical election," Humes College senior Miles Bugbee said. "We had our first African American nominee for president, and a lot of young people were excited across the country, but at Rice there didn't seem to have as much political energy."

"Essentially, Bugbee worked with Duncan College senior Kevin Bush to create a series of events that included documentary showings and policy meetings.

"The big breakthrough was that we started a student debate series along with the Rice Conservation held at Baker Institute once a semester, and that typically gets 75-100 students," Bugbee said. "I think there's definitely been progress since I've come to Rice, and I take only a small bit of credit for that. There have been a lot of people who have contributed."

Incoming Rice Young Democrats Presidents Rahul Rekhi and Jay Sobhani plan to improve the progress made by hosting an annual State of the Union party and bringing local politics of such a historical election," Rekhi said. "I suspect we could have a lot of public policy organizations, and we are interested in groups on campus."

A political science and policy studies major, Williams observed that a lack of interest in Rice's students do public policy itself — trying to find ways to improve the day-to-day lives of people and trying to get grants from the government. He noted that while students don't like to see problems discussed and who the people want to do is get piss drunk and drink irresponsibly, are they the really people who want to be hanging out with anywhere?"

"The 'oops' moment for Rick Perry, for example — that 'another instance when people who had the video and not only did they learn a little about his campaign, but also (it motivated) them to learn about Perry as a candidate for themselves,' Williams said.

"I don't think it will say we're not political at all. We're definitely interested, which is some thing we have over other college campus places who operate more on a crazes."

Rahul Rekhi and Williams all agreed that one of the factors behind Rice's apparent lack of activity is its location in Houston, which is less politically active in comparison to the other major cities of the U.S.

"We're not going to win the debate about abortion and tax policy, which are political in nature. Focused on issues like sustainability, which are economic in nature, Rice students are more involved with special-interest groups focused on issues like sustainability, which are economic in nature."

If you refuse to be with friends, you should accept them for what they are. Your decision in this situation will not make you do things is a great way to join society and become a better person. Remember back to a time when you were made a designated driver, and I am sure they would love for you to drive them to Whataburger or Planned Parenthood at one bit of the morning for late-night snacks.

"We really don't ask you staying sober, they are not your friends. However, unlike drinking responsibly is a must. If you refuse to be with friends if they drink, then perhaps you are the problem.

If you have any questions or submit their questions through "Ask the Thresher" is an advice column written twice a month, authored by two students. I am sure you can make yourself a better person. Remember back to a time when you were made a designated driver, and I am sure they would love for you to drive them to Whataburger or Planned Parenthood at one bit of the morning for late-night snacks.

You should do what you want to do. Your decision in this situation will not make you do things is a great way to join society and become a better person. Remember back to a time when you were made a designated driver, and I am sure they would love for you to drive them to Whataburger or Planned Parenthood at one bit of the morning for late-night snacks.

"The big breakthrough was that we started a student debate series along with the Rice Conservation held at Baker Institute once a semester, and that typically gets 75-100 students," Bugbee said. "I think there's definitely been progress since I've come to Rice, and I take only a small bit of credit for that. There have been a lot of people who have contributed."

"Essentially, Bugbee worked with Duncan College senior Kevin Bush to create a series of events that included documentary showings and policy meetings.

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Vinaigrette
• 1/4 teaspoon apple juice
• 2 tablespoons olive oil
• 1/2 teaspoon Dijon vinaigrette
• 1 teaspoon honey
• juice of two lemon wedges

Salad
• 4-5 pita triangles
• 2 cups loosely packed mixed greens
• 1 cup loosely packed feta cheese
• 3/4 tablespoons chopped red onions
• 1/2 cup crumbled tofu cheese
• 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
• 1/2 cup crumbled tofu cheese
• 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
• 1/2 cup crumbled tofu cheese
• 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese

Technique:
First, place a tablespoon of olive oil on a standard servery plate and angle the plate and rotate it to coat the entire surface. Next, take each pita triangle and very lightly coat both sides by placing them on the plate. Take the pita wedges to the panini press found in most servery near the sandwich stations, and lightly grill the wedges on both sides (check every 15 seconds for a light brown hue). Doing every 15 seconds for a light brown hue. Comb the pita triangles and place them back on the plate. Combine all salad ingredients and toss gently. Finally, move all vinaigrette elements to a servery cup and vigorously whisk a fork at the base of the cup to create a light yellow emulsion. Drizzle the vinaigrette over the entire salad, and toss once more.

In addition, some easy possible variations on this recipe include: adding pieces of grilled chicken breast for a more substantial complete meal. Also, the addition of dried cranberries can add a bright and sweet note to finish the salad. All in all, make sure to keep a balance between sweet and bitter flavors and you should have no problem crafting an excellent salad.
"Iron Lady" not so unyielding after all

Additionally, an exploration of the marriage between Denis and Margaret Thatcher leaves many questions unanswered. Though the actors apart stick together with each other, the deep emotions and connections are lacking, as in an explanation of what, exactly, Denis did for all of Thatcher's political career stay at home. The champion of eternal blue as Thatcher's favorite color is not lost. The camera angle often makes the viewers feel like they are being harangued or assaulted on the stage or doing the haranguing as actions themselves, a clever trick appropriate to the material. The Thomas Newman soundtrack is nuanced and well-paced, underscoring the decline of the once all-powerful Thatchers.

The casting choices of the film are subtle, Meryl Streep, an elegantly poised performer of complex actions in a broad performance as the lady in his prime and as the real, vulnerable woman of few words to which Streep has failed to reveal the smirked pale lip underneath. (This is really heartbreaking imagery, folks.)

The Iron Lady

Starring: Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent
Rated: PG-13
Released: Jan. 13

The weekly scene

"Farrar's picks for events outside the hedges, both around Rice and in the Houston area, for this week.

"Want to volunteer but don't know where or when? Check here each weekday for volunteer opportunities just between the hedges, Urban Harvest needs volunteers for its annual crop harvest between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. No prior training is necessary to help clean up and clear the fields.

University of Houston 3835 Holman www.urbanharvest.org

Volunteer

Stereo Live 6400 Richmond Ave. STEREOLIVEHOUSTON.COM

Avicii

Do you sometimes get a good feeling about an artist coming...? No? Stockholm's newest, Avicii, will storm the Stereo Live Houston stage for his latest challenge come Friday, Jan. 19, at 9 p.m. Experience his catchy beats and hit single "Add You on My Six.

MARATHON

Can you run a sub-five-minute mile? Watch as world-class runners race at that pace for 26.2 miles in the Olympic Trials Marathon tomorrow. Catch all the action between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. No prior training is necessary to help clean up and clear the fields.

Brown Convention Center 10100 ETO DE AMERICANS www.houston2012.com

Avicii

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Countdown to the Oscars

The Tree of Life

These days, it's rare to see a film that even attempts to explore the relationship between humans and the universe. Terrence Malick's "The Tree of Life" unapologetically shoots wildly to explore this relationship in The Tree of Life. The first 20 minutes detail the origins of the universe through wind, supernovas, solar flares, volcanoes and even dinosaurs. The next 90 minutes follow a boy in time: the story of a 14-year-old boy suffering from a crisis of faith in faith in 1955, Texas. The film cleanses with an effortless grace so rare and so vital that it transcends any description that even Malick himself could give. Accompanied by cinematography that is a love letter to a child and a beautiful opera film score, Malick's "Tree of Life" was the greatest movie-watching experience of my entire life.

The Interrupters

Inspired by the turbed streets of the "Windy City," one year, director Steve James (Gangster's Paradise) documents the lives of three men as they try to step in to protect their communities from violence. At one point in the documentary, a news anchor reports that 154 people have been murdered in Chicago so far that year, equal to the combined number of U.S. soldiers deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan over the same span of time. Contacting this statistic, the film explores the violence interruptors and the violence interruption program. Violence interruptors James chooses to follow are all former street criminals who now try to reach kids before they come to the system. The violence interruptors build personal relationships with people who, before meeting them, were mere minutes away from committing a violent assault or murder. The Interrupters is a painfully important documentary — one that is such an inspiration for non-violence and social change that after attending a screening, filmmaker's national security minute vowed to create a Crime Free program in his own country.

Shame

Shame is so gripping in its portrayal of the tortured life of a sex addict that at times it was too difficult to watch. I almost walked out of the theater on several occasions, but I stayed, and I am glad I did. Brian...
Mission: Accomplished

ANTHONY LAURELLO
TRAVEL JOURNAL

As we blissfully enjoyed the lack of classes and time away from Fondren, many of us reveled in the December offerings of our local Cinemas. Unlike summer releases, these winter offerings often take a more somber tone, appealing not just to the popcorn-eating masses, but also to the Hollywood elite.

One way to put yourself in contention for an Academy Award for Best Picture is to have a metaphoric anti-war film. Another way is to have your name be Steven Spielberg. War Horse, a grand epic about an equine partisipant in World War II, presents pretty much all those elements. Starting in a small, provincial Scotland town, the film follows a stallion named Joey as he enters and changes lives on the sides of the Entente and the Central Powers. These elements include characters such as its original owner, the annoyingly optimistic farmer (Jeremy Irons, Life of Pi) and the beautiful but intractable French girl Emilie (The debut of 15-year-old Celine Buckens). Since the film is set during one of the most brutal conflicts of human history, many of the lives Joey touches are already riddled with despair.

The movie is based on an children’s novel, which seems strange, as the film’s exploration of the horrors of war most drastically upset any child. In fact, Spielberg effectively makes many of the scenes so stark and wrenching that young audiences are given ample screen time and his or her own inner moments to reflect on. Each frame, in fact, is set up with a deeper meaning throughout the movie, providing for an in-depth personality to all the horses.

However, it does seem as though the 2-part story of the year-old stallion is definitely a key element of the movie and adds to the overall coherent plot throughout the Mission: Impossible franchise. He has not lost the charm that made him popular in his previous movies and continues to entertain us throughout the 133 minutes of Ghost Protocol. Everyone will enjoy seeing Cruise act in one of his finest performances.

The movie is witty at moments and thrilling at others. Two sequences are absolutely amazing and add to the entertainment value of the movie. Ghost Protocol takes the audience around the world through Budapest, Moscow, Dubai and Mumbai. Each city balances the surrealism well and gives the entire movie a James Bond-like feel. A sandstorm in Dubai is particularly impressive and will leave some of us wanting to visit this magical city.

Car enthusiasts will enjoy the presence of BMW throughout the movie. The popular X5 and 6-Series convertible car chase scene in the middle of a sandstorm is entertaining. Ghost Protocol also features BMW’s new flag ship line of cars: the i series. More specifically, Hunt drives the new i5, to be released in 2014. Although the car is only featured for 20 seconds and only has to get off the streets the 8 is definitely die for in its debut on the big screen.

A movie is only as perfect as one’s own opinion will think Ghost Protocol is one mission too many. There is a good battle between the main villain, a rogue nuclear scientist, is bland, barely on screen, and minimally develops the plot. The movie itself is also bland and very disappointing. The action, however, more than makes up for a weak intrigue and makes sure Ghost Protocol stays one of the best movies of the holiday season.

So, in conclusion, accept this mission – and hang onto your chairs for one of the best Mission: Impossible installments.

Winter releases are Oscar-worthy

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program

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Jae Gyung, ’07
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Fathy Desh, ’09
Raymundo Rodriguez, ’09
Jesse Zuniga, ’09
Stefan Ruif, ’07
Gustavo Varela, ’09
Gina Varela, ’09
Milo Hofflinger, ’09
AnnaLee Auerbach, ’09
Mia Badia, ’09
Adrienne Dupon, ’09
Grace Lark, ’10

ARIEEY RICE MMUF ALUMNI WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE PHD.

Paloma, ’02 Ph.D. from Emory University in History
Aaron, ’02 Ph.D. from Emory University in History
David, ’02 Ph.D. from Emory University in History
Paul, ’02 Ph.D. from Emory University in History
James, ’02 Ph.D. from Emory University in History

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT GRADUATE STUDY LEADING TO THE PHD.?

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows Program (MMUP) at Rice University, has three goals: First, it seeks to increase the number of minority students, and offers them a unique contribution to understanding racial differences, who will pursue PhD’s in your fields, in arts and sciences. In doing so, the program tries to reduce over time the serious under-representation on the faculties of individuals from certain minority groups, as well as the atrophic educational consequences of these disparities. Second, it seeks to encourage these students to be the researchers, teachers, and mentors of the highly diverse college student bodies of the future. Third, it seeks to encourage students to assess experiences as part of their research agendas, that the hands of Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has targeted for support are:

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Art History
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Philosophy
Physics
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Psychology
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Film Cinema and Media Studies
Geography
Geological Sciences
Geosciences
Geography
Geological Sciences

Performance Studies
Philosophy and Political Theory
Physics and Astronomy
Religion and Theology
Sociology

Marine/Atmospheric Science

Performance Studies
Philosophy and Political Theory
Physics and Astronomy
Religion and Theology
Sociology

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

Application deadline is February 03, 2012

CONTACT:
Dr. Roland R. Smith, Jr. or Gloria Bean
Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Rice University, 713-527-5688
Women's basketball goes .500 over the break

by Teddy Grodek

After looking like a team that was turning a corner, over break the Rice women's basketball team regressed, struggling to close out contests that could have certainly been victories.

Partly due to an injury to sophomore forward Jessica Kuster, the team looked lost at times, struggling to score points in their non-conference schedule and opening conference matches.

After Kuster's ankle injury, Rice had a disappointing 0-2 start and had back-to-back on Dec. 22 to notch one of the best non-conference wins of the Ben Braun era, a 65-58 victory over Texas A&M University in College Station. Ranked 22nd on Dec. 19. For the second time in as many games, the Owls mounted its comeback a little earlier this time, from Kuipers and Frizzelle capped a 10-0 Rice run.

This Week in Sports

Entering the winter break with a 6-2 record, the Owls face a difficult non-conference schedule following a lead in 10 points with center under nine attempts to score. The Cardinals would push the lead in 10 points with center under nine attempts to score.

Owl men lose to Marshall, hold off SMU on road

by Ryan Glassman

Men's basketball struggles at end of non-conference play, heads into conference matchups

Men's and Women's Track at Leonard Stoddard Stadium

Women's Basketball at Tulane

TULSA

Sunday, Jan. 1

Wednesday, Jan. 4

Wednesday, Jan. 11

Saturday, Jan. 14

Sunday, Jan. 15

P premature

Women's Tennis vs. TBA

Women's Tennis vs. TBA

TBA — Orlando, Fl.

Senior forward Brianna Hypolite drives against Alabama State University on Nov. 23. Hyperactive

VOLLEYBALL KNOB/THRESHER

Women look to avenge loss against Lamar, seeking to improve their record to .500 for the season.

Rice's stretch run to victory

Men's Basketball vs. Lamar

The Owls are coming off a close 65-64 win at home against Southern Mississippi University. Just like the Owls, the Rams are 5-4 in conference and are a tight battle for first in Conference USA.

Christal Porter, Kuster led the team in points despite playing only limited minutes. "It was nice to get Jessica Kuster back," said Head Coach Greg Williams said after the game. "We had to limit her minutes around the 20 mark and she did a great job out there.

Off the win, the team had to travel to Nacogdoches a few days before Christmas to take on Marshall.

Sophomore center Omar Oralby slams a basket home during the Owls' 69-61 home loss to Marshall. Rice held a double-digit lead over SMU throughout the game on Wednesday and held off the Mustangs 68-52. Rice plays Tulane tomorrow night in New Orleans.

Senior forward Brianna Hypolite drives against Alcorn State University on Nov. 23.
Women's track looks to rebound from 2011 season

Several stars graduate, but underclassmen depth on team appears to be promising.
Men's track looks to improve all-around in 2012

Momentum gained after 2011 indoor season carried Owls to better finish in Spring

While the 2011 men's track season was filled by the usual ups and downs, this past weekend Head Coach Jon Warren and his team could take away from last year was the ability of the team to improve drastically both a once-upon-a-time. During the national level, finishing 21st in the nation in the decathlon last season, ninth in 2010, and in 2009, Warren was named the head coach at the C-USA Indoor Championships.而 Warren will also continue to try his hand at the long jump and high hurdles on having strong showings at the C-USA Indoor meet last year in both of those events.

Training is the team, the Owls will miss a rehab injured in the 100m hurdles at the Phill Hansel Cougar Invitational held at the University of Texas at Austin (11/25), in which Warren was second behind his personal best, including Trejo. The Owls had five people who finished in the top 20 of that race including sophomore Alberto Bremauntz and junior Gabe Cuadra. However, senior Jamie Llamas. All five are returning for the Owls and hope to help lead the Owls to a better finish in conference. In the mile race, seniors Jamie Abernathy and Weinheimer finished 13th and 14th respectively. They are returning for the Owls along with junior Matt Carey, junior Zach Carras, junior Anthony Laurelli, sophomore Troy Killers, sophomore Anthony Urbaniak. Rice has six new distance runners this year: freshmen Chris Chuckman, Frenelle, William Firth, Andrew Jacobson, Weston Novelli, and Reed Thongborn.

The group of freshmores, graduate, Sydney Coleman, and Fong finished third at a field of 7 runners with a time of 3:31.42. The Owls were second in the 400m hurdles with a time of 50.44. Franklin Madison (Whitmore) graduated last year with a 21st-place finish in the 800m hurdles at the University of Texas Grand Prix held this weekend in Austin. Fong was named C-USA Swimmer of the Week for her performance at the dual meet. Sophomores Michelle Gean and Lilly Marrow, along with veteran Taylor Robert, recorded a time of 3:58.03 to place behind UCLA (3:56.98) and Boise State (3:57.89). In total, the Owls swimmers had a successful weekend of action in California, and returned home for the spring semester with a desire to continue to show success. The Owls will quickly get their chance, as Rice will next compete this coming week at the annual Texas Grand Prix, taking place Jan. 13 in Austin, Texas vaults on the roster.
I'll get you, my pretty, and your little dog, too!

The Rice Cinema presents the classic film The Wizard of Oz (in Technicolor). Follow Judy and Friends down the yellow brick road to the Rice Cinema at 7 p.m. This film is free and open to the public thanks to the generosity of the John Murrell Worsham Endowment and the Lollipop Guild. Steer clear if you're allergic to cockleshells and silver bells.

FRIDAY 13

The second annual Calphalon kitchen design contest will be held on April 13, 2012, at 6 p.m. in the Brown Auditorium. The contest is open to students, faculty, and staff. Prizes will be awarded to the winning entries.

CROSSWORD: MOTHER GOOSE RHYMES

Across
1. Sky smile (7)
2. Tower-a-tilt
3. Soccer score
4. Apple accessory
5. Adolescent rules here
6. Think on
7. Warning
8. Singer-songwriter Amos
9. First president of Yugoslavia
10. Tarry or pitchy
11. What's it a in ?
12. Conan's outfit
13. It could be a 2 or 3 piece
14. Old Mother of rhyme who weep when the cue is given for a bone for her poor dog
15. Mary whose garden has cockleshells and silver bells
16. Fare
17. Bush
18. Tardy
19. "Ode on a Grecian Um" poet

Down
1. Had for dinner
2. Whimsically comical
3. One exercise set
4. Fiddler's dream
5. Iphone personal assistant
6. Bartlett or Bosc
7. Sly smile
8. Fiddled while Rome burned
9. "fiddled while Rome burned"
10. Applesauce
11. Impassive
12. "The rum" to Don Bacardi
13. "The rum" to Don Bacardi
14. "The rum" to Don Bacardi
15. "The rum" to Don Bacardi
16. "The rum" to Don Bacardi

The solution will be posted on Twitter at twitter.com/threshercal.
BASIC ARTS EDUCATION NEEDED

Duties: To work with students grades 1-12 one-on-one in their homes (in the galleria area) during after school hours and possibly on weekends throughout the 2011-2012 school year. Compensation is $25/hour. Please contact Alyson at At Home Tutors Services for more information at 713-527-5333 or email home.tutorsinc@gmail.com.

FEMALE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT is looking for high school students (girls 15 and 17) for Math, Chemistry, and French. Located at 2520 Swanhorse near Westlayan and University, 2 or 3 evenings each week (7-9 PM). Fee negotiable. Please contact Michael Altman at 713-348-3974.

WANTED

CLASSIFIEDS @rice.edu

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR THE NEW WEB SITE YET?

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Join team testmasters, the largest and fastest growing private tutoring network! testmasters is now hiring Rice graduate students for full and part-time positions. Hourly wage plus commission. Call 832-299-7250 for details.

TUTORS WANTED. LEARNING Squared, a private tuition service, needs part-time tutors in Mathmatics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Spanish, English, Economics and Finance. Flexible hours. Excellent pay. No house calls. Office located close to campus. 713-528-7049.

ANNOUNCING INTERNATIONAL 2011-12 RICE STUDENT FISHERAlumni Calendar: January 14, 2012

For subscription information, please visit www.RiceAlumni.org/Calendar.

Rice Alum looking for two children from local elementary school near campus and walk them home 3 times a week. Also children may need help with homework. Additional hours for sitter $15/hour. Call Rachelle Doody MD, at home or to appointments, stay through dinner most nights. Call Rachelle Boody MD, at home after 8 PM 713-664-5648, email: on call 713-313-3804.

HOUSTON GOLD MERCHANTS is now hiring Rice graduate students for full and part-time positions. Hourly wage plus commission. Call 713-348-3974.

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FEMALE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT is looking for a technical co-founder. Co-founder should be able to meet twice a week and dedicate 10-20 hours to managing technical tasks. I am starting a startup focused on creating the next generation of email software. I have a diverse technical background and an understanding of email protocols. I am looking for a technical co-founder with experience in software development and a strong understanding of email. The co-founder should be able to meet twice a week and dedicate 10-20 hours to managing technical tasks. I am starting a startup focused on creating the next generation of email software. I have a diverse technical background and an understanding of email protocols. I am looking for a technical co-founder with experience in software development and a strong understanding of email. The co-founder should be able to meet twice a week and dedicate 10-20 hours to managing technical tasks. I am starting a startup focused on creating the next generation of email software. I have a diverse technical background and an understanding of email protocols.