New syllabus policy sets out standards

BY MOLLY CHIU
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Starting next fall, any ambiguity about course requirements will be cleared up on the first day of class. The Faculty Senate recently passed a resolution presented by the Student Association and endorsed by the University Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum that will require faculty to provide a syllabus to students on the first day of class.

The policy requires that all syllabus standards be met in order for courses to be taught at Rice, ensuring a course outline, grading policies and overall course expectations.

The idea for creating syllabus standards originated last year with the Student Senate and then Jones Senate President Stephen Boswell.

The syllabi standards project was birthed from the idea that clear expectations between faculty and students are paramount to the educational experience, Boswell said.

“Many students at Rice who intend to go for graduate school are disadvantaged by our lack of a syllabi standards policy because it becomes much more difficult, if not outright impossible, for them to get the names of textbooks used in specific courses,” Boswell said. “Alumni had also complained to administrators that this problem had hampered them in their efforts to pass the patent bar.”

Faculty Senate Speaker Susan McIntosh said the Faculty Senate chose to approve the policy for a variety of reasons. For example, the Committee on Examinations and Grading hears a number of cases every year which involve situations for which no syllabus or a grossly inadequate syllabus was provided, according to McIntosh. In addition, the information required by the policy aligns with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools requirements and the minimal requirements already established at other universities, McIntosh noted.

Lunar New Year Cultural Show

Students perform a traditional dragon dance as part of the Lunar New Year Cultural Show held Jan. 28 in the Rice Memorial Center Grand Hall by Rice’s East Asian student clubs.

Rice Students’ Post-Graduation Plans

Graduate school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Graduates who plan to attend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters program</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral program</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical school</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employment

Of those seniors who plan to enter the workforce following graduation...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Seniors</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have not received offers</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have received offers</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for Career Development

Note: Survey had 23% senior participation. These numbers do not reflect the entire population.

Back in the U.S.S.R.

The Shephard School Symphony Orchestra has its first concert of the semester tonight at 8 p.m. in Reilly Concert Hall. Featuring Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 5 “Leningrad,” the orchestra will be led by their conductor Hans-Tobias Wohlenberg. No tickets are required, so check it out if you like 20th century music or hate totalitarianism.
New syllabus rules a step in the right direction

A new rule has made syllabus distribution a requirement for professors on the first day of classes (See story, pg. 1). Syllabi are the roadmap that professors and students follow in their journey of higher learning. Most professors do their due diligence and post their syllabi on Owlspace before the classes begin, but some do not. Rice University and the Student Association widely standardized this practice by mandating it across all departments. Rice plans on archiving these syllabi online.

This presents several benefits. First, potential employers will now no longer have to play a guessing game when evaluating the relevant coursework of a job applicant. Second, it makes it easier to date it across all departments. Rice plans on archiving these syllabi as well. Finally, the new system will allow students far more information when shopping around for classes. This will not only help undergrads make better choices but will also reduce the elaborate first-week ritual of class selection.

ONLINE COMMENTARY

In response to: “On-campus food offerings under-appreciated by student body”

I was at Rice between 2003 and 2007 and I'd have to say that overall the services do a damn good job, particularly given the number and cultural spread of people that they have to cook for. Sure, eating in the same place day after day might get a bit monotonous. But then again, so would going to the same restaurant three times a day, no matter how good it was. So, congrats to the service staff for always doing a good job and cooking generally healthful and tasty food for Rice students and staff.

Anonymous

After spending time at both Rice and a peer institution (Duke University), the food at Rice tastes substantially better and is healthier. At very few other peer institutions (such as Washington University in St. Louis or Cornell University) will you find cafeteria bowls that bake gourmet cinnamon buns every Wednesday or that have so many executive chefs on staff. I met one of the dining directors when I was a student at Rice, and he told me that Rice's dining is a deficit every year because it wants Rice students to have high-quality food. When I was at Rice, I used to complain about the food, too, but I miss it a lot now.

Anonymous

Solid student input needed for Hanszen College renovations

Hanszen College could be seeing new construction begin on its building in the near term (See story, pg. 3). One would expect Hanszen's "New Section" to be the nicest in the college, but this name is in fact a misnomer, as the building has stood since 1945 without major renovations or changes, making it the oldest part of Hanszen and one of the most decrepit structures on campus.

Not only is the building unappealing, but the outdated piping also creates dangerous hygiene problems. Therefore, it comes as welcome news that the "family college" is in talks with Facilities Engineering and Planning about major renovations or a complete rebuilding of New Section. What makes these actions more commendable is the high amount of student involvement that Hanszen has insisted on in any future construction. The new Will Rice College section, while clean and new, looks more like the Spartan concrete hallways of Duncan College and McMurtry College than the architecturally pure of Rice's first colleges. Hanszen rightly insists that while changes are needed, they must conform to the character and culture of the college.
Student involvement an essential part in forming sustainable food projects

In his recent article on student complaints about the variety of food on campus, Christopher Meyer ("On-campus food: auced variety by student body") highlighted the importance of involving students in decision making and eating out at the servery. With the growth of local food production, we have a great amount of control over the mea...

Heather Olson

Rice students evidently care very much about the taste and appearance of the food served on campus, and it is less common to hear during mealtime conversations comments about whether it is produced ethically and sustainably. Thank you, Rice students, for recognizing the importance of freshness and sustainability; the servers enjoy aesthetics of fish, fresh, scratch made desserts, and support local businesses.

Dining has headed up some of the most exciting sustainable food projects on campus, including a new composting initiative and an exploratory committee for a Rice farm — but student support for these efforts is crucial to their success.

Why should you care if you aren't an "environmentalist" or an "animal lover"? The facts are clear: caring about what you eat is not about being a good chef, animal lover? The facts are clear: caring about what you eat is not just about being a good chef, it is about our environment.

It is easy, affordable and rewarding to support Rice's current food efforts; many student organizations are involved in the local and sustainable food movement. For example, the industrial model of meat production crowds animals into unsuitable spaces; these beings fill them full of anathetic human by-products. The resulting meat is highly unhealthy and harmful to our environment.

In the new century, it is very likely that Rice will have to face the challenge of both guaranteeing healthy food for our community and improving the lives of the workers that grow it. It is unreasonable that we should all live off of rice produced in the way that it is now.

In the final analysis, the State of the Union was definitive proof that we may be seeing a new, more aggressive Obama.

Neelaj Salhotra

In his inaugural address, Obama promised to "end the petty grumblings and false promises, the recriminations and worn-out dogmas that for far too long hanged our politics." In his second term, Obama took a much more aggressive approach in his final State of the Union address. This inexperience led to an unreal...

President Obama displaying new fortitude

Addressing Grant Park on the night of his election, then-President-elect Barack Obama vowed to "change the political and cultural climate that plagued Washington and "resist the temptation to fall back on the same divisive rhetoric and innuendo that has poisoned our politics for so long.

Heather Olson is a Wiess College junior.
Benjamin Chou

In the 2009-2010 school year, the cost of attendance at Rice was $38,000. Eight years later, that figure doubled to more than $80,000 in 2018, assuming continued growth at current rates. Students will be expected to pony up more than $90,000. This frightening rise is unsustainable, and it goes against Rice's history and tradition. William Marsh Rice created an endowment to start our school, an institution where students could get an incredible education, without paying tuition. Today, we have a $5.4 billion endowment and we are raising another billion as part of our Centennial Project. And yet, tuition and housing and dining costs together have climbed at an average rate of 4% since the beginning of his time at Rice in Fall 2010, first as a writer, then as an editor, and since fall 2011, as an editor.

Indeed, other universities are alsoincreasing tuition at an average rate of 4%. Higher education has become an arms race between schools aiming to outdo each other by building glitzy new buildings and eye-pleasing landscapes. Why don't we instead compete with Princeton or Harvard by increasing financial assistance so that students coming from family backgrounds making less than $20,000 a year receive aid covering full tuition?

President David Leebron in this year's State of the University mentioned that we need to take responsibility for making Rice cheaper. My name is Ben Chou, and I am running for SA President because I believe Rice can be better. I believe Rice can provide students a quality education and a quality sense of community in the spirit William Marsh Rice intended it.

In all sincerity, I would be honored to serve you as SA President. I envision a democratic, student-led Student Association, not the other way around. My friends call it an obsession, but I think these sweet words of wisdom and loving in my ears. It feels so soft, smells like heaven, looks greener than any other year.

Learn more at benpres.weebly.com.

Seth Brown and Ryan Gupta

Ryan Gupta has served on the Thresher Editorial Board in the capacity of Opinions editor for the past two years and as a columnist prior to that. Seth Brown has worked with the News section of the Thresher since the beginning of his time at Rice in Fall 2009, first as a writer, then as an editor, and since Fall 2011, as an editor.

With our combined four plus years of contributions to the Thresher, we are confident that we can harness the experience and knowledge we have gained during these years to improve the Thresher.

We intend to expand distribution to the nearby local community. After meeting with the desires of our readership, further involve the writers of our columns with the students' network to a greater extent with other Rice media outlets and technologically advance the Thresher with website improvements and a new smart phone app.

By working together, we believe we will both be able to focus on our respective strengths and run the paper more effectively. We have a strong commitment to not only maintaining the Thresher over the next year, but to advancing it.

Ben Hawriluk

At Rice, every underclassman deserves the right to make the change and improve the community in which I live. The 2012-2013 school year is right.

Tim Roush recalls, "To make the change and improve the community in which you feel right?"

Far too often, however, great ideas get lost, and unfortunately the Rice community bears the cost. I never realize the benefits that certain initiatives would have brought:

No matter how hard groups and individuals sought and sought it.

This is because making tangible changes requires vision.

It requires a relentless commitment driven by vision.

Fortunately, you have the power to shape the Rice you desire.

And your vote to get your voices will trump:

So why elect Ben you rightfully say to himself: Why elect him? But when you want to make tomorrow a brighter day.

Yes, Ben rhymes as you'll notice.

But at Student Association meetings he promises not to waste your time.

Efficiency and execution will reinforce our action.

Leading to only emotions satisfaction.

This I can promise: I will work hard for one of you if you have not the highest regard.

May your right decision come election season.

Think about it for one week, and let it be known when the right candidate came a little more.

And I encourage you to elect Ben Hawriluk.

Yoosun Lim

Rice students are in the minority to build relationships with their administrators, we are able to rely our concern and have them assessed.

And, in turn, we are respected and committed to the university's leadership bring issues back to us.

You should believe in the core values of the Rice experience and want to continue supporting and developing it as the next Student Association External Affairs Vice President.

I spent my last semester pretending to be witty and humorous my inquisitive classmates. I share the very same frustrating opinions as all of you. I am committed to learning about your perspectives to meet your needs and to address your concerns.

www.renrenpress.weebly.com for more information.
Abbram Bracho for Junior Representative

Hey everyone! My name is Abram Bracho and I am running for Honor Council Junior Class Representative. During my time at Rice I have been able to see how important the Honor Code is to student life. One of my favorite things about Rice is the large trust between teachers and students.

I hope that by being part of the Honor Council, I can help ensure that the Honor Council continues to be a fair medium between students and faculty for the voicing of opinions on both sides. As your junior class representative I will strive to make sure that all evidence is analyzed and all sides considered evenly. Given this opportunity I will be responsible and just for the betterment of the students at Rice.

Katie Stewart for Sophomore Representative

I am Katie Stewart, a sophomore at Rice College. Out of all the organizations at Rice, I have always been most interested in the Honor Council. I consider myself the type of person necessary for a position in the Honor Council — open-minded person and fair.

The Honor Council is interesting to me because it is what insures that the Honor System can continue to function. The Honor System is a privilege that allows Rice students more flexibility when confronting coursework.

I am committed to maintaining the system that Rice has values. All you need is for me for Honor Council Sophomore Representative.

Emily Robinson

I am Emily Robinson, a sophomore from McMurry College, and I would be honored to represent you at University Council Rep. The UCR and the SA President meet several times a year with the University Council, which advises President David Leebron, to provide the undergraduate student perspective on a host of important issues relating to campus life and the direction of the university.

I have been actively involved at Rice in the past two years as a New Student Representative. In both roles keep me in contact with new students and the SA, McMurtry 0-Week advisor, SA Senator, and chair of and a 19 hour this past semester so that I know more about volunteering at Rice and continue to learn more about the organization.

Christian Neal

I have been involved in the Rice undergraduate population on University Council would be a great way for me to serve our community. I have prepared for this role by staying knowledgeable about undergraduate concerns and working with the administration in the past. The ability to know and communicate undergraduate concerns is a skill that I have learned as I attended the majority of SA meetings throughout my time at Rice. I have thoroughly enjoyed staying knowledgeable about campus wide concerns at these meetings. Furthermore, I am actively involved in my college as an O-Week advisor and Peer Academic Advisor. These roles keep me in touch with new students and the SA, as well as other groups outside of my college. I have made sure to attend every one of President David Leebron's office hours this past semester so that I know more about his views and the way he runs the university. I feel that the ability to communicate with the administration about a wide variety of concerns is vital to represent our community to the administration.

Overall, I am excited and prepared to represent the undergraduate population because I am knowledgeable about student concerns and have experience working with various aspects of the university administration.

Teddie Grodak

Running for University Council Representative

I have been an active member of many organizations and have had many leadership opportunities throughout my time at Rice. I am excited to be here because I believe that my past experiences have prepared me for this role.

One of my favorite hobbies is volunteering, and I have had the opportunity to volunteer at Rice and continue to learn more about the organization.

Alex Yang

Running for RTPS Program Manager

When the words Rice Television pass in a conversation, people ask "What? We have a television network?" Rice Television has become a stranger to the students it's supposed to support.

What I want to do is support the students in finding their love for television, and give them the chance to learn and grow. I have a passion for television, and I want to give back to the university that has given me so much.

My name is Alex Yang, and I am running for the position of Program Manager for Rice Television and Radio. I have been involved in the Rice community for several years, and I am confident that I can make a positive impact on the organization.

I am a senior at Rice University, majoring in Media Production and minoring in Business Administration. I have been involved in the Television and Radio departments for the past three years, and I have served as their Assistant Program Manager for the past two years.

My goal is to create a positive and energetic environment for the students, and to support them in their passions. I believe that television and radio can be a powerful tool for self-expression, and I want to give students the opportunity to explore their talents and passions.

I am committed to making Rice Television and Radio a place where students can thrive and learn. I am confident that with my experience and dedication, I can make a positive impact on the organization.

I am running for the position of Program Manager, and I hope to be given the opportunity to serve the Rice community.

Nancy A. Liu

Running for the Rice Program Council

One of the things I am most proud of about Rice is the way that it encourages students to get involved and take an active role in the community. I have been involved in many organizations and have had the opportunity to lead and manage teams.

I am currently serving as the director of the Behavioral Research and Development Lab, and I have served as the acting director of the Rice Television and Radio Network. I have also served as the treasurer of the Rice University Student Senate and as a member of the Rice University Student Senate Executive Committee.

I am running for the position of Program Council President because I believe that Rice needs a strong, dedicated leadership team to continue to build on the success of the past year. I am confident that I can bring a fresh perspective to the council and help it continue to grow.

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SYLLABUS
FROM PAGE 1
McNinch said that the Faculty Senate will work with the Office of the Provost to find the most efficient way to enforce the policy next fall. She added that it is an important step in asserting transparency in their dealings with students, many of whom have heavy course loads and need to plan their work based on schedules and expectations that are set out clearly in the syllabus at the beginning of the semester.

"I and many, if not most, of my faculty colleagues already provide this information in our course syllabi, and this policy will not require any change in what we do," McNinch said.

According to current Jones Senator Nick Rizopoulos, who has been working with Boswell on the project for the past year, the next goal is to create an archive of past course syllabi, possibly available via ESTHER course and instructor evaluations. However, this may take some time to achieve.

"Administrative Systems has implied that this is not an easy task, and the Faculty Senate decided that the archiving of syllabi on

ESTHER is not something they can mandate," Rizopoulos said. "Despite this hindrance, archiving syllabi is something that is not only convenient for students registering, but absolutely necessary for the university and its departments to be re-accredited in the future."

Rizopoulos and Boswell said the passing of the policy is the result of a group effort with help from McNinch and the Faculty Senate, Registrar David Trexon, Committee on the Undergraduate Curriculum Chair Jeff Kripal, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness John Connell, former SA President Selim Sheikh and current SA President Georgia Lagoudas.

"This is a huge victory not only for students but for the faculty and administrators who work tirelessly to ensure that Rice is the foremost place to receive an undergraduate education," Boswell said.

Wiese College sophomore Jay Becton said he was glad that the policy had passed.

"I've had a class where [the syllabus] changed in the middle of the year, and it was confusing and frustrating," Becton said. "I'm for any regulation that maintains a general clarity without causing teachers too much stress."

RUPD POLICE BLOTTER
The following items were reported to the Rice University Police Department for the period Jan. 25-Feb. 2.

Residential Colleges
Will Rice College
North Colleges

Jan. 25
Theft

Jan. 30
Theft

Academic Buildings
Anderson Hall
Sewall Hall
Anderson Biology

Jan. 25
Theft

Jan. 26
Disorderly conduct

Jan. 27
Theft

Academic Buildings
Rice Media Center

Jan. 25
Sex offenses (forcible and clergy)

Baker Institute rises to 24th

BY BEN HAWRILUK
FOR THE THRESHER

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program ranked the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy last on its list of top United States think tanks. This ranking is an increase from the institute's 27th place finish last year.

"The success of the Baker Institute model stems from bringing scholars and practitioners together to produce timely and relevant research," Baker Institute Founding Director Edward P. Djerejian said.

Djerejian, a former U.S. ambassador to Syria and Israel, said that the Baker Institute effectively disseminates its research and findings in decision makers in both the public and private sectors. The access of a particular think tank to critical decision makers serves as one of the main criteria in the TTCSP rankings.

Some key areas of Baker Institute's research include health-care policy, tax policy and energy policy.

"The Energy Forum produces cutting-edge analyses and recommendations that are frequently presented in conferences to top corporate energy leaders and government officials," Djerejian said.

Some of the key recent developments for energy research at the institute include the rising global importance of natural gas and the expansion of the Energy Forum. Director of the Baker Institute Energy Forum Amy Myers Jaffe said she attributes the prominence of the institute to its technological adaptability.

The Baker Institute now has a blog, which increases the institute's visibility and accessibility to a large crowd of readers, according to Jaffe.

"In regards to both research and the advancement in which we operate, those at the Baker Institute have made concerted efforts to push into the 21st century," Jaffe added. "We have taken the Baker Institute on the road.

"The Baker Institute has recently held academic gatherings in Mexico, China and the Middle East."

Djerejian said the institute is expanding its internship, leadership and mentorship programs for Rice students. For example, Director of Academic Affairs Allen Marowsky is organizing the first Baker Institute public policy class for undergraduates which will be taught by a team of Baker Institute fellows and scholars, Djerejian said.

Baker Institute Student Forum President Myrles Boghue said that BSPF will continue to add the list of upcoming high caliber speakers.

"The success of the Baker Institute model stems from bringing scholars and practitioners together to produce timely and relevant research."

Edward P. Djerejian
Baker Institute Founding Director

Patrick Thornton

BY CHRISTINE JEON
THE RICE THRESHER

Patrick Thornton, adjunct professor in the Department of Sport Management died on Jan. 15 after being diagnosed last November with cancer in his spine. He was 53.

This semester, Thornton was scheduled to teach Sport Finance class that examines the financial principles and economic theory significant to the sport market.

Baker College sophomore Evan Stackpole said Thornton was not present the first day of class, and instead, the sport management professor said they would be splitting the responsibilities for the class until Thornton came back.

"To me, it seemed as though for something like that to be said, Professor Thornton was not doing well," Stackpole said. "They didn't provide us with much details."

A week later, on Jan. 26, sport management students received an email titled "Dr. Thornton." The message read, "Today, Rice University and the Sport Management Program said, "Goodbye" to Professor Patrick Thornton [...]."

"It was shocking because he was a really nice person and a great professor," Stackpole said. "It took me a while to realize he was gone."

Thornton had been reaching at Rice since 2000. He was also an adjunct professor at the South Texas College of Law and University of Houston and a faculty member at Houston Baptist University.

Thornton is survived by his wife Alison and his two sons, Sam, age 9 and George, age six. He also leaves behind his parents, his two brothers, Sports Law, and Sports Ethics, with two third books, Bushnell and the Law, scheduled to be published very soon.

Sport Management Lecturer Jason Sosa said Thornton served as a great mentor.

"When I decided to look at law schools, he and I talked and discussed advantages and disadvantages," Sosa said. "Every week or month, he would check on me, and he invested a lot of his personal time to make sure I did well my first year in law school."

Sosa agreed to report his grades to Thornton at the end of his first semester and was able to share his grades with his mentor before his passing.

"I'm at peace letting my mentor know that I'm still doing good," Sosa said.

Death of professor shocks, saddens Rice community

it would have been a shame to cancel the Sport Finance class since Thornton had been dedicated to continuing it -- making the syllabus and posting reading materials and articles -- all while receiving treatment.

"We didn't think it would be fair to Pat," Sosa said.

Sosa and Thornton served as a great mentor.

"When I decided to look at law schools, he and I talked and discussed advantages and disadvantages," Sosa said. "Every week or month, he would check on me, and he invested a lot of his personal time to make sure I did well my first year in law school."

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Texas teachers adopt Rice's STEMscopes

**By Seth Brown**

Rice University

Thanks to a team at Rice, Texas teachers have an online teaching option that does not come from a traditional textbook publisher.

STEMscopes, an online science curriculum developed by Rice's Center for Technology in Teaching and Learning, was approved by the state legislature as part of a slate of online teaching options for each grade which districts can select to be purchased for them by the state.

“We are the only non-profit that has produced an online curriculum. The others are all from traditional publishing companies,” STEMscopes Director Reid Whitaker said.

According to Whitaker, the program's development began in 2007 with the creation of TAKScopes, named after the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills test, Texas' standardized test at the time. Whitaker said that the CTL began working on developing STEMscopes from TAKScopes in 2009 when the state legislature put out a call for online-only science teaching materials.

TAKScopes has been expanded this academic year with the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness for third through eighth grade and with end-of-course assessments for the current high school freshman cohort.

Whitaker said STEMscopes is the number one program for fifth through eighth grade.

“I think the reason it is successful is that it is very Texas-oriented and driven. It gives teachers autonomy to teach science in a very different way,” Whitaker said. “It’s allowing the teachers to see the curriculum and then modify it to what they want to teach their students.”

STEMscopes is based around the 5E learning cycle of engaging, exploring, explaining, elaborating, and evaluating, according to Whitaker.

STEMscopes was expanded after realizing how great the program was sitting and getting, they’re building and doing.”

Along with developing the high school materials, the team’s goals for the program include conducting teachers that provide valuable feedback on the assessments for accuracy.

“The way they really refine the content,” Whitaker said. “I think we’ve seen it, it’s been really fun.”

“I think the reason it is successful is that it is very Texas-oriented and driven. It gives teachers autonomy to teach science in a very different way— the kids are not just sitting and getting, they’re building and doing.”

Reid Whitaker

STEMscopes Director

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“The way they really refine the content,” Whitaker said. “I think we’ve seen it, it’s been really fun.”

Whitaker said that in a year, he wants the entire program to be available for use on tablet computers.

“This is going to be revolutionary,” Whitaker said. “STEMscopes is going to be on the forefront of what an interactive test is going to look like.”

Although STEMscopes is designed based on Texas' science standards, Whitaker said the program is also being sold to school districts across the country, particularly in the south. The goal is to eventually sell the program to all 500,000 students. Whitaker said STEMscopes is currently available for Kindergarten through fourth grade, with plans to make market share in sixth grade, and higher market share in fifth grade. Whitaker said STEMscopes is the number one platform for Texas science instruction.

“STEMscopes is going to be on the forefront of what an interactive test is going to look like.”

Whitaker said the program is part of President Barack Obama's education reform plan.

“STEMscopes is the number one program for fifth through eighth grade,” Whitaker said. “The kids think it’s fun—the best feedback you can get is when the teacher says it’s get’em and they go. It starts with the teacher— if the teachers are excited, they take it back to their kids.”

STEMscopes is the number one platform for Texas science instruction.

“It is very Texas-oriented and driven. It gives teachers autonomy to teach science in a very different way,” Whitaker said.

STEMscopes was expanded after realizing how great the program was.
For those searching for a new lunch option, your answer has arrived. Last week, the O’Yeah Cafe opened at the Owl Cove, where Little Willy’s used to be in the RMC.

The cafe offers both Americanized and authentic Chinese menu options, each of which changes daily. The English menu features an entree-style lunch plate, with choices such as orange chicken and fried rice. The Chinese menu consists of the boxed lunch of the day, which contains several authentic Chinese dishes. O’Yeah Cafe specializes in Chinese cuisine made in Sichuanese style.

This project was started by Rice students and scholars Club President Heng Ji. After realizing there was no Chinese food on campus, Ji and other graduate students began ordering from anywhere from 80 to 120 students were ordering nightly before. According to cafe owner David Ding, the process of ordering and paying online the day before. According to Ji, the 80 boxed lunches O’Yeah had prepared for the first day sold out before noon. For the past week, Ding estimates that O’Yeah has served about 100 customers every day, including staff members, graduate and undergraduates on campus.

McMurtry College senior Rebecca Isaac said she has heard positive feedback about the cafe. “It was miserable,” Wen said. “There are not many choices.” Students have tried it and said it was good. “It was miserable,” Wen said. “There are not many choices.” Staff members face the same problem. Tim Jackson, manager of the bookstore and Recharge-U, welcomed the arrival of a new option.

At the cafe’s grand opening on Jan. 26, Ji and H&H Director David McDonald watched on as the line of hungry students and staff members grew. According to Ji, the 80 boxed lunches O’Yeah had prepared for the first day sold out before noon. For the past week, Ding estimates that O’Yeah has served about 100 customers every day, including staff members, graduate and undergraduates on campus.

Facebook announced they were filing for an IPO to become a publicly listed company on the stock exchange. The auction of shares is expected to raise around $5 billion dollars, putting the total value of the social media company in the ballpark of 75 to 100 billion dollars.

BY JENNIFER DING

THE RICE STAFF

Students line up to order from O’Yeah Cafe, the new Chinese cuisine dining option that opened in the Owl Cove of the RMC on Jan. 26. The cafe serves both Americanized and traditional fare.
A new Hansen College student committee is considering renovating and possibly rebuilding New Section, which was erected in 1955. This group, which is the new committee of the Advisory Board, has met with Housing and Dining, Facilities, Engineering and Planning, and other administrators to discuss the viability and form of these changes.

The board includes Hansen College President Corey Owens, External Vice President Zack Pappas, six at-large student representatives, and several Cabinet members who are also involved.

Owens, a senior, noted that New Section is in dire need of renovations because its outdated two-pipe system and other features have caused living conditions issues from molding to rats. Advisory board member and sophomore Miles Schrader said he agrees that it is time for an overhaul.

"Hanssen has always been great for having good housing, so it is our chance to prove that stigma for future students," Schrader noted.

Pappas, a junior, serves as a remoting facilitator of the committee and said its objective is to make sure Hansen student input is considered for the renovation or rebuilding of New Section. Advisory board member and sophomore Jennifer Ellis added that the group's responsibility is to gather the opinions of Hansen students, decide what the priorities of these renovations and make a proposal for FEBP, HBD and the Board of Trustees.

The advisory board first met last week to brainstorm ideas for a possible rebuild. The members prioritized the creation of a new wing which considers both modern concerns and the original design of Old Section, board member and senior Sam Glenn said.

"This is an opportunity to produce something timeless," San Pedro noted. "Almost a century later, we are still living in Hansen Old Section, but New Section is falling apart in about half the time Old Section has existed. In the long run, this rebuild can not only save the university money, but also install architectural uniformity on campus."

Pappas said FEBP is currently conducting a head-
Lunar New Year show celebrates year of dragon

East Asian student associations came together the night of Jan. 28, putting on a show that filled the Grand Hall with acts ranging from traditional drumming to pop dance.

1. Students move to the loud beats of a drum, gong and cymbal for the lion dance. Lion dances are traditionally performed to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck.
2. Girls performing a fan dance arrange themselves into formations meant to represent images such as flowers, butterflies and waves.
3. Emcees Brown College sophomore Joanne Wang and Wiess College sophomore Jim Sheng make jokes as they introduce each other and get the evening started.
4. The girls of the Korean-pop co-ed dance performance gather to pose in the middle of a dance.
5. Will Rice College junior Julian Yao sings a solo while a group sings a Korean-pop song acapella style. Sid Richardson College sophomore Tina Du sings in the chorus.

Civil War: A Genealogy

David Armitage
Lloyd C. Blankfein Professor of History at Harvard University

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For more information, contact Rebecca Gionato at rgoetz@rice.edu or 713-348-2548 or Aysha Pollitz at ap20@rice.edu or 713-348-3526.

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You can do what you love or for the love of money. Either way.

Rice University
Venice Jacobs dedicates three days a week to recycling around Rice's Outer Loop. Pictured here with her characteristic 350.org vest.

Jacobs manages to recycle even these paper cups. "I still have to take the glass containers home, which is a pain," Jacobs said, "but I have to do this. I have to recycle." Jacobs has become an ever-visible character on the Outer Loop. Though her name may not ring a bell, she is instantly recognizable by the vest she wears, which reads, "Recycle good, reuse better. Reduce best. 350.org."

"I wanted to include something educational, so I put 350.org," Jacobs said. 350.org is a grassroots movement focused on returning the carbon-dioxide levels of Earth's atmosphere from 492 parts per million back to 350 ppm, and Jacobs is an active member.

Jacobs, a retired schoolteacher, wakes every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday morning from her home in West University to her favorite spot, the Rice Loop. After jogging around the Loop once the circles again, scavenging the trash bins for recyclables, she will jog back home. She has been gone three hours, one-and-a-half to two hours of which are solely dedicated to recycling.

Jacobs did not always engage in recycling, though. Jacobs, who used to have to lug her bags of recyclables back home, has recently noted an escalation in her visibility by donning her homemade vest. "It has really increased her visibility by doubling her homemade vest," Jacobs said.

The responses to her morning rounds are variable, but many also stop by throughout the day and fill one-fourth of it with granola. Next, place the strawberries in the Greek yogurt into the paper cup. If you have any suggestions, comments or favorite servery recipes, please email Reed Chambers at reedchambers@rice.edu.
Aaren Pastor
THREESHER STAFF

Al bert Nobbs is a quiet film that tells the stories beneath its poised manneured veneer. It deals with economics of love, sex, emotions and money in a 19th century Irish hotel. The primary question driving the film is "What makes people like such miserable lives?" thus revealing the wounded self-imprisonment of one person around whom the film revolves.

Rodrigo Garcia, who has directed episodes of The Simpson's and In Treatment, brings his facially focused, muted colors palette to the table to construct this almost flat composition film. There is a purity of emotion, leavened only in the sexual interludes that abound but fail to authentically portray the quality of life necessary to make a great film. Garcia directs Glenn Close (Eyeing), who wrote the script and stars as Albert Nobbs, a woman who assumed a male identity at 14 in order to survive and make people live such miserable lives? but fail to authentically portray the quality of life necessary to make a great film. Garcia directs Glenn Close (Eyeing), who wrote the script and stars as Albert Nobbs, a woman who assumed a male identity at 14 in order to survive and

The chemistry in the film are superb, each giving a masterful performance, especially Rebecca Hall as the quiet Albert Nobbs, and stars as Albert Nobbs, a woman who assumed a male identity at 14 in order to survive and make people live such miserable lives? but fail to authentically portray the quality of life necessary to make a great film. Garcia directs Glenn Close (Eyeing), who wrote the script and stars as Albert Nobbs, a woman who assumed a male identity at 14 in order to survive and

So inspired by Albert Nobbs's niche, which includes a wife, Nobbs is inspired to do the same. Instead of a marriage for love, Nobbs is in the position to try many different paths, pushing him further and further from questions of self in order to escape.

Enter Helen Dawes, (Mia Wasikowska, Jane Eyre) the flirty, pert maid at the hotel whom Nobbs decides to "walk out with." You want to like her but she proves her self a manipulative girl, extorting gifts from Nobbs in exchange for a promenade in the park. Instead she falls for Joe, (Aaron Johnson, Nowhere Boy) the house taker, who offers her the world, then chewing her when she becomes pregnant. The relationship between the two strikes another knot of wretched pathos two poor kids, trying not to become his drunk, dead beat father, but ultimately leaving Helen and she naively foolish. You see the love, the struggle and how both are ultimately swept back into the lives they had tried so desperately to escape.

The actors in the film are superb, each giving a masterful performance, especially Rebecca Hall as the quiet Albert Nobbs, and stars as Albert Nobbs, a woman who assumed a male identity at 14 in order to survive and make people live such miserable lives? but fail to authentically portray the quality of life necessary to make a great film. Garcia directs Glenn Close (Eyeing), who wrote the script and stars as Albert Nobbs, a woman who assumed a male identity at 14 in order to survive and

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After a faster-than-expected cold front, the cell finally broke through off the coast of Point Barrow, Alaska, unable to swim the five miles to open water without drowning. Adam Carlson (John Krasinski), the whale-saving bandwagon's leader, could not come up with any fewer chances upon the whales and quickly films a drowning. Adam is slightly too cocky to be likable, and his jokes fall flat. He can barely stumble through small-town fame in Sultan, a town in which the whales in the movie are CGI, the viewer does not know if the whales are real or not. Otherwise, it has turned an emotionally rousing advancement of people's attitudes toward marine wildlife into a cheap, poorly acted thriller.

The whale story goes viral, and soon reporters flock to Alaska. Their feelings are accurate for her archetypal yada graduate's sly social commentaries and being a full-time writer. He has never been, after the publication of "What is Known," People from Sultan contacted Schimmel about some of the details he had published. Schimmel had read through old PTA meeting notes and Google Image-searched the town in his research about the movie. They told me, "You got a lot of things right, but you got a lot of things wrong." I made a lot of the street names and roads. It's fiction; that's OK to do.

Given his recent success with the short story, "The Rice University's "writer-in-residence," S. Schimmel does have to designate people-watching time. Being a writer means you're people-watching all the time. That's why being a writer is a lot of time; writers are never bored. Even if you're in a dull lecture-class or talking to some horrible dinner guests, you always have people to observe and can turn those into stories.

"I really believe in Malcolm Gladwell's study about the 10,000-hour rule. Every one who's great in their field, whether it's a complete writer or a complete reader, someone of these people achieved their level of success until almost the 10,000-hour point of practice. I believe anyone can be a great writer, but it really takes a lot of time and a lot of practice."
Classic Flicks: Chaplin shines in ‘City Lights’

Charlie Chaplin is renowned for his silent films produced in America, but he was actually a British export; he migrated to the United States in his early 20s. His line of influence runs from Jacques Tati’s Monsieur Hulot through Rowan Atkinson’s Mr. Bean. Now is good a time to emphasize his contemporary relevance, as The Artist, has recently become the first black-and-white silent film in decades to be nominated for multiple Academy Awards.

Joseph Allencherril

If you had to see just one film among Chaplin’s prodigious oeuvre, you ought to see the 1931 film City Lights. One important thing to note is that City Lights, a silent film, was released in the dawn of the age of the talkie, well after Al Jolson’s The Jazz Singer was released as the first film with synchronized dialogue in 1927. Chaplin, with good reason, was slow to give up the silent medium that had made him an international film star. The mustachioed, bowler hat-wearing Briton knew very well that his mime, slapstick and visual comedic techniques would not have been required or translated well into talkie form. In fact, the only spoken words featured in City Lights are the unintelligible political speeches that open the film, which seem to be Chaplin’s subtle jab at the talkie.

Chaplin’s choice to not use dialogue made sense; Chaplin’s Little Tramp character — once said to be the most famous image in the world — used only body language as a mode of communication. He interacts with his environment through words, but through actions. He never needs to speak, he lives and exists as an outcast.

Running at barely an hour and a half, City Lights is short (which should please viewers who need spoken dialogue to stay awake) as well as sweet. The story concerns itself with how the Little Tramp gains funds for an operation necessary to restore sight to his beloved flower girl (Virginia Cherrill, Girls Demand Excitement). A simple story, yes, but it is in the telling that Chaplin impresses. I can guarantee that the last scene — easily one of the most emotional in all of cinema — will have even the most hard-hearted of viewers holding back a tear or two. Quite a feat for a film sans words.

Few people realize that Chaplin labored intensely over his films, sometimes wasting miles of film reshooting scenes dozens of times. Chaplin, a man of many talents, also scored his own films. One reason Chaplin’s handiwork is not so ostensible is because his films come across as rather simple and childlike at the surface. A slip here, a fall there, a confused moment there and voila! It might seem that with just a little bit of effort, you can make a bona fide Chaplin film on your own. Alas, it takes true genius to craft something which captures the hearts of young children and simultaneously impresses the sternest of cinematic snobs.

His other notable works include The Kid (1919), The Gold Rush (1925), Modern Times (1936), The Great Dictator (1940) and Limelight (1952), which features Chaplin’s only onscreen appearance with fellow silent film giant Buster Keaton.

Joseph Allencherril is a Will Rice College junior.

Classic Flicks is a column reexamining and rediscovering the best that cinema has to offer.
Metro Meals: Les Givral's is cheap and tasty

Sasha Schoch and Allie Schach

Les Givral's Kahve is a street-casual Viennese restaurant, great for grabbing a quick bite while you're out with friends. Voted "Best Takeout" and "Cheap Eats" in March by Houston CitySearch and the Houston Press, Les Givral's Kahve is the perfect place to eat an inexpensive yet delicious meal. The restaurant prides itself on having "authenticity with a modern twist." With some convenient locations around town, this restaurant is either a short drive in a car or a quick trip on the METRORail, right off the stop.

We dined at the Washington location, which has free parking. The inside of the restaurant has a modern decor, and the lovely atmosphere was suited to the great weather. We ordered food at the counter, and although we had a large group of eight people, we received our meals within a matter of minutes.

Sasha Schoch and Allie Schach

Les Givral's Kahve

Locations: 960 Washington Ave.
Phone Number: 832-382-7271

Roasted: Do blondes have more fun?

Amanda Gutierrez

Why would the already vastly successful company make such a drastic change? Starbucks claims that about 5.4 million coffee consumers in the U.S. have long preferred for a more light, less intense roast than the "mild" roast that is offered. Along with introducing a much lighter roast, Starbucks revamped its measuring levels and packaging design. Previously, the beans were categorized as mild, medium, and bold. Soon, only blonde, medium, and dark roast will occupy the shelves of Starbucks stores around the globe. Starbucks affirms these changes as "as mild, medium, and bold as previously, but with a different feel to the mouth and tongue." What's so great about being blonde anyway? In comparison to its previous mild roast, Starbucks claims its blonde Veranda Blend to be "mellow and soft" and the blonde Willow Blend to be "bright and clean." The new, much lighter roast offers a very subtle, fruity coffee flavor, while containing more caffeine than any other roast.

The new Starbucks blonde roast offers a lighter roast with more caffeine than its predecessor, the mild roast.

Amanda Gutierrez

The new Starbucks blonde roast offers a lighter roast with more caffeine than its predecessor, the mild roast.

The flavors all came together quite nicely, making for a delicious and filling bowl of vermicelli. While some bolder customers have complained that the blonde roast tastes much like a watered-down wannabe of the mild roast, others prefer the lighter flavor compared to the mouthful of burnt grounds the store sells in its signature cup of Pike Place. Changes are that the coffee chain was tired of its old nickname "Starbucks" and finally decided not to over-roast its Fair Trade coffee beans.

Jealous of the deceivingly intense flavor of darkly roasted coffee? Contrary to popular belief, blonde coffee contains all the coffee-loving oils while also bringing out a sweeter, more bold flavor by dissolving the acids in the beans. The blonde roast is indeed stronger than any Starbucks coffee I've had to date. Unlike its darker counterparts, the blonde's "strength" comes straight from the caffeine concentration itself instead of the deceptively intense flavor of darkly roasted beans.

How does the blonde measure up? Being a smoothie, medium roast kind of girl, I had my doubts about how a cup of blonde coffee would taste. After much skepticism, I sampled the blonde for myself and was pleasantly surprised. It wasn't half bad; in fact, I actually liked it enough to buy a cup of it. Ultimately, it was indeed reminiscent of watered-down coffee, but after a few sips, I began to enjoy the mild, crisp flavor, the subtle sweetness and the natural, almost unenhanced flavor of fresh coffee. A full cup left me feeling clean and rejuvenated in comparison to the overpowering, chalky feeling that Pike Place and dark roasts leave behind. While I am not planning on leaving my good old medium roast and converting to blonde any time soon, I did enjoy the light taste and caffeine kick of the blonde and would recommend every coffee connoisseur to give it a chance. If you drink coffee solely for the caffeine and are indifferent or have an aversion to the traditional taste of coffee, then blonde may just be your type. However, if you're looking for the full-bodied savory taste of roasted coffee beans, then you would probably prefer the Starbucks medium roast over the blonde.

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Metro Meals explores the restaurants along Houston's METRORail.
Bloody brilliant! Quidditch plays first matches

Nicole Zhao

Students can add one more item to the list of all things unconventional at Rice Quidditch. The Rice Quidditch League played against opponents for the first time on Saturday in a scrimmage held at Rice, hosting teams from Baylor University, Louisiana State University and Texas A&M University.

Chris Ustundag was approved as a year-long, non-club sport at Rice in April 2018. Each team in a game consists of three chasers, two beaters, a keeper and a seeker. A quaffle runner, who is not affiliated with any team, carries a tennis ball representing the snitch inside a sock tucked into his or her underwear. The chasers score goals, worth 10 points each, by tossing a quaffle through a hoop. Beaters shelve broomsticks represent bludgers at other players to temporarily remove them from the game. The game does not end until the seeker catches the snitch, which is worth 15 points. The Rice Quidditch League members thought the scrimmage was a success.

"Our team did fantastic considering we were playing against A&M and LSU, which are ranked in the top teams in the country," Quidditch captain Sophie Borden said. "Publicity-wise, it went really good."

President David Leebon, Dean of Undergraduate John Hutchinson, and Rice and Houston newspaper reporters attended the scrimmage.

The team intends to participate in several tournaments this spring, including the upcoming Mark Gras Carnival Cup, scheduled for Feb. 18 in Baton Rouge, LA.

Bonnell said the hopes the sport will sustain it self for years to come at Rice and that it will have a strong presence on campus.

"In some senses it’s not taken seriously that it’s not from Harry Potter, so people say it’s not a real sport,” Bonnell said. "The easiest way to convince people to hop on the game themselves.

"You have been practicing hard the entire year and we have gotten off to a rough start. But if we stick to our game plan and just trust ourselves, then we should be ok," Garforth-Bles said.
DeBose seals UTEP victory for streaking Owls
Freshman hands game-winner vs. Miners, head to N.C. this weekend before bout vs. Houston
by Ryan Glassman
Basketball is in simplest form in a game of run, and the Owl's basketball team found itself mired in a hole by Wednesday night's double-digit defeat to the University of Texas at El Paso, which sent the Owls to ninth in the Conference USA.

After falling by double digits to the Miners, their sixth loss in nine games following a pair of disappointments, the Owls were looking for a bounce back against crosstown rival Houston. Their first chance came against Tulane University, which hosted the Owls in a game in a dump-husting 83-70 with the Green Wave.

When I first laid the foundation, I was in the game that resulted in a good look at the rim. The layup attempt did not fall, but forward Cordell Largae led the Owls in a foray into the wild, finishing 13th. In the "B" division of the long jump, Rice would go for 45 in the first half, but was not the only freshman to step up for the Owls in the same high 22 points on an efficient 8-1 shooting percentage. Rice consisted of junior Tyler Wiest making a decent weight throw with a toss of 11.57 meters.

sophomore Ben Pressley, and junior Jack Spinks for Warren.

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\textbf{Casual dining is more fun at The Chelsea Grill}
Williams wins 100th game as women's coach

by Teddy Grodek

If you are going to be a good team, you have to be the bad teams. That's exactly what the women's basketball team did when it took the floor this past weekend against two of the worst teams in C-USA, hoping to propel itself above .500 for the season.

It was a big weekend for Head Coach Greg Williams as he searched for two career milestones: his 50th victory in his career and his 100th victory at Rice.

Road wins had been difficult for the team, which had been struggling as of late to beat anyone on the road. After a few heartbreakers, the team looked forward to a home game against East Carolina University (6-14, 0-7 C-USA) and then a practical home game across town against the University of Houston.

Thursday night, en route to 300, the Owls cruised — jumping out to a 16-5 lead. Sophomore Jessica Kuster, who came out hot the first half, shot 60 percent. The second half was simply more cruising for Rice, which never let its lead diminish. They rates had any chance of coming back; they had stayed in the business awhile.

The following Saturday the Owls were bussed across town to Hofheinz Pavilion to take on the Lady Cougars of the University of Houston (2-17, 1-6 C-USA), UH, which only had one win in its entire non-conference schedule, is widely considered one of the worst teams in C-USA.

Rice, which scored the first basket, never gave up the lead in the contest. Rice went into the locker room up eight by a 30-22 margin. UH had one last minute run, cutting the lead to single digits. Rice made free throws once the Cougars started finding the at the end of the game, winning by a 58-50 margin.

Jessica Kuster had her ninth double-double of the season, recording 20 points and 16 rebounds. Junior guard Jessica Grodek finished with 16 points, her highest total of the season.

The win, Coach Williams’ tenth, put the Owls above .500 for the season. They moved into the top four inside C-USA.

The upcoming week, the Owls play Marshall University (12-8, 3-4 C-USA) in West Virginia—one of their longest road trips of the season—on Thursday. It will be a test of the Owls’ ability to travel and play in a good environment to keep winning to stay on top of C-USA.

The following Sunday, the Owls take on the University of Texas at Texas (12-5, 4-2 C-USA) at home, the top team in the conference. This was not a game within reach of C-USA yet and in approaching 20 wins for the season. It will surely be a test of the Owls’ hopes for the rest of the season to compete with the Minors.

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FRIDAY
Walk the plank
American sculptor Joel Shapiro will be at the Rice Gallery to talk about his new installation, New Installation (Creative title, ctd) at 7 tonight. The Gallery is filled with an array of colorful planks floating in the air. A suggestion for a more creative title: Hugwurst statueacre tripe. The talk is free and open to all who attend and will be provided.

Bela and Shostky
The Shepherd School Symphony Orchestra has a concert tonight at 8 p.m. in Stude Concert Hall. Sofin will be soloing in Bartók's Violin Concerto No. 2, followed by Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 in C Major, Op. 60, "Leningrad." The concert is free and open to the public.

Troll bowl
Spontaneous combustion presents a superior Super Bowl - SpCo Bowl XIVI. Tonight at 8 p.m. in Willy's Pub, SpCo will put together some jokes and score some laughs. The show is free and open to all. Bring your own face paint.

A college town on a Saturday night
That would be The Drunken City, which is also the name of the new production on offer by the Theater. At 8 p.m. tonight, see Adam Bluck's comedic play about a group of 20-somethings stagaring their graduation way through the joys and pains of love's labors. Sound and Perfomances continue Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m., and for weekend, Feb. 9, 10 and 11 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $23 for faculty and staff, and $10 for the general public.

SATURDAY
The Stude Chamber of Music
The Shepherd School Chamber Orchestra presents a concert tonight at 8 p.m. in Stude Concert Hall. On the agenda is Dittersdorf's Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Double Bass in D Major, Stravinsky's Danses Concertantes and Mozart's Symphony No. 39 in E-flat Major, K. 543. The concert is free and open to the public.

Liquid or roll-on?
Duncan College presents the heavily-edited "Sensatio-nal " party. Come to your favorite correction fluid, and don your own face paint for the evening. Duncan Commons will be outfitted with black lights, thumping with house music and dubstep. Food, drinks and glow sticks will be provided. I'll be circumventing the whole theme and going as an erasable pen.

MIDNIGHT
Who will take over Georgia?
Will it be Russia? The candidates for Student Association president will debate on Monday at 9 p.m. over pressing issues such as the need for toilets with five different flush settings. Come early at 8:30 p.m. for a 3A mini-meeting (food will also be miniaturized). After the cool meeting and heated debates, elections will begin at 11:55 p.m. Voting will be open until Feb. 13 at 11:59 p.m. Losing candidates will all be broken up with by their significant other on Feb. 14.

WEDNESDAY
No hate, educate
In celebration of Black History Month, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion bring you an event for a community dialogue on urban education. Keynote speaker Margaret Ford Fisher is the author of Learning for Ownership and will speak about the vision and plan to improve the outcomes of African-American students in urban schools. The program starts at 6 p.m. in the McMurtry Artatorium of Duncan Hall. A book signing will follow at 7 p.m.

Par for the course
Artist Mic Johnson will talk about his exhibition "A" at the Rice Media Center. The exhibit uses the medium of a golf course to explore architecture and the Baker Institute of Politics.

Thursday
Be in the yearbook
Even if you were a Fondy-hermit all four years, you still have a chance to be featured in the yearbook. Come to the Rice Adcom information meeting in the Oval at 5 p.m. on Thursday for Picnic Hall. The first two hours are reserved for Picnic Hall, and at 6 p.m. everyone may come to take whatever crazy pictures they want. Do I hear a Rice Girls Will Bowl? While you're there, pick up last year's Campus yearbook - it's free!

Modern bondage, and not the kind
The Center for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexualities presents "Modern Bondage: An Examination of Sex Trafficking as Gender-Based Slavery." The lecture starts at 6 p.m. in Baker Hall.

Cafe con musica
Rice Coffeehouse presents an evening of live music in "Coffeehouse Open Acous-tic." At 7 p.m., Brown College sophomore Nathan Bonnes and Brown College senior Joey Spinella will take the stage. Maybe cafe co-celebrant will help them hit the high notes.

Same purity score = soul mate
The Rice Program Council presents the annual Crush Party. After you fill out the questionnaire filled with deep questions such as "What is your favorite place to have sex?" come to Willy's Pub at 10 p.m. on Thursday to see your results and find true love. There will be free food and soda and at Pub to drink away the pain if your survey results turn up as "will not be the future love." The party is free, and EMS will be on hand for anybody who is struck by Cupid's arrow.

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

Submission methods:
Fax: 713.348.2298
Email: thresher-calendar@rice.edu
Campus Mail: The Calendar Editor
Thresher, MS 524

This crossword was created by Rebecca Jeun. The solution will be posted on Twitter at twitter.com/threshercal.
THINK YOU KNOW THE OPTIONS ON THE SA PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT?

Ben 'The Freshman' Hawlik

Think of the freshmen, so young and innocent and naive to the ways of the world. One day they will grow up to be like us, interesting members of society who don’t get stuck at graduate school or even their Chems classes. Right now they are all grown up and has climbed out of his playpen, straight to the presidency of the Student Association. This might seem cute, like the talking baby from the T&TRADE commercial, but when the SA debates issues such as whether Chem or Physics is worse, adorable will change to horrible.

Benjamin 'Sickle-n-Hammer' Chou

Benjamin Chou hates money. That’s why he is campaigning to end tuition for all Rice University students. Sounds great, doesn’t it? You know who else wanted to make things free for everybody? Lenin. If Comrade Chou’s radical leftist policies take away our right to pay for school, what else does he endorse? Collective farms? May Day Parade? The end of freedom and capitalism. Benjamin Chou says he is running for the Student Association president, but really he just wants you to appoint him Premier of the United Soviet Socialist Rice University.

S’Angela Mary Jain

Some people are born with a silver spoon in their mouths. Sanjela was born with 20. A scion from the Brown College political machine, the Rice Illuminati handpicked Sanjela in a smoke-filled room to fulfill their master plan of domination. She rose through the ranks of the corrupt SA, taking bribes, working for every special interest group imaginable and earning Lagoudas administration members millions in embezzled blanket tax monies. Now this political insider and her shady puppet masters want the highest job on campus so she can get even richer on the backs of innocent voters.

HOW ABOUT NONE OF THE ABOVE?

WRITE IN BACKPAGE2012

When was the last time you were dissatisfied with a threesome?

The Backpage is satire and is written by Alex Weinheimer, Anthony Lauriello and Zach Casias. Email comments and questions to gkevin@rice.edu.