Rice wins big in bowl versus Air Force

Bobby Tudor

Tudor said his plans for the beginning of Rice’s second century align with Leebron’s Vision for the Second Century and Rice’s current direction. “The V2C remains in place,” Tudor said. “I think the broader question is getting a change in leadership as Bobby Tudor III (Hanszen ’82), name-sake of the Tudor Fieldhouse, succeeds Jim Crownover (Hanszen ’75) as its next chairman. Tudor will take over when Crownover’s second and final four-year term ends June 30, according to Crownover. According to President David Leebron, Tudor has been a member of the board since 2006.

Rice’s board of trustees, composed of 21 members, approximately two-thirds of whom are Rice alumni, advises Rice’s president and management team and sets the strategy and vision for Rice, according to Tudor. Tudor said his plans for the beginning of Rice’s second century align with Leebron’s Vision for the Second Century and Rice’s current direction. “The V2C remains in place,” Tudor said. “I think the broader question for the board and for Rice is, ‘What next?’ How do we want to think about adding or subtracting priorities for the first decade of the next century? The first rule of thumb is to do no harm. The board generally is very pleased with the current state of affairs and the direction of the university.”

Glasscock School gets new home

BY AMANDA MACDONALD
THESSNER STAFF

The Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies will be getting a new home in the Anderson-Clarke Center, to be built in West Lot between Rice Stadium and campus Entrance 8. Construction began Dec. 13 and will be completed approximately a year from now, according to project manager Tina Hicks.

Dean of the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies Mary McIntire said the new facility will allow for increased enrollment and further expansion of the programs offered.

“This is a very exciting time for us,” McIntire, who received her doctorate in English from Rice in 1975, said. “We have been hoping for a new building for many years. This is one of the best moments in the long life of the School of Continuing Studies.”

The School of Continuing Studies began offering several courses in 1968 and has since grown to enroll 14,000 students, many from the surrounding community, in its wide array of personal and professional development courses, according to McIntire.

Currently, the School of Continuing Studies offers an education certificate for undergraduates, and McIntire said she hopes to increase the number of programs offered to undergraduates. One potential area for expansion into more undergraduate courses is the school’s Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership.

The three-story, 53,000-square-foot facility will offer 24 classrooms, conference spaces, an auditorium and a commons area for events, according to Hicks.

The Anderson-Clarke Center will be built to meet the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design standards at the silver level, which is the minimum level for all new buildings constructed at Rice University, according to Manager of Communications for Facilities Engineering and Planning Susann Glenn.

“In addition to the completed building being LEED certified, the actual construction process itself will follow LEED standards,” Glenn said. “We recycle 90 percent of construction waste, which eliminates landfill waste.”

The Glasscock School of Continuing Studies’ role in academic outreach to the surrounding community is reflected in its location, Glenn said.

“Entrance 8 is where the surrounding community enters Rice University, and the Anderson-Clarke Center establishes this in a picturesque way,” Glenn said.

“The $24 million facility was funded through philanthropy, including gifts from Rice trustees Kent Anderson and Robert Clarke, according to McIntire.

For updates on the construction, visit construction.rice.edu/anderson-clarke.

Rice wins big in bowl versus Air Force
It’s important to understand that Dean of Undergraduates John Hutchison’s response was beyond the 1996 federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and university policy precludes talking about specifics of the case. In order to defend himself and the university from the charges, he would have to address the specifics both of Olivia Hansen’s medical situation and of the academic decision for medical leave. The law and policies are in place to protect the privacy of the student. She herself can choose to waive this protection to discuss other issues. The information, or by extension Hutchison, cannot. If he did, there would not have included any information that her account of the situation is inaccurate or incorrect. It is hard to do, but he just has to stand by his statement.

This is a pre-configuration site. Rice’s counsel is not going to allow any official statements that state their defenses to any specific set of issues or a response that provides ammunition to a plaintiff that would be sympathetic to a juror. If that seems cold and calculating, it is easier to feel that way when you have not been personally named in a trial, let alone in the legislature.

I know firsthand the lengths Dean of Undergraduates John Hutchison and Patricia Hutchinson go to in order to achieve Rice’s purposes. If it is true that he is caring, in open, loving person, for those who did not cause this, to make Rice student bodies’ well-being for the student. He is not the kind of person who would publicly announce that they are wrong or refuse to do something that is right. However, I believe the issue is larger than Han- son’s Op-Ed regarding student counseling services. It should be something we as an institution believe you are not happy. It should be a good thing to seek counseling for stress, depression and other mental issues. It should be something we as an institution can encourage and promote. I hope the attention this article will bring will prompt a response from the administration. Students like Olivia Hansen and others who have posted here should be embraced by the Thresher, not spurned.

I don’t think the “happiest student” status is a farce. I think there are many future students who are genuinely extremely happy with their Rice experience. That title, the whole truth, but it is her truth, and whether or not there is anyone to argue with her (or just posting anonymously and sparsely, “Liar!”), no woman at Rice should feel that a harasser and his team-mates can get away with almost whatever they want and that the campus administration will do little or nothing to help her feel safe and happy in her Rice experience.

We have been having campus discussions about Rice’s safety at Rice since the ’80s (my time there), and I guess we will have to keep having those discussions around campus.

Three is not the first article like this to appear in a student newspaper this year. Why are colleges so uniformly handling these situations in the wrong way? Is it possible that some national organization of college counselors has pushed for this kind of treatment as a best practice? I am not saying Rice is not still entirely at fault here even if it is just following a crowd, but this seems out of character, and students nationwide could benefit if it is dis- covered that something more persuasive needs to be reformulated. In addition to a university response, an explanation from Rice University Student Health might be illuminating here as well.

I am a Rice senior, and I have always loved Rice, but it was in my heart that Hutchison is the best student in the student body. I was there for the first and second years of his administration. As he has gone from just being in the student body to being a leader of the student body, he has grown from someone who was a bit of a outsider to someone who is now a leader of the student body. He has been an excellent leader and has always been able to get the job done. I am proud to call him my friend and I hope he will continue to be a leader in our community.

I am a Rice student, and I have always loved Rice. Rice deserves its highest students ranking. Please, spend a year at a large public school and then at Rice — you will see exactly why.

This is a really upsetting but important article to read. I have often felt the “happiest students” status is a farce. I also find that some national organization of college counselors has pushed for this kind of treatment as a best practice. I am not saying Rice is not still entirely at fault here even if it is just following a crowd, but this seems out of character, and students nationwide could benefit if it is dis- covered that something more persuasive needs to be reformulated. In addition to a university response, an explanation from Rice University Student Health might be illuminating here as well.

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I am a Rice student, and I have always loved Rice. Rice deserves its highest students ranking. Please, spend a year at a large public school and then at Rice — you will see exactly why.
Do you know how to drive a stick shift? Chances are, the answer is no. I polled more than 75 Rice students, and the overwhelming majority (91%) said that they did not know how to drive a manual transmission car. According to Jalopnik.com, manual transmission cars have grown from approximately 45% of cars on the road in 1990 to less than 7 percent today as consumers and automakers alike increasingly view the manual transmission as technology from the bygone era.

Interestingly, the decline in manual transmissions seems to be a distinctly American trend. According to the automakers, they do not manufacture cars with manual transmission, which has been proven to be more fuel efficient and fun to drive.

The reasons for this decline stem from a self-perpetuating cycle between consumers and manufacturers. Technological advancements in automatic transmissions have eliminated some of the advantages that manuals used to have over automatics, such as better gas mileage. It is a chicken-or-egg type of situation: Are automakers making fewer stick shifts because people are buying fewer of them, or have fewer people been buying stick shifts because they are becoming increasingly rare in new cars?

Some of the blame can be placed on how people view driving in America. The next time you are out on the road, think about all of the things that you are doing while driving: eating, texting, talking on the phone, listening to music...the list goes on and on. With a manual transmission, driving is a much more engaging process, meaning that you have to pay more attention to the task at hand.

My challenge to you is to give the manual transmission a chance. Car and Driver, a well-respected automotive magazine, has started a nationwide campaign called “Save the Manuals” in an attempt to reverse the trend. If you still need convincing, here are my top five reasons why you should join the cause to Save the Manuals:

- Save money: Although fewer and fewer cars are even offered with manual transmissions these days, almost every single model that offers both manual and automatic requires a price premium for automatic. Many times, customers are not even aware of the choice. A manual transmission allows you to keep them in stock, but automatics usually add between $800 to $1,000 to the base price of the car. Also, it can often be easier to negotiate a lower price on a stick shift because many dealerships have difficulty selling the few manual transmission models in their inventory.

- It’s fun: Driving a stick shift is fun. Not only do you have more control over the car mechanically, but you also receive more feedback from the car, creating a sort of relationship between the driver and the machine. The few manual drivers who responded to my survey said things like “Manual is so much more exciting...driving manual is amazing...never going back.” There is a reason that a high percentage of sports cars are equipped with manual transmissions.

- A carjacker would be thwarted: Prevent theft: MSN.com reported that more than 80,000 vehicles were stolen in 2009. That is one car every 40 seconds. But of these vehicles, only a tiny percentage consisted of manual transmission vehicles. Many carjackers, however, come out of the woodwork when a car with a manual transmission is left unlocked. More and fewer people who know how to drive a manual, chances are that any potential thieves will be stumped by a stick shift.

- Show off your skills: Some people might view the manual transmission as old-fashioned, but being able to use a clutch and a gear shifter is not as easy as it seems. Learning how to drive a stick shift and gaining membership to an exclusive club is an experience that you will never forget. You will feel a little smug about it, but others will be impressed with your abilities.

- You’ll be driving safer: According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, sticking with a manual transmission will make your driving safer. If you own a car with a stick shift and do not mind slightly abusing your clutch, take your friends out and teach them. When you buy your next car, consider a manual transmission model, even if you do not know how to drive a manual. Driving a stick shift is a reward skill in more ways than one.

Joey Capparella is the local news editor and a Brown College senior.

Christina Randall

Harvesting vegetables is my favorite part of EDBO 240: Community Garden. This is my third year taking the class, and I find that every year, I get more attached to the garden. The class is one credit and is really casual. Grading is based on a student’s participation in the garden. Students are divided up into groups and are allowed to choose which garden they want to work on: Marstel College garden, Hanszen garden or Wess College garden. I personally think Hanszen is the nicest garden. Wess garden is in a corner and is always overrun with weeds. But ever since I first picked Wess garden, I feel like it is my own, and I cannot seem to part from it.

Taking care of the gardens is not as easy as it may seem. Most of the students who take the class are surprised at the amount of weeding they need to do. The Rice ground-keeper once said that if you give Mother Nature an empty space, she will fill it. This is essentially true for my garden. But maintaining the garden is very relaxing. When I’m out in the garden, it seems I can think clearly. Putting seeds into the ground, watching them steadily grow bigger and bigger, and harvesting the vegetables is so fulfilling. I do not have to worry about my horrible classes, stupid midterms or that assignment I forgot about until last night. I am outside in a relaxed environment, taking care of nature – it does not get much better than that.

But gardening is not just about the experiences I have on my own. I like community gardening because of the experiences I get with my classmates. It is fun to come together as a class and actually get outside to plant. Sometimes, students come up with crazy ideas for what to plant. Sometimes, those ideas actually work. But some of my best memories gardening are when my classmates and I harvested carrots from the ground for the first time and tasted them or when we harvested sweet potatoes and mar- velled at how many pounds we dug up. We laugh about our gardening mistakes, talk about our favorite plants and tell stories about our lives while we pick weeds. We are not just gardening together, but also learning about each other.

Of course, there are also practical reasons for learning how to garden. Sustainable community gardening produces local, fresh food and can save money on groceries. Off-campus students, like me, tend to take special interest in the gardens. The fresh herbs in the gardens, for instance, are far cheaper and tastier than anything I can buy at the supermarket, so that is another advantage to participating in the course.

Sometimes, women only make up your majors that we take for granted practical skills like gardening. They are impressive that we can learn about the style of dress in 13th-century Kara- korum, but what are the chances we will actually use this knowledge after graduation? However, we all need to eat, and whether it is fresh vegetables or sustainable produce, while weeding, gardening is a skill that is always useful.

Christina Randall is a Will Rice College junior.

Christina Randall is the local news editor and a Brown College senior.
Historic Macy’s downtown store to close this spring

By Joey Cappaella

Local Editor

The closing of one of Houston’s oldest department stores has sparked a discussion about its historic home and the future of retail downtown.

Last week, Macy’s announced that its store on Main Street will be closing this spring, leaving questions about what will happen to the 62-year-old building in downtown Houston. Houston Macy’s representatives declined to comment on the store’s closing, but according to a statement released by Macy’s Inc., the downtown Houston location, along with five other Macy’s stores across the country, will be closing due to underperformance. The statement said Macy’s plans were made with the goal of improving the overall store and creating a more affordable and flexible shopping experience.

David Bush, a spokesperson for Preservation Houston, said Macy’s will no longer own the building after the lease runs out and that the building is in danger of being demolished.

Bush said that Preservation Houston, a nonprofit organization founded in 1978 to promote the preservation of Houston’s historic architectural and cultural resources, is trying to save the 65-year-old Macy’s building because of its historical importance. According to Bush, the building was designed by renowned architect Kenneth Franzheim and first opened in 1947 as Foley’s Department Store.

“This building ended up serving as the model for almost all department stores built in the U.S. after World War II,” Bush said. “It was built with no windows except for the display windows on the first floor. It’s basically the first big box.”

Bush said he is disappointed to see plans for destruction because of the building’s adaptable nature.

“It seems like there is [a] lack of imagination,” Bush said. “The building was designed to be flexible and could be easily adapted, but all we see is the building being in the way rather than having potential new uses.”

Just after the announcement of the Macy’s closure, Mayor Annise Parker created a new task force aimed not only at finding a new location for the Macy’s store downtown, but also for researching options for other department stores and major retailers downtown. Called the Downtown Retail Task Force, the group is made up of marketing professionals, real estate developers and representatives from the Houston Downtown Management District, according to a statement released by the mayor’s office.

In the statement, Parker said the group would be exploring options for expanding the number of retail stores downtown, the city’s light rail expansion, future light rail expansions, upcoming residential projects and the downtown area’s recent growth as an urban center.

“I mostly go shopping in the village because there are a lot more stores there, but it would be nice to have more options downtown as well,” Casey said. “From the north side of campus, taking the light rail is almost more convenient than getting to the village.”

Janice Evans, a spokesperson for the Mayor’s office, said the task force would begin meeting this week and the first steps would consist of identifying and addressing the current challenges that retail downtown faces.

Bush said he was honored when Macy’s approached Preservation Houston about housing its collection.

“It makes our legacy live on and gives people the opportunity to research our,” Bush said. “For generations to come, people can look back and see how Swishahouse started.”

G-Dash said he hopes aspiring artists go see the collection and feel inspired, just as he was by local artists during his childhood.

“Seeing artists so close to home let me know that it is possible,” G-Dash said. “There’s a man right in the city who’s making it in this business.”

Students interested in studying the materials can make an appointment with the Woodson Center or visit library.rice.edu/collections/wrc and search Swishahouse. For more information about Swishahouse, visit www.swishahouse.biz.

Swishahouse hip-hop collection moves to Rice archives

By Molly Chiu

Swishahouse hip-hop collection

Rice’s archive collection recently got more swag. The Woodson Resource Center is now home to the Swishahouse Collection, which includes Paul Wall’s platinum album, mix tapes, CDs, posters and more. According to Director of the Center for Urban Research and Collaborative Learning Anthony Pinn, these materials moved into the Woodson Center over the summer and are now processed and ready for use.

“We decided several years ago that Rice was uniquely positioned to help Houston preserve its cultural memory,” Pinn said. “That involved preserving physical materials that help make Houston what it is. Part of that had to involve the history of hip-hop.”

Swishahouse, an independent record label, got its start in the mid-1990s as a mixtape business. According to Swishahouse Co-CEO G-Dash, DJ Michael Watts was leading a movement among artists on the north side of Houston at the time and began to create slowed-down mixes he called “swahamaites.” From there, Swishahouse was born, and in 1999, the label released its first commercial record, The Day Hell Broke Loose. Today, Swishahouse continues to work on mix tapes but has also expanded to managing and consulting for major artists like Chamillionaire, Paul Wall, Mike Jones and Lil’ Keke, Bush said.

G-Dash said Swishahouse aims to show the world a distinctly Texan lifestyle and kind of hip-hop.

“Music in Texas is different because our culture is different — the way we dress, the way we talk, the slang we use, the cars we drive,” G-Dash said. “Texas just has its own unique style.”

Pinn said he wanted to bring this hip-hop collection to Rice to expand the study of local culture.

“Rice is a tremendously significant tier one research university open to novel ways of thinking and interested in the creative production of knowledge,” Pinn said. “Houston is a prime location in the history of hip-hop. It’s a natural marriage between the two.”

Pinn, a religious studies professor whose spring 2011 “Religion and Hip-Hop” course featured co-instructor Bun B, said he believes hip-hop has had a major impact on culture at the local, national and global levels.

“Hip-hop is one of the few cultural developments — beginning on the margins of U.S. society — in recent years with national and international reach that influences the aesthetics of life, our language, our perceptions of socioeconomic and political issues, and so on,” Pinn said. “I think a cultural development with such profound reach should be a topic of intellectual examination. We should study it in order to get a sense of how several generations have envisioned their world.”

Rice is not the only university in the United States to house a hip-hop collection — Harvard University has one as well but Pinn believes Rice’s collection is special.

“It seems to me that one of the things that is unique (about Rice’s collection) is the volume of primary materials and the direct involvement of the hip-hop community,” Pinn said.

In addition to focusing on the preservation of the materials, the Center will also provide programming to teach the Rice community about the collection, according to Pinn.

“We’ll have a panel discussion this spring that will involve a documentary outlining the development of Swishahouse and then a panel discussion with the artists,” Pinn said.

The Center for Engaged Research and Collaborative Learning is part of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research. According to Pinn, the Center’s hip-hop collection goes hand-in-hand with the Kinder Houston Area Survey.

“The survey tells us about life in Houston,” Pinn said. “This archival collection tells us about the material history.”

Pinn said Rice’s collection will not be limited to just hip-hop. The Center is currently in talks with other community leaders, such as the Rev. William Lawson, the founding pastor of Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, to include other cultural materials as well.

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“It makes our legacy live on and gives people the opportunity to research us,” G-Dash said. “For generations to come, people can look back and see how Swishahouse started.”
On Jan. 3, local news reported that an electrical fire exposed students from the attic of Raynor Hall. According to Houston Fire Department Public Information Officer Jeff Evans, a fire around 10:05 a.m. an electrician who was called to check on the air conditioning unit in the ceiling of Raynor Hall fell through the ducts and required the fire department to remove him from the hall. Evans attributed the accident to poor communication and an unfortunate situation.

*"While it is tragic that an electrician and Planning electrician was in the ceiling of Raynor Hall, someone accidentally shut off the lights in that room, pitching the electrician in total darkness," Evans said. "The electrician tried to back out but slipped and fell between the air ducts."*
Mental health at Rice: How the Counseling Center operates and the withdrawal process works

By Farrah Madani
Thresher Editorial Staff

“We should not oversimplify these [sexual assault and mental health] issues or engage in inappropriate rhetoric,” said Associate Provost, Professor of Psychology, and Rice Dean David Leebron, who has in his Doc. 3 email response to Olivia Hansen’s opinion piece in The Thresher.

The article instantly thrust the Rice University Counseling Center (RCC), which has a full-time staff of six clinical counselors and one case coordinator, into a negative spotlight. With the burden of allegations, misinformed stories, and even lies on its shoulders, the staff became a campus villain without saying a word. Hansen criticized the RCC in her opinion piece, Rice. However, the most common response was that there could be people who need help who are very scared to seek help because of these misconceptions.

Confidentiality Policy

Confidential services are confidential information about a student who is not released outside the university unless it is per the student’s written permission.

The mission of the RCC is to promote positive mental health and help students be successful at Rice, Conaway said.

Crisis: If you are in crisis, the counselor will ask you to come to the RCC that day.

Calling because of a friend: If you are calling because you are worried about a friend or a classmate, the RCC will go through the same procedure as above, but the counselor will ask if you are worried because of the immediate danger.

Calling for self: If you are calling because you are worried about yourself or a classmate, the RCC will go through the same procedure as above.

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Mental health at Rice: How the Counseling Center operates and the withdrawal process works

Olson said she does not remember her counse lor's knowledge of the letter from Retention in the meeting day following her stay at the hospital.

"She never really said, "Oh, Heather, after the hospitalization, we need to do certain things to make you stay."

Olson went to the emergency room and agreed to stay there or not, "so I'm going to ask some questions about your overnight stay at the hospital."

"She just kind of went right in, I felt like I was being evaluated and I didn't really know what for, and that freaked me out."

RCC clinical counselor Elizabeth Conaway said unless a student poses a serious threat to himself or other members of the Rice community, information cannot be shared without a signed release even in the event that a student goes to the hospital for a mental health related reason.

After the meeting with the counselor follow ing her overnight stay at the hospital, Olson said she was hospitalized for six days. During the following week, she said she received a letter from Hutchinson notifying her of her withdrawal and then spoke with her college counselor about steps she had to take. Olson said she did not communicate with anyone from the dean's office prior to leaving Rice. During her time away, she said she communicated with Noonan.

Olson said that withdrawal steps included checking out of her residential college, moving out and having an exit interview with the residential college counselor. According to Hutchinson, the time limit for students who wish to vacate their housing is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the circumstances.

The General Announcements state that students separated from Rice for any reason must leave campus within 48 hours, though this may be extended, and this time limit is flexible, the RCC counseling center said.

The notification of the letter, as provided to the Thresher by Olson's senior Noonan, states that the student must sign a release of information to allow the RCC to speak with the dean's office and another step in the exit in terview. The letter also states that Olson should sign a release of information from her treating professional to the RCC and the dean's office and that when she returned to campus her time off campus treatment begins.

"We normally want to see six months of stability as evidenced by regularly engaging in treatment and by successfully completing work experience, courses or volunteer activi ties," the letter states. "We will use all the information available to assess your ability to func tion as a student, socially and academically, over time."

Olson said she felt she was not treated like a rational individual during her withdrawal process.

"It's just very easy to think that the stu dent's mental condition is too far gone and will be irrational with everything," Olson said. "I don't mean that in a disrespectful way, but I was treated in the hospital as if I felt like my personhood was threatened the entire time. It's like being guilty until proven innocent."

Olson said she felt she had felt more in volved in the decision-making process.

By Nicole Zhao

Dean of Undergraduates John Hutchinson ultimately makes the decision about whether a student should be withdrawn, but college mas ters, counselors, resident associates, and the ad visor of Student Development and Retention Kate Noonan and RCC staff advise him on the dec ision.

Of the 455 students who sought psychological or psychiatric help at the Counseling Center on the following day that the letter from Retention had been explained to them, only 30 percent were withdrawn from the college.

A student may insist on a involuntary withdrawal if one or more of the following are true: a student poses a danger to himself or other members of the Rice community, has a medical or psychological condition that he or she did not address prior to coming to the Rice environment may aggravate; behaves in a way that may interfere with the education of other students; or the student's presence is disruptive as a function of a student, according to the General Announcements.

A student may voluntarily withdraw at any time, according to the General Announcements. If the student is in good academic standing at the time of withdrawal, the student can immedi ately apply for readmission to the Dean of Undergraduates' office with two letters of support and an academic plan approved by the Office of Academic Advising after five for the fall semester or six for the spring semester.

If a student volunteers to withdraw, major medical, psychological or psychiatric reasons, however, they must meet the readmission conditions of an involuntary withdrawal, which requires documentation of treatment received. Students who withdraw within five weeks the last day of classes of a fall semester cannot opt for readmission until the fall of the following year, according to the General Announcements.

Proposing that a student withdraw comes after the university provides support to the student for a time period of seven to 10 days, helpful mental health counseling, and time for the student to succeed and remain enrolled, Hutchinson said. This support may come from RCC on campus, academic couns els and/or college mentors. In most cases, the university discusses with the student the student's best interest, and in the majority of cases, the student is allowed to make the decision.

"In a very large number of cases when a student is really struggling with an illness like depression, it is often more health and quality of life reasons, and their recovery from depression without the stresses of trying to handle a demanding course load at Rice," Hutchinson said. "The student may say, "I'm not sure I can handle the academic load, the social aspect of things, the ability to interact with other people, they're definitely necessary for them to be able to give it their best effort to succeed. In other cases, we know that there are students who are just not going to be able to handle it."

Hutchinson said Rice may insist on involuntary withdrawal if a student is really struggling with an illness like depression, when the student's health is a concern, the student is not making adequate progress, or the university and the student agrees that the student's presence is disruptive as a function of other Rice students; or cannot continue to function at the university's withdrawal protocol is humane and fair.

If a student is readmitted after a medi cal process, the university may request that the RCC could share the students medical, psychological or psychiatric reasons, however, they must meet the readmission conditions of an involuntary withdrawal, which requires documentation of treatment received. Students who withdraw within five weeks the last day of classes of a fall semester cannot opt for readmission until the fall of the following year, according to the General Announcements.

When a student is readmitted after a medi cal process, the university may request that the RCC counseling center release information to the university's withdrawal protocol is humane and fair.

"Having to tell someone you are taking time off for mental health, it makes you very vulnerable. If "Rice kicked me out," Rice students typically look down on that so much," Perez said. "It's the worst case of Rice, it's a lot of compassion for that and it may just stem from not a lot of people knowing what mental health is and how it works."

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Perez said it is difficult to determine whether the student is suffering from mental illness, but she feels the university could treat those about to be withdrawn better. "I think Rice is cared about, but at the same time, my masters, the administration made me feel like I was the worst person in the world, that I was hurting my room mates," Perez said. "I did the best that I could. I know it must have been really hard for [my roommates] because they didn't know what to do. They just thought, understand that I might be a burden to my peers, but you should have support from the administration at that time, yet it felt like I couldn't."

Perez said the national stigma against peo ple with mental illness is a pervasive attitude among the students. The students may feel that "Rice kicked me out," Rice students typically look down on that so much," Perez said. "It's the worst case of Rice, it's a lot of compassion for that and it may just stem from not a lot of people knowing what mental health is and how it works."

Brown sophomore Katina Farias said she has only had positive experiences with the RCC, where she received support for her depression five months and then weekly for a month and a half. "They're really nice and helpful, and I didn't ever feel pressured to say or do anything," Farias said. "I made it very clear that I wasn't really certain what was wrong with me, so they just talked with me, they also just took it easy. I just felt as though the university was making sure I was okay."

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"I'm actually pretty confident that none of [my mental health issues] were the same," Farias said. "[My counselors] didn't even tell the on-campus psychiatry anything about my situation." Brown Master Steve Cox said he believes the university no longer suspends students and while withdrawals are suggested for the student's well-being, they also do minimal damage to a student's academic record, with grades pe ring as "W" rather than "F."

After Perez left the hospital, she received Rice's decision to withdraw for her for the spring semester of 2012, she said. After talking classes and receiving counseling in her hometown, she was accepted for readmission for the spring semester.

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"If [my masters had] said like four students had been kicked off this year or in the past this many students have been kicked off and come back, it might be a different story," Perez said. "I felt so isolated, like I was the worst person in the world, I heard all these kinds of mental health facts and figures would have helped a lot."

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The Owls triumph over the Falcons

Teddy Grodek

For only the second time in 50 years, the Rice Owls football team has a bowl victory to celebrate. After winning five of their last six games to be eligible for the postseason, the Owls beat the Air Force Academy in the Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl by a final score of 31-14, providing the program an opportunity to be proud.

The Owls, who were considered underdogs heading into the game, stopped one of the nation's top rushing attacks, holding the Falcons scoreless in the second half. It was an incredibly impressive effort for a team that has made large improvements in seemingly every aspect of the game. Watching the second half of the season, the Owls looked to be a completely different group than the team who started in August against the University of California at Los Angeles.

"This is a memory that this football team will treasure," Head Coach David Bailiff said. "The Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl has been an absolutely great experience from our arrival to our departure."

The game, with an odd 10:45 a.m. start time, cut into both teams' pregame rituals. The Owls' defense sparked the first points of the game, with a fumble forced by senior defensive end Jared Williams, providing the offense prime field position. A run by quarterback Taylor McHargue set up a 46-yard pass to wide receiver Jordan Taylor that put the Owls in the locker room down 14-7.

"I'm just so proud of these young men and our coaching staff," Bailiff said. "We came out at the second half and made a couple adjustments and, more importantly, some attitude adjustments, not so much from coaching, but from the team leaders. We came out more determined to play the second half stronger."

The Owls, who will lose few players from their potent offense, have to be considered one of the favorites to win the diluted Conference USA. West next season with the departure of many teams to the Big East Conference, Southern Miss defeated the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) setting Conference USA records for points, field goals made (53), assists (42) and steals (27) in a single game. And just four days removed from its headline-grabbing win, Southern Miss overmatched Rice with its superior size and athleticism, as the Owls fell 27-52. The Owls shot at 51 percent from the field in the first half and struggled to hit shots against their opponent's 2-3 defensive zone. Rice improved its offensive effort in the second half, but Southern Miss utilized its height advantage to get easy looks in the post throughout the game. The Golden Eagles outscored Rice 48-20 in the paint, shooting nearly 70 percent from the field.

"We've got to show more resistance on the defensive end," Braun said. "We thought our interior defense was poor. It wasn't the outside shot that was hurting us. It was getting the ball to the rim. We've got to show some resistance there."

Senior guard Tamin Jackson led the Owls with 13 points and six rebounds in the losing effort.

Entering Wednesday's games, Jackson ranked fifth in the league with 12.2 points per game and sub in the conference at nearly seven rebounds per game.

The Owls will play their second conference game of the season tomorrow evening in Oklahoma, where they will try to take down the University of Tulsa for the first time since 2005. The Golden Hurricane (9-7) has eliminated Braun's team in three of the past four conference tournaments, a streak the Owls will look to break with a win on the road tomorrow. Tulia lost at Marshall University on Wednesday night to bring their league record to 1-1 after they escaped with a 48-47 win at Southern Methodist University last Saturday. Rice will be back at Tudor Fieldhouse at 6 p.m. on Wednesday to take on the league's favorites, a University of Memphis team the Owls defeated in their last trip to Houston back in 2011.
The Fifth Lap

Spring Season: Games to mark on your calendar

Gabe Cuadra

Pull out the color-coded calendars. Get ready to set more Google and iPhone reminders. Syllabus Week may be over, but below are the must-see events for this spring.

Women’s Basketball vs. UTEP, Jan. 24, 7 p.m.

Rice enters Conference-USA play at 8-5, with three of its five losses coming against top-25 opponents. One of the Owls’ biggest conference tests will be the University of Texas at El Paso, which won both the league and the conference tournament last year. Led by junior Jessica Kuster, who is averaging over 17 points and 10 rebounds this season, as well as standout freshmen Megan Palmer, Rice could pick up a potentially pivotal home win.

Men’s Basketball vs. Houston, Jan. 30, 7 p.m.

Rice will look to avenge a controversial home loss last season against our crosstown rival, in which the Owls were robbed of a potential victory after Rice had exhausted all of their timeouts. Even senior Connor Frizzelle was whistled for signaling a two free throws with 2.7 seconds left after then-seventh-ranked Houston went on a run. Rice could pick up a potentially pivotal home win.

Women’s Swimming C-USA Championships at UH, Feb. 20-23

The Rice Women’s Swimming Team has established itself as a consistent contender at the top of the conference standings. The Owls have placed in the top three every year since 2005, including a championship in 2011 and a runner up finish last year. Individual Owls have also made themselves regulars atop the medal stand. Last year featured 12 individual medals, including two golds and five relay medals.

Women’s Tennis vs. SMU, April 14, 1 p.m.

Rice’s final home tune-up before the conference tournament features a regional conference rival. The Mustangs will visit Jake Hess Stadium just four days before both Rice and SMU open conference tournament competition in Memphis. In last year’s tournament, Rice defeated Southern Methodist University 4-3 to advance to the semifinals.

Men’s Baseball vs. Stanford, Feb. 15-17

This June will mark 10 years since Rice won the NCAA Baseball College World Series. The anniversary season starts off with a three-game series against the same club Rice conquered on that historic day in Omaha: the Stanford Cardinal. The Cardinal visits Reckling ranked ninth in the collegiate baseball preseason poll, 11 spots ahead of the Owls, who are ranked No. 20. Rice is 2-7 against the Cardinal since its College World Series victory, with all nine meetings having been played in the last three years.

Women’s Tennis C-USA Championship Tournament, April 18-21

If there was one accolade missing from last year for Rice’s women’s tennis team, it was a conference championship. The Owls will attempt to complete that goal on their own turf this year, as the C-USA Championship Tournament comes to Rice. Jake Hess Stadium last played host to the championship in 2009, where Rice finished as runner-up to SMU.

J. Fred Duckett Twilight Track Meet, April 20

Beyond the aesthetics, the J. Fred Duckett Twilight Meet consistently proves to be one of the fastest competitions of the year. Last year, Rice men and seven Rice women set season best times and marks at the meet. Rice also brought home 10 top-three event finishes on the women’s side, including five wins, while the men contributed to top-three finishes and four wins.

C-USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, May 9-12

Graduation weekend also features the conference outdoor track and field championship at Rice Track/Holloway Field. The meet will look to determine the conference champions, which has captured the team title since 2009. Meanwhile, the women will attempt to duplicate the success of the 2007 squad, which raced its way to the top in its home track. Individually, All-American Decathlete Clayton Chaney will defend his title on the men’s side, while the women will look to a new generation to fill the holes left by last year’s senior gold medalists Sharae Robinson and Becky Wade.

Men’s Baseball C-USA Tournament, May 22-26

Last time Rice hosted the C-USA tournament, it also hosted the trophy, winning the 2006 tournament before continuing on to qualify for the College World Series. The Owls will look to emulate that success when the competition returns to Reckling Park this May. The University of Southern Mississippi and East Carolina University enter the regional rivalry makes Rice’s match against the region’s most compelling. Rice, which enters the season ranked No. 35, will look to avenge a 4-3 loss last year in Fort Worth.

Women’s Tennis vs. TCU, March 24, 11 a.m.

Women’s Tennis exploded onto the scene last year as one of Rice’s best teams, advancing to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA tournament for the program’s best-ever finish. Rice returns five of six starters from the tournament team and enters the year ranked No. 29 nationally. Among its toughest home tests will be Texas Christian University, which enters the season ranked No. 37. The Owls will look to avenge a 4-3 loss last year in Fort Worth.

Want to make a difference in the lives of 30 first-year students?

Want to get paid $6,000 for it?

The Rice Emerging Scholars Program (RESP) is seeking 5 undergraduate Student Coaches to serve as tutors, advisers, and mentors to 30 first-year students interested in science, technology, engineering, or math. This on-campus program will run from June 17 to August 3. Student coaches will be provided room and board for the duration of the program and will receive a $6,000 stipend.

Questions? Email mrm4@rice.edu. Interested? Email a resume, the names and contact information of 2 references, and a personal statement about why you are uniquely qualified for the position to mrm4@rice.edu.

Apply by Jan. 21.
A TEAM
Who says redheads have no sense? Since his 2011
full-bodied album, +, Ed Sheeran has captured fans with his
unique style and compelling lyrics. Snatch a seat at Sheeran’s concert on Jan. 17 for $28. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Hopefully, his
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Amanda Gutierrez
Thresher Staff

"Why the halfling?" In *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, the long-awaited prequel to the *Lord of the Rings* saga, Gandalf the Grey (Ian McKellen, *Lord of the Rings*) responds to the elf-queen’s question with ageless wisdom: “I found it is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love. Why Bilbo Baggins? Perhaps because I am afraid, and he gives me courage.”

Director Peter Jackson (Lord of the Rings) has been building LOTR fans’ anticipation for nine years. He did not fail to impress with his selection of the perfect Bilbo Baggins. Martin Freeman (*Sherlock*) plays Bilbo, a hobbit who has never been out of the Shire and is not particularly fond of adventures. When his old friend Gandalf disturbs the peace by bringing 13 boisterous and blundering dwarves to his hobbit hole, Bilbo is forced to embark on an unforgettable journey to find the lost treasure of the dwarves: a journey with no guarantee of his return. In *The Hobbit*, the audience learns exactly how Bilbo, an ordinary hobbit of the Shire, came to possess the One Ring of power and shape the fate of the entirety of Middle Earth in ways unknown to him.

Jackson brings back the extraordinary effects, costumes, musical score and some of the beloved characters from the LOTR trilogy, including Gandalf, Galadriel (Cate Blanchett), Elrond (Hugo Weaving), Saruman (Christopher Lee) and Gollum (Andy Serkis). The 13 dwarves of Erebor are introduced, including the legendary Thorin Oakenshield, complete with trust issues, hostility and timeless vengeance. Unfortunately, Thorin is not a very likeable character, and it is difficult to become attached to the other dwarves throughout the film. However, those who read the book will not find this surprising, since J.R.R. Tolkien did not give many of the dwarves much depth, either. Part of the reason the LOTR saga was so enjoyable was because of the connection formed by knowing each of the main characters’ love stories, past victories and defeats. This is not the case for the dwarves in the *The Hobbit*, either film or book. Do not expect to fall in love with the dwarves’ characters, but expect to be entertained by an exemplary Bilbo and a fascinating Gandalf.

The exhaustive backstory, which incorporates details from the book and some invented for the film, sets the movie off to a sluggish start. While the dwarves’ song of lore is impressive, it takes Bilbo about 45 minutes on film to leave the Shire and set out on his adventure. In this sense, the film is faithful to the structure of the book, in that it took Bilbo almost 100 pages to leave his hobbit hole. Nevertheless, a long setup is paid off with the last two hours of the film, which include continuous swashbuckling action. Bilbo, Gandalf and the dwarves overcome giants, wargs, goblins and even Gollum. The film can be viewed normally, in 3-D, or in 48 frames per second, a new filming technique that Jackson has brought to the cinema. Yet no matter how this film is viewed, the audience will not be disappointed by the lifelike mythical creatures and outstanding special effects that the LOTR trilogy was known for.

The film also incorporates parts of Tolkien’s other books, such as *The Silmarillion*, by depicting the White Council and the Necromancer. LOTR fans will enjoy the film’s added elements and characters despite their absences in the book, will love the faithful depiction of Tolkien’s vision for his adored characters.

The Hobbit probably will not turn you into a LOTR fan if you are not one already. However, if you are already an avid Tolkien enthusiast and admirer of his works, you will thoroughly enjoy this movie and appreciate Jackson’s rendition of the esteemed book.
The Backpage is satire written by Alex Weimheimer and Anthony Lauriello. For comments and concerns please email purple@rice.edu