Fondren plans changes for finals hours

By Jeremy Hwang

In light of student concerns, the Fondren Library staff plans to improve the student experience during the finals weeks from Dec. 2-17, implementing a number of changes to maximize student study space and limit visitor access to the library, according to David Bynog, Fondren’s assistant head of acquisitions.

“The [library] project aims at increasing available spaces in two ways,” Bynog said. “The first is by reducing the number of hours that the library is available to visitors, particularly during the evening and nighttime hours that are popular with students. The second is to temporarily increase the [amount of space] for student use.”

According to Bynog, an often-voiced concern has been the large presence of visitors at the library, who number about 600-800 a week. “[There are] ... visitors who spend many hours studying at Fondren for medical exams [and take up many of the large tables near windows],” Bynog said. “[Rice] students have to search for tables for their studying.”

Bynog said a key concern is the availability of space for student use, especially as the demand for space heightens.

“Rice’s student population has increased dramatically since 2005 as part of the Vision for the Second Century,” Bynog said. “[Students] have increasingly expressed a need for more study space, and we have added more study rooms, tables and chairs in response ... [until students] [continue] to raise concerns.”

According to Bynog, new rooms will be open for students to use for studying during finals.

“We will open up the Kyle Morrow Room as a study space during evening and weekend hours and provide extra tables and seating in various locations throughout the library,” Bynog said.

Former Fondren student employee Omare Okotie-Eboh said he felt the number of visitors in Fondren was never a significant issue.

“Overall, I feel like it is OK ... that we are not the only students in the area,” Okotie-Eboh, a Will Rice College junior, said. “The problem is that there are people who come to take advantage of free access to [computer resources] for non-academic reasons. It’s never fun to be distracted by a random visitor loudly playing games or music on the computer next to you.”

Okotie-Eboh said he is nevertheless mainly in favor of Fondren’s handling of visitors.

“But [it is] important to remember that there are many people outside of Rice who benefit from access to Fondren,” Okotie-Eboh said.

As the library also plans to provide stress-relieving activities, such as a number of study and snack breaks in the weeks leading to finals week, Okotie-Eboh said he is thankful for the willingness of Fondren’s staff to accommodate students and make the library available to visitors.

December Library Hours for Rice ID Holders

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When open to public, public hours shortened from 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.; after Dec. 16, public hours shortened to 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

H&D aims to eliminate paper waste

By Anita Alem

Housing and Dining is currently working to create a sustainable takeout container system for use in the serveries, according to H&D Senior Business Director David McDonald.

“One of the things we’ve been grappling with for years is a defined takeout program,” McDonald said. “We don’t have a [policy] more defined than just a paper plate and a paper cup and some plastic utensils. We’ve been really struggling with this over the years to find a middle ground that works for everybody, and we haven’t found it out yet. Hopefully, we can create some dialogue among the students, which is hard to do on this campus because of the 11 distinct college governments that come with the residential college system.”

I strongly believe Rice students wouldn’t really use this resource until they were presented with how and exactly why using these containers would benefit the environment.

Peter Yun

McDonald said he has been communicating with the EcoLogic at each college and with the Student Association about the best way to serve the student body. He said H&D is considering letting students pay $5 in extra points by receiving a Skip ID card for a plastic container. Students could then return the container for a refund of their points, after which H&D would wash the containers for reuse. These containers would potentially have one large compartment and two small ones and would function as snapware.

McDonald said students often consider taking their own plastic containers into the serveries for takeout meals but that this is a health code violation in Houston because the container is not washed and regulated by the servery. McDonald also said students who bring the food into their college commons on a ceramic plate and then transfer it to their own plastic container are practicing bad servery behavior that could be considered looting.

Dancing the night away at Esperanza

Martel College sophomore Itzak Hinojosa and Jones College sophomore Sophia Beltran share a dance at Esperanza, Rice’s annual homecoming dance. Students danced to music from DJ Politik.

Fondren plans changes for finals hours

BY JEREMY HUANG

When open to public, public hours shortened from 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.; after Dec. 16, public hours shortened to 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Computer science team places second in region

BY JENNIFER SHEER
THREEERED STAFF

A group of computer science students put their skills to the test earlier this month to compete in a programming competition. The team from Rice sent two teams out of the 57 teams that competed in the USA Southwest Central regionals of the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest.

Two other teams from Rice also competed in the competition and placed 11th and 42nd, respectively.

According to its website, ICPC is a team-based programming competition first held at the ACM Computer Science Conference in 1997. Participants are given eight to 12 problems to solve in five hours. Each problem lays out a real-life scenario, for which participants must identify the underlying topic and develop algorithmic solutions in Java, C or C++.

The participants for the world finals last year were chosen from over 2,000 universities and 91 countries.

The Southwest Central regionals included schools from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, and the competition was held Nov. 2 at Baylor University, Louisiana State University and LeTourneau University simultaneously. The winning team, from the University of Texas, Brownsville, will represent the region in the next competition.

Greiner said Rice has participated in the competition before, according to Greiner. Many members of the current computer science faculty had competed and represented Rice in the world finals, including Greiner and professors of computer science David Johnson and Joe Warren.

“(This competition in the past) goes back decades, although more recently the participation got restarted in 2003,” Greiner said. “The best [we’ve placed] is second in the world...[by Johnson in 1987].”

Greiner said he has served as the coach since Rice began competing again in 2003, when a student came to him after Rice stopped competing for four years.

“A student came to me and said, ‘Hey, I want to do this,’” Greiner said. “And I said, ‘OK, let’s look for some volunteers.’ We ended up having two teams that year.”

Arenson said the three members on his team were the only returning participants this year, but he said he has high hopes for Rice’s future performance in the competition.

“We had tons of interest from new freshmen and sophomores, and they all did really well,” Arenson said. “I think the context has gotten far more publicity and new blood this year. Next year and the year after have a lot of potential.”

PLATES FROM PAGE 1

McDonald said health code violations also occur if students use the same plate they previously ate off of to get second helpings. He also said eating at the station or in line is discouraged for the same reasons.

“Because you use a dirty plate, we will ask you to drop it off and take a clean plate,” McDonald said. “But we can’t defend against all of those violations. If we see people eating at the station, we’re going to say that it’s not good hygiene and that you should think twice about your fellow students.”

However, McDonald said he encourages students to use reusable water bottles to minimize waste from paper cups. He said this would not violate the health code because bottles should not touch any of the nozzles on the water dispensers.

Lovett College senior Brian Strasters said he conducted a survey to gauge the student body’s interest in implementing plastic takeout containers. He said his findings concluded that most students would use these containers in order to take food back into their dorm rooms or studying areas for academic reasons and that the majority of students would be interested in to-go boxes, but we will prefer that the paper plates remain in the serveries.

According to McDonald, if H&D implemented plastic containers, the senate would discontinue the use of paper plates altogether to minimize cost and waste. He also spends approximately $4,000 per year on to-go paper products and that purchasing a reusable container for every student would cost about $15,000 and save money that the department could use to improve the food in the serveries.

“We’re spending $35 per person on paper, which doesn’t even count all the China plates and tumblers,” McDonald said. “The idea is we want to spend money on the food, not the plates — that’s kind of our motto right now. I want all of us to help each other; I can help students with the chores if they help us out, too. We’re trying to figure out more of a more economical takeout program, and if I could give [H&D] staff back, that would be great.”

However, Section 2(c) of the Rice University Campus Housing Agreement for the 2013-14 academic year states, “Disposables are available for take out, but is not All You Care To Eat [sic].”

McDonald said that although H&D recognizes that plastic containers are not the perfect fix, a more drastic change might disrupt the normal flow in the serveries and one centralized dining hall and one commons.

“We’ve been toying around with [the idea of plastic containers] for several years and seeing if this is something students would be interested in doing,” McDonald said. “[But] we don’t really have any restrictions on if you take a China plate out of the servery. At the end of the day, we realized, we have no defense against that. But we’re against the takeout either. We’re just trying for a better, more environmentally friendly way to administer [a] takeout program without sacrificing too much on the food product.”

Marcel College freshman Ly Nguyen said she prefers using plastic containers to the paper products.

“I think replacing the plastic bowls and paper [plates] with these to-go containers would reduce waste tremendously and would be extremely convenient for students who wish to take their food outside of the commons,” Nguyen said. “I would definitely use them.”

Hanszen College freshman Peter Yun said he was skeptical of the initiative.

“I don’t think Rice students wouldn’t really use this resource until they were presented with how and exactly why using these containers would benefit the environment,” Yun said. “Also, it would have to be practical for students. If Rice students wouldn’t go out of their way to get the containers, McDonald said he wants H&D to work with students to find a system that is amenable to everyone.”

“[H&D] is here to work with people, but we can’t break code,” McDonald said. “But at the end of the day, I’m here to talk with you. If anybody ever wants to come see me, that’s perfectly fine. We’re best to solve this [issue] together. Again, we want to spend our budget on food, not the paper.”

FONDREN FROM PAGE 1

“On Dec. 4 and 11, cranola bars and other snacks will be provided in the Fourth Floor Sarah Lake Lounges 8:30 p.m., Byng said. “And on Dec. 9, coffee and popcorn will be available in the relaxation desk from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. to midnight.”

According to Kerry Keck, the assistant university librarian for research services, volunteer animals will visit the library from Dec. 1-14 as pet therapy for worn-out students — an event brought back by popular demand.

“In past semesters, students have been very happy with the pet therapy program,” Keck said. “They enjoy having a big glass of water dispensed when students do not have a few earplugs to wear during the stress of studying for finals.

“I love that Fondren organizes the pet therapy event for us because it’s such a good way to take a break and relieve stress,” Bhattacharyya said. “It’s refreshing to interact with living beings that aren’t panicking about finals, and I leave feeling so much happier.”
Three colleges look to fill masters vacancies

BY JIEYA WEN AND SEAN DILLARD

T hree colleges — Sid Richardson, Hanszen and Lovett Colleges — are searching for a new set of masters, according to Dean of Undergraduate John Hutchinson.

“Each master, either a couple or individual, is appointed for a five-year term. There is a constant rotation of masters; we don’t search for the masters individually because it is easier for us to spread it out over a five-year period,” Hutchinson said. “Every year, we will be looking for at least two colleges’ masters.”

Hutchinson said the college masters must bring a certain kind of academic presence to the residential life of the college while expressing an interest in education beyond the classroom.

“One of the masters at each of the colleges has to be a tenured member of the faculty, which means they are scholars and teachers,” Hutchinson said. “The masters serve as teachers in students’ cultural and social programming.”

Nick Peterson, chair of Hanszen College’s masters search committee, said masters should serve as a resource for a variety of students.

“We ask for the power to adapt, be flexible and be open to any number of relationships,” Peterson, a Hanszen junior, said. “At the same time, [masters] need to have confidence [and] the ability to step in when necessary [while] letting the students demonstrate self-governance.”

At the beginning of the semester, Hutchinson and Jeanneen David Leibrand sent out an email to all faculty members, according to Hanszen President Caroline Gutierrez.

“There was a faculty reception held at the Brown College Master’s House for interested faculty members to attend and learn more about the mastership,” Gutierrez, a Hanszen senior, said. “After the reception, we followed up with each of the candidates, as well as some faculty members recommended by other Hanszenites to reach out and gauge interest. Applications were given to those that expressed direct interest in becoming Hanszen masters.”

“Lovett College has its own masters search committee, according to Gutierrez. A committee chair was selected at the beginning of September 2013. Two weeks after the chairs were selected, the colleges formed their masters search committee.”

Each college’s process for searching for masters is based on the timeline set by Duncan Hutchinson, according to Peterson.

“We laid out a few deadlines that we want things to be done by,” Peterson said. “We set aside the search interview, gave time [for casual visits] and isolated a few days to catch up with the committee. The bulk of the work is being done in the six or seven weeks preceding Thanksgiving break. It is our job to provide as much feedback as we can on how each candidate fits our college, but it is ultimately the decision of the Dean.”

Sid Richardson arranges their process around two sets of interviews, Daniel Plants, a freshman on Sid Richardson’s masters search committee, explained.

“The first round is highly informal with the intent of getting to know the couples,” Plants said. “The second is much more based on the logistical issues of different scenarios the master might put into it. We also invite the candidates to many Sid related events, such as powdertuff and study breaks. This is to help the candidates and other Sidtens interact.”

Hutchinson said that the residential college experience serves as the heart and core to the Rice undergraduate experience.

“The quality of the residential college experience is deeply dependent on the effectiveness of the masters,” Hutchinson said. “It also depends upon the enthusiasm and dedication of the masters to share their wisdom and knowledge with the students.”

Man on the Street

“I really encourage the committee to search for candidates who are willing to go above and beyond to preserve [Rice’s] genuine culture of care. I feel the ideal college masters should not just be approachable and receptive, but willing to reach out to students and check up on them if they sense something is wrong.” — Sid Richardson College sophomore Alkham Geggie

“I am looking for people who are easily approachable, friendly, and who have a relationship with Rice’s culture. They should know Rice’s culture because that will at least assure them what they are getting into concerning the parties.” — Sid Richardson College sophomore Andrew Haue

“I believe a large part of a master’s role is being visible around the college. That way, they are able to interact closely with students and act as role models for residential college masters. We have many great master candidates for Lovett, so I’m excited to find out who our masters will be for next year.” — Lovett College senior Megan Chang

“We want masters who will understand that we can make our own decisions and won’t intrude on our student government’s decision making processes unless absolutely critical for the wellbeing of the college.” — Lovett College junior Kaitlyn Johnson

“We want someone with new and innovative ideas to lead the college forward, whether it be introducing new traditions, new ideas for Hanszen government, or even just fun new study breaks.” — Hanszen College junior Kaitynn Johnson

“I think it’s really fantastic to be able to engage in thoughtful discussions in a casual setting — dinner, study breaks, etc. — with an older faculty member with a bit more life experiences. It’s what I came to Rice for — to constantly be provoked to think.” — Hanszen College Denise Lee

MEETING MINUTES

The following were noted at the meeting of the Student Association on Nov. 18.

■ SA Secretary Nathan Andrus announced that applications for the SA Director of Technology position are open until 11:59 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25. The person selected will start in January 2014 when the current Director of Technology goes abroad. The position will include a new focus on increasing the SA’s involvement in social media and expanding its online presence. Applications are available at sa.rice.edu.

■ Hanszen College Senator Gabrien Clark presented his findings on the Center for Career Development’s policies regarding employer recruiting and student responsibility. Clark said Rice’s soft deadline of two weeks to protect graduating seniors from high-pressure job offers is not being fully enforced, and students who are unaware of their responsibilities have been skipping scheduled interviews and renegotiating offers. Clark said CCD employer relations representatives will speak at an upcoming SA meeting to clarify CCD policies and gather feedback. Clark and SA President Yoojin Min will work with college presidents to gauge the effectiveness of current CCD educational resources. Send questions or comments to gcb@rice.edu.

■ Wellbeing Working Group Chair Ian Bott and Wiess College Senator Shannon Cheng presented mid-semesters updates on behalf of the Wellbeing Working Group. The group is considering several initiatives to increase support for students regarding mental health and sexual assault, including creating student advocate positions, conducting an external audit, and better defining disabilities and promoting awareness of Disability Support Services to students. The group is also considering educating college resident associates and masters and more actively utilizing Rice Health Advisors.

■ SA Parliamentary Brian Baran introduced SA Senate Bill No. 5 as a procedural measure to formally approve clubs recommended for approval by the Committee for Club Approvals. The Student Senate passed the bill.

■ Members of the Spirit and Branding Best Practices Project announced that a survey will be sent to students to help the committee identify shortcomings in spirit by measuring the level of spirit across campus. The survey is available at sa.rice.edu.

■ Andrus and Baran reintroduced SA Bylaw Amendment No. 1 to amend blanket tax oversight procedures. The Senate passed amendments to change deadlines of “one week” to “five business days” and to set a deadline for the SA treasurer’s oversight. The Senate passed the legislation.

The SA will next meet Monday, Dec. 2 in Farnsworth Pavilion at 9 p.m.
The Baker Institute Student Forum held its fall 2013 debate between the Rice Conservative Forum and the Rice Young Democrats on Nov. 13. Debaters verbally sparred over who was to blame for the 16-day United States government shutdown that occurred in October.

“On the day of the shutdown, the House passed a bill that requested a joint committee to resolve the crisis, and the Democrats refused. Democrats voted against that bill because they were not open to compromise on any level whatsoever.”

“The reason that the government shutdown happened is because Republicans refused to allow both houses of Congress to go to conference. They rejected that move 19 times.”

“This is how the legislative process works: a bill passes, and it goes into effect. If you’re not happy with it or your district is not happy, you should try and write a new bill. You shouldn’t hold an entire party hostage and use the American people as a threat to get rid of something that you don’t like.”

“The reason that the government shutdown happened is because Republicans refused to allow both houses of Congress to go to conference. They rejected that move 19 times.”

“A government shutdown occurred in the Reagan administration, and this was under a Republican president and a Democratic majority. If the positions in the government were reversed this year, a shutdown would still have occurred.”

“[The Republicans] planned the shutdown. It’s no coincidence that the start of the Affordable Care Act and the government shutdown happened at the same time. In fact, there was a document called “A Blueprint to Defund Obamacare” signed by conservatives across America to hold the shutdown and keep the American people hostage. The shutdown was not a defense of conservative values or of the conservative constituency, but rather a breakdown of the democratic process in Congress.”
Tupperware: a good idea but not a replacement for paper

Despite the revived nature of the paper product debate, Rice students are predisposed to using plastic plates as a sustainable alternative. However, when the system of paper plates is discontinued, Rice students will be left to choose between using tupperware or paper plates.

While using tupperware may be a potential solution, it is not necessarily the most eco-friendly option. Using tupperware can lead to an accumulation of plastic waste, and students who want to take food to-go or need to store food in a hurry may choose to use paper plates instead.

Rice students should be more environmentally conscious in their dietary habits. In addition to using tupperware, students can also encourage the university to invest in sustainable food packaging options.

Errata

The story in the Nov. 13 issue entitled “Mar- tel College forms committee to consider crest debate” should state that theuskel was considering forming a committee to measure student interest in changing the college crest. Mar- tel Parliament has since decided to form this committee.

Rice needs more support for victims of sexual violence

Rice University needs to provide more support for victims of sexual assault. The prevalence of comments like this contributes to the misconception that sexual assault is a frequent occurrence at Rice. It is important to recognize and address the experiences of victims of sexual assault.

This misconception, along with many others, has helped to contribute to Rice’s lack of support for victims. This issue of understanding senti- ment was exemplified in a Nov. 1 anonymous post on the Facebook page “Rice Confess.”

The post, which already has over 40 likes, states, “If a girl and a guy are both equally drunk at a party, and they both consent to each other drinking, and the next day the girl feels like she was made a mistake, she can get a guy out and ruin his life, when he was equally as drunk as her.”

The prevalence of comments like this contributes to the stigma of reporting assault at Rice and demonstrates an unwillingness to believe in the reality of sexual assault.

The advocate position would be a concrete step toward addressing this issue of support for victims. Rice University could consider implementing a sexual assault advocate to sponsor these anonymous posts and encourage a broader support network.

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Tierra Moore is a Baker College junior.

Rice should be more environmentally conscious

Today, recycling at Rice University is either hit or miss. Even with Houston’s single-stream recy- cling system, a college-oriented Eco-Rep Program from Rice University has been implemented. Dining on its efforts to adapt to students’ needs, Rice University introduced sustainable tupperware, and Dining is still missing an important mark in campus sustainability — outdoor recycling. With merely two outdoor recycling bins on the entire campus, students more often than not will simply throw away their recyclable waste.

This lack of infrastructure is not only a lost opportunity to recycle, but also a lost opportunity to instill a sustainable campus culture in the student body.

But I am happy to say we are taking strides toward greener pastures. Under the initiative of Thomas Riley B. Yang, Sun, Rice has allocated a $50,000 grant to install approxi- mately 30 outdoor recycling bins on campus. In addition, the Rice University Police Department has assigned a new task to mapping out where these bins will go. This project is a tremendous step for campus sus- tainability. It makes that someday soon, students will be able to recycle their empty water bottles before they leave campus. Tossing recyclables in the trash can be a thing of the past provided that the recycle bins are used properly.

Although paper, cardboard, aluminum, glass and all plastics (with the exception of No. 6) can be recycled, only a small percentage of students actually recycle. This is due to the fact that the Rice community is not aware of what they can do now. We should encourage Rice students to be environmentally conscious.

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Hanszen and McMurtry College Theatre’s musical
Left to right: McMurtry sophomores Cory Gross and Emily Statham sing in
[title of show] provides laughs and catchy music
Rice Dance Theatre presents
In Transit
Student dancers perform in Rice Dance Theatre’s fall show In Transit, which featured work by
guest choreographer and artistic director of Redwoods Fold Dance Company Amy Llanes, assistant
director for dance Heather Nahors and the Rice Dance Theatre student choreographers.

IAN BOTT FOR THE THRESHER
A musical about friends who decide to create a musical about creating a musical. Confused? Allow Hanszen and McMurtry College Theatre to clarify with their collabora-
tive production of [title of show], Jeff Bowen’s 90-minute musical based on Hunter Bell’s book of the same name. Producer Rachel Landsman, a McMurry sopho-
more, and associate producer Grant Raun, a McMurry junior, have helped in fashioning a co-
medic and entertaining production that excels in piquing fun at the artistic process while also touching on serious and relat-
able themes. Hunter (Hanszen College sopho-
more Joshua Kee) and Jeff (Mc-
Murtry sophomore Cory Gross) have the idea to create a musical to enter into a festival. Kee and Gross show excellent onstage chemistry, playing off each other’s

THE WEEKLY SCENE
The editors’ picks for this week’s best events. Time to explore the wonderful world of Houston.

CRAWL D’ART
Want an opportunity to cultur-
alize your crawl experience? Join Houston’s 21st annual ART-
CRAWL, which will take place Sat.
Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. in the University of Houston, Down-
town area. It is an event by artists, for artists, but exhibition spaces are open to the general public.
Best of all, you can crawl for free.
ATELIER JACQUET
933 McKee St.
ARTCRAWL.HOUSTON.COM

STREET ART FESTIVAL
What happens when 200 artists converge to decorate the streets of Houston? How about a one-block-
long artistic masterpiece? Check out the Houston Via Colori Street Painting Festival Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free.
DOWNTOWN HOUSTON – HER-
MANN SQUARE
501 Bagby St.
CENTERHEARINGANDSPEECH.ORG

UKULELE ORCHESTRA
The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, also known as the Ukele, will be performing Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. What kind of music does a ukulele orchestra play, exactly? Its repertoire includes everything from the Talking Heads to Beethoven. See website for ticketing information.
WORTHAM THEATER CENTER
501 Texas Ave.
SPADEHOUSTON.ORG

ZOO LIGHTS
 Expect to be dazzled by the dis-
play of more than 1 million lights at Zoo Lights, which will be open Nov. 22 – Jan. 4, 6 – 9:30 p.m. The event will feature a number of interact-
ions, including sculptures, music, holiday cookie decorating and special performances. Don’t miss the Rice Philharmonics, who will be performing opening night. See website for ticket prices.
HOUSTON ZOO
6200 HERMAN PARK DR.
HOUSTONZOO.ORG

Arcade Fire recently appeared on The Colbert Report to support its new album, where Colbert asked “What do you like more: getting people to listen to your music and to your humorous approach to public appearances, a PR change also “reflected” in Arcade Fire’s new style of music.

Arcade Fire’s first album, 2004’s Funeral, was hailed by critics as a modern master-

piece, noted for its grandiose, orchestral arrangements and deeply personal lyrics depict-
ing the trials and tribulations of dealing with death and sadness as a young person. 2010’s The Suburbs was a concept album loosely based on The Woodlinds (chief songwriter Win Butler’s childhood home) and earned the group a surprise Grammy for al-
bum of the year. Now, nearly four years later, Arcade Fire has again shifted its focus, but for the first time, it has significantly altered its style as well. Soaring guitars, draying strings and crashing cymbals have given way to pul-
sating synthesizers and dance-

floor drum beats inspired by the creole music of singer Regine Chassagne’s native country, Haiti. The influence of producer James Murphy, of former dance-
punk great LCD Soundsystem, can be heard in the mul-
tiple six-minute-plus, transi-
ducing dance tracks like “Reflekt-
or” and “We Exist.”

See website for ticketing information.
The folks over at Wiess College Tabletop are not kidding when they caution would-be attendees of Glengarry Glen Ross on the Facebook event page that the play “contains strong language.”

With a dazzling array of f-bombs, s-bombs, sexual slurs used in colorful combinations, the crude language is a good choice that propels the play in getting across its overarching sense of anger, desperation and sheer madness.

David Mamet’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play centers around a real estate office fraught with deception that ranges from false flat-tery to downright criminal acts of bribery and theft. The goal of the story’s four main salesmen — selling worthless real estate — is simple enough, but the stakes are high: the man with the most sales wins a Cadillac, the second-place salesman wins a set of steak knives and the last two unlucky guys are fired.

The criminal behavior of almost everyone in the play within the context of the cruel and arbitrary competition serves as a microcosm of the cutthroat world of capitalism gone wrong. The directors, Wiess senior Brian Biekman and Wiess junior Vanessa Jones, elegantly capture Mamet’s social commentary in this sharp and aggressive production.

The four competing salesmen are the woebegone Shelley Levene (Wiess junior Max Payton), the manipulative Moss (Wiess freshman Morgen Smith), the insecure George Aaronow (Wiess sophomore Connor Winn) and the smooth-talking Richard “Ricky” Roma (producer and Wiess sophomore Sean Doyle). When these characters, each with varying personalities but all driven by the same devious motive, interact on stage, the results are entertaining.

The antagonizing office manager John Williamson (Baker College senior Daniel Echeverri), the weak-minded client James Lingk (Wiess senior Ife Owoyemi) and the no-nonsense detective Baylen (McMurtry College sophomore Corey Palermo) round off this excellent ensemble. Each actor effectively captures a different facet of this crazy world.

Changing the gender of the character Dave Moss from a man into a woman (and renaming him as simply “Moss”) adds an interesting dimension to the play’s exploration of what it means to be “manly” and aggressive in this kill-or-be-killed world. Smith, as the only freshman and only female cast member, succeeded in delivering a satisfying performance as Moss.

Doyle’s performance as Roma is particularly deserving of praise. His presence on stage, complete with his soaring speeches and angry tirades, is as bold and fearless as the character he portrays.

The sets, lighting and costumes successfully complement the ideas that the play is trying to get across. Set designer Winston Moevitt, a Wiess junior, creates an excellent contrast in the first two acts by starting the play in a minimally decorated Chinese restaurant and ending it in a perfectly chaotic office space.

Light designer Matt Keene, a Wiess junior, achieves similar contrast with the dimly lit restaurant scenes and the glaring lights that shine over the madness reigning in the office.

Costume designer Daniel Burns, a McMurtry senior, outfits the characters in clothes that reflect their personalities: from Roma’s snappy red suspenders and matching tie to Lingk’s ill-fitting jacket that seems to hang limp from his lifeless frame, the small flairs to what would otherwise be bland business-casual attire complements the production.

Dark, vulgar and fast-paced, Wiess Tabletop’s Glengarry Glen Ross is a production that takes a clever look at the American work life while consistently maintaining a witty tone that promises to entertain its audience.
MUSICAL
FROM PAGE 6

a man of few words, spending more time reading the newspaper than engaging in dia-
logue. Cordell plays proficiently and delivers his rare lines to good comedic effect.

Vocally, Gross and Statham are worthy of special mention. Gross shows off a powerful voice when the script calls for it, particularly in “Part Of It All.” Statham’s voice is tuneful and expressive, showcasing a great range.

The album comes just in time to promote Spears to her upbeat, dance-influenced sound. On airwaves, look for Spears to continue her chart-dominating ways.

The queen of modern pop returns with her eighth studio album, working with pro-
ducer will.i.am to create a more personal, raw collection of songs while staying true to her upbeat, dance-influenced sound. The album comes just in time to promote Spears’ new residency at Planet Holly-
wood Resort in Las Vegas, where her show Britney: Piece of Me will be performed. The lead single “Work Bitch” made a solid debut on Hot 100, if it can catch on. While promotion closer to the album’s release and new single “Perfume” arriving on airwaves, look for Spears to extend her chart-defining ways.

This sequel to the 2010 action-adventure Red reunites Bruce Willis (A Good Day To Die Hard), Helen Mir-
ren (Hitchcock) and John Malkovich (Warm Bodies) as a team of retired CIA operatives on a mission to track down a missing nuclear device. Travel-
ing throughout Europe and facing ter-
rorists, assassins and power-crazed government officials, the crew must use its old-school skills to save the world. Bonus features include deleted scenes, outtakes and behind-the-scenes documentaries.

One of the most popular video game series of all time continues with the latest edition of its acclaimed racing simulator, featuring more than 1,200 vehicles in nearly 70 new tracks. Other new features for the sixth version include a redesigned physics engine, allowing for the most realistic driving experience ever pro-
grammed, and a new customization capa-
bilities that allow players to design their own circuits. The new installment also includes mobile device compatibility, al-
lowing players to take their game from their TV to their smartphone, tablet or PC. Available for PlayStation 3.
Football wins 52-14 against Louisiana Tech

by Dan Elledge
Sports Editor

The Rice University Owls rebounded from their previous loss against the University of North Texas with a convincing 52-14 win against Louisiana Tech University Saturday, Nov. 16. Redshirt senior running back Charles Ross led the Owls with a season-high 215 yards and scored five touchdowns. After his performance, Ross was named the Conference USA offensive player of the week. Redshirt senior kicker Chris Bo-swell was named the special teams player of the week. Redshirt junior running back Turner Petersen said he was excited to see Ross top the 1,000-yard mark for the year, which was one of Ross’ goals from the beginning of the season.

“It was an exciting feeling to be a part of this offense, seeing what we were truly capa-
ble of doing,” Petersen said. “I’m really ex-
cited for our buddy [Ross] as he passed that 1,000-yard mark.”

It was a tough few days for Head Coach David Bailiff, who dealt with the death of his father earlier in the week. Emotionally, Bailiff said he could not be more proud of the way the team played and that the players picked him up when he needed it the most.

“I was really proud of them, each and ev-
ery one of them,” Bailiff said. “The dressing room was very emotional after that game, and I’m just blessed to be around these type of men that have the ability to put other peo-
ple first and the ability to put this football team first.”

Bailiff also attributed the tremendous ef-
fort to the long layoff the team had. Rice had not played since Oct. 30, an unusually long gap of 17 days, and Bailiff said time off was vital for the team to rest up and get healthy for the stretch run in the next few weeks.

“That rest we had after the [UNT] game was needed,” Bailiff said. “Our entire foot-
ball team was fresh and ready to go to work.”

The Rice Owls are on a short week with a home game Nov. 21 against UAB. Rice has a major conference opportunity to beat Middle Tennessee at home, and Rice have met since Nov. 27, 2010 when the Owls won 28-23 at Rice Stadium.

“Duncan College sophomore JB Makhani said that after the Final Four was decided and the team knew it had defeated Texas A&M, the team was jumping around in celebra-
tion. Makhani said the LADS, the men’s club soccer team, seemed to play its best this season when the moment was right, and Makhani said this is one of the reasons the team is heading to nationals.

“We were so excited,” Makhani said. “It was an exciting feeling to be a part of this offense, seeing what we were truly capa-
ble of doing,” Petersen said. “I’m really ex-
cited for our buddy [Ross] as he passed that 1,000-yard mark.”

Freshman running back Jowan Davis stiff-arms a defender on his way to the end zone. Rice beat Louisiana Tech 52-14 to improve to 7-3 for the season and 5-1 in conference play. The Owls play UAB Nov. 21.

Club soccer advances to nationals with 8-2 record

by Dan Elledge
Sports Editor

After posting a dominant 6-1 record dur-
ing the regular season and upsetting Texas A&M University in the Region IV Tourna-
ment championship game Nov. 3, the Rice University men’s club soccer team is going to nationals. The team is traveling to Phoe-
tix this week, where the tournament will be held Nov. 29-30.

“Middle Tennessee State University at regionals and now head to na-
tionals in Arizona.”
**Volleyball wins final two games, ends conference play with 7-7 record**

by Julie Doar

The Rice University women’s volleyball team ended its conference play on a high note, beating the University of Alabama, Birmingham 3-0 on the road Friday. The team continues its winning streak Sunday, sweeping Louisiana Tech University 3-0 to win its final road game of the season. The team clinched conference play at 5-5 with a record of 7-7.

I think the team is just coming into their own playing the game freely and confidently... I am so proud of how they are competing and fighting.

Genny Volpe

The Conference USA tournament will take place in Murfreesboro, Tenn., where Rice is the 10th seed out of 24 teams. The Owls will face 11th seed UAB again Nov. 23, just six days after their win over the Blazers.

Head Coach Genny Volpe said the team has hit a high point in the season. The Owls are heading into the tournament aware of their strengths and weaknesses, and Volpe said she believes the team will pull off a win.

“I think the team is just coming into their own playing the game freely and confidently,” Volpe said. “We recognize that we are not perfect and we will make mistakes, but we are getting it out and finding a way to win. I am so proud of how they are competing and fighting.”

Women’s basketball falls to Bears

by Michael Kidd

The Rice Owls women’s basketball team traveled to Waco to face Baylor University Monday, Nov. 18. Coming in as the ninth-ranked team in the nation, Baylor defeated the Owls 79-46 for its 6th consecutive win at home.

At the beginning of the game, the Owls kept up with the Bears. After the first eight minutes, the Owls were only trailing 11-9. Baylor went on a 34-9 run to finish the first half to pull further ahead, 40-18 and hold on to that lead for the rest of the game.

Senior forward Jessica Kuster led Rice with 15 points and 11 rebounds, while freshman forward Jasmine Goodwine contributed 10 points in 24 minutes of play. The Owls shot 21 percent from the field in the first half. Despite the loss, Kuster earned her fourth conference double-double this season, which is the 44th of her Rice career.

The Graduate Student Association and Will Rice College won their quarterfinal matchups with a single score late in the second half of their respective games. As they move onto the semifinals this weekend, GSA will take on Sid Richardson College, and Will Rice will face McMurry College. Both Sid Rich and McMurry had a first-round bye, but all four teams are now one win away from making it into the championship game.

GSA vs. Brown (6-0)

Despite only scoring one touchdown, GSA commanded the field for the majority of the game. GSA managed to reach the red zone twice in the first half, but two Brown defensive stands forced it to a turnover on downs. Towards the middle of the second half, GSA made it to the end zone and put six points on the board. Brown responded with a long drive late in the fourth quarter that carried them all the way to the 3-yard line. However, after a pass on fourth down fell incomplete with little time remaining, GSA secured the first-round victory.

Will Rice, GSA win in powderpuff first round to go to semifinals

by Nicki Chamberlain-Simon

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Will Rice defeated two-time defending powderpuff-champion Lovett College in overtime on Sunday. The first-round game took place Nov. 17 at 7 p.m., and had a similar start to the GSA-Brown matchup earlier in the day. Will Rice was unable to earn a first down for its first few drives, and Lovett maintained possession of the ball for most of the first half. After a delay of game penalty, Lovett was unable to score after reaching the 3-yard line. Another scoreless half brought the game to overtime, and Will Rice was unable to score on its first possession. However, on its second offensive play in overtime, Lovett threw an interception to senior Brittany Cart- er, who would return the ball over 90 yards for the winning touchdown to move Will Rice to the next round.

Will Rice vs. Lovett (6-0)

Graduate student quarterback Stacey Pesek scrambled for a first down against Brown on Sunday. With the 6-0 win, GSA will now face Sid Richardson in the semifinals Saturday, Nov. 23.

GSA quarterback Stacy Pesek said that despite only successfully converting once on offense, the defense gave the team the edge it needed to win.

“Our defense was on target all night, and they really won the game for us,” Pesek said. “Sid will be the toughest team we’ve played yet, so we plan to keep our defense sharp.”

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**Women's basketball falls to Bears**

by Michael Kidd

The Owls now return home to face Southern University and A&M College Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. at Tudor Fieldhouse. The Jaguars began the year 3-0 but are coming off a loss to Florida State University last Friday, Nov. 17.

Following Thursday’s home game, the Owls will travel to East Lansing, Mich. to play Michigan State University Nov. 23 before returning to Tudor Fieldhouse Nov. 26 to face Sam Houston State University.

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Men’s basketball loses to Aggies

by Luke Samora
Thresher Staff

The Rice men’s basketball team fell short Friday, Nov. 15, losing to Texas A&M University 68-65 in College Station. Both teams had multiple chances to take the lead throughout the game, but the score remained close. Ultimately, with the game tied at 65-65 and 10 seconds left on the board, Texas A&M sunk a game-winning 3-pointer to give the Aggies the win.

Starting sophomore guard Keith Washington did not play in the game due to personal reasons. Fellow sophomore guard Max Guercy, who almost put up a double-double with 17 points and nine assists, said the team missed Washington.

“He could have helped [with] distributing the ball,” Guercy said. “He brings a lot of energy to the team. When he’s in the zone, he can help us a lot, and it hurt not having him there.”

Freshman guard Marcus Jackson said that, while the game was close, a loss is still a loss and is tough for the team to accept, knowing it was so close to an upset win.

“It was very hard to lose [that game],” Jackson said. “I put all the blame on us for not keeping our foot on the gas pedal.”

When asked whether he had experienced any pre-game jitters before his first start, Jackson said he felt better after the game was over.

“Coming out of the game, I feel more confident,” Jackson said. “I just need to stay more confident in order to help my team pull out the win.”

The Owls are set to play at Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi Wednesday, Nov. 20. Corpus Christi plays in the Southland Conference and currently has a record of 3-2. The Corpus Christi Islanders’ junior guard John Jordan, who is averaging 17 points per game, and senior forward Zane Knowles, who is averaging 10.4 rebounds per game, have been strong players throughout their season so far. Corpus Christi also has three incoming freshmen, compared to Rice’s seven.

After playing Corpus Christi Wednesday, the Owls will return to Tudor Fieldhouse to play Princeton University. The Tigers, who play in the Ivy League, currently have a 1-1 record. Their win came against Florida A&M University in a 67-50 victory. They have one close 70-67 loss to Butler University. Junior forward Denton Koon is averaging 19 points and 7.5 rebounds per game and has shot 50 percent this season. Sophomore forward Hans Brase, who averages 10.5 points and 10.5 rebounds per game, has been a major contributor for the Princeton Tigers this year along with Koon.

Freshman forward Sean Obi reaches for a rebound during a game against Texas A&M on Nov. 17. The Owls lost 68-65 and are hosting Princeton University on Saturday, Nov. 23 at Tudor Fieldhouse.
After the heartwarming success of San Francisco’s Batkid, Rice University teamed up with a Houston-area youth to make his dreams of becoming Owlkid a reality.

Starting today, Owlkid awoke to join Sammy the Owl for breakfast at North Servrey.

“I love pancakes,” Owlkid said before entering the servery. After eating a few bites, our hero “wasn’t very hungry” and set out to begin his day.

Walking with Sammy, Owlkid made his first stop at HRZ 100 for the dastardly PHYS 101. After learning that human flight is impossible and that if two pendulum bobs of differing masses are suspended from strings of equal length and the bob of mass \( m_1 = 0.5 \text{ kg} \) is released from rest at height \( h \) and then hits the second bob of mass \( m_2 \) which is initially at rest, and if the two stick together after the collision, and if the composite mass rises to a maximum height of \( h/3 \), then the mass of the second bob is \( (2g)^3/(3/2) \) for some initial height \( h \).

After drinking a hot chocolate with “extra sprinkles” from Cof-feehouse, Owlkid made his way to Keck for CHEM 211. While he appeared to enjoy the shapes on the board, Owlkid was a little confused by the chapter books.

“It’s like Legos, but the pieces have really long names,” Owlkid said. “I don’t like these Legos. At my house, we have Star Wars Legos.”

In the afternoon, Sammy led Owlkid to the South College Block Party, where he drank Capri Suns and played in a bounce house for two hours.

“This is a really big birthday party!” Owlkid said. “Where are the goodie bags?”

Although Owlkid was hoping for pizza and birthday cake, he said he also liked stew. On-scene reports claim that Owlkid was, once again, “not very hungry.”

After the birthday party, Owlkid went to Fondren Library to work on his coloring inside the lines. Owlkid was confused why no one else had a book open.

Later that night, Owlkid was invited to go on the Sophomore Biocrawl. While Owlkid had been walking for years at this point and “big kids don’t crawl,” he still decided to go.

“Why does everyone yell and walk around funny?” Owlkid asked. “And why is everyone Up All Night to Get Lucky?”

Going to bed nearly three hours after his bedtime, Owlkid was excited for his sleepover. On Saturday morning, Owlkid woke up at 6:30 a.m. excited for cartoons. He had never seen anyone sleep so long in his life but he was excited when Sammy finally took him to eat Cocoa Puffs in the servery. Sammy then left Owlkid with a group of Jones seniors because he had to leave early for the football game.

Owlkid is a big sports fan and was excited to go the game, but he could not find anyone to take him. He was confused how these kids won a trophy for spirit but did not go to the actual event.

After a long two days, Owlkid was ready to go home. When her mother asked how his weekend was, Owlkid replied, “I like squirrels.”