

The rats strike back

Theresa Masciale wants more to be done about quality of life inequality at the older colleges.

Soliloquies of that most feminine organ

Grace Weng writes that the Vagina Monologues push boundaries and encourage women to accept their bodies.

Baseball preview 2012

Check out this week's special insert for a preview of the road to Omaha.

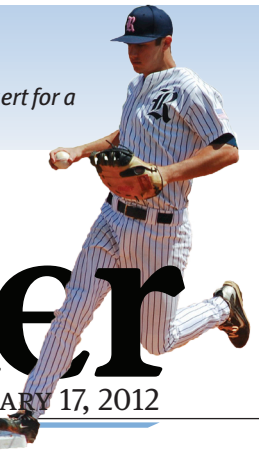
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HALLIE JORDAN/THRESHER

RPC's Crush Party 2012

Sophomores and Rice Program Council members Molly Leinsdorf, Shaurya Agarwal and Tristanne Mock distribute match results for RPC's Crush Party, held Thursday, Feb. 9.

SA general election outcomes

Check out full spread of election results on page 4

**New SA president Sanjula Jain****Student email set to switch to Gmail**

BY HALLIE JORDAN
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

More than a year after Rice and Google began conversations about a potential switch from Rice Webmail to Gmail, the university signed an official contract with Google on Feb. 1 allowing student email accounts hosted by Google. The switch was approved by the Student Association Monday and will be implemented over the summer.

Rice had been posed to sign a contract with the company last May, but the contract fell through, and Rice has since been working with Google to come up with an agreement crafted to fully protect students' rights.

Students will be the only ones to make the switch. Faculty and staff email accounts will continue to be hosted by Rice Webmail.

"All of the applications that come with Google, such as the documents, picture editor Picasa, contact list and

calendar are a real benefit for students," Director of Systems, Infrastructure and Architecture Barry Ribbeck said. "We had to address each element in the contract separately. Rice needed the right verbiage in the contract."

When a person makes a Gmail account, he or she must agree to terms and conditions that essentially say Google has the rights to the contents of all emails, Ribbeck said. As a university, Rice does not feel comfortable with that policy and has worked to make the deal with Google match that of Rice's own email policy, Senior Associate of General Counsel Joe Davidson said.

Though less than 15 percent of students currently forward their Rice Webmail to Gmail, Ribbeck and the SA felt that all students would be able to benefit from what Google has to offer.

A part of what took so long for the two institutions to work out a deal is that Google was simultaneously working with several other universities to make a contract that would please

more than just one university at a time, Davidson said.

"It's important that students feel their communication is confidential," Davidson said.

That student email will not be directly under the control of Rice administrators was another concern about the switch, Ribbeck said. If Google servers are down, for instance, he said Rice will not have any control over the email.

However, Ribbeck said he felt the benefits outweigh the potential risks.

Before officially deciding on the deal, Information Technology asked the SA to vote on whether or not students still wanted to make wanted the change. The SA unanimously passed a resolution supporting the switch at Monday's meeting.

"We were excited, and it was great because Ribbeck wanted students to have a voice in the transition and approve it or disapprove it while voicing concerns," SA President Georgia Lagoudas said.

SA reconsiders LPAPs

BY MOLLY CHIU
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

The Lifetime Physical Activity Program graduation requirement may soon be changing. In response to student concerns about wait-listing and difficulties registering for LPAP classes, the Student Association is evaluating the current LPAP requirement and considering changes to improve the program.

At the SA meeting on Jan. 30, four options for requirement changes were proposed: keep the requirement the same, reduce the requirement to one LPAP, allow participation in varsity and club sports to count for the requirement, or remove the LPAP requirement entirely while still allowing students to take LPAPs for credit. According to SA External Vice President Sanjula Jain, these options are not conclusive, but are simply an attempt by the SA to cover a broad spectrum of possibilities. After reviewing feedback from students, options may be edited or combined.

SA senators have collected feedback on the possible changes through surveys and discussions at college government meetings. The SA is currently working to analyze that feedback to get a comprehensive idea of which options students prefer, Jain said.

"This is a big priority for the SA, and we are definitely working to see something happen," Jain said. "We are trying to reach out to as many students as possible, especially athletes, to really make sure we get a complete picture of the issue."

The SA is working with Dean of Undergraduates John Hutchinson and Registrar David Tenney to imple-

ment changes to the program.

Hutchinson said that the university needed to determine whether the LPAP requirement is fitting the needs of undergraduates.

"Many people put off taking [LPAPs] until senior year because they can't get into classes, which seems to take away the benefit."

John Hutchinson
Dean of Undergraduates

"This semester, we had a large number of seniors who still needed the requirement to graduate," Hutchinson said. "Many people put off taking it until senior year because they can't get into classes, which seems to take away from the benefit. It becomes a self-fulfilling cycle because freshmen can't get in because the courses are filled by seniors."

According to Hutchinson, for changes to the LPAP curriculum to take place, the SA will need to present its findings to the Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum. The CUC would then research and debate the issue and make a recommendation to the Faculty Senate. Any changes to the curriculum would then need to be approved by the Faculty Senate.

see LPAP, page 5

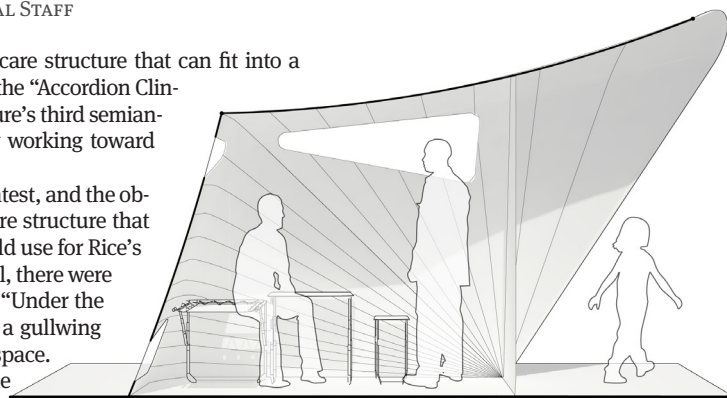
Students design portable health-care clinic

BY ELLEN LIU
THRESHER EDITORIAL STAFF

Rice students created a portable health-care structure that can fit into a backpack. This proposed structure, dubbed the "Accordion Clinic," won first prize at the School of Architecture's third semiannual spring charrette. The creators are now working toward designing a prototype for use in the field.

A charrette is an architectural design contest, and the objective of this one was to design a health-care structure that health surveillance assistants in Malawi could use for Rice's Beyond Traditional Borders program. In total, there were three entries. The second-place winner was "Under the Wing" – a tent with a square footprint and a gullwing door and a second layer around the clinic space. The "Vertical Tent" – a tent with an inflatable frame – finished third.

see HEALTH, page 5



COURTESY SAMUEL BIROSCAK

Just showing for three nights

The Actors from the London Stage will be presenting Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* tonight and tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in Hamman Hall. Tickets are \$15 with a student ID, but you can probably trick the box office into thinking you're one of the actors – just say you do it more natural.

Like visiting Taiwan

Rice Taiwanese Association will be hosting a night market tomorrow night from 6 to 9 p.m. in the McMurtry College commons featuring food from the various East Asian student associations and games. Tickets will be \$5 at the door, so get two and eat twice as much if your date stands you up.

Bakunin's Bauhaus party

Archi-Arts' spring party, Anarchi, is tomorrow night at 8 p.m. at the Caroline Collective. Buses leaving every 30 minutes from the Sallyport will provide transportation to the event, but we recommend building your own car and off-roading it over. Don't forget to laugh at all those suckers wearing seatbelts!

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