New dictionary cites Rice jargon; McCravey immortalizes gnomes

By CHARLES SZALKOWSKI

“I wouldn’t be caught dead with that cluff.” “Look at the rud; her dresses must be three years old.” “I got zapped when I tried that!”

The above are typical sentences using the words “cluff,” “rud,” and “zap,” according to the mimeographed quarterly, “Current Slang,” published by the Department of English of the University of South Dakota.

The words mean, respectively, “one who is rustic,” “a backward individual,” and “slap,” and are used by high school and college students in parts of the Midwest.

“Current Slang” averaged six pages for each of its first two issues, but managed a coverage of parts of the United States from California to Washington, D.C., and social groups from high school students through eastern seaboard Negroes. It lists typical sentences and the usage by area and group, as well as the definition of each entry.

Rice is represented in the second edition with its own slang, including “gnome,” “pinkies,” and “weenie,” thanks to the efforts of Jenny McCravey, Jones senior, whose name appears in the second edition. All entries are from volunteer contributions.

The publication is mailed without cost to contributors and college libraries, and is on file at Fondren Library on Campus.