Students Attracted To ‘Finlandia’
As Alternative To ‘Rice’s Honor’

By JOHN BEHRMAN

At the A&M game a week ago, at least some Rice students and faculty were able to hear and appraise two suggested alternatives to the alma mater. These two were the long-standing but obscure “Rice Hymn” and the theme from “Finlandia,” a tone poem by Sibelius.

The music was played by the Rice band prior to the game and the words were distributed to the students as they took their seats.

A STUDENT assessment of each song’s merit was hampered by the fact that “Finlandia” was played while most of the male students were on the field and the “Rice Hymn” was drowned out by delegates to a farm bureau convention excited at the picture of thirty-odd Future Farmers trotting onto the pasture.

As far as they were able to assess them, the students polled hastily by the Thresher tended to favor a new alma mater and, of the two choices, seemed to prefer “Finlandia.”

ONE STUDENT found “Finlandia” “exultant” while the other seemed “a trite composite of a half dozen popular school songs.” What dissatisfaction that was expressed with “Finlandia” was primarily with the words.

To the theme from Finlandia:

This is our home, wherever we may wander,
Dispersed in life, though we may always be.
To Rice we sing, in fellowship and honor,
We live with hope, with heart and reason free.
To Rice we sing, with lasting pride, forever;
And time cannot efface her memory.

The Rice Hymn:

Let Honor be your watchword;
Let Courage be your shield;
Let Pride and Glory follow
Your achievement in the field;
In years to come you’ll treasure her,
For she was once your home;
And let this be your hymn to Rice
Wherever you may roam.

A committee has been established by the Student Association to select an alma mater to replace “Rice’s Honor.” Upon adoption of a new song, “Rice’s Honor” would be used as a fight song. The committee members are: Tommy Trump, James Little, Paul Noble, Robert Zelenka, Tom L. Wilson, Patricia Ready, and Jim New.