Many Diversions
In “Little Big H”

By ANNE WATTS and FRAN MURPHY

Welcome freshmen, to Houston—sixth in size among America’s cities but first in murders! Not to mention suicides.

It seems only fair to confirm a few of your basic fears about Houston.

Last year the city’s total rainfall was 46.93 inches. Most of it fell on Rice. The weather bureau predicts little change this year. Or any year.

HOUSTON’S TEMPERATURE ranges from semi-tropical to ultra-hot. It hardly ever snows (except at Rice).

Your physical discomfort assured, it’s time to take care of your mental attitude. After a week on the Rice campus, you’re probably saying, “I crave a diversion.”

DIVERSIONS COME in all sizes and forms. Most popular with Ricites are free diversions. Houston has 131 public parks and a big zoo (in cycling distance, too!).

The Museum of Fine Arts, which features a new wing designed by Miss van de Rohe, is at 5700 Main, only a few blocks from the Rice campus. Exhibits in Cullinan Hall change about every month.

THE CONTEMPORARY Arts Museum, 6945 Fannin, has been closed for summer redecorating, but will reopen October 13. Private showings and smaller galleries area also in abundance.

TV fans will find many of the local programs incomparable. The ever-popular Houston school board has been written up in several national magazines.

LAST YEAR several Rice students participated in lunch counter sit-ins. Wade-ins and swim-ins at Galveston and public pools will probably be popular as the summer wanes on.

With elections coming up, Houston will be visited by a number of political speakers. John Kennedy will start the season by appearing Sept. 12 in the Coliseum.

ON A DIFFERENT plane, Rice students might enjoy Houston’s three theaters—The Alley, Playhouse, and Theatre Inc. The first two are theatres in the round, while Theatre, Inc. specializes in musicals.

A series of Broadway shows are represented throughout the year by Edna Saunders.

The Houston Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Leopold Stokowski and guest conductors, presents concerts from the fall through the spring at the Music Hall.

ON TOUR each year in Houston are the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and the Metropolitan Opera. Many, as well as the Houston Grand Opera Association’s presentations.

Plentiful also are popular performers and shows. The schedule through October includes the Kingston Trio, Louia Prima and Keely Smith and the Ice Capades. Single entertainers are engaged throughout the year by private and semi-private clubs.

And speaking of clubs new ones are appearing all the time for that particular type of diversion.

For those with more pedestrian (and cheaper!) tastes, there are the ever popular beer joints—ranging from dives to dressy. Many also feature small jazz combos.

Or, if you have to study later, there are the coffee houses—beatinik or sophisticated.

If you like to dance, some of the lounges and the new Al Piners 88 offer a variety of bands.

Restaurants also abound in Houston. Besides American food (especially sea foods and steaks) there are many foreign eating places—Chinese, Italian, French, Mexican, Spanish, Asian, or what have you.

Houston has the expected number of movie theaters for a city of almost a million population.

Professional sports are another form of diversion especially the Houston Oilers and the River Oaks Tennis Tournament.

Or, if you crave to do it yourself, try the miniature golf courses, the go-karts or the trampolines.