Rice Girls Attack Metcalfe’s Poems

By JUDY TRAVIS

Recently, a Rice coed wrote to the editor of The Houston Post expressing displeasure in the publication of one of Professor J. Rice’s poems, an uninspired, laudatory, adulatory version of the poet’s favorite poet laureate, John C. Metcalfe, who writes a daily ditty entitled “Portraits.”

The editor’s reply was courteous and tactful. He explained that some Rice alumni noted the incident, and, being in sympathy with the writer, had included it in the paper, in verse, of the editor, chiefly pointing out some of Metcalfe’s poorly written efforts. The poet himself got wind of this, and replied to them in one of his immortal verses.

Lately, some of the ladie’s verses, in the style of a la Metcalfe, have been appearing beside his poems in The Post. Many readers have written to the paper lauding the “Portraits” and expressing delight in them, but aside from the “ladies from Rice,” the other side has been kept in the dark.

The WHOLE anti-Metcalfe movement has been somewhat tongue-in-cheek; however, if you judge the poems by the verse they are written in, the Portraits do not represent the ultimate in poetic achievement. A new type of newspaper could carry something of a similar nature, if it was directed to Sound Off, The Houston Post, Houston 1, Texas. Don’t forget to give them your address and telephone number.

The Post doesn’t print letters in the newspaper like letters to the editor of any other paper (we didn’t say proper).

Below, is a little something (certainly not a poem) to prove what has been said,

Some-what Poems by Rice girls.

To the Post they did write in verse of fire.
Poor Metcalfe received the brunt of their lines.

“Metcalfe, Metcalfe, burning bright
Through the trivial and the trite.

What dread era, what dear time
Digests thy egregious rhyme?”

Anti-Metcalfe societies were born
Till the Miller himself did reply
To them.

“squid and Merroucy: Modern art is for you; your intellect is born to be stove in; your collection of dead poets is too small for your collection of dead poets.”

A.D. 1943.

With the whole of their precious wordings.

For those who worshiped the hard.
Rice girls expressed their true sentiments.

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AUX ARMES...

(Continued from Page 2)
Modern poets were nasty and dense.
My friends, let our voices join in. You! Who think mediocrity grim.
Sound-Off for Eliot and Yeats, Say Cummings and Crane are the ‘Greats’
Vers libre must once more be heard
And the polysyllabic word.
Give Ginsberg and Pound true acclaim;
Eulogize Ciardi and Ramson to fame.
Aid these avant-garde ‘ladies from Rice,’
In the crusade against verse over-nice!

Ed Note: Thresher readers may recall the Rice-type parody on Metcalf e’s “Portraits” which appeared November 25, 1959, before the syndicated jingler’s verse was catapulted to local prominence. Graham’s “Daguerreotypes” make a timely reappearance on Page Four.