Building delayed by summer strike; work to begin on addition to library

By RAY BROWN  
Thresher Reporter

Local 1 of the Laborers International Union of North America retarded the work this summer at three areas on the Rice campus with a three-week strike.

The strike, which was brought about by the expiration of the union's contract, has moved the opening date for the Space Science building back to early November from the original September target. Also affected by the walkout were construction on the Fondren Library addition and the administration building.

Bargaining by the local, which includes over 6,000 laborers in the Harris County and Galveston area, set up a pay raise of fifty-five cents an hour over a period of three years. The strike began on July 5 and continued, officially, until 9:30 pm on July 28. Besides idling the Rice projects, the walkout stopped approximately $3 million of work in the local's area.

The majority of the work left undone in the Space Science structure is the finishing, such as wiring, and installing the equipment for research and classes.

Ground behind the library parking lot has been graded off for the expansion but no other work has been begun and a target date for completion has been set. The addition to the back of the library will increase the floor space by 100,000 square feet to 235,000 square feet and will double the volume capacity to 1 million.

The administration building is headed for completion in the early spring with the walls now going up, according to Lee Estes, Development Commission assistant.