RACE BLAMED FOR RIOTS...

Baker Takes Beer-Bike Crown; Hanszen Rider Sets New Record

By DOUG JOHNSON
Undaunted by storms from nature and the Houston public, the third annual Rice University intercollege beer-bike race was held last Saturday before a hot but enthusiastic crowd of students, faculty, and other sport fans.

With the temperature and humidity in the upper eighties, the bikemen set a grueling pace on the .88 mile campus loop, breaking both records and stamina. Ron Keating of Hanszen set the fastest lap time (1.59.8 min.), though it was the consistent team from Baker College that finally captured the championship from Will Rice to win the day.

THE BEER-DRINKING was not officially timed, but several of the beermen approached or surpassed four seconds in guzzling the 24 ounces of warm "liquid."

From the moment of the starting pistol's "click," the outcome of the race was anyone's guess, though Will Rice, Hanszen, and

Baker soon became the serious contenders. Hanszen's bike broke down in the seventh lap, leaving Will Rice and Baker to battle it out. It looked as if Will Rice was going to win when their bike had a blowout in the last lap; the Baker cyclist passed it to take first place, to the disheartenment of the determined faction from Will Rice.

THE RACE BROUGHT comments from a variety of sources.

An Amarillo mother whose junior-high-age son was hoping someday to come to Rice informed a Rice administrator long distance that the race was the cause of the Splash Day riots in Galveston which occurred a week earlier.

The Houston Chronicle informed their vast reading public of the degeneracy of Rice students in an editorial (see The Thresher, May 5, 1961), and irate Houstonians soon responded with letters to the editor and to the University administration. One writer reasoned that Rice students must have the wrong leadership, seeing as how it "pours beer and whiskey into their veins and warps their minds with unbelief in God."

ACTUALLY, THE marathon (Continued on Page 6)
Bike Race...

(Continued from Page 1) went off quite smoothly, under the leadership of Malcolm Butler. Except for a few fashionable short skirts, there was little for the depraved Rice student to riot about.

However, students did jeer as a mobile unit from The Chronicle’s KTRK-TV drove by the grandstand before the race. Films of the race appeared later Saturday evening on this channel, with the beer-drinking part of the contest omitted. The Chronicle made no mention of the race Sunday, but The Post depicted the Rice race on an inside page, with pictures of Will Rice’s notable pit crew and an exhausted Hanszen rider writhing in the grass—“but not from beer.”

THE UNIVERSITY administration has thus far made no decisions concerning the future of the traditional Rondelet event, a spokesman told The Thresher Tuesday. As it now stands, the race will continue to be one of Rice’s few traditions, but the God-fearing little old daughters of the Revolution, Confederacy, etc. depicted by Charlie Dent on page two may yet win again.