CHEERLEADERS COME UP WITH YELL INNOVATIONS

By SYD NATHANS

The Rice cheerleaders have come up with some sweeping innovations in the cheerleading system.

The first change made was in the yell “Fight ’em Owls.” The cheer was completely revamped from a verbose “Rice Owls Fight” to a succinct “Fight.” The cheerleaders seem to be deadlocked concerning the manner in which the yell is to be ended (as indicated by various interpretations at the last pep rally.)

It’s Casual

Rice students have quickly accepted one entirely new cheer: the “Casual Yell.” In this vociferation, the participants yell “RICE” (or “OWLS”). Then the student body leers detachedly at four individuals with hands in pockets, whistling, wiping off buck-shoes — as one person is counting to five amid fervent pleas to “Be casual!” — until at the end of the count the foursome regains its poise and utters a formal “Fight!”

Whisper!

But perhaps the greatest all-participation yell is the well-established “Whisper Yell.” Inevitably, in the first portion of the trilogy, some dissatisfied but well-meaning clod will literally explode with a modest but formidable “WHISPER!!!” at the top of his lungs.

During this period, the conscientious objector will utter a soft but firm: “I don’t think they should fight” to someone next to

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him. Several freshmen will invariably misspell "OWLS." And of course, the usual run of answers to physics and math problems will ripple in successive waves through the throng.

Go? ... Fight? ...

But all such frivolities are forgotten, all comments suppressed, and all problems abandoned as the last portion of the "Whisper Yell" commences. Vocal cords are strained to the limits of human endurance; cerebellums are fohearts swell as the three words cussed upon each letter; and of the final stage are reached: RICE ... OWLS ... uh ... uh ...

Go? ... Fight? ... 1-2-3 Fight?

... Or is this when we're not supposed to yell?

But a kindly old senior explained:

"Yours not to reason why:
JUST YELL, FRESHMAN, OR YOU DIE!!