Indian Student Enjoys Rice Experience

By SATYAVAN SHUKLA

The author of this article, a graduate student in electrical engineering at Rice, makes his home in India, which he calls "the modern country with an ancient history—the fascinating stage for an upcoming synthesis of the eastern and western cultures." He characterizes his interests as "philately, coins, photography, writing, travel, and internationalism."—Ed.

"Time" introduced Rice to me one year back. On arrival here the Abercrombie Building impressed me by its new but homey look and the air conditioning relieved me of the stuffy feeling I had outside.

Lovett Hall looks sort of oldish but in there I had an easy time—no waiting and no accent difficulty. Back home, American speech is known by strange sounds, which however is more of a myth.

FONDREN LIBRARY is definitely among the better university libraries. The custom of taking in personal books fascinated me for that's the way be enjoy doing. In short, the multitude of facilities relieved me of worry.

Right beside the gates students (in sports shirts and not cowboy jeans as I had imagined) greeted me with hello. Most of them were well informed when I told them I was from India (back home I had heard of the common ignorance of it).

IN THE CAFETERIA I have had talks with almost all students from all the departments. Some had heard about Nehru and were interested in the ideas of Indians about communism. Most of them were content to listen to whatever I felt like telling them. The food in cafeteria tasted queer but thanks to the large selection of varieties I can have a full lunch.

Future Senators will be glad to know that India has the largest number of lady members of parliament in the world.

ONE OF THE good things offered after the lectures is swimming. The clear pool here adds to the joy. Also, students are interested quite a deal in sports, I found at the gym.

The Memorial Center is a fine facility for students. The Campus Store, Chapel, the rider service and the multitude of student publications are a novelty in that we don't have them in India. At FIRST I was rather uncomfortable how the students here manage to read here even in the evenings and the rather large numbers in library late in the evening was a little surprising. But that is the practice which has added to Rice prestige.

The Course System (which is not the current practice in India) was likable to me. But I find text books rather bulky and so much of reading rather excessive. Perhaps that is responsible for bespectacled top graders. (And Houstonians say you have to have a patch to get into Rice.)

PROFESSORS ARE friendly and helpful (as in all good places) and allow quite a number of liberties in the lecture hall. Rice certainly is a great pleasure to the serious student in offering generous and complete study facilities.

The practice of students living in apartments is perhaps quite in contrast to India. For there the selection for inmates in a hostel (dormitory here) is made on merit basis and the lucky ones get in. The popularity of cars is comparable to cycles in India.

To me a general Rice student represents rather a responsible (the undergraduates are childish) person out in life to learn and enjoy it. That is certainly a happy thing for the institution to begin with.