A Parting Profile: Critic Denson Is Leaving Rice Soon

By RICHARD BEST
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The Rev. Lane Denson, for eight years Episcopal Chaplain to Rice, has resigned his position here to become rector of Christ Church, Nashville, Tennessee.

The 42 year old clergyman has been the director of the Man In The News. Autry House, advisor to students and faculty, and instigator of controversy on the campus.

In his years at Rice, Denson established the Collegiate Chapel of St. Bede, which provides Sunday worship services, and was instrumental in the formation of the Joint Christian Ministry, an association of Rice chaplains of various denominations.

Denson has been a persistent critic of Rice's ban on religious organizations meeting on campus and the tradition of general hostility between Lovett Hall and the chaplains.

In 1961, he received much notoriety when he served as one of the panel of three costume judges at the Archi-Arts Pageant which awarded first prize to a couple portraying a pregnant nun and a priest. This action, drawing criticism from off-campus, led to the social probation of the Rice Architectural Society.

Denson has persistently concerned himself and the Canterbury Association with discussion of the central issues of the Rice community. In 1962, he sponsored a lecture series on "The University and Its Work" which brought high administration officials to Autry House to discuss their plans for Rice.

Seminars Scheduled

Last year, he vigorously supported the formation of ACCORD, and this year has spoken out forcefully in favor of academic freedom for both faculty and students.

Seminars dealing with a wide range of topics, from theology to politics to educational philosophy, were initiated at the Antry House and the study of controversial works such as Bishop Robinson's "Honest to God" and Clark Kerr's "The Uses of the University" have been encouraged during his years at Rice.

A Texas University graduate, Denson has aimed to demonstrate, as he puts it, the fact that all experience is necessarily understood from "the perspective of personal commitments about man, history, and the universe." He has at times suggested that Rice does not sufficiently appreciate this factor in the educational process.