Expansion Considered For Fine Arts

By GERRY URBACH

Expansion in the Departments of Fine Arts and Music is extremely probable in the very near future, in the opinion of both Mr. David Parsons of the Fine Arts Department and Dr. Arthur Hall of the Music Department.

Parsons explained that expansion of the Fine Arts Department is already well along in the planning stage and is only waiting for reaccreditation of the University’s Architecture Department for actualization.

PLANS ARE BEING made not only for an increase in the number of fine arts electives but also for a departmental major. This proposed major would incorporate the vocabularies of the fine arts, including those of which no courses are offered at the present time.

Hall, while not quite as definite, made it clear that the Rice Music Department is also in for considerable expansion within the next three to four years. The funds are available at this time for a new building to house a fully expanded music department with a greatly enlarged staff and a variety of courses.

HALL EXPLAINED that at the present time, however, the situation is still nebulous, for while changes have been planned for the immediate future, the details are as yet incomplete.

Concerning certain current problems related to their departments, both men were very explicit.

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EXPANSION—

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Parsons explained that changes in Fine Arts and English and other humanities departments are slower in coming about because of a lack of outside push other than within the official framework of the university itself. Changes in departments closely related to outside industry are affected more quickly and more often as these departments are largely benefited by this outside help.

GAINING THIS assistance and recognition is one of the reasons that fine arts has cooperated so well in the last few years with productions such as those of the Rice Players, like the recently performed “Galileo” and the spring offering of “The Tempest.”

Hall explained that lack of student participation was a factor that led to the termination of the music lectureship series that was held at Rice a few years ago. He also feels that student participation in actual musical activity is perhaps more useful than merely attending lectures on music.

EVIDENCE OF NEW interest in music at Rice was cited by Hall as he explained that Music 300, the current survey and music appreciation course, is exceptionally crowded. Incidentally, there are no plans for an additional music appreciation course because Hall feels that Music 300 is quite adequate.

Rather than revive the music lectureship, the Music Department has been sponsoring chamber music concerts, eleven of which were scheduled for this year. Also, there is the possibility that it will sponsor a lecture later in the academic year on the new vogue of producing music electronically.

In concluding, Hall said that he felt perhaps the achievements of the Rice Music Department have been underpublicized and that it was cooperating fully with other fine arts departments at Rice.