Rice's Name Useful To Houston Forgers

By RICHARD DARILEK

Rice's Honor never dies, but on occasion Rice's Name has, in the words of Dean S. W. Higginbotham, "been taken in vain."

Last week's bad check charge was just such an occasion. Local merchants were up in arms demanding reimbursement; they had been fleeced for the sum of $7000 by a local hot check artist claiming identity as a Rice student.

THE CULPRIT, related Dean Higginbotham, went to a bank, deposited $50, had phony letterhead checks printed, and then forged them as "J. D. Young, Baker House." On the strength of his claiming to be a Rice Student combined with the fake, but impressive letterhead on the check, a number of merchants regularly cashed his checks.

In the ensuing economic havoc one firm alone lost an aggregate of $4000.

When the detectives came around, it was quite easily established that the Mr. Young of Rice was not the Mr. Young of check-writing fame; that he was innocent and the University was not involved in the controversy.

"RICE HAS NEVER had too much trouble with checks," added the Dean, but the University has felt the effect of its growing reputation."

Elaborating upon this statement, he related the recent indictment of one young woman who, when hauled in by the local constabulary on a charge of remunerative questionable virtue, also tried to establish a false claim to Rice lineage.

Such is the price of glory!