'FINLANDIA' AT HALFTIME

'Rice's Honor' Must Be Played; Alums Refuse New Alma Mater

By LYN MARTIN

"Rice's Honor," the school alma mater, will be played at the beginning of all football games, according to Holmes McNeely, director of the Rice Band.

At the first game of the season, against L.S.U., the band played "the other song," the tune from Finlandia, at the beginning of the game. It was announced as the "alma mater voted on by the students."

THE FOLLOWING WEEK Mr. McNeely received a letter from Dean Higginbotham saying that "Rice's Honor" should be played before the football game; the tune from "Finlandia" could be played at any other appropriate time.

In compliance with this letter, at the Stanford game the band first played "Rice's Honor" and followed with the new song. It was announced over the loudspeaker system that Rice band would play the Stanford and Rice alma maters.

MANY RICE ALUMNI felt that the band "raced through 'Rice's Honor' and then gave a pretty good rendition of 'Finlandia,'" said Alumni President Everett Collier. "Those who witnessed Rice students sitting down on the field during 'Rice's Honor' were disappointed."

Last spring an SA committee came before the Executive Board of the Association of Rice Alumni with a plan to change the alma mater to the "Finlandia" tune, explained Collier. Dr. Pitzer agreed to the change on the condition that students and alumni both approve the new alma mater.

A STUDENT REFERENDUM showed opinion decidedly in favor of the new song. The Alumni Executive Board voted against the change 15-2. Pitzer then announced that "Rice's Honor" would remain as the alma mater, but that students could add the new song to Rice's repertoire if they wished.

After Alumnae had expressed concern over the song situation at the LSU game, the Executive Board heard the letter from Dr. Higginbotham to Mr. McNeely and were satisfied that "Rice's Honor" would be designated as the alma mater.

THE SITUATION as it was handled at the Stanford game, however, was definitely not to their liking. Mr. Collier said that there must have been some misunderstanding, and that "feelings of the alumni have been made known to Dr. Pitzer."

A last minute try for an on-field sitdown strike during the playing of "Rice's Honor" was attempted, albeit abortively, before the Stanford game.

THE PLAN, distributed anonymously on mimeograph paper, called for the students on the field before the game to sit down en masse during the playing of the old alma mater. It did not get off the ground, and very few students were seen sitting during the performance of the song.

At the SMU game "Rice's Honor" will be played at the traditional alma mater spot; "Finlandia" will be played during the half.