New security service employs complete radio control

By SANDY COYNER
Thresher Editorial Staff

Rice University, having demonstrated last year the extreme vulnerability of the campus to trespassers with criminal intentions, is for the first time this fall protected by its own security service, under the direct control of the Dean of Students.

The Rice University patrol is directed by Harold R. Rhodes, who together with Dean of Students Paul Pfeiffer has developed the system essentially from scratch during the summer.

The new system was developed as a direct response to the several knife-point robberies which took place on the campus last spring, through the persistence of Dean Pfeiffer and the cooperation of the Board of Governors.

Security Number

The service is the highest paid security system in Houston and boasts "the finest radio equipment that money can buy."

The most significant improvement of the new safety and security system over the old Pinkerton protection is the installation of a special and exclusive 24-hour University extension, number 333, solely for security purposes, and complete radio contact between the two patrol cars and the central control.

The patrolmen are equipped with special police-type cars, unique Rice uniforms, arms, and are specially commissioned by the Houston Police Department.

Rhodes emphasizes that the system has been instituted for the safety and protection of the students and the campus. "Our concern is for the off-campus undesirables who come on the campus," he said. "We don't want to get involved in student pranks. I'm for it," he added.

Rhodes was formerly Assistant Director of the University of Houston security patrol, and retired from the Air Force after 20 years of service.

The Assistant Director of Safety and Security is Harold P. Moore, retired from the Navy and for three years a patrolman on the University of Houston staff. Moore has been patrolling the campus during the evening hours since the system went into operation.

Women Defended

Also on the Rice patrol are Kenneth Brooks, former Air Force policeman and missile site guard, and H. McCoy, retired Army and former Houston policeman.

The new Rice system will replace the Pinkerton security patrol and duties at the women's colleges. H. Foley, campus proctor, will be part of the system. The Pinkerton guards in the Fondren Library, however, are not employed by this department but by the library itself.

The increased efficiency of the security system will enable the number of persons in the women's college area to be decreased. The patrol will reach a peak size of three patrolmen on campus between midnight and 2 am, with a one-man patrol before 8 pm and after 4 am.

The new plans will considerably change security arrangements for the women's colleges. Whereas formerly Pinkerton men had remained in Jones North, Jones South, and Brown College all night, the new patrolmen will remain outside the colleges, where it is anticipated trouble would be more likely to start.

The reduced personnel will cause some inconvenience for girls returning to the college after "lock-up," but the security desk man will be available in Jones North all night long and will be able to radio for the patrolman to admit girls to the colleges.

HAROLD R. RHODES
Security, Extension 333