Rice Offers Religious Freedom Plus Opportunity To Worship

By RICHARD BEST

During the half-century of this university's existence, established religion in Texas has often been viewed by students as inevitably playing the role of a burner of books, a supressor of liberty, in short, an agent of intellectual and political reaction.

It is therefore not unusual that Rice students frequently reject religious faith. Indeed, if the existence of God is held to mean that one must not enjoy a cold beer on a hot afternoon, or a play depicting a serious author's spiritual malaise, then most intellectuals would think Him an absurd and irrelevant Diety.

NEVERTHELESS the Rice community is often accused of committing a reverse provincialism by insisting on seeing all religion as rural Texan, almost as if Barth and Bonhoeffer, Maritain and Montini, Buber and Berdyaev never existed. Despite the near heroic efforts of Chapels, campus clergymen, and others, religious faith usually remains futilely peripheral to the intellectual concerns of the University.

Rice may not be Harvard; to an even greater extent Houston is not Cambridge. Yet opportunities do exist for mature worship and serious religious study.

THE RICE Chapel will this year present a number of highly significant lectures. In the past men of the caliber of Paul Tillich, Hans Kung, and Eugene Carson Blake have addressed the University on the religious crises of our age.

It has ever been the hope of the Rev. Lane Denson, the Episcopal Chaplain, that St. Bede's Chaher in the Autry House (located across Main Street from Will Rice College) will become a campus pulpit where various local clergyman of many denominations can address a collegiate congregation on issues relevant to this academic situation, JA 4-3168.

FATHER JOUBERT, the director of St. Mary's Chapel and Student Center at 1703 Bolsover, attempts to provide a vigorous liturgical and dithological program for the intellectual heirs of St. Thomas, JA 6-3809.

The Wesley Foundation meets weekly for Communion and study in the Autry House. The Rev. Fred Holt is the dynamic leader of the Methodist group, JA 4-3168.

THE REV. Earl Mulley, a specialist on Christian views concerning nuclear warfare, leads Sunday evening discussions for the Presbyterian Student Association, again in the Autry House, JA 4-3168.

The Baptists have a new, well-equipped student center on Fannin Street, a successful choir, and the Rev. Vernon Davis as their able Chaplain, MO 5-4730.

THE DISCIPLES Student Fellowship meets at 5 pm Sundays at the First Christian Church, just north of the campus. The Rev. Ben Fordham is the new chaplain, JA 6-2561.

The Hillel organization endeavors to help the Jewish student to understand his tradition. The President is Barry Gaines, PA 3-1440.

THE MISSOURI Synod Lutherans meet at St. Matthew's Church, 5300 South Main at 7 pm Sundays. Chaplain is the Rev. Milton Mayer, who can supply details at RE 3-3344.

The Christian Science organization meets occasionally in the Autry House. Virginia Rainbow is their student president.

Further information is available concerning all groups at the Autry House, JA 4-3168.