Historic moments: personal reflections
A LETTER TO THE FRIENDS

Dear Friends:

We're seeing a good deal of history made and commemorated in the first half of this year:

President George Bush was a last-minute addition to our Author Reception in January, when fighting began in the Persian Gulf on the day of the event. Remarks by authors were delayed as we watched the president's televised speech together in the Ley Student Center.

In February, the 200th anniversary of Mozart's death was recognized at our annual Schubertiad recital, co-sponsored with Rice's Shepherd School of Music, as selections from Mozart were included in the program.

The celebration of Rice University's Charter Centennial began in March and continues with various events and exhibits. Although this is the 100th year since the charter was granted, another 21 years will pass before we can celebrate the actual opening of the school. (See related story, page 2.)

Meanwhile, back at the library, more history:

Our annual Fondren Saturday Night gala and auction, held in March, was very successful. It appears that approximately $45,000 was raised this year, the largest total in the history of the event. This puts our library endowment fund well over the half-million-dollar mark. Thanks to the donors and supporters who helped make the gala a resounding success.

In another area of historic developments, we'll take a look at contemporary pioneering work in the field of bioengineering when Rice engineering alumnus Brent Tarver is the featured speaker for our annual meeting May 1. A clinical research associate for Cyberonics, he has been instrumental in the development of a surgical implant to aid people with epilepsy. Please plan to attend this important meeting of the Friends of Fondren Library, where we'll discuss a variety of issues relating to our group and to the library.

I'll look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting.

Charles D. Maynard, Jr.
Program Chairman

RICE UNIVERSITY
FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

THE FRIENDS OF
FONDREN LIBRARY

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that could not otherwise be acquired by the library.

THE FLYLEAF

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by the Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251, as a record of Fondren Library's and Friends' activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.
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Rice's birthday first of charter centennial events

A lantern procession, a laser light show, a gigantic birthday cake – all the party needed was for its honoree to blow out the candles.

Alas, William Marsh Rice, founder of Rice Institute – later renamed a university – is no longer with us, having been murdered in his sleep nearly 91 years ago by his butler.

The occasion of his 175th birthday, celebrated the evening of March 14, brought honor to a man whose vision refused to die, and whose will – although tied up in litigation for many years – ultimately provided the funds to begin building a progressive institute of higher learning.

In 1930, the founder’s ashes were placed in a monument on the university’s academic quadrangle, between the Lovett Hall administration building and the future site of Fondren Library. It was at this site that students and others at the university gathered around his statue to celebrate his birthday. Following a barbecue dinner, a lantern procession wended its way to the statue, beginning a ceremony that traced the university’s history.

Celebrants shared a huge birthday cake and enjoyed a 45-minute laser light and music show.

* * *

Described as “Lanterns to Lasers: 1891-1991,” the occasion helped begin a year-long celebration of the university’s charter centennial.

The founder drew up a charter for the institute in 1891; his will set aside funds for the school after his death.

Unfortunately, the death of Rice’s wife, and then of the founder, resulted in litigation. Finally, after settling the final matter of a fraudulent will in which nothing was left to the school, the institute received monies from the Rice estate and work began on the new campus. From the time the charter was granted to the date of the school’s 1912 opening, 21 years had passed.

* * *

One of the first centennial celebration events was an art exhibit in March and early April, honoring the centennial and those who have donated some 1,400 pieces of art to the university.

In Fondren Library, another exhibit offers photos, articles and other objects dealing with the school’s founding and memorable events in the university’s history. A day of centennial activities is planned on campus May 2, preceding commencement weekend, May 3-4.

* * *

Fondren Library offers many materials that relate to the founding and history of Rice University. Among these are several books, including A History of Rice University: The Institute Years 1907-1963, by Fredericka Meiners, and Rice University: A 75th Anniversary Portrait, with photos by Geoff Winningham, professor of art, and historical narrative by John Boles, professor of history.

A new book, underwritten by the Rice University Centennial Celebration Committee, was written by students and published this year: The History of Student Life at Rice University.

Also, a 1972 issue of Rice University Studies offers a biographical study, “William Marsh Rice and His Institute,” edited by Sylvia Morris. A private publication by J.T. McCants is titled Some Information Concerning Rice University.

For further information on the centennial celebration, contact the Office of University Relations, 527-4929.
Young historians delve into past

Student life at Rice has been many things, but a new book on the subject strongly indicates that never, ever has it been boring.

Authored by seven students (although several have since graduated), The History of Student Life at Rice University chronicles aspects of the evolution of student life at Rice.

Among the stories is one about a candidate for a faculty position, Neil "Sandy" Havens. Students, as well as university officials, interviewed him when the Rice Players student theater group prepared to hire its first full-time director. A chapter on student theater told the story:

An intense four-hour interview with students, according to the author, included questions such as whether he thought theater was "...entertainment? Didactic? Political?...Did he believe in presentation theater over representational theater?" and much more.

Afterward, related the author, the dean of humanities told Havens, "I don't exactly know how we've managed to let this happen, but the students have the final say in this appointment." Havens speculated he was probably the only faculty member ever hired by students rather than by a faculty committee.

As it happens, the idea for the student book was born in a committee. While brainstorming on opportunities for student involvement in the university's upcoming centennial celebration, a subcommittee came up with the concept. Ultimately, a credit class was born in which the students' collective assignment was to produce a history of student life at Rice.

In the course of their work, they researched Rice archival material at Fondren Library as well as records of the Association of Rice Alumni. The authors also drew on many other materials and individuals associated with Rice and with higher education in America.

"Some unexpected results of the course and publication also bear mentioning," wrote Patricia Martin, course instructor and director of academic advising, in her preface to the book.

"Two class members were motivated to run for offices in order to use some of the ideas they had gleaned from past students; at least one college has made the historian an official position; and student demand indicates the class may be repeated (and volume two published) in 1991-92.

"Not insignificantly, hours of taped interviews with important figures in Rice's history have been donated to the Woodson Archives of Fondren Library."

Above, tranquil scenes are part of life at Rice. Right, student life also can be fast-paced, particularly during Beer-Bike Race activities, a student tradition recorded in the book on student history.

Annual meeting

The annual meeting of the Friends of Fondren Library will be held Wednesday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Farnsworth Pavilion of Ley Student Center.
In times of war, part I

A New York State Volunteer for the Union forces, Charles Roberts related his Civil War experiences to various members of his family in a series of letters, excerpted here.

Camp McNett Near York Town, April 27, 1862

We are now encamped in the woods about 6 miles from York Town within one mile of rebel pickets. Our pickets are stationed so near them that they can talk with each other... One of our boys while on picket duty the other day got into conversation with one of the rebel pickets. The rebel asked him what Regiment he belonged to. His reply was 198th New York. The rebel says My God, how many troops has York State turned out and further says I wish they would come in and whip us out for I am getting sick of it.

McClellan’s Headquarters, Harrisons Landing, August 4, 1862

There was some firing up the river last night. I was in bathing at the time and could see the shells burst over the tree tops very plain. I have not learned that it amounted to anything. I have to laugh when I think of a remark that one of our boys made on Thursday night. We all stood in line when he crawled slowly out of his tent and says My God boys they are after our potatoes and onions. That you may know where the laugh comes in I will say that we have not seen anything in the shape of a vegetable in about four months until now and we had just bro’t them in that night... A great many in the Army are having the scurvy. The want of vegetables is supposed to be the cause of it.

Burnside’s Headquarters, Warrenton, November 11, 1862

I received your letter on Sunday last and as I have plenty of time this afternoon I thought to improve it in writing to you...You are aware that Gen. McClellan is released from the command of the Army of the Potomac and Gen. Burnside assumes his position. It has caused much dissatisfaction in the army and unless he is reinstated it will cause the resignation of a great many officers of all grades, which it has done already. On Monday morning McClellan and his staff...left us with loud and prolonged cheers of all.

Headquarters, Army of the Potomac, Camp near Falmouth, Va., April 9, 1863

President Lincoln has been here since Saturday. He is reviewing the troops. I was out yesterday about two miles to attend one. It was a splendid sight. Report says about seventy five thousand were out yesterday. Mrs. Lincoln and Secretary Stanton were out in a carriage. The President’s little boy rode a little pony between his Father and Gen. Hooker...As they rode up and down the lines followed by about thirty staff officers the little fellow would raise his cap as cunning as you please.
Clockwise from left: 1) starving Confederate soldiers found food scarce as flour mills, such as this one in Appomattox, were emptied; 2) masses of dead soldiers lay on the Gettysburg battlefield in July, 1863; 3) General Burnside, shown with his staff; 4) the Army of the Potomac captured this bridge crossing the Antietam Creek in September 1862; 5) a mud-spattered forge reflects difficult spring weather conditions in McClellan's camp.

In times of war, cont.
Headquarters, Army of the Potomac, Brandy Station, Va., February 6, 1864
The troops are moving this morning and are having a little brush with the Rebs. What it will amount to is, of course, unknown as yet but we can hear heavy guns towards the front. It would be a big joke on General Meade if General Sedgwick, who is now in command, should have a big fight and gain a victory. I believe Gen. Meade is at home sick.

Office of the Provost Marshal General, Armies operating against Richmond, Va., September 24, 1864
There is nothing of particular importance going on here in the Army. A very heavy salute was fired this morning the whole length of the line, in honour of General Sheridan's victory. I think it was about as heavy cannonading as I remember of hearing.

City Point, Va., November 7, 1864
I received yours of Nov. 1st this A.M. It seems you did not exactly understand. I did not mean to say that if I accepted the commission tendered to me that I would be kept here as a clerk. I would relieve one of the officers now in charge of the office...As you say I think I have did my part and will not stay and you may look for me home long about the 10th of December...The troops are preparing to go into winter quarters again...and we are no nearer the end than we were two years ago.
In times of war, part II

A graduate of Rice University, David Westheimer is a noted author of novels, plays and scripts. His 15 novels include *Summer on the Water*, *Van Ryan's Express*, *My Sweet Charlie, Lighter than a Feather* and *Rider on the Wind*. Recent works include last fall's television movie, "A Killer Among Us."

Following his separation from the Army Air Forces in 1945, he chronicled his days as a prisoner-of-war in Italian and German camps during World War II.

Shot down off the coast of Italy, Westheimer and fellow surviving air crew members were placed in prison camp first in Italy, then in Germany. Meanwhile, the family kept faith; letters from all – particularly his brother, I. Mark Westheimer – were both regular and frequent. Westheimer’s family also corresponded with other parents of soldiers, offering comfort to those who mourned losses and sharing news with others whose sons, like David, were interned in P.O.W. camps. For his service, First Lieutenant David K. Westheimer was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal.

From David Westheimer’s P.O.W. memoirs

Kent [Leader, co-pilot] never came up, I am sure of that. Our plane broke in two when we hit, and by the time the two little fishing boats picked us up there was nothing floating but the wings and a few inches of the cockpit, the nosewheel, a bomb bay tank and a few sodden charts.

When they pulled me into the boat I was too exhausted to help. The first thing I saw in the boat was a basket of small fish, all staring at me with cold, steady eyes….Then Russ [Gardinier, bombardier] started swearing. We thought he had a hidden wound which was hurting him until he told us why. Six days before he had paid fifteen pounds for a Movado wrist watch in Cairo and the salt water had ruined it….

* * *

During interrogations, and while in Italian P.O.W. camp

The colonel made a great show of looking through a file and produced a newspaper clipping which he passed over the desk to me. I
was informed it had been taken from Armando’s [Armando Risso, aerial engineer] wallet. It was a picture of my C.O., Colonel Rush, and a short story about a shipping strike we had made. The colonel asked me if I knew the man and I said yes.

“So,” said the colonel, “he is your commanding officer.”

“No,” I replied.

“But you admit you know him.”

The inevitable grim picture of Mussolini was hanging over the colonel’s desk and I pointed at it.

“I know him, he’s Mussolini, and he’s not my commanding officer.”

The interpreter giggled and the colonel, who sensed what I had said, unbent to the extent of a grin. Then he dismissed me, but only after having the last word.

“He is now,” he said.

***

Following removal to Stalag Luft III, a German P.O.W. camp near Moosburg

I started carving again at Luft III and was able to work much faster because I had a pocket knife, instead of only a table knife. I carved small figures of animals and heads, which I gave to friends. They were in great demand and I had a hard time deciding who to give them to. Among other things, I carved a giraffe, a hippo, and several primitive men. These were exhibited in the arts and crafts shows we held.

***

We started hearing distant, regular explosions... One afternoon my German came in to see me. He listened to the explosions and said, “I have heard this sort of thing on the Russian front. Your friends are very near. I think [they will] be here within 24 hours. Then you will be free and I will be a goner.”

At 10 a.m. the next day, which was April 29, 1945, two P-51s flew over and started beating up the camp... Soon we could hear ground fire from every direction. We knew that our forces had arrived...

We tried to decide what to do when we got home, but gave it up because the wonderful possibilities were so many... While we sipped our coffee from our tin cans we heard a rumbling. We sat up.

“Tanks,” said an infantry officer, who, like all the rest of the men in the crowded barracks, was sitting tensely on his sack and talking in whispers. I heard a rumble of shouts from the front of the camp and some one ran in the back door.

“A Sherman tank just came in the front gate!” he screamed. “We’re out!” The sound of the machine guns had almost died out, except for spasmodic bursts from the direction of Moosburg.

“Well, Jesus Christ, Westheimer!” shouted Larry. “Let’s go out and look!”

As we reached the camp’s main street a tremendous cheer broke out. All firing had ceased and an American flag was flying from the steeple of the village church. The battle of Moosburg was over.

whether we should take some of your money and buy you some good stocks. Of course, the stock market is always a gamble....

While I should dearly love to make a profit for you while you are the guest of the German government, I should hate to lose some of your money even more.

April 27, 1944

We were particularly gratified by the picture that was enclosed... showing you and the boys at a poker game...I think that Mother has always carried an image of you in rags and chains in her mind and the picture was a happy disillusionment.

June 26, 1944

The stock market is beginning to go down. I am glad I did not buy you any stock.

To Mrs. L.O. Kennedy, whose son, Larry, was the pilot of Westheimer’s group and a P.O.W."

May 23, 1945

I received your very nice letter of the 18th. We received a cable from David, also, saying that he was free, and was fit, and would see us soon. Also, in this morning’s paper there was a report of a speech, which General Eisenhower had made to a group of some 40,000 released prisoners of war in France. The report said that David was among the Texas boys in the group. I know that you and Mr. Kennedy feel the same relief that we do at the end of our uncertainty and anxiety. Within the next few weeks we should certainly see them again.
In times of war, part III

A soldier named Charles Winnia served in World War I, which he wrote of in sometimes chilling terms. Nonetheless, he loved many of the places he saw and planned to return in peacetime.

Diaries and other personal documents often give more insight into a period of history than the accounts by historians. It may be argued that diaries, even when written in cipher, were intended for posterity. Letters, though, written to sweethearts, wives, family members, were intended only for the eyes of those to whom they were addressed and perhaps a select few to whom they might be shown.

Such a collection of letters from Lieutenant Colonel Charles Winnia to his wife begins in February 1918. They come at first from Columbey les Belles where he was stationed, apparently well away from the front.

In May 1918, his outfit came under fire, and he wrote in a matter-of-fact tone about running for a gas-proof dugout which ceased to be gas-proof when its chimney was destroyed. As a result of being gassed, he was sent to a hospital for American officers. He exulted to his wife on June 1, 1918:

Honey don't think I'm puffed up when I tell you this but honestly its a great game and I have enjoyed it.

From October on, letters spoke often of the end of the war. Turkey and Austria, he predicted, would pull out soon, leaving Germany to fight on alone. He doubted the seriousness of the German peace proposals, feeling they were sparring for time to reorganize and start a defensive campaign. He extolled the superiority of the “Yanks.” The Hun was not, he felt, a gallant enemy.

The Hun has certainly quit cold and is running like the cowardly skunk that he is. He is devastating everything as he goes, thereby making the Allies more anxious than ever to get into Germany.

His letters were no longer sweet, loving epistles for his wife. He reflected more and more on vengeance. On November 2, he recommended that in the peace negotiations the Allies send Kaiser Bill and his “chinless offspring” to hell, and offered a chilling summary of his attitude toward past and future wars. He projected there would be other wars in years to come, adding:

...but the hun must be barred then maybe we can have a gentlemans fight...the hun has honestly ruined the sport. Why now war is butchery and murder, not sport at all. In the good old days the fighting man was square and played the game....

-Evelyn Sims McNeil

This WWI article was authored by Evelyn Sims McNeil, a Rice alumna, who served as a high school English teacher and department head before her retirement.
'Debating Muslims'

A newly published book, Debating Muslims: Cultural Dialogues in Postmodernity and Tradition, offers a timely look at Muslims and their Islamic culture. Co-authored by two Rice faculty members, it uses their long friendship as a basis for the ensuing “dialogues.”

“It is about Iranian Shi’ites, not about Iraq, but yes, it certainly has implications for thinking about Iraq and the Persian Gulf region, that’s true,” said Michael Fischer as he and Mehdi Abedi sat in an office in Rice’s anthropology department.

“First of all, the general styles of debate and argumentation apply broadly to Muslims, not just Shi’ites. But Iranian Shi’ism is of enormous importance in the region, not just in Iran: fifty-five percent of Iraq is Shi’ite; there are Shi’ites in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, in Bahrain, in the [United Arab] Emirates, in Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. South Lebanon is home to a Shi’ite population which is now the single largest confessional group in Lebanon with an activist leadership [in Fadullah] that espouses a slightly different but analogous ideology to that of the Islamic republic in Iran – a program quite different from that a decade ago espoused by Musa Sadr, the ‘vanished’ Shi’ite leader who is thought to have been abducted and assassinated in Libya, or from the ‘moderate’ Amal movement.

“We’re talking about an enormous segment of the Middle East that is being reorganized right now as a result of the war, and in that sense the book is very timely.”

“Basically, it invites people to a more sophisticated level of thinking about Islam and about Muslims,” explained Abedi.

The authors make clear that Islam isn’t composed of a set of rules or descriptive facts that can be found in an encyclopedia, nor are Islamic politics uniform or determined by a single theological view. Rather, Islam evolves from a long history of ongoing and quite thorough-going debates, much as other major religions of the world.

The title is a three fold pun, say the authors: Muslims debating among themselves, debates between the Muslim world and the modern Western world, and the debate between Fischer and Abedi over all of it.

Two other debates pursued in the book are referred to by its subtitle. One is the dialogues between the understandings of localized traditions and globally interactive ones: this is as challenging for the United States and the new Europe which are rapidly absorbing Muslim populations, as for the Islamic world which now finds its familial

continued – next page

Middle East: a crossroads

Don Benjamin, Rice lecturer in religious studies, was one of three featured speakers for the Author Reception in January. Immediately before he addressed the Friends of Fondren, President George Bush announced on television that fighting had begun in the Persian Gulf.

News of the Gulf war affected him deeply as an educator and scholar. Benjamin specializes in the literature and culture of the ancient Near East – the Middle East of today. His writings include Old Testament Parallels: Laws and Stories from the Ancient Near East (1991) and Cultural Anthropology and the Old Testament World

continued – next page

Dan Benjamin
"Debating Muslims," cont.
educational, technological, commercial and
other ties extended across the globe.
The other debate has to do with the reading
and interpretative practices called "postmodern" –
often identified with such controversial French
philosophers as Jacques Derrida.
The book uses storytelling and other narrative
devices to a great extent – in fact, to an extent that
is experimental within anthropology writings,
according to Anthropology Department Chairman
George Marcus. He serves as co-editor of an
anthropology series, published by the University
of Wisconsin, of which this book is a part.
"This is the best in the series," he said. "I think in
the area of Islamic studies, there is nothing quite
like it. It's not a linear book, not set up to tell a
single story. This is a creative moment in anthro-
po logical writing."
Marcus also emphasized that the book is impor-
tant in displaying the openness of the Islamic
culture.
The first chapter of the book uses Abedi's life as a
vehicle to explain much about the Muslim culture
and the psychology of growing up Muslim. A
succeeding chapter explaining how Muslims read
and debate the Qur'an is "pivotal," according to
Fischer. A section on the "hajj" – the pilgrimage to
Mecca – uses the lives of an Islamic fundamentalist
(a key figure in the Khomeini faction) and a mod-
ernist (a popular ideologue of Islamic modernism)
to discuss competing ideologies of politicized
Islam as shields against cultural imperialism and
dependency.
This competition over the politics of Islam is also
explored in a chapter on the art of the revolution.
There are interesting connections between these
chapters and a chapter on Salman Rushdie's
Satanic Verses, the book that earned its author a
death sentence from Khomeini, forcing him to go
into hiding.
The chapter on Houston is a case study of prob-
lems of the diaspora, not only practical problems of
how to arrange marriages, funerals and religious
ceremonies in a non-Muslim environment, but also
the problems both for Muslims and for anthropolo-
gists in knowing how to narrate the new world in
which Muslims find themselves.
The two colleagues express their hopes that
this book will enlighten and motivate their readers
to increased understanding not only vis-à-vis
Islam, but also in thinking about other cultures
as well.
"The book is a coming together between two
persons with two different cultural backgrounds,
from two different parts of the world," Abedi said.
"This book is the result of a dialogue, a debate –
and two decades of friendship."

Middle East, cont.
(in preparation). In addition to his undergraduate
courses at Rice, the professor also offers courses
through the Office of Continuing Studies and, each
year in June, teaches a study tour in Israel, Jordan
and Egypt.
As the war unfolded, incident after incident made
it apparent to Benjamin how often the West misun-
derstands the importance of such things as tradi-
tion, taunting before a battle, detaining a guest and
the identity of religion with culture in the Middle
East.
"It is hard for us in the West to realize how the
political and economic colonization of France and
Britain and, subsequently, the United States so
offends the sense of tradition deeply rooted in
the cultures of the East. We have a penchant for
backing governments and arming components of
society which, from my perspective as a biblical and
ancient Near Eastern scholar, have no tradition of
leadership in this part of the world."
In Western societies, which are highly mobile
and multi-national, "where you're born doesn't have
much to do with how or where you make your
living," he said. "In Eastern societies, you live in a
particular land because God has placed you there.
To be moved from that land or ruled by someone
God didn't place there won't work."
Benjamin reflected whimsically that, during the
period of "haranguing" before the start of war, he
would have liked to explain to the U.S. leadership
how taunting works in the culture of the Middle
East, where it is virtually a requirement before any
battle. Vestiges of taunting even appear in the U.S.,
he added, where cheerleaders prompt fans to taunt
opposing teams before a game. The practice offers
opposing sides an opportunity to size up – and
possibly develop a respect for – one another. It
is a way to explore channels of communication
between potential opponents, something the U.S.
admitted it lacked with Iraq throughout the con-
lict, Benjamin noted.
While the detaining of foreign nationals by Iraq
was labeled "barbaric" in the West, it is a practice
which appears even in the Bible. According to
Benjamin, "You generally detain the guests to help
negotiate a settlement." Saddam may have only
wanted "human shields," he added, but if the U.S.
had better understood the ancient Near Eastern
protocol for hospitality, it may have ben able to
use Saddam's detention of his foreign "guests"
to resolve the crisis rather than aggravate it.
Illusions...

The library's collection of Julian Huxley materials spans many subjects, including the establishment of the Darwin Museum in Moscow. Among his many photos from the museum are these three which, with selective cropping, offer some interesting illusions of interaction.

In my opinion...
This chimpanzee, which seems to show interest in the proceedings, is the subject of consultation by Darwin Museum founders Alexander Eric Kohts and Nadie Kohts, as well as co-founder Philip Fedulov.

Middle East, cont.
The separation of church and state in the U.S. constitution was a legislative breakthrough during the 18th century, but creates cultural blindness in the 20th, Benjamin observed.

"Americans take the separation of church and state for granted. They just do not understand the religious character of politics in the Middle East. This popular misunderstanding persists even though, from an academic perspective, the separation of church and state is a sophisticated legal fiction. In reality, it is impossible for any culture to be separated from its religion."

Benjamin dealt with his frustration over the war in the Persian Gulf not by thinking about what was taking place, but by focusing on what might take place in the Middle East after the war.

He shared his personal vision: the creation of a stable, workable democratic community of Arabs and Jews - not separate, but equal. "A just democracy did not emerge in Lebanon, but somehow I still believe it will emerge west of the Jordan to resolve much of the difficulty in that part of the world."

Benjamin spoke optimistically of books, ideas and education as powerful tools for resolution and deterrence.

"I think it's part of our conviction as educators that we build a better world, a small part at a time."
Different frames of reference...

Some people love computerized library systems. Others do not. Below, Joe Thomas, a retired Rice English professor, discusses his experiences in excerpts from his article, "The Advance of Progress," originally published in Texas College English. Also, we hear from a Rice student, Selena Connealy, an English major who is an assistant at the library's Woodson Research Center.

Joe Thomas

I am about to reveal a shocking scandal about myself. Now is, indeed, my winter of disclosure. First I give an illustration showing my habits of mind and behavior. Dr. Helen Thomas owns a Buick Le Sabre stationwagon that I occasionally drive. It has a dazzling complex of mechanical and electronic gadgetry, among all else a device called, I seem to recall, the cruise control that enables her to give the car its head for miles on end, without apparently having to use hands or feet, maybe not even her head. Horrified at the very thought of any such relinquishment of control, I have never made the slightest attempt to twist or push its waiver knob-of-consent. In all candor, if I could I would have an old-fashioned stick-shift to enable me manually to force the beast into the speed and direction of my choice.

"Where is your card catalogue?"

I have been sneaking up on an episode that is the real heart of my confession of shame. You must understand that I have been retired for over a decade, but upon retirement had the foresight to bring home with me the literary and reference works from my office shelves that I knew by experience I was most likely to reread or use. In consequence, I have had comparatively little need to go to libraries through the past dozen or baker's dozen of years.

A year ago, however, I thought I was going to be asked to speak about a nineteenth-century book that refused to turn up in my personal library at home. It occurred to me that I probably could most readily find it at the nearest branch of the city library, to which I drove in all innocent expectation. On entering, I could not immediately spot the card catalogue.

"Where is your card catalogue?" I asked the very young and sweet-faced attendant. She looked faintly puzzled; so I continued explanatorily: " - where I can look up the call number of a book I need."

"We don't have one," she replied, sweetly enough to be sure, but as if I had asked where they kept their Franklin stove; "you want to use our computer."

continued – next page

Selena Connealy

College students of today are nearly the oldest members of "the computer generation." We grew up using computers — playing Atari and Nintendo at home and learning word processing and BASIC at school. It's largely in our lifetime that the world has become computerized with automatic teller machines, computer-generated phone messages, and "smart" bombs. The best excuse for not having something done has changed from "my cat ate it" to "the computer ate it."

Last month when the library administration distributed a memo addressing the issue of dismantling the old card catalog and relying solely on LIBRIS (the library's computerized system), most of my friends were surprised we had a card catalog at all. We implicitly trust computers because we don't really remember how it was before.

"...the computer ate it."

Why use a card catalog when LIBRIS is faster, more updated and accessible from a home using a modem? This means I can do some of my research without actually setting foot in the library, a big plus for a student who has recently decided that she could get everything done if schoolwork didn't get in the way.

Now, the idea of manually searching through hundreds of cards that aren't cross-referenced is frightening. I'm a little ashamed to say I'm not sure I actually remember all the nuances about using a card catalog. I can't imagine having done the research for one of my biology papers without the help of LIBRIS.

Still, I can't say LIBRIS is without loopholes. Did you ever manage to get the system locked and then have to inconspicuously move to another terminal without letting the reference librarian see your apparent lack of computer couth? I actually take a funny sort of pleasure when I use "keyword" and the computer comes up with completely unrelated items. Say, for example, that I want to know about prehistoric animals in China. Typing in "dinosaurs and China" could get me anything from dinosaurs to dishes. It's reassuring to be smarter than the computer, just once!

"Progress" is not always well received by everyone, but all in all, LIBRIS gets two thumbs up from this Rice student.
The year of Mozart

It is difficult these days to pick up a magazine or newspaper without seeing something about the bicentennial of the death of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Both the Houston Symphony and the Houston Grand Opera are doing special Mozart festivals. Lincoln Center in New York is attempting to present performances of all the Mozart works. At Rice, the Shepherd School of Music is highlighting performances of Mozart works in their concert calendar.

This is truly the year of Mozart. The following list will help those who would like to learn more about this great composer.

This list avoids works meant specifically for the specialist. There is also a wealth of other books on Mozart, including discussions of particular types of works. And, finally, if you get bored with Mozart, 1991 is also the 150th anniversary of the birth of the great Czech composer Antonín Dvorák.

Jahn, Otto. **W.A. Mozart** (Leipzig, 1856, with later editions. English translation first published in 1882. Fifth and subsequent editions were done by Hermann Albert who is generally credited with these editions). The earliest important Mozart biography.

Blom, Eric. **Mozart** (London, 1935). This small but important biography is still available in paperback. Can be a good home reference. Includes a list of works as well as basic biographical information.


Landon, H.C. Robbins. **The Mozart Compendium; a guide to Mozart's life and music** (London, 1990); **Mozart, the golden years, 1781-1791** (New York, 1988); **Mozart's last year, 1791** (New York, 1988). Probably best known as a Haydn scholar, Landon has been busy in recent years on Mozart.


Music of this era is the specialization of Robert Follet, music librarian. The books mentioned here are located in the Alice Pratt Brown Library, on the third floor of Fondren Library.

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'Different Frames,' Joe Thomas — cont.

I sidled around the file-case part, hoping to find perhaps a placard, or at the very least an apology for the indignity to old-timers like me, on one end or on the back. No, nothing whatever. . . As for asking help from the attendant, I intuitied that I should be in much the same ridiculous position as years ago on an island off the coast of Maine, where I asked the waitress in a shore restaurant to show me how to eat my first lobster. Although she tried to be helpful, she was convulsed with internal merriment and really had no strategy for teaching an idiot how to eat.

You have guessed that I departed the branch library without my Oliver Wendell Holmes. More recently, I went to my university library, not as a reader but to give an invited talk to a class meeting there. My heart leaped up when I spied the old oaken card catalogue still standing on the ground floor, though shunted off to one side. But my heart sank back down when I found a small sheet posted to inform antiquarians only to look, without trying to use the “not current” fossil. Students and scholars were directed to something with a long title in unintelligible acronym that I assume to be a computer because “terminals” also were mentioned.

Alas! My problem with finding books in libraries is terminal.

High technology has me beat:
As it advances, I retreat.
Found at Fondren

A mid the stacks of books and files of microfiche, some very interesting people are found using Fondren library:

Christina Dodd celebrates the publication of her first novel, *Candle in the Window*, this spring. A historical novel set in medieval England, it required extensive research, done largely at Fondren Library.

“This is the first time I’ve had access to these sorts of books. It’s been thrilling to me,” she said. “The period is just fascinating – the social habits, the way they kept their houses. When you get back to the period before they had gun powder, it gives a whole new meaning to the word ‘weaponry.’”

A second book, *Treasure of the Sun*, is due out in September. It is set in more recent times: California in 1846, during annexation by the United States. Then it’s back to medieval England for a third book.

Susan Wiggs will see three books published during 1991, in addition to six already in print. *The Lily and the Leopard* came out in February; *October Wind* and *The Raven and the Rose* will be out in the fall.

Her library research has paid off. A recent review of one of her books praised its authenticity and took note of its extensive research. Wiggs has signed contracts for four new books to be published in 1992 and 1993.

Allen Kibler, who restores old houses, takes a different slant on historical research. He investigates “— architectural styles, the art area, sections on Texas — anything to do with Texas.”

Kibler is working on his 13th restoration project, a house built in Ellinger, Texas, in the 1870s by a Czech who settled there.

While in Europe for 12 years, he wrote fiction for a while. Two novels published in England, written and set in the 1960s, were titled *Daddycake* and *The Irving Affair*. He also practiced law, although he has given up writing and, for the most part, the practice of law. He now concentrates primarily on his restoration work.

Along the way, he’s left restored houses in Madison, Chicago, New Orleans, Houston – even France, where he lived while earning a doctorate in international law at the University of Paris.

When Mike Hennigan was in high school, his rock-and-roll band, like many, had problems finding places to practice. He began to experiment with ways of insulating sound which, some years later, led to receiving a patent for a vacuum cell insulated panel design.

“It can be used as an auxiliary building panel or as a primary building panel, instead of sheet rock or traditional paneling,” explained Hennigan, who has since earned a degree in business management from Lamar University.

The young inventor was hooked and continues work on inventions in several other fields. He frequently uses information in the library’s patent and government documents area, as well as materials relating to engineering and other sciences.

“Lots of time I’ll come up with an idea that may raise questions regarding physical properties, etc.,” he said. “This kind of research takes you all through issues in engineering and sciences.”
Win a free year's membership in the Friends of Fondren Library – details below.

**READ A GOOD BOOK LATELY?**

We'd like to print a "Friends' Recommended Reading List" in an upcoming issue of *The Flyleaf*. In the space below, please share with us your favorites, old or new. Feel free to tell us why you recommend them.

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**WHILE YOU’RE AT IT...**

In order to better serve you (and to satisfy our own curiosity), we’d like to get your ideas on *The Flyleaf* and the activities of the Friends of Fondren Library.

To make it easy for you, we’ve provided this multiple-choice survey. All forms returned by June 14 will be placed in a drawing for a year's free membership in the Friends of Fondren Library. Good luck!

1) Do you read *The Flyleaf*?  
   - Yes  
   - No  
   - If not, why ____________________________

2) How soon do you read it after receiving it?  
   - Same day  
   - Same week  
   - No hurry  

3) What type of articles interest you? (Check all that apply)  
   - All  
   - Library holdings  
   - People (staff, faculty, people who use the library)  
   - Friends of Fondren events  
   - Historical articles  
   - Authors  
   - Schedules (FOF activities, library hours)  
   - Photos of members  
   - Photo features  
   - Gifts and Memorials list  
   - Letter to Friends  
   - I skim it and read whatever interests me  
   - Other ____________________________

4) What did you find interesting in this issue? (Please place two checks beside your favorite)  
   - Letter to the Friends  
   - "Middle East: crossroads"  
   - "Approaching 21st century"  
   - "Rice’s birthday"  
   - "Illusions"  
   - "Events: somber to gala"  
   - "Young historians"  
   - "Different frames"  
   - Friends memberships  
   - "In times of war"  
   - "The year of Mozart"  
   - Gifts to Fondren Library  
   - "Debating Muslims"  
   - "Found at Fondren"  
   - "Events" photos  

5) Do you read *The Flyleaf* primarily for (check all that apply):  
   - Entertainment  
   - Education  
   - Library information  
   - Friends of Fondren information  
   - Other ____________________________

6) How many people read your issue of *The Flyleaf*?  
   - (No.)  
   - Are they ______ family ______ friends ______ both

Please offer comments and/or suggestions on *The Flyleaf* and on activities of the Friends of Fondren Library.
1) Are you a member of the Friends of Fondren Library? □ Yes □ No
2) If so, why did you join? (Check all that apply)
   □ To support the library
   □ To use the library
   □ To participate in Friends of Fondren events
   □ I have friends who are members
   □ Other ____________________________
3) How did you learn about the Friends of Fondren Library?
   □ Received alumni information
   □ Referred by library staff
   □ Received mailing
   □ Friends
   □ Other ____________________________
4) What activities do you attend? (Please put two checks beside your favorite)
   □ Author reception
   □ Lectures
   □ Schubertiad
   □ Fondren Saturday Night gala and auction
   □ Student art exhibit
   □ Annual meeting
   □ Homecoming brunch
5) How do you use the library?
   (Check all that apply)
   □ General reading
   □ Business-related research
   □ Other research
   □ Other ____________________________

Please mail this form to:
Friends of Fondren Library
Rice University
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, Texas 77251

(Optional)
1) Are you (or your spouse, if applicable) a Rice alumnus/alumna?
   □ Yes □ No
2) What is your age range (and that of your spouse, if applicable)? If both are in the same age range, please put two checks beside that number.
   □ 18-25
   □ 26-35
   □ 36-45
   □ 46-55
   □ 56-65
   □ 66-75
   □ 75+
3) Do you live in or near Houston?
   □ Yes □ No
   If so, do you live within 10 miles of Rice University?
   □ Yes □ No

MEMBERSHIP
Membership in the Friends of Fondren Library is open to all segments of the community. It is not an alumni organization. Membership contributions are as follows:
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Members of the Friends will receive The Flyleaf and invitations to special programs and events sponsored by the Friends. In addition, members who are not already faculty or staff of the university will receive library circulation privileges. Borrowing privileges for Rice nonaffiliates are available starting at the $50 membership level. A maximum of four books may be checked out for a period of 28 days, and a photo ID is required. Members must be at least 18 years old.

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Thanks for your help. And remember, your call or letter is always welcome.

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Approaching the 21st century

Beth Shapiro, university librarian, provided a realistic and optimistic view of libraries recently as she took a break from administrative matters to discuss library issues.

As they evolve, she pointed out, libraries are confronted with many opportunities, some of which are costly. The advent of videotapes was one. Largely because of the expense, libraries were slow to develop video collections, and a new industry was born: videotape movie rentals.

"In a very real sense, video rental stores are lending libraries," Shapiro said. "Libraries got into this area very late: many couldn't afford to develop large video libraries."

Shapiro offered this scenario not as a critical issue for libraries, but as an example of possibilities which confront libraries in their endless process of evolution.

Many factors influence the course of libraries. Money, always, is a critical factor. Changing technology is another. Needs and expectations of their patrons also may change.

Computerization was one possibility that libraries made a reality as quickly as money and technology would allow. It also gave rise, however, to some predictions that haven't - and won't - happen, according to Shapiro.

Major issues: space, money

A popular misconception was that libraries would require less space as more information was available through electronic means. Some expected that libraries wouldn't need as much room for their materials, and that fewer people would come through the doors.

On the contrary, more people use libraries than ever before, Shapiro said. Also, many people who use electronic means to access libraries, from their offices or homes, are people who previously didn't use the library.

"There are still people who like to come in and browse through the stacks," she observed. "The library is very much an intellectual focal point on campus. People will continue to come."

Automation doesn't offer even a remote solution for space problems. Libraries will continue to need more room. Space and money are major issues that are closely linked, she said.

For instance, a significant amount of space is required for automated equipment and related materials, such as storage for compact disks (CDs), microfiche and microfilm. An additional and costly fact is that such items often are duplicated in print format. Some publishers even require that printed versions of items be purchased along with CD or microfiche versions.

Another costly consideration: the value of the dollar. "It's not just inflation that hurts us. Because many materials are purchased from other countries, we were greatly hurt by the weakened value of the dollar in the '80s. The increased cost of these materials exceeded 15% annually, significantly reducing our buying power.

"Fund-raising is a key component in how much money we have at our disposal," she added. "I think the Friends of Fondren Library provides an excellent base from which increased fund-raising efforts can be developed."

Shapiro is implementing a comprehensive annual planning process for the library, encompassing collections, facilities and space, and library services.

As the library's plans develop, the university librarian is creating various committees to participate in the process.

"It's important to get faculty and staff thinking about the library for tomorrow, for the 21st century," she said.
Events: from somber to gala

A somber mood prevailed as people arrived in January for the Author Reception at the Ley Student Center.

Only a short time before, television broadcasters announced the start of war in the Middle East as the U.S. and its allies began their battle to oust Iraqi military forces from Kuwait.

A television was moved into the Farnsworth Pavilion, and President George Bush's televised speech became part of the evening's program.

In spite of the war news, more than 100 people filled the pavilion as three featured authors discussed their various works and helped lighten the group's mood.

Sometimes, mused B.C. Robison, people wonder why he gave up a successful veterinary practice to become a writer, naturalist and environmental consultant.

"I got tired of being bitten and scratched all the time – and the animals were even worse," he explained.

Fiction writer Elizabeth Moon pointed out that many "new" movements have been around for a long, long time. Concern with pollution, for instance, was the focus of early laws in London, where "people who lived downstream from people who threw beef carcasses in the river were pretty ticked off."

Don Benjamin later reflected that the annual event is "really a fine thing because a lot of quiet, painful, unimaginative and uncelebrated work goes into producing a book, and while we all work with a sense that the book is its own reward, it really is nice to have the opportunity to be in a coat and tie, drinking wine out of a stem glass...I certainly have a kind of delight at having reached, with this book, a point of completion which is nicely satisfying."

In recognition of the 200th anniversary of Amadeus Mozart's death, the annual Schubertiad in February featured works of Mozart as well as those of Schubert.

The annual Fondren Saturday Night gala honored Dick and Mary Ellen Wilson, longtime supporters of the Friends of Fondren Library and other university efforts. The March event raised a record amount, putting the group's library endowment fund significantly over the $500,000 mark.

Author bibliography

List of books published in 1990, written by authors affiliated with Rice University and the Friends of Fondren Library.


Curtis, Morton L. Abstract Linear Algebra. New York, New York: Springer-Verlag. (With revisions by Paul Place)


Exley, Joella. Texas Tears and Texas Sunshine: Voices of Frontier Women. College Station, Texas: Texas A&M University Press. (Revised)

Fox, Stephen. Houston Architectural Guide. continued on next page
‘Author bibliography’ — cont.

Houston, Texas: Herring Press.
(Co-authored with Mona Fabricant)
Klein, Anne C. Knowing, Naming, and Negation. Ithaca, New York: Snow Lion Press.
Mugambi, Jesse, ed. The Church in African Christianity. Nairobi, Kenya: Initiative Ltd. (Co-edited with L. Magesa)
Orrish, Dean. Dr. Dean Ornish's Program for Reversing Heart Disease. New York, New York: Random House.
Polk, Sam Carr. CORFA: Constitutional Rebirth for America. Santa Monica, California: CORFA Books.
Robison, B. C. Birds of Houston. Houston, Texas: Rice University Press. (Photographs by John Tveten)

Gala

The Friends of Fondren Library would like to thank those who donated time, money and auction items to this year’s gala:

Chairmen
Mrs. Jack S. Blanton, Jr.
Mrs. Jed Shaw

Gala committee
Mrs. Frank B. Davis
Mr. David S. Elder

continued – next page
A bust of Shakespeare graces a gala table.

Harold M. Hyman
David & Julie Itz
Jean Claude Jitrois
Lantern Inn Club
Leonard Rutan
Main Street Theater
Mardis & Associates
Suzanne Marsh
William Martin
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McKay Otto
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Post Oak Grill
Regional Information & Communication Exchange
Rice Campus Store
Rice University Athletic Department
Rice University Development Office
Rice University Faculty Club
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Janice Rubin
George & Nancy Rupp
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GRADUATING STUDENTS

In addition, the following have upgraded their membership in the Friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde L. Bane
Dr. and Mrs. Edward A. Blackburn, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Brice
Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Cody III
Mr. Peter Eilloway
Dr. and Mrs. Joe W. Hightower
Mrs. Edward W. Kelley
Mr. and Mrs. M. Kendrick

Friends of Fondren, Rice University, PO. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251; they qualify as charitable donations.

The Friends and Fondren Library gratefully acknowledge the following gifts, donations to the Friends' fund, and donations of periodicals and other materials to Fondren. All gifts enhance the quality of the library's collections and enable Fondren Library to serve more fully an ever-expanding university and Houston community.

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The Friends of Fondren Library is most grateful to these new Friends for their interest and to the Friends of longer standing for their support and for renewing their commitments.

GIFTS TO FONDREN LIBRARY

December 1, 1990 - February 28, 1991

The Friends sponsors a gifts and memorials program for Fondren Library that provides its members and the community at large with a way to remember or honor friends and relatives. It also provides Fondren the means to acquire books and collections beyond the reach of its regular budget. All gifts to Fondren through the Friends' gift program complement the library's university subsidy.

Funds donated through the Friends are acknowledged by the library to the donor and to whomever the donor indicates. Gifts can be designated in honor or memory of someone or on the occasion of some signal event such as birthdays, graduation, or promotion. Bookplates are placed in volumes before they become part of the library's permanent collection.

For more information about the Friends' gift program, you may call Gifts and Memorials or the Friends' office (285-5157). Gifts may be sent to

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the Houston City Breakfast Club

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occasion of Christmas, by Tas C.
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I.M. WILFORD, on the occasion of
Christmas, by Tina C. Sharpe

CHARLES & ROBERTA WILSON,
on the occasion of their 50th
wedding anniversary, by J. H.
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MR. & MRS. R.O. WILSON, for
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Events...
Top, from left: Dariusz Pawlas performs at the annual Schubertiad; Al Jensen looks over gala auction items. Center row, from left: gala guests David and Melinda Elder as Rhett and Scarlett; Chef John Holbert as the murderous Sweeney Todd; honorees Mary Ellen and Dick Wilson. Bottom, from left: life-size puppets from the Children's Theatre of Houston attend gala; auctioneer Bucky Allshouse with ROTC assistant.