Comment: Reflections on orientation

The freshman week edition

Rice's college system provides, among other things, that each year's incoming freshmen shall be oriented in one of six separate college-directed programs. The uneven distribution of imagination and enthusiasm has this year insured that those six programs shall be quite different from each other.

What will these orientation programs work? What will be the results of the different approaches? There is no way to do a comparative study of the relative excellence of the six groups of freshmen, and the proportion of that excellence attributed by their orientation directors.

No matter: for as the directors of the Jones College program emphatically pointed out, this experience has perhaps more benefit for the upperclassmen who are carrying it out, than for the freshmen who are its main subjects.

Just as all the programs have the same business and introductory activities, just as all strive to create fellowship and enthusiasm, all have this year emphasized the intellectual aspects of their programs. The revision in the lecture system, converting it to a dialogue, as well as the revisions made by all the colleges in their discussion format, have been an attempt to increase the effectiveness of this aspect of the program. Freshman week was once a quick course in trigonometry and competition, to prepare the new students for the rigors of Rice curriculum; it is now moving toward a different sort of preparation under the direction of students, but an intellectual preparation nonetheless.

In this endeavor Will Rice and Baker Colleges stand far above the rest; for they have penetrated deeply into the meaning of education and the methods of the educational process; they have arrived at their own particular notions of it, and are creating in their colleges, for this week at least, as good an approximation of it as they can manage.

The other four colleges are not devoid of good ideas for orientation; all have provided some new approaches; new solutions to problems — but the problems are all old problems, problems recognized years ago which fail to encompass the educational process or the life of the intellect.

Hanssen has tried to emphasize and increase the effectiveness of the discussion periods, but in characteristic style: they have rigorously established new compositions and new negotiation.

Wise's president, Don Lamb, is intensely aware of the need for emphasis on the intellectual, but Wise's program still lacks significant attack on the means of achieving it.

Brown's program reflects either an acute realization of the realities of orientation, or else an acrid lack of imagination. The college leaves the matter of communication and contact to interpersonal relations between the individual adviser and his three or four advisors. Yet say a solution does not answer the problem as much as it avoids; for what if the adviser is himself unable to reach the freshmen? What will he hear then?

Jones College has a program resembling Baker's in structure, but it is nevertheless only an updating of earlier programs, not a re-direction. The emphasis in reading material and discussion topics has been to select problems which will be relevant to a four years' stay at Rice; it is still an introducing, a helping. The object is to make Rice easier and somehow more meaningful, less confusing, for the students; it is to counteract the shortcomings of other aspects of the system, not to re-examine the whole process itself.

The Baker program may seem to be organized around the discussion groups which it holds, but the core of its excellence is the material distributed to the freshmen during the summer. Centering around the Baker Book, supplemented with numerous letters and reprints, the volume of material is overwhelming and its range unlimited. Chuck Young explains his philosophy: "We can't ask freshmen to start questioning, to change their ideas, until they notice things in a different way, until they notice things they haven't noticed before."

Chuck disavows any intention to change anybody's ideas, to indoctrinate; he wants only to show new things, any kind of new things, to stimulate, to prick into growth.

The colloquia in Will Rice College have been designed not so much for their content, but for their method: Clint Goodson wants to emphasize the discursive method of education, not often used at Rice. The topics were chosen for their adaptability to discussion and exchange of ideas. The colloquia are led by students. Will Rice has denounced what it calls "dead ritual" in favor of an educational process, in hopes that the college itself will be able to institutionalize it later.

What will remain of these endeavors? A few ideas will stick, but the impact will be almost exclusively in the personal contact, the impressions which are sublimely intuited. This week is full of too many new and different things for each freshman to remember all he has heard and seen; but perhaps he will continue to feel what he has felt.

The questions may be asked again this year, as it was last year: should Freshman Week be cut down to three days? What is its value and purpose anyway? For it becomes apparent that the business of showing new people how to get places and how to follow the forms of education on the Rice campus is not so complex after all; that it can be accomplished in less than a week; and that those freshmen and friendly upperclassmen are together, discussion solves most problems.

But carrying out conceptions like those of Baker in Will Rice takes more than a week; it takes more resources perhaps than a college can muster. Can it work? Can it continue? Must we not try?
To Thine Own Self... 

For five days you have been the objects of a very special endeavor. For five days the several colleges have conducted their annual Freshman week orientation activities, integrally to you, yet not quite so closely tied to the physical and intellectual environment.

You have been told about the mechanical aspects of getting around at Rice and in Houston; you have been advised, formally and informally, about Rice's academic program; you have been introduced to the mission of the university as an academic community; you have been exposed, in varying degrees, to topics thought to be of intellectual merit in our times.

At the risk of going unheeded, we will add to the already voluminous portfolio of advice and caution, by suggesting that you now try quite consciously to put the system itself into perspective.

We are told that entering students are enthusiastic and eager to tackle the challenge that college offers, that they are eager to vie for the rewards offered in a system designed to both discipline and to nurture you, perhaps approach Rice contrary with rebellion.

But those of you who gain the most will be those who see that the heart of your education lies not in achievement or opposition, but in transcending the system itself into perspective.

Those years are years of important transition, which will see you make a commitment—most simply to a probable career or plan for future work, but hopefully also to an energetic dedication, a commitment to use to the fullest those talents and interests which have gained you admission to this University.

The pressures which will tend to limit you with the "system" at Rice are many. The academic tasks which are set for you are not easy; you are perhaps already in the opposite of the growth which you have deliberately awakened. Rice's small size and conscientious attempt to diversify give you many advantages.

But it cannot be said too often or too vigorously that the freedom to choose is not enough; you must choose to make that choice constructive.

It is perhaps ironic that, when you make such a commitment, you will inevitably find that Rice's size and diversity will prevent you from satisfying those appetites which you have deliberately awakened. But the hope is that something better than Rice can offer will be the proof that you have indeed accepted Rice's offering.

Your commitment must be to yourself, and to the realization that if you rely on it too heavily, you may be overwhelmed with the amount of discipline required of you; you will inevitably fall behind in your work, be discouraged by the "system" at Rice are many.

Perhaps cynical. The rigor of the system will be apparent to those of you who gain the most from the system itself into perspective.

The Campus Store is long on textbooks and getting such items as esoteric magazines and journals, and an excellent selection of books suitable for simple reading enjoyment. The store also stocks air mail copies of the New York Times at a special student price.

You have been so important to you in the past. You have been formally and informally, about Rice's academic aspects of getting around at Rice and in Houston; you have been advised, everything which is presented to you here.

And you must look through and into every piece of analysis or advice which is given you, including this one; you must not be intimidated by a professor or an upperclassman. You must arm yourself with the knowledge with which to make intelligent inquiry, and you must never cease to question, to demand.

The commitment is yours; no one will do so, but the evidence from their performance is in conclusive.

The library has a fascinating collection of magazines and newspapers, as well as foreign language journals. A remarkable amount of analysis or advice which is given you.

The Rice Thresher, official student newspaper at Rice University, is published weekly on Thursday except during holidays and examination periods by the Rice Thresher, MORAG FULLILOVE, TOM KENDRICK, CHUCK YOUNG, RUSSELL GRIDER AND ANDI KIERAS. It is a fundamental right to the fullest extent of the freedom to choose is not enough; you must choose to make that choice constructive.

It is a commitment that will not lead you to the best Rice can offer, but will also keep you clear of its worst dangers. For some of the most severe problems which you may face will stem from your inability to maintain at Rice those standards and simple beliefs which have been so important to you in the past. Realizing from the start that you must relate to others; you must commit yourself to discipline required of you; you will inevitably fall behind in your work, be discouraged by the system.

The pressures which will tend to limit you with the "system" at Rice are many. The academic tasks which are set for you are not easy; you are perhaps already in the opposite of the growth which you have deliberately awakened. Rice's small size and conscientious attempt to diversify give you many advantages.

But it cannot be said too often or too vigorously that the freedom to choose is not enough; you must choose to make that choice constructive.

It is perhaps ironic that, when you make such a commitment, you will inevitably find that Rice's size and diversity will prevent you from satisfying those appetites which you have deliberately awakened. But the hope is that something better than Rice can offer will be the proof that you have indeed accepted Rice's offering.

Your commitment must be to yourself, and to the realization that if you rely on it too heavily, you may be overwhelmed with the amount of discipline required of you; you will inevitably fall behind in your work, be discouraged by the "system" at Rice are many.

Perhaps cynical. The rigor of the system will be apparent to those of you who gain the most from the system itself into perspective.

The Campus Store is long on textbooks and getting such items as esoter...
Advice to freshmen always seems to fall into two categories, the I can't really explain it to you anyway and the Well, thanks but I knew that already. In any case, if you're not a freshman, or if you do live habitually in Houston (that is, as opposed to living sporadically at reading this point at) is there anything to stop reading? Good. Then the rest of us can continue.

WELCOME TO HOUSTON.

Our city will see that you will have a delightful and pleasant stay here and that thought would be just jefly hazy if you don't realize how much are not-so-good things. If you like all that "arty" stuff anyway.

First, and perhaps most immediate to the life of the student, there is the most important piece of advice that Rice is a short hop by bus from the downtown theaters. That is, if you ever want to go to downtown theaters. Most of them are centered on Main Street (that's the big-looking road-like affair as an art form, you should try it. If you're the Managing Director, this is the place where you can ask someone on Main Street). Also, there are the Student Center extravaganzas ranging in style from "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" to the true professional theater on Berry street near the end of the Northwest Freeway. (That, also, is a Downtown, and can be reached by taking a bus where Berry crosses Main and walking two blocks to the left). Season opens October.

And, also, for those of you who don't know, there's a new Houston Music Theatre (you must have a car to get to it) at Bayou Street Shopping Center, which will, soon, be called the Rice Theatre (and all the students). Anderson "Mama" among other good and great things.

The admission-powered groups of surprisingly good quality

Wanted by Record Club of America
Cassette tapes $1.99 each
Come in and take a look in short time
Write for information to:
Mr. Ed Benvoy — College
Bureau Manager, Record Club of America, 1265 E. Pruine Street, Houston, Texas 77002

The Ideal Association... You and University

Your Neighbor in the Village

ST. BEDE'S CHAPEL

ST. BEDE'S CHAPEL

EPISCOPAL

SUNDAYS AT 10 A.M.

(Beginning Sept. 18)

AUTRY HOUSE

6255 S. MAIN

You and University
Introduction to freshman curriculum

The ideology behind the educational system of Rice is that, like it or not, the Rice student will be a well-rounded individual. To further this aim the University has created a schedule of freshman courses of great diversity.

A Rice freshman who makes it through his initial year and works at these courses can find himself either a scholar with Renaissance versatility or a man with a bad hoss nose. Every determined humanities student finds himself involved with quantum theory and differential equations, while his scientific counterpart must strive to think in terms of the viability of poetry and the dynamics of history.

Last year the weary freshman should enter into a few of these courses blindly, a few basic facts about them should be brought forth. Read on, ye may be enlightened.

Unpredictable. Free English 100, billed in the catalog as "Introduction to Critical Reading, Writing, and Thinking" enjoys the distinction of being one of the most unpredict-able of the courses that the freshman faces. Many students find it the most profitable of the lot, claiming that this was a course that made them think and express themselves logically, besides affording them a look at the aesthetics of literature.

The English Department gives its individual professors no definite framework for their courses, making it demand about the material to be as-signed or the time to be al-lowed for the treatment of different sections. The worth of the course to the individual de-pends upon the professor and the method he has chosen of structuring his course.

Many professors use "this freedom to make students aware of more than just the fine points of fiction, drama, and poetry. Several have introduced students to new ideas in the cinema or acquainted them with works of philosophy. One professor assigned a theme in form and function in the architec-ture of some selected Houston buildings; several of his students admitted that this was the first time they had thought along those lines.

"The course is designed to give students an awareness of the different genres of literary criticism, so most of the work is expository. The student must produce a barrage of papers, and the reading list is lengthy. However English 100 is ad-sumed of as a "killer course" by many, and when the student works at it, the value of the course is limitless.

History: Decision

The freshman must choose between two history courses. History 100, "Europe Since 1500," is presented by Mrs. Drew, and this year, the lecturer in History 110, "American History," will be Professors Vandiver and Masterson, both handling the course for the first time. The lectures in both courses are supplemented by small weekly tutorials held by different members of the department. Each tutorial grade leads his own tutorial's exam papers. History 100 has in the past been a required course, de-signed to make students aware not only of the basic facts but also of the causes of historical change over a range of five centuries. The text by R. R. Palmer, is excel-lent, and Mrs. Drew's lectures are brilliant pieces of organi-zation, filling in areas that the text has failed to treat prop-erly. Note-taking is a good habit to get into in this course, as a good set of notes is an invaluable study aid for the exams.

Some criticism has been levied at the History 100 out-side readings, which is mostly in a pair of volumes called "Contemporary Civilization in the West." Many students pass reading these three entirely, pre-ferring the condensations found in the notorious Monarch Outline Series which are geared specifically for this text. Many students use these almost exclu-sively and do quite well with the set of plays found therein. Like English 100, it again boils down to the old balance of getting out of a course what you want to put into it.

Tutorials Vary

The value of the tutorials seems to rest, as in English, on the individual instructor. Some prefer to discuss the out-side readings, others like to re-hash the lectures.

History 110 was taught for the first year by one of the top experts in the country on the War Between the States. Dr. Masterson teaches a course in Modern American History which is one of the most sought after in the University.

Again the reading list is large, and many students again go the Monarch Outline route to handle the obstacle.

Mathematics 100 tends to be one of the courses that the school uses to "separate the men from the boys." The path of the course is strewn with the bodies of countless academy and more than a few share of D-F's. A work of the value to be derived from the course depends on how well the individual instructor presents the material.

Theo. Stressed

The course forms an introduction to the basic concepts of analytic geometry and differential calculus.  The four lectures a week meet with varying degrees of approval and disap-proval. Most academs will criticise the slow and laborious way and fail to see the practical aspects of what they are doing. In this course, nearly every thing is "intuitively obvious." For serious mathematics stu-dents, the course can be an invaluable part of the curricu-

The three hour exams are 'standardized for every student! Consequently, a knowledge of everything in the text is vital.

Continued on next page

One's a meal

Brooke system sandwich shops
FINE FOOD FOR EVERYONE
5230 Amberst
1036
In the Village
Stella Link Center
24 HOUR LOCATIONS AT
9047 South Main
4422 South Main

Texas art supply

"HOUSTON'S COMPLETE ART STORE" ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS ART STUDENTS
TEXAS ART IS FULLY STOCKED AND ANXIOUS TO SERVE YOUR ART NEEDS FEATURING TEXART AND NATIONALLY ADVERTISED BRANDS
2020 Travis AT Gray 2020 Travis AT Gray
ARTS SUPPLIES STUDENT & FACULTY DISCOUNTS
ACETATE • ARTIFICE • RAINBOW BOARD • BOURGES PAPER • BRUSHES • CELLOTAK • CHART-PAK • CRESCENT BOARD • DESIGN COLORS • DRAWING TABLES • EASELS • GRAPHOS PENS • LAYOFF PADS • LECTURER CHALKS • LECTURER PADS • LUXO PADS • MARSHI PENS • RADIOGRAPH PEN

• RUBBER CEMENT • STRATHMORE BOARD • STRATHMORE PAPER • TEMPERA COLORS • TEMPLATES • VELLUM PAPER • VELLUM—ROLLS • LACTO KNIVES • ZIP A TONE

Texas art supply

"HOUSTON'S COMPLETE ART STORE"
2020 TRAVIS • FREE CUSTOMER PARKING • CA 2-0167

Hold that crease!

You bet it will.
If the fabric is one of the great, new permanent-press blends of 2-ply polyester and cotton masterminded by Galey & Lord.

For the new dimension in collegiate shirts, look to

Galey & Lord

Guard rings in eighteen karat gold and enamel, may be worn in pairs, or singly. Pure green, dark green, royal blue, turquoise, red, white or black.

For the pair to $35 each

Tiffany & Co.

First city national bank building
HOUSTON EIGHT FLOOR CAPITOL 7-2351
First city national bank building
HOUSTON EIGHT FLOOR CAPITOL 7-2351

The Rice Thresher, September 15, 1966—Page 4
... or, a child's garden of courses

The lab work was also criticized by many. The lab writeups were considered to be both too lengthy and not particularly worthwhile. (One student, in the SCRP Report, noted that he had been writing "PhD theses on ninth grade experiments.") Also the equipment, unlike that in the chemistry laboratories, is rather arid and in poor working order.

The physics tests have varying degrees of difficulty. Often only a part of the material is studied in depth while the other areas are strangely neglected. Fortunately, again, the curve tends to be on the lenient side.

--- by PHIL GARON
"The vorple blade went snickersnack..."

(Continued from Page 3)
Fine Arts courses are becoming more and more popular, not because they're easy (because they aren't), but because they're good, vital, exciting, thorough, and fun. Take one if you're at all inclined.

As part and parcel of this artistic renaissance (or renaissance as the case may be) has been a correspondingly increased interest in college program planning. Watch Baker here— they've already had two top-notch programs in two years ("Arpejos of Form" and the "Creativity" series) and may do it again.

Players
And last in the trillithic structure is the Dramatics, fondly known as RIP (or—yes, you guessed it—RIP) RIP resides in Hamman Hall in the body of the Rice Players— a completely extra-curricular drama group which, on our own initiative, pressured the Administration to hire a professional director to aid, teach, comfort, abort, and coddle them. Neil Havens fills all but the last requirement; he does not coddle. Since his arrival, the Players have worked until they've dropped to produce the best drama Rice has ever seen.

Right now, in fact, (Test before school even opens) they are in rehearsal for Harold Pinter's "The Birthday Party" which will be presented October 12-15 in Hamman.

Furthermore, as a direct spin-off from the Player whirlwind, those colleges have established theatre programs. Wiess has the most definite plans ("Dr. Funstan" first semester and "A Taste of Honey" second); Baker has visions of continuing work done by a director who graduated last year and left some great interest in college program planning. Wiess has managed to wade through this entire article. (If you didn't, please disregard the previous two sentences). Hopefully, now you've some idea of what's going on. There's more of course, but even the all-around man can only take so much at a sitting. Lectures and programs will descend upon you like locusts. Join them all.

Enjoy, enjoy.

After all, that's what you came to college for.

Isn't it?

—by ROGER GLADE

THE RICE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AT RICE UNIVERSITY brings together various Christian traditions for a common service to the academic community in its search for knowledge and in its celebration of the gift of life.

The Rev. William P. Conlon, O.F. Catholic
The Rev. Don Goodwin, Methodist
The Rev. Philip G. Stephan, Lutheran
The Rev. John D. Worrell, Episcopal

WELCOME FRESHMEN

GREATEST SCORING POWER IN THE LEAGUE!

Looking for firing power? Or octane or cleaning power? Put a Tiger in Your Tank! with High-energy Enco Extra gasoline! You’ll score a touchdown every tankful!

And this year, for the 33rd consecutive year, Humble Oil & Refining Company will be broadcasting Southwest Conference Football on your favorite radio station. For a complete schedule of all Conference games, drop by your Enco dealer’s and ask for your free copy.

HUMBLE OIL & REFINING COMPANY... AMERICA'S LEADING ENERGY COMPANY.

TEXAS FOOTBALL:
FIERCE, FRANTIC, FABULOUS

In Texas football is more than a sport, it's a holy war. A violent last frontier. Sportswriter Myron Cope, who has been denounced across Texas for his comments on their football, covered the story in person for The Saturday Evening Post. Read about recruiting violations. About college coaches who carried garbage and slopped hogs for a top player's father. About behind-the-scenes wheeling-dealing that included Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, and politicians. Find out why Darrell Royal's goofy-goodie image is false.

Then read about the nation's most powerful Texan — L. B. J. Is he too strong? Has he overused his power? Get the September 24 issue of The Saturday Evening Post. Today.
In this dinky amount of space, we couldn't begin to show you our fall styles that have just arrived like:

Car coats, slacks, shirts, Blazers ( ): ) and . . . the tuffest bunch of sweaters you'll see this winter.

Better yet, come in when you get a chance and try them for yourself! that's MR. ED'S GOTHIC, Montrose at Westheimer (910 that is) . . . Just minutes from the campus.

Ray's Cashed for Rice Students
Aaron Lee
Enso Service 1
2361 Rice — JA 8-0143

TIMES BARBER SHOP
3234 Times — JA 8-5443

SOUTH TEXAS VENDORS
4529 Harrisburg

"Serving the Rice Campus with Automatic Vending Machines"

In the Thresher office, 2nd floor, RMC

Dear Mr. Barker,

and most popular athletic function at Rice is the Intramural Sports Program, under the direction of Intramural Sports Director J. R. Barker.

The program provides high quality competition in over twenty different sports, and in nine of these, the various Intramural teams regroup to form teams to represent their college in the highly spirited College Consolidation tournaments, the gyro.

All Tournaments will be OPEN unless otherwise designated. Entries close at 4:00 P.M. on days listed below.

Sept. 24—Touch Football (followed by College Consolidation)

Oct. 1—Tennis Singles and Doubles

Nov. 5—Basketball (followed by College Consolidation), Handball Singles-Novice and Regular, Badminton Singles, Table Tennis—Singles and Doubles.

Jan. 14—Handball Doubles—Novice and Regular, Volleyball (followed by College Consolidation), Badminton Doubles and squash.

Mar. 4—Softball (followed by College Consolidation), Tennis Singles and Doubles, Tennis Mixed Doubles, Volleyball—Wall Ball.

Mar. 11—Badminton Mixed Doubles

April 29—College Track and Field Meet

May 10—Spring Picnic for Intramural Champions

All Tournaments will be OPEN unless otherwise designated.

Checks Cashed for Rice Students

Don't let anyone tell you that you can't find a 4th of July in England? ( Answers below)

This is the Swingline Tot Stapler

98c

(Exclusive 1966-stapler) Larger size 1200 Daily Stapler only $1.49

The biggest size of a pack of gum—but packs the punch of a big deal! Refills available everywhere. Unconditionally guaranteed. Made in U.S.A. Get it at any stationery, variety, book store!

JOIN THE THRESHER STAFF
No experience necessary.
Friday, Sept. 16, 4:30 pm in the Thresher office, 2nd floor, RMC

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY
SERVING RICE STUDENTS

Fall Program

WORSHIP—Sundays beginning September 18—10 a.m.—Religious Center Chapel

University of Houston

ENCOUNTER—Sunday 11 a.m.

Following Worship

Religion Center—Room 204

SEMINAR—"Christianity and Myth"

Beginning Tuesday September 27 at 6:00

Harvey House—6200 Main

TUTORING PROGRAM—Aiding needy children of the community with their studies.

Call CA 5-4481 ext. 1127 for information

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON RELIGION CENTER

—CA 5-4481—

PHILIP G. STEPHAN, Lutheran Campus Pastor

THE RICE THRESHER, SEPTEMBER 15, 1966—PAGE 1
Rock and Folk Headquarters
Gibson—Ludwig
VOX
Sales - Rentals - Lessons
EVANS
MUSIC CITY
2433 University
JA 5-8839—

DROMOGOOLE'S
TYPEWRITER SHOP, Inc.
Discount to all Rice Students
$5 Credit On ANY TYPEWRITER
Rentals
2428 Bolsover
JA 6-4651
Calculators and Adding Machines
in the Village and Rice District

Right across Main Street
Hermann Professional Building
BARBER SHOP
Razor Cuts—Hair Styling
All Personal Checks Cashed
Appointments If Desired—Member SDS
6419 Main
JA 2-5311

Ed Nirken
Rice '37

Welcome Class ’70
DRAWING THURSDAY EVE SEPT. 22nd

Ed Nirken
Rice ’37

Special Purchase
HOW TO LOOK LIKE A WINNER

Fall ‘66
All-Wool BLAZERS
A Must for Campus or Smart SPORTSWEAR
AUTHENTICALLY TAILORED

29.95

Fall ‘66

Fall ‘66

SPORTSWEAR

$22.50

JUST UNPACKED!
WE MADE A TERRIFIC PURCHASE
You will be amazed at the fantastic selection of this season’s newest patterns and colors

BRILLIANT BOLD PLAIDS
AUTHENTIC MINGHONGNE
HEAT HUMIDISTAT CHECKS

SPECIAL

$8.00

$29.95

ED NIRKEN'S
MEN'S and BOY'S SHOP
IN THE VILLAGE
2402 UNIVERSITY BLVD.

THE RICE THRESHER, SEPTEMBER 15—1966—PAGE 8