An official, formalized all-school convocation was not the most inspiring or stimulating way for Rice to launch its "evaluation," but that's the way it happened. Yesterday morning in the gymnasium, some 2000 Rice students, faculty, and staff gathered to hear prepared addresses delivered by Dean Gordon, titular leader of the University until a new president is chosen, by Dr. Ronald Rees, chairman of the Committee on Undergraduate Evaluation which will steer the entire 3-year project of introspection, analysis, and recommendation, and by five students, who volunteered to face the masses in order to proffer their own suggestions.

The talks were necessarily, if exasperatingly, broad and ephemeral in scope, for the task the Committee has set before itself and the rest of the University is Herculanean. The first goal the group will address itself to is an attempt "to define the present purposes and goals of undergraduate education in America, and, more specifically, to determine the unique educational objectives which Rice can satisfy within its given structure of size, location, endowment, etc." As the saying goes, one almost does not know where to begin.

The major address by Dean Gordon was unfortunately most notable for its misconceptions and misapprehensions. He said. "This must be recognized as a catastrophe will be avoided. The discussions will make it easier for the next president to measure the opportunities that exist here, and to assume his new tasks more readily and effectively."

He made much of the fact that student tuition accounts for only $2 million of the $9 million required yearly for Rice to educate its students, explaining that the remainder must be made up by gifts, grants, and University endowment income. Each student, he said, in effect thus has a scholarship, and moreover, "students influence the support available for their education."

"Irresponsible actions on the part of undergraduate students at certain other universities have cooled Congressional interest in support of higher education, resulting in tighter budgets," he said. "The same factors which hurt universities in general, hurt Rice, and therefore hurt you."

The university experience must be evaluated in terms of the context of the complex role of universities, he said. "A university is a place where knowledge is passed from one generation to another, until teacher and learner become comrades in scholarship."

A third function of a university, he claimed, was as "a place where society is served through the study of social, cultural, and technological problems, and advice is given to public or private groups which put the knowledge into practice."

It can only be hoped that the Committee on Undergraduate Evaluation, and the subcommittees and other groups of students and faculty which will be formed to aid the Committee, do not pay too much heed to Gordon's pronouncements of Rice's past "excellence," his procrastinations before the holders of the University's pursestrings, or his tripartite definition of a university, for it would be irreparably crippling for the evaluation to proceed under the constraints which Gordon implicitly outlined yesterday.

Already there are signs that such a catastrophe will be avoided. The discussion between members of the Committee and a few interested students and faculty yesterday afternoon showed glimmerings of constructive, honest dialogue, and illuminated one fact above all others—such alarming number of students feel in one way or another frustrated, confused, or disgusted with the present structure of Rice and its educational process.

Subjects which came up at the discussions ranged the gamut from the hypocritical and unlawful of the University's athletic program (ex-President Pitzer was quoted from a National Geographic article as saying that "at Rice we have kind of an Ivy League attitude toward football," which drew meritorious laughter), to the urgent need for a curriculum which would allow each individual—whether strongly career-oriented or virtually undefined—to shape the education best suited to his own needs, free from arbitrary and inflexible University requirements.

Those who showed their concern by their presence at the afternoon discussion, however, were greatly outnumbered by those who did not. There are any number of reasons for this. Students had classes, or labs, or had to study; no one feels very sure underfoot when speaking or thinking about a subject as broad and complex in its ramifications as his entire University experience—people are simply more acculturated to thinking about themselves, and the present moment, and cannot break these patterns of narrowness overnight; and the average Rice student (not the "typical student leader") has never truly felt that he had a voice in his own education beyond the selection of a major and a few electives—when earnestly asked for his contribution, he will naturally be reluctant, for no one has ever sincerely asked that of him before.

The success of the entire evaluation program depends, ultimately, on the active and concerted participation of every segment of the University, and a true commitment to its goals. A student who fails to take this one chance to look around, to assess both what he is and what is being done to him, will, in Dr. Sass' words, "bow out, committing rational suicide." Does not all the University, not the Committee, nor the student body. He fails himself. —RMH

It is the primary object of people who are concerned about education in this country to explain what it is—and until this effort is made, it is perhaps a little premature to say that it is impossible to have a good university.

—Robert M. Hutchins
Draft and airable student available

Draft-age young men at Rice and other institutions have no sense of community. The Draft Counseling Service of Houston, an organization which began unofficially last year under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee, has received support from several sources, including the AFSC, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Rice Student Council. The Counseling Service now exists to disseminate information and to create a communication system, to assist young men of draft age who may require counseling about individual draft problems, and to increase the counseling services available to members of the community.

Among the committee's early recommendations are that student officers be given counseling in guiding departmental recruiting committees; that advising be done by the counseling service, and that a counselor be assigned to each of its sponsoring organizations.

Dean William E. Gordon, chairman of the steering committee made up of members from each of its sponsoring organizations including a possible course on the role of technology in society and to lessen the relative power of the students, the administrators, the local community, and the trustees.

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Harvard sociologist notes emergence of 'faculty power'

Harvard sociologist notes emergence of 'faculty power'...
To the Editor:

The SCOUR report excerpts published last week set off a number of discussions, and it was agreed that excerpts mercilessly re-creating and summary schooling the dark-skinned and the poor constitute a form of discrimination against the light-skinned middle and upper-class groups who now form a majority of the student body. Such a system would, in SCOUR's opinion, be unfair to the student body, just as it needs enough athletes to fill out the football team.

We already discriminate against the non-athletes. The athletes are recruited harder than anyone else, and Rice admits the borderline jock over the borderline weed.

The admissions office, however, needs its standards to let the athlete in because of the immense service he gives to the University. He plays games for it. In the process large numbers of people are entertained, the University gets a nice cut of the gate receipts, and most important, the rest of us are under no compunction to try out for the team. This is a good deal for all concerned.

We should also discriminate against the light-skinned upper and middle classes to the extent of recruiting and training the poor, because of the immense service he gives to the University. He teaches basic Sociology. By being in close contact with his fellow students and telling them the way it is, as he sees it, he teaches them how the other half lives and what it wants, and he gives them praxis in dealing with it. The process works the other way, too.

Rice graduates will in this way have an understanding of one of the great problems confronting the nation today. This, too, is a good deal for all concerned.

SCOUR evidently believes that its proposal will help to alleviate social inequities. I wish to point out that the proposed policies can only worsen inequities.

DOUGLAS A. GWYN
Wiese '70

Prof chides editors on anti-LBJ stance

To the Editor:

Shame on the Thresher for the editorial on President Johnson. Its ill-tempered impetulness was exceeded only by its naivete.

Surely students can learn something important from the man who has done more for civil rights in this country than anyone else. They can also learn from President Johnson's policies and programs involving the war on poverty, education, and medicine. And from the Vietnam tragedy they can glimpse something of the complexities of power.

Mr. Johnson and his presidency deserve better than the outrage of callous moralists.

DR. FRANK VANDIVER
Professor of History

Gwyn accuses SCOUR of racism

To the Editor:

I find it shameful that the committee recommending changes in the Rice admission policy advocates racism. Racism consists of judging a person, not as an individual, but as a member of a racial group. In recommending special consideration for a potential student on the basis of his race and in proposing racial quotas (1), SCOUR is recommending that the Rice administration practice racial discrimination.

A group, such as that of rights other than the individual rights of its members. Any committee which ignores individual rights cannot claim to be a defender of minority rights, for

Nichols is cautious for Johnson' visit

To the Editor:

Thanks be to Yaweh that its standards to let the athlete in because of the immense service he gives to the University. He plays games for it. In the process large numbers of people are entertained, the University gets a nice cut of the gate receipts, and most important, the rest of us are under no compunction to try out for the team. This is a good deal for all concerned.

The quota system proposed by SCOUR is also reasonable. Rice needs the dark-skinned and poor in sufficient numbers to have a significant effect on the student body, just as it needs enough athletes to fill out the football team.

While you're at it, SCOUR, see if you can get these people some sort of reimbursement for laundry expenses.

TOX STREETER
Lovett '70

"Truth" not valid as educational rating

To the Editor:

You make me sick. You sound like the Board of Regents at Berkeley. Should we really not let Johnson teach at Rice because you might not tell the "truth"?

Are you really so naive as to believe that there is a "truth"? Then do you consider this satire by believing that the only way to search for your "truth" is to be exposed to it?

May I then assume that you agree with all of your professors or that you expect to agree with them? Or do you protest Johnson's course because you are afraid that you can't tell what is the "truth" and what isn't?

Climb out of your pseudo-liberal hole. If you don't want to take the course, don't. If you want to protest Johnson, the President, go ahead. But if you are going to protest Johnson the educator, aren't you going to have to wait and see what there is to protest?

THOM SCRUTHIN
Hanszen '66

WANTED:

Riders to Illinois over Christmas vacation. References expected. Call H10-1795.

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Your Christmas Dollars Go Further at Sears
"Catfish Blues," something is mentioned about an eleven minutes of "Fried Hockey Boogie" on "Refried Boogie" Parts I and II. It has four sides, two of which are in the Frosty the Snowman theme, and actors are forever citing the different "Boogie With Canned Heat." Though its success was due to its pseudo-intellect and egoism. Just ask the critics, and they will tell you to new levels of experience and Henry "Sunset" Cook in the only personnel change for Canned Heat's last tour. When you get inside the music, tons of exciting impressions can be understood members of the group talking to one another on their instruments. Larry "The Mole" Taylor's bass takes over the radio stations give an up-to-date, support, only luck of talent can keep it from going all the way to the top. As an assistance of talent can make up for a lack of exposure by the radio stations. Thus, the reception of the second album is the make-believe start for the group.

One example of this pattern is Steppenwolf. After two unsuccessful albums, with ample Top 40 support, they are enjoying widespread popularity. Another example is The Butterfield Blues Band. "East West" on their second album is one of the very best blues pieces ever recorded. The album by the same name certainly makes far above others in this vein. However, Butterfield and his blues never made the Top 40, and two of his guitarists, Elvin Bishop and Mike Bloomfield, have left the group.

Canned Heat is another group which followed this pattern. Their first album, "Canned Heat," was successful enough to warrant a second, "Boogie With Canned Heat." Though no one was surprised some people, this second album proved beyond all others that Canned Heat had some capable musicians. Their third album, "Living the Blues," is Canned Heat's best and most ambitious album. Throughout the sides, which are "Boogie Boogie" Paris I and II. Canned Heat's first album on a delightful cut called "Blues Blues," it is mentioned about "Bought Rough Boogie." This is followed up by eleven minutes of "Fried Hockey Boogie"...
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Stanford to study SRI affiliations

By PHIL SEMAS

STANFORD, Calif. (CFB)—Stanford University may be moving toward a change in its relationship with the Stanford Research Institute (SRI), which is known to do military research.

Acting Stanford President Robert J. Glaser has set up a committee of five faculty members, five students, and two administrators to study Stanford's relationship with SRI. The Institute is an independent, non-profit organization affiliated with the University.

Turnabout

Glaser announced his plans for the study at an unusual appearance before the student legislature. He said the relationship "is one of concern to many members of the faculty and student body," but added, "The issues are complex, with many ramifications, and are not the kind that can be resolved overnight."

Earlier, in an interview with the Stanford Daily, Glaser said the relationship "is a legitimate issue to examine—not one to sweep under the rug and say it doesn't exist."

Student power

He said the incoming Stanford president, Kenneth Pitzer, supports the study. SRI Executive Vice President Weldon Gibson said the Institute would "co-operate fully" with the study, which is supposed to be completed by April 15.

Glaser's announcement came shortly after the Stanford chapter of Students for a Democratic Society had demanded that the University, SRI, and "all members of the University community immediately halt all military and economic projects and operations concerned with Stanford." Minority voice

SDS nailed its demands to the door of the Board of Trustees office. It also demanded that all contracts, classified and unclassified, be made public, including the value of the contract and individuals performing the work; that Stanford and SRI trustees make public all their corporate and government connections; and that Stanford faculty also make public their corporate and government connections.

Glaser claimed his decision to call for the study had nothing to do with SDS's demands.

EDS seems to have little support among the student body. A rally they held to support the demands drew only about 200 of Stanford's 11,300 students. And a Stanford Daily poll, based on a computer-selected sample of 125 students, showed only 23.5 per cent of the student body support the SDS demands, 66 per cent oppose them and 10.5 per cent are undecided.

Asks changes

Stanford student body president Denis Hayes would also like to see some changes in campus research. At a meeting held shortly after Glaser announced his study, Hayes asked the Board of Trustees to use their influence to get SRI to refuse to accept new research contracts involving chemical, biological, or counter-insurgency warfare research until the study is completed.

In making its demands, SDS charged that SRI does chemical and biological warfare research, including tear gas and crop devastation; has a staff of 54 doing counter-insurgency work in Thailand since 1962; is performing cost analyses of alternative bombing sites in North Vietnam; and is doing long-range surveys of investment opportunities in Southeast Asia for U.S. corporations.

In a study published last December, Ward in Vietnam documented some of the war being done at SRI.

SRI has denied only that it is studying bombing sites in North Vietnam. Rudolf Brunswald, SRI's vice president of planning and co-ordination, says, "As an institution we don't take a view of our research and co-ordination, says, "As an institution we don't take a view of the rightness or wrongness of the established government." About half of SRI's projects are initiated from within the Institute, which has a research staff of 1,386. The other half are taken on contract from government agencies or corporations. Any researcher may decline to work on a certain project, according to SRI officials.

SRI is presently conducting about 700 research projects worth about $65 million. About 73 per cent of its support comes from federal, state, and local government, the other 27 per cent from private clients. About one-third of its projects are classified. Vice President Gibson said "a handful" are so secret that their existence cannot even be revealed.

About 50 Stanford professors serve as consultants on various SRI projects and almost 20 SRI staff members teach and lecture at the University.

EDS

EDS, the Eat Drink Shop, is a new restaurant on the second floor of the Campus Center. The restaurant offers casual dining in a comfortable atmosphere. Some of the popular dishes include lemon chicken, beef stroganoff, and pasta carbonara. Conveniently located near the student union, EDS is a great spot for a quick meal before or after classes. The menu offers a variety of options to satisfy different tastes, from sandwiches to salads. So whether you're looking for a quick lunch or a place to unwind with friends, EDS is the perfect choice for your dining needs. Enjoy your meal at EDS! 

Stanford University is a public research university located in Stanford, California. It is one of the top universities in the world, known for its strong research programs and academic excellence. The university has a diverse student body and offers a wide range of academic programs, including arts, humanities, sciences, and engineering. If you are interested in attending Stanford University, be sure to check out their website for more information about the admission process and upcoming events. 

If you are interested in exploring more options, don't forget to check out the nearby city of San Jose. San Jose is home to many tech companies and is known for its vibrant culture and diverse population. Whether you're looking for a night out on the town or a day trip to nearby parks, San Jose has something for everyone. Happy exploring!
notes and notices

Future — Urban Futures, USA, upcoming student-faculty conference, is sponsoring a student competition in papers concerning urban life in the 21st century. Entries, whose length is not limited, may be speculative or analytical, raising questions or suggesting answers. Papers may be those done for a university course, or specially prepared. Entries are due by February 28, and judging will be done by a faculty committee. A $500 first prize, two $200 second prizes, and three $100 third prizes will be awarded according to merit. For further information, contact the Placement Office.

Student stars — Bob Camblin and Earl Staley, Rice Fine arts profs, will present the world premiere of "Side Show," starring Rice students, in the Brown Commons at 8 pm Dec. 8. The program is sponsored by the Institute of Hispanic Culture.

Opportunities — The Civil Service Commission is sponsoring a Federal Career Opportunities Conference in Washington on Dec. 27 and 28 for students interested in learning about job opportunities in the Federal Civil Service. More than 30 Federal agencies will be represented by recruiting personnel ready to discuss federal careers. For further information, contact the Placement Office.

Bell — College students are invited to attend the Bell Law Seminar in Dallas Saturday, Dec. 13. The seminar is sponsored by the Dean of the SCB and Dean Gordon. The Rice Chorale will provide music for the Christmas Program, and the Chuck Bruch Quartet will play for a dance afterwards. Refreshments (supplying cake) will be served, compliments of the SCB and Dean Gordon's office.

Photos — Color enlargements of ID photographs may be ordered by individuals directly from Omni-card. Order forms and price lists are in the Registrar's Office.

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the rice thresher, december 5, 1968—page 7
Religious studies department puts Nielsen as head

Dr. Niels G. Nielsen, Jr., J. Newton Rayzor, Professor of Religious Thought, has been appointed chairman of the newly established Department of Religious Studies at Rice. He will be joined by Dr. William Meredith, who recently was appointed to the Turner Professorship of Biblical Studies. A third professor for the department will be added when the David Rice Chair in Ethics is filled at the beginning of the next academic year.

"Teaching and research in the new department will be in keeping with the non-sectarian character of Rice University," Dr. Nielsen said. "Initially limited in scope, the curriculum will emphasize academic excellence."

The department will offer undergraduate and graduate courses, in addition, related departmental offerings will include "Reformation History" by Dr. William C. Martin, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, and "Sociology of Religion" by William C. Martin, Assistant Professor of Sociology.

Dr. Nielsen, who specializes in theology and comparative religion, has occupied the Rayzor Chair since it was established in 1953. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Southern Mississippi, a Master of Arts from the University of Illinois, and a Doctor of Philosophy from Yale University.

Dr. Meredith, a specialist in New Testament history and interpretation, was awarded a Th. D. from Claremont Graduate School and University Center.

College Relations

Saturday, Dec. 14
Jones Hall, 8:30 p.m.
Charge tickets at any Foley's Ticket Center.
Chck., $3.00, $4.50, $3.00
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Students' and Teachers' Discount, Classical, jazz, bossa nova, guitar music, to please every taste, played by one of the world's greatest.

WRC to offer photography as art

Will Rice will offer a second semester photography course for three hours credit, which will deal with photography as an art. Emphasis will be on the use of the camera and light-sensitive materials for the production of a meaningful image. The student is expected to be competent in the processing and printing of black and white materials. There will be one two-hour class per week consisting of a short lecture by Rick Gardner (Research Associate, Architecture) and critique and class discussion of student problems which will be issued weekly. Students will be scheduled for five hours a week in the Will Rice darkroom, but must supply their own materials and camera equipment. Problems will use primarily 8mm equipment and will be submitted in the form of black and white presentation prints.

Due to limited facilities, the course will consist of twelve to fifteen students. These students will be selected on the basis of a portfolio of up to twelve pictures, preferably prints made by the student, and a short interview with the instructor. Preference will be given to students with darkroom experience. Interviews will be held Thursday and Friday mornings, December 12 and 13, from 9 am-12 pm in the School of Architecture Offices (Second floor of Anderson Hall, west end). For further information or to arrange an interview at another time, call Gardner, ext. 834 or 832.

Do You Need a one way ride to New York for Christmas? If you have a drivers license call JA 4-8667 after 6:00.

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WILLIAM J. NEWTON, Jr., Chairman

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Saturday, Dec. 14
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Charge tickets at any Foley's Ticket Center.
Rhetorical collision of characters yields grotesque results

By GORDON BRADEN

Robert Ellis Miller's film of "The Student of the Le Moyne Hunter" (now at the River Oaks) brings Carson McCullers' famous novel out into the sunshine. The lighting is bright, uniform, and impeccable; the frame sharp; the characters explicitly outlined; the subplots seen in careful parallel rows like peas in a matchbox; and every emotional corner exposed to continuous illumination by the sort of context that turns indolent humanity that we usually as

olate with senior English majors writing their essay on

If the critic did not tell us so, we would not know that we were dealing with the same author who wrote "Reflections and Reactions." The film has on it a basic concept from anywhere in its...
Hi-ballers’ Blanton scores 56 points to take ‘mural league scoring lead

By JEFF MYERS
Freshman Don Blanton sank 56 points (27 fg, 4 ft) Monday as the Hi-Ballers crushed the Debilhens 191-33 in intramural basketball play. Others hitting

very effective in spots. Senior Bob Rule, 6-4 and a two-year letterman for the Owls, and 6-4 soph Chuck Nelson will swing between forward and guard. Bubba has

“Chuckie” is sooner funda-

mentally.

Loose hurt

It may be difficult to believe

that an 8-16 squad could be hurt

by losses, but the graduation of

McCarty is gone. The defending

champs could find tough sled-

der. The independent schedule is

still probably a year away,

plumber’s heaven.

Journal thinks the Raiders will

be markedly improved

over last year’s squad. It’s not

as the Hi-Ballers...
Rice & football: how compatible?

By DAVID NORMAN

Some contemporary works that ought to find their way into the ENU bookstore and eventually Floodon's Library include the following:

- "The Case of the Tardy Timekeeper"—Mystery lovers will rejoice as they guess with the author in play-by-play detail why Washington left the field cowering and Rice dragging their heels after a 53-35 football contest.
- "Thirty Yards and a Cloud of Dust"—A real treat for the statistically inclined as Tennessee here be reckoned with. Halls, hashes, and finally squashes Rice in a delightful mismatch.
- "On the Comparative Aspects of Offensive and Defensive Incompetence: Rice versus SMU and Rice versus TCU"—This treatise explores the lack of coordination between offensive and defensive football exhibited in two contests, and was offered as exultation of a course of study toward Doctored of Balanced Football (RFD). This complete trilogy brings an end to the faceted nature, the difficult schedule, and the inexperi- ence uncomplimentary of this football season at Rice. It is dramatically subtitled by the word over ever complied by a Rice football team.

Nevertheless, expressed as play, novel, or style, the Rice-Tennessee football fortune would be a decided Worst Seller. The climax occurred in the opening scene, and the denouement became very long, very boring, and very downhill.

Were it not for the tragic personal tone provided by the participation of the athletes themselves, the season might be classified as merely a "good job." The tale seems to adapt itself much more easily to epilaph form.

The two leading candidates to be grasped by said epilaph are football at Rice on one hand, and Coach Hagan on the other. Though the ultimate verdict must be reserved until the SAC, this comes out with some evaluation of the 1968 season, the qualifying aspects of each defendant can be reckoned with.

Two permanent factors in Rice's impotence were the lack of depth and experience. These, combined with the improved nature of Southwest Conference football, the very demanding schedule of non-conference opponents, and the ever-present injury menace, found the Owls outmatched in every contest. Each pre-game prognostic found Rice picked as probable losers; Houston Post sportswriters forecasted their forecasting averages on the Rice game every weekend.

The defeated image that Rice has fostered certainly does not aid recruiting. Can Rice continue in this manner to compete with the rest of the Southeast Conference? And, in the personal question, should Rice do so by recruiting in a manner that eventually divides its student body, which creates a Rice University opposed to a Rice University of Athletes? This segregated atmosphere promotes not only educational but also social realism.

Coach Hagan also can be criticized post- seasonally. He has been compared with former Coach Jess Neely as unfavourably in his qualities of leadership as in his won-loss record. The drill-sergeant mode in which Neely managed his team seems to have produced better results than Coach Hagan's optimistic and brotherly manner of motivating a team.

It is said that no coach or his program should be critically evaluated before a four-year period has transpired. "Give him a chance with the man he's recruited" is the official edict. But Rice prospects on the 1967 freshman team seemd the best in many years. And the players Jess Neely recruited won games under him, and played and lost for Bu Hagan.

The fault certainly does not lie with a Leland Winston who blocked like an All-American tackle all year, and didn't even achieve conference All-American status because his team didn't win. It does not lie with a Bobby Shelton who picked second Texas as a sophomore and LSU as a junior, but was throttled as a senior because he was the lone Owl threat. And it doesn't lie with Gene Kiss- yard or Frank ManDEL, who according to Gene (Oh) Hitchcock could play for the Green Bay Packers.

Night after those fanatic Rice supporters, all those students who attended the TCU game, all those who cheered at the Pop Rocks, maybe they should decide where the fault lies.

The Rice Women's Volleyball Team completed its season on a high note last weekend by fin- ishing fourth in the Homecoming Tournament at the Univer- sity of Houston.

This is the highest a Rice team has finished in any tour- nament in recent years. The team and their coach, Dr. Hally Paulk, could be proud of their showing.

In gaining fourth place the girls defeated San Jacinto Junior College and an odd team, Houston Baptist College, while losing to Lamar Tech, the num- ber one seeded team, and the top team of the University of Houston.

Although heavily outmanned the team undoubtedly played its best game of the season in the two defeats. They can be a specially proud of the 15-11 loss to the U of H team, a feat roughly comparable to our football team dropping a close one to the U of H powerhouse by one touchdown.

This year's team lacked the bright and depth of most of the other teams they have played but optimistic for next year is bright. The team con- tinued to improve throughout the season, and the only starters will lose are co-captains Lee Eggleston and Elaine Gies- sel, both seniors.

Highlights of the games were the sparring of Molly Macintosh, the aggressive blocking and all- around play of Mary Ke- peny and Peggy Schertzer, and the general consistency of Margaret Vindry, Lee Eggleston and Elaine Giesel.

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COEDs fourth in volleyball tourney

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Highlights of the games were the sparring of Molly Macintosh, the aggressive blocking and all- around play of Mary Ke- peny and Peggy Schertzer, and the general consistency of Margaret Vindry, Lee Eggleston and Elaine Giesel.

These six starters were ably assisted by freshmen Karen Eyn- stein and Kathy Mask, both of whom can be looked to help fill next year's vacancies. Other members of the team are Marc Grant, Nancy Swart, and Cab- ertine Hitt.

It is significant that the first showing of the team this year was complemented with the first year of financial support by the Worr- co's Physical Education Depart- ment. No one knows what might happen should they receive an student support.
Wiess combines good acting, director for tabletop triumph

By CHUCK LAVAZZI

College theatre at Rice is a pretty strange sort of animal—almost unique, in a way. Faced with limited funds and facilities (a college commons is hardly likely suited for dramatic productions), it takes a truly imaginative director to design a production that won't simply look amateurish.

Fortunately, Janice Basset appears to be just such a director. Her production of "Flash Combom," which runs today through Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Wiess College commons, is everything that college theatre should be but often isn't. Her staging makes optimal use of limited space and facilities so that the production never suffers from slow pacing or any of the other thousand natural shocks that college drama is often heir to.

Flashbacks

The play itself concerns the murder of a samurai warrior and the rape of his wife by a bandit just outside the ancient Japanese city of Kyoto. The event is told by the bandit, the wife, and the spirit of the dead warrior in a series of flashbacks which reveal more about the psychological makeup of the characters themselves than the actual event. The true version, told by a woodcutter who was in the vicinity, reveals the true nature of the parties involved—neither immensely good nor immensely bad, but simply human.

The cast as a whole is quite good. Special praise is due to Barbara Furst for a genuinely outstanding performance as the wife. This is a very difficult part since the nature of the wife's character changes from version to version. She is, at various times, an exquisitely lady attracted by the bandit's crude masculinity, a faithful wife scorned by her vain husband, and a besotted flirt who crosses the bandit to kill her husband. It is a credit to Miss Furst's acting ability that she is able to make each one of these characters quite distinct and believable.

British bandit

The part of the bandit is no

Rice University.

With regard to the supporting roles, Don Ellis gives a commendable performance as the priest disillusioned by the brutality of the murder and the detracting from it. Don Cisneros. Her portrayal of the wife's mother as an old woman with exaggerated pride in her daughter is as amusing as it is moving, and her interpretation of the hyperactive medium who summons up the spirit of the dead husband is quite convincing.

The production as a whole is excellent and very much worth seeing. The stark, surrealistic black-and-white set, the well-coordinated lighting and sound, and the outstanding acting in "Flashcomb" all offer ample proof that college theatre is indeed alive and well at Rice University.

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