One out of six freshmen flunks English competency exam

by LEE SOWERS

An apparent change in English Department policy coupled with large numbers of failures on the English Competency exam has resulted in much confusion among new students and advisors.

According to Dr. Max Apple, approximately 123 out of 700 students failed the exam, which was given Tuesday.

For the first time, a "low pass" category was added to warn students in this classification of their standing. In some colleges, the low passes and failures came to almost 40% of the new students.

The number of failures appears to be up slightly over last year, when there were about 100.

The large number of failures was claimed by some as evidence of a "crackdown," who also cited a general feeling among professors that too many students in upper-level courses in the humanities were poorly trained in writing skills.

Another reason for the confusion among advisors and students is the fear that the exam actually serves two purposes. On one hand, passing the exam fulfills the University requirement that a student must demonstrate his skill in English composition at some point before graduation. On the other hand, the exam is used by the English department as a pseudo-placement guide.

An English Department spokesman said that the University's requirement could be satisfied by re-taking the exam the following year.

A special section in intensive writing has been set up and recommended for those students who failed the test; however, the enrollment is limited to fewer than 30 students.

Students receiving a low pass warning were told that if their paper had been a grade it would have been a 3 or a 3-

Many students had been given the false impression that the exam was very easy. In fact, some had the idea that the test was used merely to screen out foreign students. Thus these students' performances would have been sub-par due to misinformations.

The exams were graded by teams of professors and graduate students. In case there was any disagreement between either of the members, the paper was referred to a committee of three for a final decision.

Better late than never

Freshman Week—the ultimate vacation

Freshmen, all kinds of freshmen, arrived on campus last Monday—sweat-stained, nervous, and carrying suitcases full of new clothes. (One student from across town was reportedly treated for bus lag. When you get to know Houston's transit system, you'll know how funny this isn't.)

Most did very well in their high school work. 101 of the 626 were valedictorians; 40 were salutatorians. Two-thirds of the class ranked in the top five percent of their graduating class.

Over 24% of the entering freshmen have SAT scores averaging above 700. More than half averaged above 600.

A sixth of the entering freshmen are National Merit Scholars—133 of them. Seven are National Achievement Scholars. The statistics go on and on.

There are other revealing, non-scholastic figures. As usual there is a dearth of women. Sixty-eight percent of the class of 1978 are men; this is an improvement over only a few years ago when the ratio was 3/4 to 1 (M/F).

The geographical nature of the class is diverse. Forty states and 17 foreign nations are represented; but the large majority come from Texas.

Interests of the new Rice people are varied. Among the unusual activities participated in by some members of the class include: clinical research in the area of echocardiography; truck farming; designing electronic home security devices; and excavating caves for Indian artifacts.

It was a week of being oriented; of walking to the Village; of eating lunch in other colleges; of forgetting names; of buying Rice T-Shirts, textbooks, and Alka-Seltzer; and of taking the Honor Council exam, the English Competency exam, and failing both. Oh, well.

It was a week of partying, too—getting all the wildness out before the grim and fateful beginning of classes.

Within a year they will all be weanies. Perhaps they already are.

TexPIRG: a going proposition

In the newly vacated office of the Thresher ("we've moved down the hall") live two vital campus organizations, the Rice Program Council (RPC) and TexPIRG. As we looked at the long telephone cord strung across the room, we saw the Honors Common area of echocardiography; truck farming; designing electronic home security devices; and excavating caves for Indian artifacts.

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TexPIRG, the Texas Public Interest Research Group, has investigated drug prices and dangerous toys, provided information to renters, and informed the population in general through pamphlets and lectures.

The local chapter has contributed significantly to these statewide investigative efforts. Last semester TexPIRG's services included a mechanics course for people who don't know anything about cars.

Ms. Coffman, chairman of the board, is trying to get the mechanics course again for this semester. If it turns out to be too late for the fall, the course will probably be offered the second semester. The big plans now are for a consumer complaint hotline. Once implemented the line will open during the day to allow people to make complaints about bad merchandise, bad service, bad times. A new apartment guide and lectures on insurance and other topics are also planned for the year.

The present TexPIRG board consists of Michelle Zingaro (Sr., Hansen), D.R. Fenton (Sr., Lovett), Martin Wing (Sr., Lovett), and Ms. Coffman (Sr., Brown). Ms. Coffman reports that there is plenty of room and work for new volunteers. The offices are on the second floor of the RMC.

Mini-Con VII to come Sept. 21

Comic book and film collectors in the Houston area will hold the first in a series of "mini-conventions" this September 21 at the Executive Red Carpet Inn, 4200 Southwest Freeway, here in Houston.

On the agenda for Mini-Con VII will be screenings of several films, including Walt Disney's Melody Time (featuring Roy Roger). The Andrews Sisters and others) and the fantasy film classic Jason & the Argonauts, several of the Star Trek television programs, a brief retrospective on old television programs, and a special screening of three of the rare animated Superman cartoons from the 1940's.

Mini-Con VII will also have a dealer's room where Texas area fans will have on display and for sale various nostalgic treasures including old comic books (some worth up to $3,000), movie memorabilia, films, Star Trek artifacts, old dime pulps, etc.

The convention will run from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 11:00 p.m. with screenings beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Admission to the convention is $1.50 per person; dealer's space is $5.00 per table. All proceeds from Mini-Con VII will go toward the sponsoring of the group's Houstoncon '75, a national nostalgia convention to be held here in Houston, June 25-29, 1974.

For further information on Mini-Con VII call Earl Blair at 692-0205.

Mini-Con VII to come Sept. 21

Dr. Hackerman at Matriculation Reception. —make me elate

—Bill Fulton
the erosion of civil liberties

Big brother isn’t the only

editorial

In an article written four years ago (Look, July 14, 1970), the distinguished historian Henry Steele Commager warned us that, "Today we are busy doing what Franklin warned us against. Animated by impatience, anger, and fear we are giving up essential liberties not for safety but for the appearance of safety. The corroding due process and the rule of law not for Order but for the semblance of order. We will find that when we have given up liberty, we will not have safety, and that when we have given up justice we will not have order. Perhaps it is time now for us to recall and assess Commager’s words.

Commager’s article asked, “Is Freedom dying in America?” Today our fears can only run stronger, deeper. The news this summer has been particularly saddening: respected men, educators, leaders of commerce, the people’s representatives in the halls of Congress and in the state houses, even a President and his Vice-President have called on us to betray our own most precious rights—even as they have betrayed that heritage. Worst of all, we as a nation seem hell bent on allowing our rights to slip away.

The charges that Commager leveled are as true now as then. “Repression in the Nation,” he argued, has become “more pervasive and more formidable” than that occurring during the worst of the ugly months when Senator Joseph McCarthy strode the American scene fomenting hatred and suspicion of his fellow citizens. In the nineteen seventies, “Repression comes to us with official sanction and is imposed upon us by officials sworn to uphold the law: the Attorney General, the FBI, state and local officials, the police, and even judges.”

The events of the past two years, which culminated in the forced resignation of President Richard Milhous Nixon, have only confirmed Commager’s words. Those in high office do not openly proclaim their disillusionment with the principles of freedom, but they confess it by their conduct, while the people acquiesce in their own disinheritance by abandoning the “eternal vigilance” that is the price of liberty.

“Equally flagrant,” Commager noted, “is the attack on First Amendment freedoms—freedom of speech, press, petition, and assembly—an attack that takes the form of intimidation and harassment rather than of overt, in-denouncing the ‘effete Eastern press,’ the Administration sought to silence the greatest newspapers in the Republic. In the name of “national security,” the Administration sought the suppression of the so-called ‘Penitagon Papers.’ And incredibly, a lower federal court panel even agreed to the suppression. without ever having seen the contents of the papers.

Fortunately for all Americans, the Supreme Court, its historic seats once occupied by Brandeis and Holmes and Warren and Black and not yet filled by the Bourbon appointees, reaffirmed the rights of a free press for a free people.

In the field of criminal justice, the Administration pushed through the Congress such repressive acts as the Omnibus Crime Bill during a time when, as Commager put it, “frightened people everywhere, alarmed by lawlessness and violence in their communities, and impatient with the notion that we cannot really end violence until we deal with its causes, call loudly for tougher laws, tougher cops and tougher courts.” As Commager said, "Tired men who have no confidence in the processes of democracy or in the potentialities of education are ready to abandon for a policy of the expedient that Lincoln called ‘the last best hope of earth.’ ”

What President Ford calls “The long nightmare of Watergate” has ended, but the deeper more troubling worries persist. The cause of Freedom in America is still at stake on the firing line. What Commager warned of four years ago may be coming true today: “We may be witnessing, even now, a dissolution of the fabric of freedom that may portend the dissolution of the Republic.”

—John Anderson

Editor’s note: This is the first in a series of articles examining the serious erosion of civil and constitutional liberties in this country. This week’s story examines several major local news items this summer.

by John Anderson

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is under investigation for its role in the political surveillance of citizens.

Governor Dolph Briscoe has ordered DPS Director Col. Wilson S. Speir to conduct an in-depth review of the state’s principal law enforcement agency and its intelligence gathering divisions. Meanwhile, a subcommittee of the Texas Senate has begun preparations for full-scale hearings.

The story broke when Dallas public television station KERA revealed that DPS intelligence agents had prepared a report on citizen Robert Pomeroy. The file was begun when Pomeroy voiced public opposition to a nuclear power plant to be constructed near Glen Rose. The Pomeroy file was labeled “Subversive” under the heading “character of intelligence.”

Other DPS “character of intelligence” categories include “racial”, “general criminal,” (Organized Crime) and “others.”

Report lists personal info

Dimick’s report contained Pomeroy’s address, phone number, family information, military records, places of employment, and his hobbies.

Agent Dimick noted that following a meeting of the Dallas City Council, Pomeroy was “observed walking to” a 70 year old man, “who had a long time Socialist Party organizer in Dallas.” Dimick also reported that Pomeroy distributed telegrams from two “alleged experts” in atomic physics. The two “experts” are professors MIT and at the University of Massachusetts.

Dimick noted that one of the two professors “has been cited by [the] U.S. House Unamerican Activities [Committee] in a 1961 report on ‘possible Communist infiltration into academic and energy front groups.”

The DPS has since apologized to Pomeroy and claims to have destroyed the file on him.

In a related story, a former Tyler Junior College student, Randy Fitzgerald revealed to a Dallas reporter that DPS agent Dennis Stone had approached him in September of 1970, requesting help in the investigation of on-campus “subversive groups.” Also under investigation for agent Stone were the Tyler Unitarian Fellowship and the local chapter of the Texas Civil Liberties Union.

Foreign students adjust

Alan Dugal McKillop, Professor Emeritus of English, died in Houston on Monday, August 5. Remembered by one of his students, the writer John Graves, as a “rock of scholarship,” Professor McKillop had been an active member of the Rice faculty for forty years.

Born May 24, 1892, McKillop was a graduate of Harvard University (1913, summa cum laude) and received his Ph.D. there in 1920. In September of that year, McKillop came to Houston and remained at Rice until his retirement in 1955.

Graves has written fondly of McKillop’s Chaucer class in the early years of World War II: “It was the most meaningful class I ever sat in. It had a quality of reverie; but reverie and reality were the same thing, and the words of love and violence from Middle English interwove themselves with the

real springtime of the jasmine, the drowsy breeze, the young male springtime confusion about love and the unknowable clash of war ahead. It was Rice as I knew Rice, that class, a summing up.”

GARY BREWTON

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the rice thresher, august 23, 1974—page 2
Despite culture shock

I landed at New York’s Kennedy Airport. For the first time in my life I was made aware, here, of the concept that cars could be “foreign” in class. And no longer do I use the word “fag” for a cigarette.

A Surfeit of football

I have grown to like football but still maintain that soccer (“football” to the rest of the world) is a more exciting game. With the establishment of the WFL there is definitely a surfeit of football on TV. Instead, I once set a shockwave by loudly asking for a “rubber” (a very common word “eraser” in India) in class. “Too much liberty” claimed I have grown to like football but still maintain that soccer (“football” to the rest of the world) is a more exciting game. With the establishment of the WFL there is definitely a surfeit of football on TV. Instead, I once set a shockwave by loudly asking for a “rubber” (a very common word “eraser” in India) in class. “Too much liberty” claimed I have grown to like football but still maintain that soccer (“football” to the rest of the world) is a more exciting game. With the establishment of the WFL there is definitely a surfeit of football on TV. Instead, I once set a shockwave by loudly asking for a “rubber” (a very common word “eraser” in India) in class. “Too much liberty” claimed...
Lunar experiments continue despite $$ cut

by BRIAN BUCHANAN

Theoretical and experimental studies in the area of space physics and astronomy are continuing at Rice University in spite of recent reductions in public and financial support for agencies such as NASA which provide major funding for university research in these fields. Among the currently active major projects at Rice is the Suprathermal Ion Detector Experiment (SIDE), under the principal direction of Dr. John W. Freeman, Jr.

The Suprathermal Ion Detector is an instrument designed to sample the ion population at the instrument site by measuring the mass, energy, and flux of positively charged particles which enter a small aperture in the device.

SIDE was conceived at Rice, and the preliminary scientific analysis and design was carried out here. Additional design work and actual construction of the instruments was subcontracted to an outside firm. The completed instruments were then delivered to Rice for calibration and testing before being released to NASA for final integration into the Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package.

Two distinct assemblies are actually incorporated into the instrument design: one for low energy (0.2 eV to 48.6 eV) ions, and one for high energy ions (10 eV to 3500 eV). The low energy particles are analyzed with respect to both mass and energy, but, because of constraints on the physical size of the instrument, only energy data is acquired for high energy particles. One SIDE instrument was included in the ALSEP deployed on the moon by each of the Apollo XI (Nov. 1969), XIV (Feb. 1971), and XV (Aug. 1971) crews. The device rests on tripod legs about 45 cm. above the lunar surface, and approximately 15 meters from the ALSEP central control station, from which it draws 5 watts of power. All three of the instruments are continuing to operate satisfactorily and provide useful data for investigation at Rice.

At this time, SIDE maintains a library of over 5000 reels of digital magnetic computer tapes, containing information which has been returned from the experiments on the moon. Additional tapes, containing the most recent data, are received weekly from the Johnson Space Center.

Current plans call for continued funding from NASA for SIDE data acquisition and analysis throughout the active life of the instruments. Should budget reductions require the termination of data acquisition, Freeman is confident that funding would be continued at an adequate level to allow for the complete reduction of all data on hand at that time.

Thus far, investigation of data produced by SIDE has resulted in the publication of more than ten dozen scientific papers by project personnel, as well as the completion of three doctoral programs.

Four graduate students are now associated with the SIDE program, and Freeman predicts that sufficient data will be available for several additional students to participate in the SIDE investigations.

Among the topics which the SIDE team has studied are the composition and origin of the lunar atmosphere, the electrical potential of the lunar surface, the flux of solar wind particles incident on the lunar surface, and the interactions of the solar wind and the earth's magnetic field.

Looking toward the future, Dr. Freeman predicts a gradual upswing in research funding and activity in the 1980's with the advent of almost weekly space shuttle flights. Current long range planning by Freeman's group envisions comet flyby missions during the 80's, in order to study these little understood bodies.

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Newcomers!

(The Zoo Book)
Goes on Sale in the College Offices and in the Campus Store
Tuesday, August 27, 1974
Price $1

Newcomers! is the book of freshmen—containing the pictures, names, home towns, and proposed majors of all the new students at Rice. As such it is invaluable for REMEMBERING the names of all the people you met during Freshman Week.

the rice thresher, august 23, 1974—page 4
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the rice thresher, august 23, 1974—page 5
Getting the most out of entertainment in Houston

by NANCY TAUBENSLAG

The variety and amount of entertainment in Houston cannot compare with that of the major cities on either coast. But you chose to go to Rice; the events in the big city can easily fill your limited spare time.

Unless you are a native, you probably have little idea where or how to look for the centers of entertainment. This sketchy directory will suggest the more popular spots and events.

**Theater**

Between the Players and college theater, almost every type of popular theater is available right on campus. The Rice Players, described by one Rice student as "as good as anything in Houston when at their best," will present The Real Inspector Hound as their first production of the school year. They are also anticipating performing a musical later in the season. Wiese Ta-

tle Top Theatre has the reputation of presenting good, like last year's fine production of Rosenkranz and Guildenstern are Dead. Parker College plans to put on a Shakespearean play during their week-long Shakespearean festival. Last year, Jones presented two French comedies; Brown has in the past staged Greek classics.

Beyond the hedgerows, the Alley provides most of the dramatic entertainment. Already scheduled for the season are a multi-media drama called Wilson, The Man Who Cared; to Dinner and Twelfth Night. Inexpensive student rush tickets are available by subscription.

Dinner theaters abound. The Windmill Dinner Theatre is renowned for its "big stars," such as Mamie Van Doren in the current production of Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter. Before the main show at the Dean Goss dinner theater, the rotund Mr. Goss delivers a funny-insipid Don Rickles-type monologue.

**Movies**

Houston gets every new movie you hear about, plus a healthy selection of classics. If you can actually choose what movies you feel like seeing on the weekends. The Rice Pro-

ogram Council sponsors an annual film series with weekend show-

ings in the Chemistry Lecture and Hamman Halls. Tickets only cost $1, but you save even more by buying a subscription. The Media Center hosts a fine selection of old, avant garde, and/or foreign films, and occasionally presents limited screenings of first-run previews. Many of the college film shows provide cinema classics, showing more recent, popular culture films for cheap or free.

The Alley theater continues its excellent summer series. Re-

member entries are "The Maltese Falcon Rock Hunter. Before the some 1922 version of the Dra-

cula story, "Goin' to Town," the shockumentary "Mondo Cane," and "That Night in Rio." Other movie houses cover all the first-run films. Go by the Student Association office to grab some discount passes to local theaters.

Finally, students mob to the weekend "youth cut" midnight movies sponsored by radio sta-

tion KLOL.

**Concerts**

Hardly a weekend passes without a rock concert by the top bands in the country. This month's biggest, booked as "AN HISTORIC EVENT," is the Deep Purple/J. Geils Band/Elf Concert at the Astrodome on August 30.

Liberty Hall at 1610 Chene-

vert downtown boasts a superior selection of good concert runs. Watch for country, jazz, and other good-listening music, too. Sample attraction: Michael Mur-

phy and David Allen Coe, ap-

pearing on September 14. Ti-

ckets are cheaper if bought in advance.

The Houston Symphony orchestra performs every few weeks, with many guest conduc-

tors and unique programs. Houston art patrons have a set of free season tickets for class-

ical music lovers. If interested, contact the Student Associ-

ation for more details.

La Bistrite is the finest night-

club in Houston's Old Market Square district and downtown, fea-

turing big-name jazz musicians. This week, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers are playing; Stan Kenton is one of the promised acts for the year.

**Clubs**

The lowering of the drinking age has filled the clubs to over-

flowing. Even the weanies even-

tually go to Kay's, mostly for its good beer. Those primarily a bar perry, the new Farmhouse is a must for teen-agers; a three-

story hotel was refurbished to make the club, with five wet

bars, two huge dance floors, and a hotel's bite, a concert Mon-

day's special rate is 25 cents for a beer, and Wednesday you get two for one on all drinks. Da-

mians and the Village Inn Pizza Parlors offer live bands each eve-

ning; the Spanish Palace has a bar where you can watch old sports fea-

tures in movie room. Other clubs downtown are the Rice crowd are the Palace, with a huge pen-husky complex of live dances, games, numbers, and a disk jockey, and Uncle Sam's.

**Miscellaneous Theater**

Last season, the Houston Grand Opera staged theBritish world premiere of Pasiattier's The Seagull. Hanon, Il Traviatore (with Martina Arroyo as Ros-

kenkeller, La Boheme, LuLu, and Lucrecia Borgia (with Joan Sutherland) many runs this sea-

son. The international program, sung in the opera's original lan-

guage, is performed on Tues-

days, Fridays, and Sundays; the popular musical acts for the year.

Though no definite schedules have been announced, ballet and modern dance can be found at scattered times. The Music Hall presents the new version of the opera Trouvailles as an importa-

ce from the US. The event is in the community. If all else fails, study.

**Events**

Sometime before you leave Rice, you owe it to yourself to visit the Houston Astrodome and Astro-

world. At the Astrodome appear sports (the scene of last year's incredible University of Texas vs. Oklahoma college football match), concerts, and spectacles (like guru Maharishi's 49's Millennium '73. The Astrodome is an amusement park called Astro-

world offers ten different theme parks, including a zoo, an outdoor theater, and a beach.

The park is open from 10 am to 10 pm, and you could stay the entire time and not be able to try all the rides.

The Astrodome is meeting directly across the street from Rice, holds a zoo, an outdoor theater, and pic-

nic grounds, but does not meet to people and relax on week-

ends.

Labor Day Weekend becomes Country Music Weekend in Ker-

ville, Texas. Twenty different musical acts are now sched-

uled. Mac Wiseman, Lester Flatt & the Nashville Grass, and Norman Blake keynote the pro-

gram.

Other than the above listings, try your newspaper and radio for events, places, and times. The Thresher will inform you of upcoming attractions in the community. If all else fails, study.
Introducing Oliphant

Beginning this week the Thresher adds as a regular feature the work of Pat Oliphant, the Pulitzer Prize-winning (1966) political cartoonist.

Oliphant’s approach is satirical, not like that of his colleagues Herblock and Conrad, whose pens seem heavyhanded. Oliphant uses the vehicle of humor to make his point in a subtle way which preserves the essential humanity of his targets.

“The basis of my cartoon is humor,” Oliphant says. “There is no better vehicle for satirical thought. In those instances where a particularly grim subject might indicate a straight approach, the contrast that humor affords thrusts the message home with free impact.”

“Can you see Nicosia? Are we in time to stop all that dreadful fighting?”

“We in Detroit are so distressed by inflation, we just had to slash our prices somewhere...”

“Pat Oliphant

Patrick Oliphant first made his mark in his native Australia where he began professionally with the Adelaide Advertiser in 1955. Within a few years, his work was known throughout Australia.

Since 1964, Oliphant’s cartoons have originated from Colorado, where he works for the evening Denver Post. His cartoons are syndicated nationally to more than 600 newspapers through the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Politics, social attitudes, and customs are all in the realm of this master satirist. A broad background, an international perspective, talent, and complete editorial freedom have joined to place the work of Patrick Oliphant at the apex of his field.

“I’m a Republican candidate—save me!”
The Rice University Museum is playing host this season to the first archival collection of the works of Henri Cartier-Bresson. This exhibit is on display until Sept. 15.

In a lyrical essay, Ernst Haas has written eloquently of the masterful French photographer. "His view," writes Haas, "is that of a gentleman who would never take distorted poses while working in order to improve a photographic angle. The eyesight of a normal man standing and walking is enough."

From a technical standpoint, Bresson's work is purely photographic. As Haas says, "It is this purely photographic quality which gives them their value."
Bresson does not believe in cropping: "In photography the frame stands for space, the moment stands for time. Frame and moment are an inseparable unit in the hands of this master. A picture is conceived as a whole to such a degree that cropping can only destroy, never improve, his perfect compositions."

Apart from this technical mastery in which each aspect of the work integrates into a perfect whole, Bresson’s photography is noted for its simplicity and humanity. “Life is interesting enough as it is,” Haas writes, “and there is no need to be overly impressive. (Bresson) strongly believes in understatement. Human dignity always remains. In (Bresson’s) pictures nobody seems poor, only simple, and the dignity of man is never lost.”
Bayne to direct Rice Players

The Rice Players’ performance of Adaptation Friday at 7:30pm marked the first show under the supervision of Donald Bayne, Acting Director of the Players for this year.

Bayne returns to the Players in this position during the absence of Neil Havens, who is on a one-year sabbatical.

While an undergraduate at Rice during 1968—1972, Bayne acted and served as Player Coordinator. He directed The Short, Sacred Rite of Search and Destruction and performed in A Delicate Balance, The Alchemist, The Amorous Flea, and Macbeth for the Players. In addition, he directed Baker College’s production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

Bayne worked as Artistic Director for the First Repertory Theater in San Antonio the past two years before returning to Rice. The group strived to “bring theater new to the San Antonio audience, high quality theater that would provide entertainment while expanding the cultural horizons of the San Antonio audience. He directed such shows as America Hurrah, Summerfest, Cabaret, and A Midsummer Night’s Dream, also producing and stage-managing Old Times, Dial M for Murder, and The Roar of the Crowd, in which he also acted.

Bayne, who also performs magic, is now living in Lovett College as a Resident Associate.

Under Bayne’s direction, the Players will present four productions this season.

HSO forms pilot chamber-group

A new unit of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, the Houston Symphony Chamber Players, composed of the Orchestra’s 16 first-chair musicians, has been created to broaden the performing of classical music literature.

If the pilot year’s operations are as successful as predicted by the musicians and the Houston Symphony, co-sponsors of the experiment, then full management responsibilities will be assumed by the Houston Symphony Society. During the pilot year, booking of concert dates will be handled by the Players themselves, with promotion of the new group being assumed by Symphony management.

The Houston Symphony Chamber Players is designed to take a vast musical literature, seldom performed, into small communities such as towns and colleges and universities. Also, the programs and number of players needed to perform them can be tailored to meet small organizations’ budgets.

The musicians feel that not fewer than seven players will ever appear on any given program, thus ruling out the performances of string quartets. On the other hand, the Players have not as yet discovered any compositions requiring all 16 musicians.

In this light, the musicians foresee the possibility of commissioning works especially for the Houston Symphony Chamber Players.

Another advantage of the Players is its mobility: the musicians can perform in nearby communities and colleges while the entire Houston Symphony is on tour in the state, in major cities across the country and even abroad.
Valhalla: back to beer busts

Valhalla in Scandinavian mythology is the palace of immortality, in which souls of heroes slain in battle dwell. To mortality, in which souls of heaven's inhabitants are formally held, by newly-appointed Proctor Samuel Carrington. Valhalla has obtained its license to sell beer and wine after six litigious months. The license is still 25 cents each on MTWTh, 20 cents on Fridays, probably the cheapest beer in town. But a beer connoisseur may taste the difference, because now it's Falstaff being served instead of Budweiser. Wally Kulecz, the new lounge manager, says that if people insist on Budweiser then it's gonna be 30 cents each. Gotta nickel, anyone?

Media Center to fund video film

For the second year, talented Rice students will have the opportunity to try their hands at film-making using videotape equipment from the Rice Media Center. James Blue, an instructor at the Media Center, is seeking student proposals for an original film. The person or group with the approved proposal will be provided videotape equipment, funds to finance a one-hour finished film, some training, and access to editing and dubbing facilities. Blue and lecturer David MacDougall will select one or two of the proposed ideas on the basis of creativity and adaptability to film.

"This year we are looking for more than simply the filming of a stage play," says Blue. "We're more interested in original concepts, particularly in the line of documentaries."

Students do not need to be enrolled in a Media Center course to enter the competition.

"We here at the Media Center feel it's important that all Rice people be given the opportunity to take advantage of this communications program," said Blue. "The Media Center was founded on the philosophy that we are not simply training people for the film-making professions." Blue continued. "We want to train people to use the new media in their own professions and lives."

The program emphasizes the use of film making as a viable means of perception and communication for persons who have not thought of themselves as filmmakers. Technical proficiency is of secondary importance in the selection of winning proposals.

Last year, the Media Center helped produce Michael Smith's "Leave It to Beaver". Proposals must be submitted to the Media Center October 1.
Conover confident after a difficult summer

by GAURANG VYAS

After spending the summer campaigning against the World Football League, and being named a co-defendant in a lawsuit by former Rice gridder Edwin Collins, head football coach Al Conover got back to business last week, welcoming 117 players (87 varsity and 30 freshmen) for the start of fall practice.

The Owls began two-a-day workouts last Monday, and donned their pads for the first time on Thursday. Once classes resume, they'll revert to one workout daily.

After the initial conditioning drills, Conover was all smiles. "I couldn't be more pleased, they have come back in top shape and ready to work," he said. "Fatigue, so far, has been a nonexistent factor. Because our people have more talent and experience than ever before we will be able to concentrate more on specifics than on fundamentals."

The Owls are going to need all the help they can get, with a schedule that includes Notre Dame, LSU, the University of Houston, Texas and Texas Tech ahead of them. Even Cincinnati has a class squad in most years.

Nation's toughest schedule?

But the players and coaches aren't put off by the schedule, which could be the nation's toughest. As Conover stated, "You cannot beat the best unless you play the best."

Only five starters on offense and six on defense will be returning this fall, but what the Owls lack in experience they make up with in size and determination.

The offensive line is young and inexperienced, but averages close to 240 pounds per man. The starters will probably be sophomores John Stanfield, Dan Dampeer, and Steve Moore, anchored by juniors Randy Eggenheimer and James Liska.

Running game: dynamite

With one year of varsity under their belts, quarterbacks Tommy Kramer and Fred Geisler should be improved. Kramer finished ahead of Geisler in spring drills, but the opening day starter is by no means set yet.

Ardie Segar, Gary Ferguson, James West, John Reimen, and fullback Eddy Collins highlight a running game that could be dynamite by season's end. Sykes, who last year led the nation in kickoff returns at one point, gives the inside plays speed and agility. Collins, at 6'2" and 225, is close to unstoppable inside.

Split-end Ed Lofton, flanker Bruce Woodruff and tight end Kenneth Roy highlight a deep receiving corps.

Kicking game superb

The kicking game is superb and experienced. Alan Pringle and Mike Landrum are simply the best in the conference, and possibly the best tandem in the nation.

On the defensive line, there is more size, led by 6'2" nose guard Cornelius Walker, a co-captain All-America candidate that Conover calls "absolutely the best in the nation. He's braced on the 1-3 set by end Larry O'Neal and Chris Fisher, plus tackles Jody McDermott and Danny Johnson.

Behind the lines, the experienced Rodney Norton and Dee McCurry provide the defense with two of the Conference's hardest hitters.

Weakness in secondary

If there is a weakness on the squad, it may in the secondary. Co-captains Cullie Compepper and Gary Cox, cornerbacks, are the only men with experience. They'll be joined by two from the field of Randy Piel, Robert Susen, Henry Harrison, and Larry Bevan.

Freshmen, as always, may see varsity playing time. Two of the most prominent in the class of '78 are defensive tackle Joey Devill and offensive tackle Alfred Sanders, who could be starters by year's end. Defensive tackle Eric Zumwalt and wide receiver Jesse Neves will also see action.

Recruiting pays off

Conover's recruiting program, not three years old, are finally beginning to pay dividends. With the help from Lady Luck, and some enthusiastic support, Rice could have one of its best years ever in 1974.

Newcomers!

You can't tell the animals without a ZOO BOOK.

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We're in a position to do you a lot of good.

And vice versa. □ While Rice was celebrating summer vacation, Texas Commerce Medical Bank celebrated its opening—right across Main Street, in the building where the College Inn used to be. □ These are temporary quarters, we hasten to add.

Late in 1976, we'll move to our permanent home in the new Total Health Care Center—under construction one block south (where another restaurant used to be). □ Not only do we serve the best cup of coffee around (you should see our kitchen!), we're convenient, we're new in the neighborhood, and we've got everything you need in the way of banking services. □ That means checking accounts, savings accounts, safe deposit boxes, travelers' checks, international services, loans, bank by mail, motor banking and other things as well. □ So if you'd like to take care of all your banking and hardly leave the Rice campus, come see us. We want to be your bank.
Varied menu awaits the discriminating sports fan

by DANA BLANKENHORN

The Rice football team had its glory days in the early 50's, around the time of the opening of the new stadium. In fifteen years, the Owls were regularly among the nation's top twenty, but in recent years, with the advent of the pro game, the program has crapped to the NCAA's "second tier," those teams just below national recognition that attempt to compete with the big state schools such as UT, Michigan, Alabama, and Oklahoma. Last year, Rice finished last in the SWC, but the Rice football fan's fate is often an exercise in masochism. With Notre Dame, LSU, Texas, and Houston to play, the Rice fan must usually settle for outsquading the opposition at half time. But even once in a while a miracle occurs. We win.

Soccer jocks, all walk-ons, play a non-SWAC schedule organized around South Texas and featuring UT, TCU, and the Aggies, complementing local schools of lesser renown. Last year's Owls finished second in a four-team division.

Swimmers occupy the pool throughout the late fall and early spring. It is a volunteer group in a league of scholarship athletes, with women's programs to swim for SMU. Last year, the team was a sixth-place winner. Sharpie joined the squad as a 3-meter diver, the first woman varsity diver in the Southwest.

The winter months find events in the gym with a basketball team that is, once again, overmatched. While Texas builds a new 15,000 seat palace for its program and Baylor recruits nationwide, Rice in the past has offered Dave "Whoosh" Kiiker, a seven-foot center who had difficulties chewing gum and dribbling simultaneously. Last spring, Coach Doug Osburn surrendered to reality, resigning, and Bob Polk was hired from St. Louis University. A former winner at Trinity and Vanderbilt, Polk's Billikens finished last in the Missouri Valley Conference season last year, and was being quoted when Rice "rediscovered" him.

Volleyballers occasionally tangle intercollegiately, but without an extracurricular. A women's basketball squad was organized, and manages to avoid getting shot out. Everyone else plays handball, squash, tennis, ping-pong, or bridge, and the football jocks weren't ready.

In the spring, four major sports vie for the attention of the discriminating fan. The tennis team, which frequently achieves national rank, has a "steady" but few fans, while producing national champions such as Frank Guernsey (from 1937) and Harold Solomon (from 1973), currently American Team.

The track team attempts to compete against schools with thirty-three team members, as a team, flounders. It retains a measure of competitiveness because, like weight-man Ken Stadel and pole vaulter Dave Roberts, have stood out in the third-order sunshade. Baseball is the people's game, although our people, mostly walk-ons, are being offered $80,000 to sign with the Phila-

delphia Phillies. Some conference baseballers, usually from UT, are. Last year's team beat Texas once. It also managed to lose to Lamar University of Beaumont four times.

The golf team this year has a "short" contract and $10,000 to play with, thanks to a mysterious benefactor whose motives are probably based upon a distance from the region's preeminent link power.

Rugby goes year-round, but the games in the spring are the ones which count most heavily in the minds of the club. Being without pads, it's a true test of Machismo, and no rugger can become a hero by walking in with one minute to play and planting a toe in the ball for three points. Someone started a lacrosse team last spring, and annually, a few hardly folks take to the sea with sails, challenging SMU and A&M, making the Freeport coast a Texas Newport.

Rice usually competes a foot overhead, making spectator sport an interesting reprise to be enjoyed with a grain of salt, and a jaundiced eye. So long as it breaks even financially, it will be tolerated, but in all the Southwest Conference, only Baylor made money last year.

How long the multi-sport menu might float in a sea of red ink is another discussion.

Women's sports to be played up

The Rice football team had its glory days in the early 50's, around the time of the opening of the new stadium. In fifteen years, the Owls were regularly among the nation's top twenty, but in recent years, with the advent of the pro game, the program has crapped to the NCAA's "second tier," those teams just below national recognition that attempt to compete with the big state schools such as UT, Michigan, Alabama, and Oklahoma. Last year, Rice finished last in the SWC, but the Rice football fan's fate is often an exercise in masochism. With Notre Dame, LSU, Texas, and Houston to play, the Rice fan must usually settle for outsquading the opposition at half time. But even once in a while a miracle occurs. We win.

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Women's sports to be played up

This past summer, the U.S. Office of Education promulgated anti-sex discrimination regulations under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. They maintain that universities must give women an equal chance to compete in interscholastic athletics, in every manner, from clubs to varsity.

To cope with the increasing dynamism of the women's athletic movement, Rice Baseball Coach Doug Osburn has taken over, or re-taken, the position of an intercollegiate director of women's athletics, and is working to tailor a full program to the new reality.

"I think we're in pretty fine shape in regard to Title IX," he commented in relation to the conclusions of the season. During the season, Rice is in the Southeast zone, one of seven, whose dimensions north of a Prairie View, south to Baytown, east to Beaumont, and west to San Antonio and the schools out there. The conclusion of seasonal intrazonal competition will be regional tournaments, with the winners meeting to determine state champions, and eventually, national titlists.

What some ultra-feminists sometimes fail to realize, said Osburn, is that "it's taken many years for us to get to the point which from parallels the men's, is that 'it's taken many years for us to get to the point which from parallels the men's. Most women, just want equal opportunity to compete. That's fair."

Coaching, too, will be on a par with whatever sport she's most interested in. Osburn said, in reference to the volleyball and basketball programs. And "Don Knodel has volunteered to work too with the women's basketball." Last year Osburn coached the men to a six-place SWC finish. Rice is also hiring a second woman Physical Education instructor and Osburn says that "she'll help with whatever sport she's most expert at." Track and tennis coaches are being instructed to perform double duty, working with "any girls that are interested."

Osburn looked west over the expanse of jock land, contemplating a future of jockettes. "At this point, I wouldn't doubt it," he commented in relation to future scholarships for women athletes. "But we would like a program for the girls that are at Rice now."

I just don't know if they (womensports) will catch on in Texas as a money-making proposition," he said. But, at least, "they'll no longer be wholly anonymous, if they are not trail blazers such as C. C. Sharpe. "We're going to have Billy Sims work as sports information director for the girls." Sims for the past year has been top assistant to Bill Whitmore, long-time men's PR director at Rice. "And they're doing pretty good."
It's football season . . . again

Football season is upon us again. Time to take the dreams of a winning football team off the shelf again, only to see them get tarnished as they have for years and years. Time again to revive the myth of Rice as a great football power in the Mighty Southwest Conference. At the end, time to be the spoiler, to win the big upset, to be something other than a tired and dirty bunch of jocks. Time to dream of championships.

Some scenes from previous years: a chorus line of TRG’s shows other drill teams how it should be done; the scoreboard’s story may seem incredible, but it’s true (from 1972); Sammy watches over a typical play—somehow we always wind up playing defense; the MOB demonstrates the facility with which it copies, and parodies, other colleges’ bands; and a rare sight: sometimes we even win.

—photos by jim lawler
—owl photo by john cook

the rice thresher, august 23, 1974—page 14
by BARBARA MORRIS

The Rice Pre-Med Society will add several new dimensions to its activities during the 1974-75 academic year. Last year there were nearly 42,000 applicants for approximately 15,000 positions in medical schools in the United States. Thus 27,000 students who have spent their undergraduate years preparing for medical school will have to look for other careers, many of which will be in other health-related professions.

Faced with this reality, the Pre-Med Society will branch into other health-related professions. Working with Dr. Jorge Awapara, pre-med advisor, the society will develop new programs in four specific areas.

First, it will serve as coordinator for information on medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry, public health, biomedical sciences, and other health-related professions. This information will be provided both through reference literature and through speakers from professional and graduate schools.

Second, in cooperation with the Placement Office, the Society will help locate jobs at local medical and health-related facilities for students who wish to gain work experience in their specific areas of interest. The jobs will be part-time during the school year and both part- and full-time during the summer months.

Third, the Society will expand its work in the area of public service. Traditionally, there have been two blood drives per year to benefit local hospitals. During the coming year the Society will make opportunities available for students to do volunteer work in areas which will benefit preparation for ultimate career goals.

Finally, arrangements will be made for a series of speakers throughout the year. These speakers will talk about their specific areas of involvement in the health professions. They should both broaden student’s knowledge and identify some of the alternative fields open to students interested in pursuing a health career.

All students planning health-related careers should register with the Pre-Med Society and make an appointment to meet with Dr. Awapara as early as possible. Incoming freshmen may do so during Freshman Week before selecting courses. Interested students should talk to Mrs. Sandra Craft in 101 Lovett Hall.

The Pre-Med Society’s first official meeting will be in the middle of September — look for the signs around campus. Any questions which come up before the September meeting may be addressed to:

Dr. Jorge Awapara
Professor of Biochemistry
Pre-Med Advisor
101 Lovett Hall
Ext. 1294

or to one of the following students:

Barbara Morris
President
Pre-Med Society
Bob Vogel
Vice-President
Lin Hughes
Secretary

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523-5887
(straight up the street in the Village)
**Calendar** - The first weekly rice Calendar will be printed on Wednesday, August 21, 1974, for the week of August 26. The calendar is an effort to publicize student activities on campus, including events sponsored by the Colleges as well as by student organizations and the Rice. In addition to the weekly calendar, a monthly calendar will be published in September 26 for the month of October - provided enough entries are received.

**Monday, August 21**

- 10am-5pm: Dine & Joy, 528-7109.
- 5pm-11pm: Po Man's Country Club, 528-4141 x221.
- 11pm-1am: Sunrise, Rice University, "The Saloon!, Bar and Grill.

**Tuesday, August 22**

- 12 Noon: On campus students move into colleges. On campus new students welcome.
- 1-2pm: Po Man's Country Club, 528-4141 x221.
- 5-6pm: Rice Food Service, 528-0148.
- 7-11pm: Weanies at the library in Hermann Park. An evening of Scott Joplin's St. Louis Music.

**Wednesday, August 23**

- 10am-12 Noon: Rice Calendar will be printed.
- 2-7pm: Rice Food Service, 528-0148.
- 9pm: First wheat of the year spotted in the field.

**Saturday, August 26**

- 6:30pm-7:30pm: Alley Theatre, Film: The Terry Fox, Free.
- 9pm-10pm: Rice University, "The Saloon!, Bar and Grill.
- 11pm-1am: Sunrise, Rice University, "The Saloon!, Bar and Grill.

**Notes and notices**

- Grips — Beginning this fall, the Rice Calendar will operate a complaint center with a full-time staff to investigate problems on and off campus concerning students. The phone is being installed in the Thresher offices in the RMC, where students may call. The caller will not be required to identify himself/herself. A private interview with a staff member can also be arranged. Until the phone is installed, complaints may be left at the following numbers: 523-4011 or 528-4141 x221.
- Heye — Vietnam veteran Steve Heye is the new Veterans Administration "man-on-campus" at Rice. Heye will serve as liaison for all campus veterans groups and brief them on benefit matters and consult with college officials and faculty on VA matters. He will be on campus every Tuesday at the Information Services Office, Allen Center.
- Drive — Rice Democratic Caucus is currently sponsoring a voter registration drive on campus. All freshmen and transfers are urged to register so that they will be able to vote in November's general election. Forms are available in the SA office or from Peter Louis Armenta, 325 Wiess.

**Misclassifieds**

- Need garage apartment to rent, must be near campus. Call Joshua at 733-4463 or 528-4141 x333 after 12:00am.
- Wanted: for Rice fencing team. Long, lean,Surname types both male and female. Homicidal tendencies may prove helpful. Fascination with swords and the like encouraged. Must be willing to practice during the week. Apply at the Organizational meeting (Tuesday, August 29), 4:30pm in the Fencing Room in the Rice Gym. Mail referees to salutarius, va'il

**For sale**

- V15 type II Shure Supercardioid condenser 6 month old studio - cartridge 2 years old. The Best - $35, Bill, 665-6164, nites.

**For Appointment**


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- SHUFFLE BOARD TOURNAMENT Every Wed. Night 7-10 "500 Times VILLAGE DRIVE IN Po Man's Country Club
- BRAZOS BOOKSTORE 2314 Bissonnet Near Greenbriar
- FICTION • POETRY • FILM • PHILOSOPHY
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- Largest selection of quality paperbacks in these and other fields in the Village area. Books special ordered.

**Monday—Saturday**

- 10am—5pm

**For Sale**

- **THE RICE UNIVERSITY**

**For Sale**

- Phil Toumair is a horny bastard. — SM & CM
- To Dana & Marie — You shouldn't sign other people's initials to miscellaneous.
- MALE ROOMMATE WANTED for 3-5room Studio in the CASA BLANCA Apts. $52-250 mo. (will have your own room) Contact Dale or Kevin, 528-4141 x221

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**experience of Dissertations and Theses**

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