Student files law amended

by EMILY COFFMAN

The effects of the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (the so-called Buckley bill), which guarantees the rights of students to examine and challenge personal information contained in university files, have been greatly diluted since President Ford signed several amendments to the act on December 31. The amendments were offered by the original sponsor of the bill, Sen. James Buckley (N.Y.), after a strong and concerted effort by the higher education lobby.

The original bill gave parents of elementary and secondary students the right of access to their child's school records. This right automatically passed to the student himself when he reached the college level. The bill also set up a procedure for challenging the information contained in the files if it was found erroneous. A strict interpretation of the law meant that the parents of the college student would no longer have any right to the information regarding the student.

One amendment to the original bill guarantees the parents equal rights to information in the files if the student is dependent on his parents, as determined by Internal Revenue Service policy. The changes also exempt certain other materials contained in the files which were accepted as confidential prior to January 1, 1975. Included in this category are personal evaluations from counselors, teachers and administrators, medical or psychological reports, and information on parental finances.

Letters of recommendation received after January 1 will be open to the student unless he signs a waiver of the right to see such letters. While such a release cannot be a prerequisite for admission, Richard Stabel, Assistant to President Hackerman for Academic Records, feels that waiving access to such information will keep evaluations from becoming "more bland" than they already are.

Blackbirds return to campus

by DEBBIE DAVIES

Don't look now, but the birds are back.

Dr. Dan Johnson of the Biology Department says that present there are approximately 300,000 birds on the Rice Campus, mostly in the Wess parking lot, the Chapel area, and the Jones-Brown tennis courts. So far, birds have been avoiding the specially pruned trees: they have "only occasionally" been spotted in the trees between the Physics Building and Bonner Lab, by the Chemistry Building, and in the RMC courtyard. In fact, Dr. Johnson says that, "The tree trimming is working so far so well that it might be possible (if the money can be found) to go into some problem areas and trim soon." These areas would include the sidewalk behind the library and the trees at the entrance to Jones South.

Dr. Johnson is at present collecting bird droppings to determine the number of birds on campus. On December 18 there were only 16,000 birds here, all in the Wess lot area of the Chapel. On that same day there were 245,000 birds in the North Loop Roost. On December 30 there were no birds there; in the meantime the birds moved from the Wess lot to the library, the Jones-Brown tennis courts, and unlike last year, the trees between Will Rice and Hanszen. They also occupied the trees around Cohen House and Entrance 2, and moved into the area along Main Street on New Year's Day. Johnson expects that there will be many more birds on campus before the peak is reached.

So far efforts to keep the birds from the Hackerman's house have been successful. Johnson has been flashing lights there, and at one point the Hackermans joined him in beating pots lids together. On New Year's Eve and Day, Dr. Johnson exploded a "bird bomb" in that area, but it was too loud and scared the birds all over campus. They left, but returned immediately.

The girls at Jones and Brown had best beware, however. A helicopter will soon appear to drop a "large hair net" over the trees around the president's house, and at one point the Hackerman's dogs were waved at the birds. A "bird watching" campaign. Students in the Population Ecology Lab, and those students who are interested in studying the birds should see him as soon as possible.
For the first time since 1948-49, the Thresher will publish two issues each week this spring. The decision to go with the semi-weekly schedule was not reached, however, without serious consideration as to what the goals of the Thresher ought to be and how best the paper can serve the student body.

This past year and particularly this semester, the Thresher has almost tripled in size, covering more campus news than ever before. Currently the paper averages a total of 24 to 28 pages per week.

We believe that the Thresher has nearly reached an upper limit on the size of the paper, at least for the time being. Rather than working for more and more pages every issue, the staff is now trying to improve the quality of writing and reporting in all areas. Our goal is to grow in depth and competence, not size. The semi-weekly schedule can accomplish this.

For the staff, the move to semi-weekly publication will mean a more steady work load, rather than a surge of effort on Wednesday evening. Moreover, the Thresher staff can gain better experience working under a schedule which more closely approximates that of a real-world newspaper.

For the student, the Monday-Thursday schedule will mean better and more timely news reporting. Under the old weekly system, news breaking on a Wednesday or Thursday couldn't be included in the same week's issue. By the time the paper was printed, the news was often a week or more old. On a semi-weekly schedule, news will be only three or four days old, and thus much more current.

There are many drawbacks to the twice-a-week effort. For one thing, printing costs are significantly higher. Undoubtedly, the staff will be required to put in more hours per week. Efficiency in the actual production of the paper (compositing and pasteup) will have to increase. All this boils down to people. The Thresher has an immediate and severe need for writers, editors, proofreaders, typists, typesetters, and gnomes of all kinds. In previous years, the production jobs are paid for—skills which are easily learned and which can be used to land a high-paying summer job. In addition, the Thresher will pay your tuition or part of it.

The Thresher has made great strides over the past two years. Our latest effort exemplifies the energy and dedication of the staff.

This is all pretty remarkable, considering that Rice has no journalism program of any kind, and thus there is no natural pool of talented and well-trained individuals for the paper to draw upon.

The Thresher is entirely student-managed, and proud of this independence. Whatever measure of success we achieve is a credit to the adaptability and intelligence of Rice students.

Don't hesitate to criticize the Thresher. We need your suggestions, and even more your help. If you'd like to work a little, or are merely just curious, drop by the Thresher office (second floor, RMC) and have a Coke on us. We'd like to talk.
Honor Council hopes to clear up misconceptions

by RICHARD BARRETT
and FRANK ZIMBA
(First of two articles)

The Rice University community, a highly respected, suffers from some ailments. The distrust of the student body, the lack of an independent student newspaper, the lack of a simple factual knowledge base available about the Honor System, and the administrative body, the Honor Council, has led to some of these problems. The goal of this series of articles is to stimulate constructive criticism of these problems rather than a room-for-room debate about this article. Students with questions regarding these processes, proper methods of investigation, possible penalties are invited to come. The Ombudsman is a full-time position which may be valid for a particular violation. Any combination of these penalties may be assessed for a particular violation. C ircumstances such as the student's plans for graduate school, his present course load, any grade-dependent scholarships, personal problems during the semester of the violation, last course in question may be a prerequisite, and the importance of the specific work (on which the violation occurred) in the course are all considered by the Honor Council. Usually there is considerable dissension before a final penalty is selected.

Enrollment will be limited to 75, with undergrads having first priority. Sign-up sheets are located in the PIRG office in the BMC, by the closing date. Any explanation required.
5th year engineering program...

(continued from page 1)

Graduate Council takes over
In 1974, the university administration gave responsibil-
ity to the engineering program to the Graduate Council, the organization
which is the counterpart of the Committee on Examinations and
Standing for graduate students, and handles students in
five year programs other than engineering.

This action was debated in subsequent meetings of the engi-
neering faculty, with particular emphasis being given to the possible
implications of the new classification on accreditation, financial aid, residency in the
colleges, and the long term future of the program. At a meeting on 10 December 1974
(weekday), according to one source, the following motion passed
the engineering faculty passed the following motion:

"Moved that, with regard to the Professional Masters Degree Program in Engineering:
(1) The Examinations and
Standing Committee remain as the governing body of this program.
(2) The Engineering Committee
on Professional Masters Degrees continue to evaluate and
screen both Rice and non-Rice applicants to this program and make recommendations to the
Examinations and Standing Committee.
(3) The students in this program remain eligible for financial support as in the past, through
the Financial Aid Office and the Brown Engineering Committee.
(4) The status of those students in the Colleges who are enrolled in the Fifth Year Engi-
nearing Program remain the same as it was this past academic year."

Financial aid to continue
The administration has given repeated assurances that the level of financial aid will be
maintained for five year engineering students, at least until
those students who are now freshmen have completed the program. On 3 January, they
released the following statement:

"In 1974-75, 28 of 64 fifth-year engineering students have received financial aid totalling $65,500. Of the total aid, as of
28 October 1974, $34,000 was in Rice tuition grants, $20,000 was in Rice loans, grants and
scholarships, and the remainder was from external (including federal) sources."

"For the academic year 1975-76, the fifth year engineering students will continue to be
served by the Financial Aid Office as in the past. If in the future the fifth year engineering program is supported by the
undergraduate resources, of the University, the bulk of the support would continue to come from the University (with some
internal adjustments) and the remainder from external sources (again with some adjustments)."

"The University's income from tuition less the University's con-
tribution to the program based
on student need is anticipated to continue at about the present
level, reflecting an increasing interest in the professional engi-
nering program and increasing student needs."

At the same time, the administration is reviewing other aspects of the motion presented by the engineering faculty.

In 1974, the fifth year program, nearly automatic for Rice students, was under the governance of the Committee on Examinations and
Standing, which acted ordinarly on the recommendations of the individual student's department. This committee serves the undergrad-
uate population of the university.

Indian village site studied

by DEBBIE OSTERMAN

Rice anthropology grad stu-
dent Barbara Burger has taken
up residence in Galveston,
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RICE CAMPUS STORE
Two new coaches hired

The biggest part of Rice's search for new assistant football coaches ended when Bill Cox and Ron Gentry were named to the posts Sunday. Cox, formerly of Kansas State, replaces Steve Goldman as offensive coordinator and Gentry, a graduate assistant here, was selected to succeed Bob DeCrosta as defensive line coach.

The Owls must still find a replacement for Les Hanly, offensive line coach, who resigned last fall.

Alth^igh new to Rice, Cox is no stranger to the offensive system brought in by Bill Peterson and continued by Al Conover. He played split end for Florida State during the glory days of Peterson in the mid 60's. While at FSU, he participated in three bowl games.

After graduation in 1968, Cox moved from working with the offensive line to heading the offensive down men. A '70 graduate of New Mexico Highlands, he was freshman coach at Tampa. At Kansas State, he coached the receivers until he accepted the Rice position.

Gentry moves from working with the offensive line to heading the defensive down men. A '69 graduate of Iowa, he was teammate and '70 co-captain with Jim Elam, who accepted the Rice position. Gentry was freshman coach at Iowa State and backfield coach at Tampa. At Kansas State, he coached the receivers until he accepted the Rice position.

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by STEVE FOUGA
and SCOTT STARKS

Bob Polk's Owl roundballers rung in the New Year on a winning note by defeating the Wright State Raiders 92-83 before a sparse crowd of rabid fans Saturday night at Autry Court. The Raiders jumped out to an early lead utilizing a deliberate attack against the lethargic Rice defense. However, employing a consistently successful quick break against the visitor's full court press, the Owls went ahead to stay at 13:42 of the first half.

During a six minute stretch, the Owls, led by sub guard Jeff Tunnell, defeated Wright State 16 to 1. This streak along with a tenacious man-to-man defense enabled the hometowners to enter the dressing room at halftime boasting a 43-37 lead. In the second stanza, Rice built an 18 point bulge before going into a stall game, losing a chance to top the century mark. The Owls were without the services of sophomore forward Dwight Whitson, who is nursing an eye injury.

In their last game before entering this season's SWC campaign, the Owls invade the unfriendly confines of Hofheinz Pavilion next Saturday to battle crosstown rival University of Houston. Led by Sporting News All-America forward "Sweet Lou" Dunbar of Minden, Louisiana, the tallest team in town figures to provide a stiff test for the young Owls. The Thrasher sports staff rates it a toss-up.

Somehow the SWC translated into 12 caroms, nine of which Carroll proved to be a tower of respectability. While Danny Carroll and Tim Murphy led the non-starters with 18, guard Steve Moore made the back with a 3.2 in pre-law and 4.0 one and announced that two backs with a 3.2 in pre-law and 4.0 one and announced that two

Danny Carroll (25) leaps for the tipoff

JOCK NOTES

Dr. Alan Chapman finishes his term as NCAA president this week at that organization's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. He also announced his retirement as Rice's faculty representative to the NCAA.

A professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Chapman was president of the SWC before being elected to the national post. He remained a faculty rep until he retired last summer to devote more time to the NCAA post and to teaching duties.

Place kicker Alan Pringle was Rice's lone representative in the first round, but they came in the first half. The ball-hawking Owls punished the longhorns for 19 turnovers, while fumbling the ball away only a score of times themselves. The Owls were without the services of sophomore forward Dwight Whitson, who is nursing an eye injury.

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I lay there in a daze. Eight straight hours of football jellied the mind almost as much as Weininger. There couldn't have been one I missed. I confess I saw them all—the Cotton, Sugar, Orange, Rose, Peach, Sun, Cougar and Toilet Bowls.

After a while it didn't matter. It all looked the same—winners face the 1, the pro set, 3-2-4-4, goal line. Even the announcers become confused and ran out of ways to enlighten us. "That's why a play works or it doesn't." Yes, John Brodie, you told us that fifteen times before. Where is Howard Cosell when you need him?

Even more fascinating were the commercials, the quickies slipped in between every touchdown. I leafed through the oil companies' smiles and thinly-veiled threats. "We promise more oil in the future if unnecessary controls do not interfere." The strangest juxtaposition, however, occurred during the Cotton Bowl. First CBS cut to Billy Graham who said that both teams were very religious. Then after each score the announcer and overlay told us "it was Miller time." Baptists and beer don't mix well—at least not on national television.

For all their faults, the commercials were not cheapies. Far from it, they reeked of slick production and inflated costs. Somebody was on the receiving end of a tidy sum of money—ad agencies, networks, and college athletic departments.

While the teams fight and fumble for State, the department gathers in some pocket money to find, feed and equip their gladiators. Bowl games (mostly because of TV revenues) have become big business. They might not be overflowing gold mines, but they do help pay the bills.

For its first championship in 50 years and first Cotton Bowl, Baylor received a significant addition to the collection plate. Between the final gun and when the Bears deposit the check, a lot of division takes place. The exact amount in question is unknown at this time because the Cotton Bowl. Baylor's offender aggressively waits until all the bills are in before they announce the receipts. They then take about 10% off the top to cover other expenses. Baylor and Penn State split the rest.

That might be the end—except the rest of the SWC members get a cut. The Bears keep $100,000 and turn over the rest to the SWC office. All eight members (including Baylor) receive an equal share of the money. The same thing happens to Texas' Gator Bowl loot, although they keep $125,000 because the game was out of state.

However, bowl games do not necessarily mean profits. Texas Tech in all probability will lose money on its Peach Bowl appearance. The Raider's troubles stem from an agreement to purchase more tickets to the Atlanta game than they could sell. To add to their financial woes, the conference is guaranteed $10,000 regardless of Tech's losses.

What does this mean to those who stayed home during the holidays—like Rice? A bundle. Last year the Owls received $180,000 as their share of SWC revenues from TV and bowl games.

Money from TV rights means the difference between profits and losses at even the most successful programs. For the rest, the funds only ease the loss. So long as the networks can find millions of zombies to buy beer, tires and oilwells, the bowls will continue to help pay the costs of college athletics.

What happens when the "bonanza" slows down due to oversaturations and economic pressures? Don't bother me, it's fourth and two and they're going for it!!

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**Monday the sixth**

8am. First classes.
8:01am. First classes skipped.
4pm or whenever. THE NEW, IMPROVED, BIBERLY! BIC THRESHER!!! ******** (APPLAUSE) ******** 6pm. And now, just what you've been waiting for, retake.
7pm. 301 Sewall Hall. Rice Pre-Mod Society meeting.
7:30pm. HC 3rd floor, streets as far as view of the year, alumni, etc.
8:35pm. Jones Hall. Houston Symphony Orchestra with Shirley Temple, et al.

Tuesday the seventh.

7:55am. Groan.
9:10pm. Jones Hall. The Rice Thresher, Monday, January 6, 1975 — page 8
10:27pm. Kay's time. If you've got the time, we've got almost everything. (Including the beer.)
11:57pm. Fifth Fifth. Cut it, baby.

Wednesday the eighth

7:05pm. KTRU, 91.7 FM. Old Radio "Hammer," "The Witch's Tale"... "let me ask you what it is, pull it and see.

Thursday the ninth

10pm. Hamman Mall. Repeat showing by popular demand.
12m. KTRU Midnight Music.

**Friday the tenth**

6pm. THOUSANDS ASTOUNDED AND SHOCKED AS SECOND THRESHER OF THE WEEK ARRIVES, NOW

**Saturday the eleventh**

7:05pm. KTRU "Law for Laymen" returns.

**Sunday the twelfth**

2:55am. Bleah.
6:07pm. CWAP gives the 1974 Purgee-of-the-year award to Doug O. Try a little harder in '75. G.B.
7:05pm. KTRU. The ever-popular Law for Laymen.
10pm. KTRU Progressive Country.

President Hackerman says that Fondren Library is a "good teaching library," "suitable for our needs." Among other distinguished publications, there are copies of Chiff's Notes. Honest Injun.

**misclassifieds**

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**notes and notices**

**Holiday specification**

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