Convocation to explore goals, 'professionalism'

by ROSE MARIE NORTON

Is Rice preparing undergraduates for careers? Is Rice providing a firm base for graduate study? Is Rice teaching the broad, humanistic goals of a traditional, liberal education? Finding the answers to these questions has been suggested as the goal of the University Convocation being planned for this spring by a special committee of students, faculty, and alumni. That committee has asserted the need to the University to examine both its goals and its effectiveness in realizing those goals.

The Student Association, led by two of its officers, John Anderson (Internal Affairs Vice-President) and Rick Bost (External Affairs Vice-President) gave impetus to the idea of a convocation when it passed a resolution this September urging that Rice people be brought together "in order to foster more constructive self-examination and a greater sense of community at Rice."

The exact format to be taken by the convocation has not yet been determined, but ideas have centered around a main address by some well-known speaker on the point in question: "Who are you people? What are you buying—professionalism?" Study groups on this main theme could then be led through a series of related questions and the scope of opinions recorded.

The main purpose of the convocation would be realized when the results of participation by the many different campus elements were collected and published, perhaps in the Thresher, for full review.

If approved by the University Council, the 1976 Convocation would be held early in the semester, probably on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the first week in February; classes and assignments would be cancelled for those three days.

The eight faculty, three alumni representatives, and ten students working on the Convocation will formulate guidelines for the gathering.

Members are: Dean of Undergraduate Affairs Katherine Brown; Professors Paul Pfeiffer, Charles Garside, Dennis Huston, Ronald Sass, Deborah Nelson, and Franz Brotsen; alumni Martha Meephee, Gus Schill, Jr., and W.V. Balley; and students John Dragovits, Anne Martin, Chris Amandes, Kate Wheeler, Waldo Maffei, Margaret Laue, Pat Lucas, Barbara Udentzer, plus Bost and Anderson.

Self-scheduling materials due

Materials for self-scheduling exams must be turned in to the college offices by tomorrow (November 25) at noon. Both the necessary forms and the instructions for using them are also available in the offices, together with the final exam schedule. This year students may self-schedule exams during the reading period (December 6-9) as well as the exam period (December 10-17).

Raymond Pollock, one of the nation's authorities on laser applications to energy research, will speak at Rice 3:30pm Tuesday, November 25, in the R Room of the Rice Stadium in the first of a series of seminars sponsored jointly by Rice University and the Rice-based Energy Research and Education Foundation.

Lasers offer two quite promising roads toward supplying abundant and relatively inexpensive fuel in the future. Pollock will discuss both of the possibilities at his talk entitled "Applications of Lasers to the Development of Future Energy Sources."

Lasers may be used as the "match" to ignite fuel in controlled nuclear fusion system from which energy could be derived and put to usable form. Pollock says that the ERDA (Energy Research and Development Administration) is spending $68,000,000 in fiscal year 1976 to develop the technology to do this.

The demand for power produced by standard nuclear fission reactors is expected to increase, too, before controlled fusion becomes a reality. One of the big problems here is the production of nuclear fuel—enriched uranium. Lasers can be used in the isotope separation process needed to produce nuclear fuels for fusion reactors. ERDA will be spending $27,000,000 in fiscal year 1976 to develop laser techniques for isotope separation, in the hope of having an operational facility for the latter part of the 1980's.

If tree-trimming doesn't work, birds may be dropping in soon

Invasion of the campus by thousands of blackbirds, one of Rice's annual rites of winter, may get under way any day now. Alternatively, it may not come at all.

According to Dr. Dan Johnson of Biology, resident expert on the bird problem, this summer's extensive tree-trimming may make the campus less attractive to the birds, who may choose to seek out some other roost.

However, if the birds do come, they may arrive on campus earlier than they have in past years. The "north loop roost" they occupied last winter immediately prior to invading the campus has been somewhat cleared, and the birds are not roosting there this year. Instead, they have chosen a much smaller roost 2/3 miles west. Crowding in that roost may force the birds to abandon it sooner in favor of Rice or some other location.

Last year the birds descended on the campus between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Johnson and his students are continuing to study the bird problem. Some of their results will appear in the next Thresher, December 1.

Alternatives seminar

Pre-laws to preview careers

The Rice Prelaw Society, in conjunction with the Alumni Association, will present a Legal Career Counseling Seminar tomorrow at 7pm in SH 301. The seminar is one of a series presented by the Alumni Association to help students learn about career choices and what life is like in the real world.

Featured in the seminar will be Gus A. Schill, Jr., of the Royston, Rayzon & Vickery firm; Professor Jim Covington of the University of Houston Bates College of Law; Frank van Court '59 of Vinson, Elkins, Woodword Seals, Civil Court Judge and Hansen College Community Associate Judge Frank Price '71 of the Criminal Court; and Charles Szalkowski '70 of Baker-Botts.

The panelist will discuss law schools, legal issues, and their own experiences in the legal profession. Craig Jackson of the Pre-Law Association was the first person to receive the invitation to speak, and he subsequently recommended some of the people who will be featured.

Last year's seminar was well-received and this year's session promises to be as interesting and informative.
To the editor:

We were saddened and disappointed to read Wayne Hale’s letter in the Rice Thresher, Monday, November 25, 1975 — page 2.

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The Who opens 1975 US tour with smashing Summit concert

At last came the one song for which everyone had been waiting, and with it all of those people who had been lined up in the aisles finally came crashing through the guards to rush up to Daltrey's feet—"Pinball Wizard." As people vainly reached their hands out to touch these heroes, I felt as if I were watching "Tommy" come to life. As the song drew to a close and "We're Not Gonna Take It" picked up, it was incredible. Adding to all the music was a brilliant light show; tiny laser lights slowly formed a multicolored arch over Daltrey's head as he danced about the stage.

After a tremendous standing ovation, The Who continued with a trip into the past with "Summertime Blues," a "My Generation" medley, and "Won't Get Fooled Again." Exhausted, they left the stage. It took five minutes of ecstatic applause to bring the Who back to perform their two encores, "Magic Bus" and a slightly altered version of "My Generation." The more that I think about it, the more I'm willing to claim it was one of the best shows I've ever seen. Of course, the magnificence of the hall itself was a huge factor in the success. Even though I had good seats, I often found myself gawking at the video screens, because the double exposures, stop action, slow motion, and instant replay shots were just as exciting as what was happening on the stage. And the acoustics in the Summit were virtually perfect for the Who.

The Who demonstrated what three superstars can do in the right kind of concert hall. Without any reservations, the Who concert was one of the best shows, perhaps the best, to play Houston all year. As for the Summit-Houston finally has a true rock palace.

——photos and review by bruce kessler

Last Thursday, the Who kicked off their 1975 US Tour with its one night concert in Houston's new Summit. It was the smoothest-run show that has played Houston in a good number of years.

The Who and the Maytals, Jamaica's premiere reggae band, opened the show. Their brief set was a series of incredibly tight Jamaican riffs, which, although quite different from the music of the Who, still managed to earn more than just the usual polite reaction from Houston audiences.

After a very brief intermission, the Summit grew dim and Who fans came pouring out into the aisles (only to be forced back by security guards). As Keith, John and Pete hit the stage. With a tremendous welcoming roar from the crowd, the Who launched into "Substitute" and "I Can't Explain." After these two songs from 1965, the ten-year-old band went into "Squeeze Box," the single off of their new album—they kept their accustomed stoic posture at the far end of the hall, looking as if he could not care less about what was going on. And, with all the theatrics, the Who was playing almost perfect music.

The concert was basically a showcase of Who hits, and while they did not play all of them, they certainly covered a wide selection. After "Squeeze Box"—the most suggestive cut off of their new album—they took a few backward steps to play John Entwistle's 1967 hit "Boris the Spider," it gave the stationary "Ox" a chance to control the spotlight. After several cuts off of "Who's Next" and "Quadrophenia," the band began to play what everyone was waiting to hear.

Keith Moon, dressed in his Esso mechanic's uniform, introduced "Tommy—The way we think it ought to sound." And there it was, a medley of "Tommy"-tunes, including "Amazing Journey," "Armadillo," and Moon's brilliant portrayal of the wicked Uncle Ernie in "Fiddle About."
The Cocktail Party' brings back Alley's old professionalism

by ELAINE BONILLA

The Cocktail Party
On the Alley Arena Stage
Through November 30

Old times have returned to the Alley. With Nina Vance's direction of T.S. Eliot's The Cocktail Party, the legendary professionalism of the old Alley Theater is restored to the new Alley.

Eliot's play combines devious plotting with complex philosophy, and under Vance's capable direction both emerge clearly on the Arena stage. The play centers around Marlow's troubled party-goers.

Brian Petchey's Edward is particularly well done. It's a difficult role, demanding the transition with more understanding and salvation. Christine Rose's Celia handles the transition with more difficulty. Whether it is the play itself or this interpretation, Celia's realization of sin and her desire for salvation is given adequate preparation.

David Rasche as Peter is somewhat less convincing, having trouble controlling his gestures, and Charmion King tends to overdo the role of Marlow. She does have trouble controlling his range, however, often resulting in sharp notes.

Ellen Shade uses a strong clear soprano that fills the entire Alhambra, impactful in the passionate character. He does have difficulty with the subtle Walpurgis Night scene. The reveals are dull, and it is no surprise that Faust finds time to remember Marguerite rather than losing himself in the story.

This brings up another problem: timing. Chris Nance's conducting holds the orchestra back, slowing down Gounod's music. He needs to get them to a proper pace, to fill up the score with life and some excitement.

Finally, there were some clumsy technical hangers with James Singelis' lavish set and lighting (this design was first used by the Cincinnati Opera), but the overall effect was excellent.

Despite all problems, Morris' tremendous Mephistopheles keeps HGO's Faust alive. He fills the entire production with exuberance, and makes it well worth seeing.

Mephistopheles keeps 'Faust' alive

by ELAINE BONILLA

Faust
At Jones Hall
Monday in English
Tuesday & Friday in French

It may be called Faust, but Houston Grand Opera's production of Gounod's tragic opera is all about Mephistopheles. James de Blasis conceives the character as a grand scale manipulator whose control of Faust is only one of his many pastimes.

James Morris carries off the puppetmaster role with a powerful voice and rich laughter. He is at his best persuading the crowd around him to worship the Golden Calf, and when perverting the natural universe into a hell by plunging the sky blood red and filling the trees all around with magenta.

In that setting, Faust wows and wins the virtuous Marguerite. Next to Mephistopheles, Harry Thayer's Faust seems insipid, though his gentle plaintive tenor voice suits his searching, tormented character.

The Guardians during the Libation: (I to r) William Trotman, Brenda Forbes, Roderick Cook.

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**THEATER**

The Fantistics — Young lovers vs. feuding fathers in the off-Broadway musical. At Dunfy's Dinner Theater, 771-1311.

Indians — “Director Beth Sanford has taken a powerful play and crippled it beyond comprehension” (EMB). At the Alley Theater, 228-5421.

The Loud Red Patrick — Comedy of an Irishman and his strong-minded daughters. At the Dean Goss Dinner Theater, 668-416.

The Cocktail Party — See this week’s review for details.

**MOVIES**

Charlotte — “The new aspirant to nihilism screams when the morning light reveals the pointlessness of the film, the poverty of the overabundating, and the fact that this is all garbage” (RK). At the Shamrock VI.

Conduct Unbecoming — British officers in India play out another courtroom drama. At Loew’s Saks and Town and Country II.

Hearts of the West — Dime novelist Jeff Bridges suddenly finds himself an actor in silent westerns. At area theaters.

Hiding Place — Jeanette Clift in a story of two Dutch sisters in a Nazi concentration camp. At area theaters.

Jaws — “In the Shark vs. Amity battle, the shark loses in the last round despite a lead of five wins, no losses, and four ties” (RS). At the Galleria.

Lies My Father Told Me — 1930’s Montreal is the setting for Jan Kadar’s account of a young boy’s love for his grandfather and mistrust of his father. At Loew’s Saks.

Lizstomania — Ken Russell’s anachronistic biography of pianist-composer Franz Liszt. Opening Thursday at the Galleria.

Midnight Movies — 2001 at the River Oaks and Zardoz.

Motel — “Ken Russell’s anachronistic biography of pianist-composer Franz Liszt.” At Loew’s Saks.

Sisters in a Nazi concentration camp. At area theaters.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Houston Grand Opera — Gounod’s Faust, see this week’s review for details.

Michael Murphy — “Cosmic Cowboy” in the Music Hall at 8pm this Wednesday.

Linda Ronstadt — Soulful country-rock singer in concert at 8pm Monday in Hofheinz Pavilion.

Texas Opera Theater — Amahl and the Night Visitors at St. Luke’s Methodist Church, Wednesday at 8pm.

Wheatfield and Dogtooth-Violet — Two Houston-based country-rock groups share the bill at Liberty Hall Friday and Saturday.

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**MOVIES**

The Night Caller

Starring Jean-Paul Belmondo At area theaters

“It just takes brawn, not brains.” The Inspector’s parting words describe the paper-thin plot of The Night Caller perfectly. He has been chasing a bank robber for months, but has to take time off to go after another evildoer, an attention-seeking psychopath who murders women he considers “sluts.”

Jean-Paul Belmondo stars as the hero, Inspector Letelier — which translates to “journeyman butcher.” His technique of blasting away until the crook runs down makes the name appropriate.

But he is more believable than the typical hard-line cop; things go wrong for him. He misses the villain by minutes, the girl he’s protecting is scared of him, he runs out of ammunition at strategic moments. Despite all his problems, he gets his man in the end.

And while he’s running down the wicked he goes through some wonderful chase sequences. Belmondo is marvelous hurrying across the top of a speeding subway and playing hide and seek on the incredibly complex Parisian rooftops.

The typical result is his crashing through a glass rooftop into a couple’s bedroom. Undaunted, Letelier reassures them: “Don’t worry, you’ll be reimbursed.”

As long as the actors are chasing each other through Paris the film goes well. Photography and special effects are excellent, especially the use of mirrors to enhance the sets and, keeping with the French tradition, to merge the real with the image. It all seems wasted on a film of this caliber.

When the actors open their mouths, they are in trouble. The dialogue is ghastly, riddled with overworked clichés that quickly become difficult to bear. Even the performers realize the absurdity of the words they’re forced to say. At least they certainly seem to laugh at themselves as much as the audience does.

—susan bechtel

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**CRAFTS USA**

the rice thresher, monday, november 25, 1975 — page 5
Sid Rich tops Lovett to capture college football title

by BARRY JONES

Intramural football competition reached a thrilling finale Friday as Richardson defeated Lovett 20-18. The game was as close as the score would indicate, but was anticlimactic compared with the two previous games.

Lovett’s next-to-the-last outing was as close as football games come, 14-14, Lovett winning on penetrations, 3-2. Wiess had been lying in wait all week and almost capitalized on Lovett’s bad case on the nonchalants.

Was it a meeting of the Jungfolk at Alfred’s, the Torquemada Festival, pre-season Rollerball, or intramural football between Baker and Richardson? Observers, not to mention players, had difficulty deciding as Sid Richardson squeaked by Baker 13-12. Exciting ingredients in this conflict included three game misconducts, one player with his nose over shaking hands with his ears, lots of choice profanity, and loss of composure on the part of several key people. The championship match contained no extraneous B.S., only good, solid playing. Richardson’s three touchdowns came on passes from quarterback David Allen, two to Bruce Danluevie and one to Jerimac Ratliff. Lovett’s scores also came on pass receptions, two by Jim Turley and one by Micky Meier. Turley’s last reception came with less than 3:5 minutes left in the game but Lovett ran out of time outs before Richardson ran out of downs.

Both teams wanted this game very badly. In Lovett Commons Friday an announcement was made urging members to go root for their team. The Lovettians thought it would be a shame to lose to the dorkiest college in the whole school. Oddly enough, during Freshman Week at Richardson I was informed that all the dorks lived at Lovett.

Lovett fans did show up and spiced up the game with their own special cheers, original stuff like “eat shit” and “the referee’s a fag.” At the game two or three fans yelled themselves hoarse directing their intellectually stimulating maxim at the referee: “Eat shit, R.A.” A Lovett PLAYER afterwards said that he thought the game was well called. Some people get a feeling of immense power hearing their voices reverberate through an empty Rice stadium.

By KIM BROWN

Owl quarterback Tommy Kramer passed for 289 yards and a school record five interceptions Saturday as Rice dropped another one, this time to TCU. 28-21.

Late in the first quarter, Tommy Kramer cranked up the Owl offense with passes to Doug Cunningham and Greg Turley’s last reception came with less than 3:5 minutes left in the game but Lovett ran out of time outs before Richardson ran out of downs.

Owl Larry Brune intercepted TCU quarterback Lee Cook came back and passed a thirty-four yarder for the second TCU score. For the first time since playing UT-Arlington, TCU was ahead. At the half it was 14-7 TCU.

Kramer came out passing in the third quarter, but TCU’s Allen Hooker intercepted his pass and Cook passed to Cowans on the next play for another Frog score, 21-7 TCU. On the next play from scrimmage, Kramer again connected with TCU’s Hooker, but TCU folded when Owl Larry Brune intercepted Cook ran in for the score. Rice fans did show up and spiced up the game with their own special cheers, original stuff like “eat shit” and “the referee’s a fag.” At the game two or three fans yelled themselves hoarse directing their intellectually stimulating maxim at the referee: “Eat shit, R.A.” A Lovett PLAYER afterwards said that he thought the game was well called. Some people get a feeling of immense power hearing their voices reverberate through an empty Rice stadium.

Owl giveaway extends to TCU

Cook came back and passed the Horned Frogs right through the Rice defense. A touchdown throw to Jerry Modzelewski made it 28-7.

The Owls mounted a seventy-two yard drive and scored on a twenty-two yard pass to Burton. The revitalized Owl defense stopped the Frogs after a sixty-four yard interception return by TCU’s Marvin Brown. Kramer required only 2:56 to move the Owls eighty yards to a touchdown, including forty-two yards on a Doug Cunningham catch.
One senior, six sophomores returning

Polk’s inexperienced Owls gear up for Saturday debut

by JOEL SLADE

On November 26th, the 1975-76 NCAA Basketball season opens with Rice at Southern Mississippi. This game will not draw the national attention of the UCLA-Indiana clash at St. Louis. But it will mark the beginning of Bob Polk’s second rebuilding season at Rice.

Rebuilding is the key word as last year’s 5-21 record was the worst in 25 years of coaching for Bob Polk. With only seven lettermen returning and six of them sophomores, Polk will field the least experienced major college basketball team in the country. However, he was able to sign the tallest group of freshmen in Rice basketball history.

Returning from last year’s squad is senior guard Charles Daniels, second in scoring in the conference last year and second team All-SWC. Dave Lowiverse, who blocked forty shots last year as a freshman, and James Simons, a fine playmaking guard, are the only other returning starters. Depth will be added by returning sophomore lettermen Frank Jackson, Doug Nalley, Allen Reynolds, and Pete Meyers, a letterman from the 1973-74 season who did not play last year because of a severe knee injury.

For the second straight year, Bob Polk will be depending upon freshmen to add depth. Wayne Cunningham, Elbert Darden, and Madison Lane are pressing James Simmons and Charles Daniels for the starting guard and small forward positions. Andy Miller has looked good at forward in practice. Seven-foot Paul Fichtinger and six-eleven Paul Ekeroth, after slow progress early in the year, suddenly matured in the annual Blue-Gray scrimmage.

Last year Rice was dead last in the SWC in field goal percentage. Thus it is not hard to believe Rice lost 21 games. The Owls were also low in conference rebounding, one of conference rebounding coach Danny Carroll.

Before Bob Polk came to Rice, the Owls averaged 22 turnovers a game, a loss of a possible 44 points a game. Polk has drawn his team’s attention to this aspect of the game and they cut down on turnovers last year, averaging only 18.9 a game.

This year will be crucial for the Rice basketball program because the team has to improve. Last year as Rice went on an eight game losing streak, a member of the Houston Kashmere High School basketball squad allegedly said that the Rams could beat the Owls. The Owls are inexperienced, but this team has worked with more enthusiasm and has shown more progress in less time than any Rice team in recent memory. Yet they have a long way to go.

Intramural

Soccer

by RICK SCHECHTER

Upsets and fine play marked an outstanding week of intramural soccer.

Monday: With 20 minutes left in the game Will Rice Krissy was leading Leatherballs 2-1. Then Felipe Dabdoub arrived and the score became WRK 7 Leatherballs 1. BFA II slid by Froshes 4-1 and the Saudi Students hammered Tarfu 8-2 in other action.

Wednesday: The Chinese Fighting Owls ripped Banana Machine 5-0, while Tom Bouldin’s 4 goals paced the Puppy Pounders as they squashed Ball Bockers 10-1.

Thursday: It was a week for upsets. With 15 minutes left, league leaders Pseudoweiners and Baker 1 were tied 3-3. Then Curtis Schelling and Tom Arbour began to click, Arbour finished with 5 goals and Pseudoweiners with a 9-3 win. Nothing nipped the Pei-les 5-4.

Friday: The week’s premier game saw Santos edge Barcelona Bubbas 4-3. The game was knotted 1-1 when early in the second half Doug “the Kid” Canter drilled in his second goal to put the Bubbas in the lead. Then Santos gambled. They switched goalie Adrian Schjetnan to forward to team with Cisco Escobar. Within 5 minutes both had scored and Santos was up 3-2. The Bubbas had back and within 10 minutes Craig Jones put one in to tie the score at 3 all. However, Escobar and Schjetnan weren’t to be denied. Only three minutes remained when Schjetnan hit the winning goal.

In the other Friday game, Frank Zimba led Baker 214 to a 5-0 thrashing of the Weiss Kikers.

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TO GO ORDERS

M-
monday the twenty-fourth

8:29pm. "...he's obviously guilty of many crimes. Penalty: death by overexposure to the Batt. Cruel and unusual, but in this case..."

11:23pm. I don't care what you say, I don't like its position.

8:29pm. "...he's obviously guilty of many crimes. Penalty: death by overexposure to the Batt. Cruel and unusual, but in this case..."

the rice people's calendar

the rice peoples calendar

the rice peoples calendar

tuesday the twenty-fifth

7:00pm. KTRU. "The Law: It's Your Business": on court appearances.

7:00pm. Media Center. The Passion of Joan of Arc (Dreyer, 1929). In the Classics series. $1.

9:30pm or so. La Bastille. Thad Jones/Mel Lewis big band.

thursday the twenty-seventh

Thanksgiving Holiday begins, runs through Sunday.

rider's service

"NEED a ride to Austin Tuesday. Will share gas. Dave, 526-4677."

"NEED ride to St. Louis around Dec. 14, will share gas and driving. Alice, 526-4318."

"CAN GIVE ride to St. Louis (or Little Rock or Memphis) on a share driving/gas basis around Dec. 12 or 13. Call 526-6508 or leave message at 219 Weiss."

"NEED ride to McAllen, Texas area leaving Wed. about noon (so we can arrive at a decent time). Marc, 526-3245."

"CAN GIVE a ride back from McAllen, Texas area Sunday afternoon. Marc, 526-3245."

"NEED a ride to Austin on Wed., Nov. 26, and back on Nov. 28 or 29. Will share expenses for gas and will drive. Patrick Harkins, 526-2294."

"CAN GIVE a ride to New Orleans leaving Wed. Nov. 26 after 10pm, returning Sunday or Monday. Pete Jackson, x810, Room 211 Biology."

"NEED a ride to El Paso, Texas for Thanksgiving, will share driving and expenses. Tom, 526-8605."

"NEED ride to San Antonio Wednesday afternoon after 3pm. Will help pay for gas, etc. Robin Graham, x841."

"NEED a ride to San Marcos, Austin, or vicinity. Will leave Wed, after 2pm or anytime Thursday. Will share gas. Jill Gary, 526-4003, 629 Brown."

"NEED ride to Dallas area Thanksgiving. Harold Wilen, 526-9774."

"NEED ride to Dallas area Thanksgiving break. Will share driving and expenses. Tom, 526-8605."

"NEED ride to Las Cruces, New Mexico or El Paso. Tim Bishop, 526-5774."

"NEED ride to Dallas area (Lewisville, specifically), can leave Wed. noon. Will share expenses. Linda Flores, x2415 or 527-8101. Please leave a message."

"NEED ride to Dallas area. Call 526-2405."

"NEED ride to Llano Texas on or after Dec. 12. Mike, 529-4048 (off campus)."

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for Wednesday Nov. 26

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Giblet gravy and cranberry sauce
Snowflake potatoes
Buttered green peas
Creamed potatoes
Minced meat or pumpkin pie
Hot roll and butter
Coffee or tea
All for only $1.90 plus tax