Quest for new coach may shape future of athletics

by PHILIP PARKER

In the wake of the sudden resignation of head coach Al Conover, a group headed by Vice-President for External Affairs W. W. Akers and Athletic Director A. J. Rice are leading the search for replacement, a decision that will greatly affect the future of the athletic program here.

The move by Conover came as a surprise to the coaching staff and the administration. Reportedly Big Al had survived an alumni attempt to oust him in early December. The effort was not too well organized and failed when the backers balked at buying the contract. It was expected that Conover would remain through at least next season.

But on December 31, Conover informed the university that he wanted to be released from his contract, citing a “business offer too good to turn down.” The next morning at a regularly scheduled recruiting meeting he told his staff of his resignation and the information was released to the press.

Conover left immediately to go to Tampa, Florida to coach in the American Bowl All-Star game this Saturday. He should return to Houston this weekend.

He has not revealed the exact nature of the “business opportunity” feeding speculation that he was indeed bought out of his contract. However, another source, Jack Agnes, Houston Post sportswriter speculates that no such offer existed and that Conover left his coaching position without another job lined up.

Meanwhile the hunt for a new head man continues. The search group (not committee per se) consists of Akers, Rice and four members on the standing Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics (CIA): Dr. James Castaneda SWC faculty representative and chairman of CIA, Dr. Alan Chapman, George Miner of the “R” Association and Dr. G. W. McReynolds, an alumus. Akers said that the group will also inform the newly created committee reevaluating the Rice athletic program before announcing the decision, but the committee’s input is expected to be minimal.

Although former Rice football great Dickey Maegle has publicly tried to attract

(continued on page 3)

Rice gets into Bicentennial with lecture series

by GARY BREWTON

Rice will make its own contribution to the nation’s ever-publicized bicentennial celebration with a program of twenty short courses entitled Interpreting America, taught by Rice professors. Unlike much of the bicentennial overload, though, this program may be more than just a lot of hoopla and self-praise.

Designed to complement Alistair Cooke’s acclaimed documentary series America, Interpreting America is being underwritten by Houston National Bank and is open to the public. (The bank is sponsoring Cooke’s series, which runs through the end of the year, on KTRK-Channel 13.)

The short courses will not be broad surveys, but rather four or five thought-provoking meetings, lectures, or performances with discussions to get participants to make their own interpretations about Americans’ arts, heroes, ideals and accomplishments.

In the early years of the Institute, Rice was the focus of intellectual stimulation for many Houston people. Lectures and special programs drew great crowds to the campus. Though that high level of University involvement in community thought has disappeared, recent years have brought signs of renewed

(continued on page 3)

Number of birds expected to drop this season

by DAVID BUTLER

Preliminary estimates by Rice’s leading bird watcher, Assistant Biology Professor Dan Johnson, indicate that the traditional January count was nowhere near the magnitude of previous years. The current bird population, according to Johnson, is probably in the neighborhood of 50,000, as compared to 1.24 million last year.

While an official bird-counting survey has not yet been conducted by Johnson’s Biology 346B students, informal monitoring by Johnson over the semester break noted arrival of our fine feathered tenants around the 28th of December, when they took up residence around the Chronicle Lecture Hall, the area between the Chapel and Fondren Library, and the Wiess parking lot—precisely the areas where trees had been trimmed in an effort to discourage the birds from nesting.

However, when a cold front hit the campus on the 3rd of January, sending temperatures into the 20’s, the situation changed. As Johnson describes it: “What happened—at least I like to think what happened—was that those trees that we had previously mistimed were acceptable to (the birds) as long as it was not too cold. When they really got hit by the cold, they looked for more shelter.”

Presently, they have found that shelter in the trees surrounding the house of President Norman Hackerman. They also occupy trees in front of Jones College South, near the first entrance to the campus (Main at Sunset), and the woods behind the Hackermans’ home.

The resurgence of sub-freezing temperatures Wednesday and Thursday ought to hasten the departure of the birds for the woods along Main Street, which ought to occur “within a few days’ time” under regular circumstances, according to Dr. Dan. However, as the Thresher went to press Wednesday night, it was unknown whether the cold or the Physical Plant employees’ tactics would flush the birds out first. Tuesday night, at Mrs. Hackerman’s request, the birds received the first efforts of a concerted attack utilizing flashlights, ultra-high-frequency loudspeakers, and, if all else fails, the traditional bell music.

If tree-trimming continues to keep the bird population down through January, which is normally the peak of the migration cycle, the procedure will be added to the regular maintenance schedule. However, Johnson will not be around to see the final success or failure of his planning; he plans to leave Rice at the end of this year.

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Allocation of pass-fail class option

Registration ends next week

Registration for spring semester courses is now in progress. Students may add courses without penalty and without instructors’ signatures up until the end of the second week of classes, although advisors’ signatures are still required. Drop-add slips are available in the Registrar’s office in Lovett Hall.

Students may designate a course pass-fail, also, but not until the slips arrive — around January 16. The deadline for designating a course pass-fail or for adding a course is the end of the fourth week of classes; the deadline for dropping courses and for changing a pass-fail to a regular grade is the tenth week of the semester. But if you make any course changes (other than those involving the pass-fail option) after the second week of classes, it will cost you $10. C’est la guerre.
For many weeks last semester speculation among students and faculty ran high that President Hackerman would soon resign, upon reaching the age of 65, and that we would soon be involved in the selection of a new president. Hackerman himself provided much support for this speculation when he told the Faculty Council and other groups that he would retire on July 1, 1977. He also expressed the opinion that perhaps the best way we had found to regain a dial tone was to retain the phone against the wall, but that this only worked occasionally and the phone was being taken on a battery appearance, and the neighbors were complaining.

This whole escapade, as well as parents and friends distressed at not being able to contact us for a week and our frustration at being incomunicable with the outside world, could have been avoided if the service people had heard if the service people had believed us the first time around.

On our September 15 bill, a long distance call, made well after 11:00 pm (a radio station was billed at 10:59 pm at the "B" rate. As the call was quite lengthy, I was travelling long distance and had decided to make the stay worth my while) the telephone company was billing us at 10:50 pm at the "B" rate. As the call was quite lengthy (it was travelling long distance and had decided to make the stay worth my while) the difference in rate made a substantial difference in the bill.

On discussing the bill with one lady and the supervisor over the phone, I was essentially told that it was impossible that the time on the bill was incorrect. Obviously, the television and the radio were incorrect. Let's hope the FCC does not hear about this.

Being of a reasonable frame of mind, I decided upon paying the bill in full, feeling that this particular discrepancy would not again occur in all reasonable probability.

That judgement seems to have been premature. On November 21 we received a billing dated November 15 which included two calls to Half Moon Bay, California (made on 10/22 and 11/14) which were both recorded at entirely the wrong times, resulting in another "B" rate instead of "C". This time we were watching television and since an 11:30 movie had started, felt it was safe to place the calls. Once again either the PCC or your company was fooled up.

Upon discussing the situation with classmates at school, I have found that the problem is a perpetual one among students who make long distance calls frequently to home and friends. Consequently, we have chosen to calculate the correct charges and remit the suitable amount.

I hope this letter explains the situation, as well as our position fully, and if is of use to you in cementing better relations with the public, which is at your mercy.

Catherine M. Eagan 78

cc: The Rice Thresher

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December 6, 1975

Ma Bell's timing off, student says

David M. Tippel

Unit Manager

Southwestern Bell

Telephone Company

Houston, Texas

Dear Sir:

In view of your recent interest in Rice University student telecommunication relations, my roommate and I felt you might be interested in our most current complications with the only phone company in town.

Our problems have focused on service and billing.

Following a recent move, we experienced endless problems in reestabishing our service at the new residence. The woman who took the installation order made a clerical error when transcribing the address, and as a result our phone was not installed on the requested date, but two days later.

After the phone was installed, we had only intermittent service because of a faulty connection. We learned this from a repairman who was sent out after a week of the phone going on and off.

Our first complaint was refused a service call because we were on the line from the beginning when we were complaining. This continued to be a problem for the next three of four complaints except that on two of them we also had to argue with service people when they called back to check the line and claimed it was working. Finally, we explained to someone that the phone was working only at odd times, and that the best way we had found to regain a dial tone was to hang up the phone against the wall, but that this only worked occasionally and the phone was being taken on a battery appearance, and the neighbors were complaining.

This whole escapade, as well as our frustration at being incomunicable with the outside world, could have been avoided if the service people had believed us the first time around.

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Our Nostril Is a Most Unconscionable Menace to Us

The Rice Thresher, the official student newspaper at Rice University since 1928, is published semi-weekly on Mondays and Thursdays during the school year and on examination periods and holidays, by the students of Rice University, 527-4801. Advertising information is available on request, 527-4802. Editorial and business offices are in the Rice Memorial Center, P.O. Box 1942, Houston, Texas 77201. Mail subscription rate, $10 per year. The opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily those of anyone else, even of those of anyone else. Obviously.

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Bicentennial program...  

(continued from page 1)  

Hyman, Baruch Brody and Gilbert Cuthbertson. Speakers from outside the campus have also been scheduled, and well-known names such as Barry Commeron is a possible guest speaker.

The program covers the whole range of the American experience to various admirably convenient venues including courses in: The Arts of Colonial America, "Americans and Their Religions," "The Changing Role of Women," "The Black Experience in America," and "American Pop Culture." For more information or application forms, contact the Bicentennial Program office in the basement of Fondren Library. Room B-383, telephone 263-4805.

Baker welcomes acting master  

Interim Master of Baker College Loren Lutes is just this week getting used to his new role. Although he reportedly picked the pub instead of a college campus because "the pub is clean," our reporter, Jack Westbrook, defensive coordinator, Billy Cox, offensive coordinator, and Ray Alborn, defensive end coach, are expected to submit a resume. Given their credentials, they have been former Rice assistants now assistant at other schools: John Bailey, Kentucky; Jim Hess, Angelo State; Gil Bartosh, UT-El Paso; Bill Stottlemyre, Cameron, Oklahoma; as well as King Mill, Houston Oiler assistant coach and former Owl grid star. Aders noted that these are just "suggestions made to the press."

Whoever does apply will be evaluated first by four members. In this preliminary screening, the committee of four members. The committee will receive other comments of admissibly convenient venues including courses in: The Arts of Colonial America, "Americans and Their Religions," "The Changing Role of Women," "The Black Experience in America," and "American Pop Culture." For more information or application forms, contact the Bicentennial Program office in the basement of Fondren Library. Room B-383, telephone 263-4805.

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The Man Who Would Be King
Starring Sean Connery and Michael Caine
At Loew’s Saks and Loew’s Town & Country

There are many temptations that beset a director who comes up with the idea of filming what might turn into an epic. John Huston could have turned Rudyard Kipling’s exciting story, The Man Who Would Be King, into a wild three-hour adventure flick. Instead, he has managed the rice thresher, Thursday, January 8, 1976 — page 4

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Alexander the Great, so it’s not the easiest of schemes. Life in Inia for the retired British soldier was not exactly rich and glory, but a return to England held even less promise, so often they would stay to try their hands at fortune-building.

Danny and his friend, Peachy, have this brilliant plan: they want to go find a little hidden country called Kafiristan, and conquer all the chieftains so that they can rule themselves. The last man to conquer Kafiristan was Danny, who is a God, son of Alexander the Great, returned to rule their land.

Michael Caine as Peachy is more realistic. He has been narrating the story to an acquaintance, Christopher Plummer’s Kipling, and his commentary is sharp. Take the gold of Alexander and let’s beat it back to England is his advice, but Danny is too carried away with his glory. So is the audience.

Without lavish sets and costumes, Huston has re-created the atmosphere and excitement of Kipling’s tale. And he has avoided the pitfalls of an uplifting or otherwise unbelievable ending. It’s realistic, all right—really devastating. Danny pays for his overblown theory, and Peachy winds up the story, as he has narrated it all along.

The Man Who Would Be King is not a special film in that it has a message of great immediacy and importance to its audiences. It’s special because it is escapism of the highest order, a sanity-saving necessary thing for all of us. For two hours you can immerse yourself in the dangers and achievements of Danny and Peachy in Kafiristan, and two hours of first-class excitement is hard to come by these days.

—elaine bonita

THE THRILL IS BACK

Friday night, January 9, the Houston Aeros romp and stomp in the Summit. Game time is 7:30. Tickets available at all six Foley’s, or at the Summit box office.

For complete ticket information, call the Aeros hotline at 228-8991.

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the rice thresher, Thursday, January 8, 1976 — page 4
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This offer is limited to college and university students, faculty, and staff.

1801 Main, Houston, Texas 77002 652-6446 Member FDIC
In response to the popularity of recent Robert Altman films, the Museum of Fine Arts is holding an Altman Film Festival this month. M*A*S*H will be shown this Thursday, January 8, at 7:30 and 10pm. Famous since its release in 1970, this early Altman film is still outrageous and irreverent beyond most scriptwriters' imaginations.

Next week brings Brewer McCloud and McCabe and Mrs. Miller. Tuesday night at 8pm, Houston Astrodome resident Brewer McCloud lets himself go under the tutelage of a protective fallen angel. Warren Beatty and Julie Christie are unforgettable as a grizzled, small-time gambler and a frizzled, hard-nosed madame on Saturday night.

Images, to be shown Tuesday, January 20, is the devastating recreation of encroaching madness, as Susannah York can no longer distinguish between her husband and her lovers. Then Elliott Gould is back Saturday night with The Long Goodbye. It's a suspense melodrama, with an investigator whose job is proving beneath the surface of everyday life in an attempt to bring coherence and consistency to seemingly unrelated facts.

Thieves Like Us, shown Tuesday, January 27, is primarily a story of doomed love in the Depression, starring Shelley Duval, Keith Carradine, John Schuck, and Bert Remsen. There are also side stories of bank robberies and other adventures that surround the lovers.

Closing the festival is California Split, the story of a gambling team who will bet on anything during a two-week siege of gambler's fever. George Segal and Elliott Gould are in the laugh-filled trek through casino after casino.

Lucky Lady will be shown in the Brown Auditorium of the Museum of Fine Arts. For members, the admission price is $1.25, for non-members it is $1.50. The Museum recommends that filmgoers purchase their tickets in advance, since films often sell out.

—peter harland
Owls falter, then stall 102-62

by BARRY JONES

Rice University's young Owls were shot down once again by Texas Tech here Tuesday, 102-62, before a crowd consisting mostly of Rice fans. Seven minutes into the game, the Red Raiders had opened up an 18-8 lead, after which matters grew progressively worse for Rice. The Owls tried but they were simply outgunned. At the half it was Tech 56, Rice 26.

The scoring was somewhat closer in the second half, Texas being outsored 46-36. Eternal optimists will be commented that Tech substituted freely in the second half, leaving one with the uneasy feeling the Red Raiders will be competitive for some time to come. Coach Polk was understated about the loss. He pointed out that Tech was even better than last year. The original Owl strategy was to play a zone defense but Tech's drive outside shooting forced the Owls to the perimeter defense. The second feature is Have U a Good Time? (3/1-9/11)

Three Rice men were named to the All-Southwest Conference Academic team—offensive guard Steve Moors (economics), receiver Larry Edwards (sociology), and defensive back Gary Cox (economics and management). Before his departure, Coach Al Connover stated that he'll be a co-captain with Larry. Volley-ball men and coed; Badminton Mixed Doubles. March 17, College Swimming Meet. April 10, College Track and Field Meet. April 22, Bar-B-Que for Champions. All tournaments are open unless otherwise posted.

... Intramural Basketball Playoffs begin this Friday at historic Aggie Court. Shaker's III takes on the Aggies. The second feature is Have U a Good Time? (3/1-9/11)
misclassifieds:

Thursday the eighth

12:01 pm. Calendar returns, and Waddles the goose says, "Aren't ya glad?" 7:30 pm. Media Center, Macbeth, with Maurice Evans and Judith Anderson. $1.
8:14 pm. Or aren't you. 10 pm. Media Center. Macbeth. $1.

Friday the ninth

7:30 pm. Media Center. The Macbeth film series continues with Roman Polanski’s version. $1.
7:30 pm. HB224. Rice Christian Community meeting.
10 pm. Media Center. Polanski’s Macbeth.
10 pm. The second annual anonymous calendar, submit the following: TPTADHI. Thanks: I appreciate it.

Saturday the tenth

7:30 pm. Hamman Hall. RPC Film: The Original, Blazing Saddles. Only 50¢.
7:30 pm. Autry Court. Rice vs. U of H in basketball: also broad-cast live on KTRU.
7:30 pm. Media Center. Orson Welles’ Macbeth. $1.
7:30 pm. Brown Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts. The Robert Altman Film Series continues with M*A*S*H, starring Elliott Gould and Donald Sutherland. $1.50 for the film, $10 for the series.
7:30 pm. Hamman. RPC’s Blazing Saddles. 50¢.
7:30 pm. Media Center. Macbeth by Welles. $1.
7:30 pm. MFA. M*A*S*H.
5:00 pm. Serenades by Stolz. Lynn — Will be offered this semester — Those wanting further information call Lynn, x4006, Robert Miller, 526-4383 or David Dyche, 526-2874.

The Second Annual Dixeland Band (now in its 2nd year) will hold its first rehearsal Sunday, January 11. We need a drummer and possibly a tenor sax. For details call Roger at 526-5492 any evening about 6:30.

For sale: Wooden desk with formica top and two drawers. $10. Geography 102, x3255.

Tuesday the thirteenth

7 pm. SH309. Pre-Law Lecture: Dean Charles Galvin, SMU Law School, “Professional Responsibility.”
7:30 pm. Media Center. Kunwars’ Throne of Blood. (Surprise! It’s the Japanese Macbeth.) $1.
7:30 pm. Alley. The actual last Front Page.
10 pm. Media Center, Macbeth, or Throne, or whatever. I think I’m confused. . .

Wednesday the fourteenth

6:30 pm. Space Science 106. Geology 102, x3325.
8:30 pm. Jones Hall, downtown. Houston Symphony Concert: Schubert, and Shostakovitch.

Wednesday the fourteenth

6:30 pm. Space Science 106. Scuba Class continues. Call 523-4743 for more information.
8:45 pm. Lovett College. Author Stuart Frederic Gunther, Cont. S. Clark, German Dept.
114 Lovett. College is now under single occupancy. All qualified females interested in filling the vacancy should write to that address to apply. For more information call 526-2440.

I need to buy the Bio 101-102, Copi’s Symbolic Logic textbook. Please call 526-3930 or 526-2700.

Anyone interested in participating in the problem session,* come to the Wiess Commons 7:30 pm Friday, or call Ralph, 526-3503.
*concentrating on Putnam, Math, Monthly, and similar problems.

Dear Jim, I have one wogg for you: SNORE!!!
Dear Uncle Bob,
Big Al knows when to quit. Don’t you?

Baby-sitter needed in BL 137 a few hours a week, mornings and/or afternoons. Schedule flexible. Call Heidi, x2050 or 777-5854 after 6 pm.

"...So it was discovered that by that method we can breathe." Dr. F. Fisher RV101 12/25/75

to R.H. of SRC

you taste in women is impeccable. And right now you’ve got something (I should say someone) I’d like very much to have. Interested in trading? R.S.V.P.

Kingpin watch and frame for sale. x3646, Dave.

Well, well. I’ve finished my first semester at Rice University. One down, seven to go. (College is like bowling: you need heavy balls.) A Freshman

MS— Can I be VP of IBTC??

For sale: stereo amplifier, Dynaco SCA-80, 20w per channel. $80. 526-0447.


"I’m not deprived in my own bed, I’m deprived!" —4WF

The End

Thanks to: Lay, Skave, Supergrub, Kirk, Zod, Tom, Fong, Jim, Amo, Martin, Scheinber, Karen, Jeff, Mike, James, Doug, Matt, Mark, Paula and (at times) the Brown Clique. Also Drs. Klineberg and Bursus who both helped Lovett to be a saner place. To all various assholes: I hope I was so obnoxious to you that you’re glad to see me go as I am to be leaving.

S. Maley
Ex-Lovett ‘78

We are

For sale: A Sears portable monophone cassette recorder/player, still in good operating condition, but needs a demag. And perhaps a cleaning. Has AC cord and hand microphone. Can be run on batteries. Asking $10. Call 526-6510 or come by Hanszen 335.

You have to chemistrate before you can physic. We tried it the other way and it just doesn’t work." —4WF

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Houston, Texas 77040

Baker College sponsors a series of workshops: Beginning Bridge, Introduction to Computer Music, Adventures in Cooking, Bike Repair and Maintenance, Introduction to Chess, Chinese Characters. Come learn a skill — share a hobby — meet people. Weekly non-credit sessions taught by Baker students and associates. For information on times, dates, etc., see posters in the college.

Harold’s Garage

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Everything — Head disk, (long sleeve) book (like new) — skis — & k-h equipment — Dyeing equipment — Great luggage — Hi-fi console — Drapes & drapes — Complete wardrobe lady’s size 8 — Complete man’s wardrobe — Uplight freezer — 2 tires, 2 Coats of paint — Misc. building materials — Redwood — Misc. galore

3618 Aberdeen, 5 Blocks S. of Bellvue Blvd. 721-3000, 667-9211

the rice thresher, thursday, january 8, 1976 — page 8