Looser requirements, better advising urged

The Committee on the Convocation, after examining the evidence presented at the workshops, summarized their findings in the following report:

Professional education has a definite place in the undergraduate curriculum of Rice University. The questions examined by the Convocation center in the degree of professionalism that can be introduced into the various programs without detriment to the breadth of education that is hoped for.

In this context, "professionalism" refers to that part of an education which clearly prepares a person for a career, and always implies competence, technical expertise, and a certain degree of specialization. Indeed, the word "professionalism" is sometimes used in a perjorative sense to mean emphasis on job-orientation to the exclusion of other important aspects of education. And "professionalism", in this perjorative sense, is not necessarily limited to careers in engineering, architecture, or other fields where such an emphasis is often in the traditional disciplines of the humanities, sciences, and the arts.

To be fully effective, then, professional education must be more than specialization merely, more than simply vocational training. In addition it must provide the student with a broad knowledge of his field of study and must stress fundamental knowledge. To achieve this end, professional education must be complemented by sufficient courses in the liberal arts, since these courses serve to improve communication skills, to open new vistas to the students, and to prepare them for their future careers.

Looser requirements, better advising urged

A variety of classes should be taught, the report concluded. It said that the University should provide the financial and administrative resources for college, extradepartmental, and experimental courses.

Members of the committee were: Dennis Huston, English; Franz Brotzen, Mechanical Engineering; T. A. Doody, English; Royce C. Sasse, Biology; Martha Murphree, Alumni Association; Ron Booth, undergraduate; and John Anderson, undergraduate.

About 400 people attended the opening session while 300 and 400 attended the Thursday morning and afternoon meetings, respectively. The Convocation Committee estimates that 200 participated in the workshops.

Convocation draws almost 400

by PHILIP PARKER

In response to the questions raised during last Thursday's meetings, the Committee on the Convocation made six suggestions to the administration, two of the more notable ones being a recommendation to reduce the course load and call for another gathering next year.

The specific proposal is to revise the number of courses required for graduation from 40 to 36. Alternatively, the University could establish a system for counting course hours for graduation. The committee foresees freshmen and seniors carrying only four courses a semester and all students having more time outside the formal classroom setting.

Revisions of the Freshman Week program to "improve and regularize the processing of advising" for both the student and faculty advisors" were also suggested. The committee called on the University to examine the philosophy behind the introductory courses and to see that these courses are "taught by professors recognized as among the best teachers in their departments."

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Convocation Committee member John Anderson gives last-minute instructions to students who led Thursday's workshop discussion sessions in the colleges.

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Hanszen College will host a Mardi Gras parade, dance, and streetpageant contest this Saturday in the Grand Hall of the RMC. Admission to the dance is $1 in advance and $1 at the door.

Revelers will parade around campus before the dance, which runs from 6pm to 10pm. It will feature the "rockin'" Bacon Blitz Band, 250 mixed drinks, and free set-ups. At approximately 10pm the streetpageant contest will begin. Both the male and female winners will receive $20 for their performances. The contest will be judged on the basis of lasciviousness and lewdness, not the degree of nudity achieved. The Dixieland Band will serenade the audience during this event. A $10 prize will be offered for the most creative music.

The parade begins at 7pm in Wies Commons, marching through the men's colleges around the Academic Quadrangle, over to Brown and Jones, and then to the RMC.
**Editorial**

The Convocation is over. For three days, students, faculty, and alumni had a unique opportunity to discuss the present and future course of this University. Despite those who predicted that the Convocation would prove either a "convocation" or, perhaps worse, a series of "State of the University" addresses, the Convocation was both well attended and productive.

The keynote address Wednesday night by Ronald Berman convincingly argued the permanence and worth of liberal education. His was an intelligent and thought-provoking speech—in contrast to the dull and uninspiring "State of the University" addresses which have been the norm of late.

Thursday's panel discussions examined the role of professional training within the context of liberal education. The attendance level was again encouraging. Probably the greatest good came from the Thursday afternoon workshops from which a number of recommendations emerged. Many of these were incorporated into the written summary report of the 1976 Convocation. Hopefully, the administration will respond—publicly—to the proposals of the committee. All six deserve close consideration.

Perhaps the best proposal made by the Committee calls for another convocation, to be held in early January of 1977. Enlightened concern and passionate care for the welfare of the University ought to be valued and appreciated.

---

**Student blames basketball disasters on Polk**

To the editor:

After attending the Saturday afternoon game with Baylor, I feel that the basketball program at Rice is in serious trouble. Having worked out with Bob Polk's team and attended the first two weeks of this year's practices, I believe the trouble lies in their head coach, Bob Polk. The players do not seem to be playing up to their potential and do not look like they are in shape. This can only be blamed on the coach.

Polk (some of his players call him Uncle Bob) came to Rice with fairly good credentials, but this was quite some time ago. He was coach at St. Louis University before coming to Rice, and it has been rumored that the situation was bad. In his first year at Rice, the team went 5-21, but Polk claims the poor showing was on the previous coach's recruiting. This year the team is 2-17, and despite the quotes after each game, one thinks that the youthfulness of the team is at fault. But we must remember that this would not have been the case had Polk not weeded out Howard Laidlaw, Jeff Tunnell, Dwight Whitson, Chuck Stans, Charles Daniels, Mark Keitel, Steve Lukingbeal, and Bart Harrison, players who would be juniors or seniors. It is obvious that Polk wanted to succeed or fail with only his recruits.

The Rice basketball program must be built up over the years with good coaching, honesty, intelligence, and the best recruiting possible. Polk seems to lack these attributes and, at his age, it will be hard for him to change. It is doubtful whether Rice could recruit a player with the talents of a Richard Washington or an Adrian Dantley. However, there are players on the Rice team with enough talent. If coupled with superior coaching, the Rice team could have winning seasons. It would not be expected of Rice to win the NCAA, but being in the SWC, probably still the weakest major conference in the country, Rice could be a serious contender.

The players change but the coaching styles of coaches do not, and the Rice team under Polk play a pathetic brand of basketball. How can a team which is smaller and slower than the rest of the league playing a slowdown offense with no fast break and an unaggressive defense expect to win? The team lacks seriously in fundamentals and coaching.

Polk must not blame the team's failure on the academics at Rice, for it is a fact that schools such as Stanford and Vanderbilt play exceedingly good basketball. As John Wooden, the Wizard of Westwood, said in his book They Call Me Coach, "The key to a winning college basketball program is talent, coaching, and desire." At various times the players have displayed the talent and desire, but never has the coaching been shown in the past two years.

About the future: It is rumored that head coach Homer Rice will also become Athletic Director. Can a man who comes from the University of North Carolina, where basketball is a tradition, lead Rice basketball to respectability? As Rice is in the weakest major conference in the country, Rice could be a serious contender. It is up to the administration to hire a new coach with the necessary qualifications. But we cannot wait another two years. Ric Behrend

---

**Committee interviews start soon**

The Student Association is preparing to hold interviews for undergraduate positions on University Standing Committees and Boards.

The committees include Admissions (2 positions), Affirmative Action (2), Campus Safety (1), Computers (2), Examinations and Standards (2), Library (1), Media Programs (1), University Review Board (2), Public Lectures (1), Religious Activities (1), Undergraduate Curriculum (2), and Undergraduate Teaching (2). For information on these committees, books On the Standing Committees are available in every college office. More information is available in the SA office.

Also, positions are open for the Parking Appeals Board (1 sophomore and 1 junior), the Pub Control Board (1 on-campus, 1 off-campus), and the Campus Store Board (2 sophomores or juniors). These Boards are very important as they have the final and sole responsibility for their activity.

Applications for these committees and boards are available in the SA office, where they are due by Thursday, February 19.
Stephen Stills and Bob Dylan

...hours and fifteen minutes of
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...Lonesome Death of Hattie
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The play "Come Blow Your
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Doonesbury

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ASK MB -WHETHER

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Then, at dress rehearsal, a

This letter is written in

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...complains are not valid. But
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Know what one knows? That's think when it is so difficult to Jumpers."

But are another. Nothing is opening tonight on the Turnabout for regular director Sandy Havens, with things that seem one way trapped in a world of denial. "It's a face of ideas."

Neil Havens stars in Players' production of 'Jumpers'.

Characters jump from idea to idea in much the same way that characters in a French farce jump from bed to bed. "George is trapped in the mysticism of staggering banality," John Merkling explains. "Stoppard is making a comment on modern times. Like faith in our world, George no longer has the language to express the striving for divinity. Sir Archibald Jumper, on the other hand, has language on his side. And in the midst of his rhetoric, Stoppard leaves us with the emptiness of that position."

Merkling says George is trapped in the roles I play I am manipulating rather than creating anything. "I'm a manipulator, and in all the roles I play I am driving George back so that he has to break. But notice that he does not really break. He retreats to something that he loves, but he does not break."

Merkling portrays Sir Archibald, George's opponent. "I'm a manipulator, and in all the roles I play I am manipulating rather than creating anything."

"George is an innocent," Havens explains. "Like the late hare Thumper, he's as innocent as a rainbow. He has faith. George believes that goodness is a fact and that God does exist. His despair is that he cannot prove it, and he's trapped into having to prove intuition."

Positioned between George and Archie is George's wife, Dottie, played by Joan Boorman. "She's slightly schizophrenic—very intelligent, but she has a habit of slipping out. Dottie's afraid. She has all those fears that so many of us have. I don't see her as an innocent. She just never grew up. But there's something very genuine and likeable about her."

"George and Dottie live in two separate worlds, yet both are cluttered with things." Merkling, set designer as well as actor, rounds out the impression of the show. "The set is askew, much as their worlds are. It's important that there be right angles. This in a world that is slightly askew in all of its doings."

"The Jumpers add a dimension of reality to the plot. The play is so bizarre that they are part of the reality but also part of the reality," explains choreographer Debbie Waldman, responsible for the Jumpers' movements. "I like Jumpers because it's one of the new genre of straight plays that doesn't deny the physicality of things. The actors are one of the most believable parts, and also one of the funniest."

"It's a real show in that it's modern so you don't have a strict period to costume from. You have more freedom to relate character through their clothes," costume designer Saranje Milligan continues. "I can use the deco approach of the 30's and 40's in communicating Dottie's flamboyance, the fly of a woman still living in the age when she's a great singer."

"And I can show Archie's character through a well-tailored suit that's slightly off-color, with the hat and cane added for the continental look. George, on the other hand, is concerned with his work so he doesn't dress well."

"There are many parts of the play that are still a mystery to me," Greene admits. "Usually actors try to understand what they're doing, but we reached the conclusion that we don't have to decide, we can impose actions to reinforce the ambiguity."

Merkling nods. "In Stoppard's world, we can't decide. If George is pressed back as far as he can go, with his back to the wall, what are we left with? Archie, and what has Archie got to offer?"

Be sure to hear the Advents.

If you are thinking of buying stereo equipment, Advent products are worth looking for and listening to.

There are three Advent speaker systems, the original Advent Loudspeaker, the Smaller Advent Loudspeaker, and the Advent 2. All of them are best-sellers in their respective categories, largely on the strength of word-of-mouth advertising by satisfied customers.

Both the original Advent and the Smaller Advent are designed to provide the very top level of speaker performance, at a fraction of the cost of the former going out of production. The only difference in performance between them is that the original will play slightly louder than the Smaller. Both of them cover the full ten-octave range of music, and it sounds just like the other two and it's shipped to the Smaller costs $80.

The Advent 2 is the newest Advent and it sounds just like the other two except that it doesn't have the final half-octave of bass response which it does. It's designed to get the absolute maximum of useful performance at the lowest cost, and to enable people to put together a really fine stereo system - with sound very close to the best available at any price - for $100 or less. It also looks exceptionally good, with a distinctive warm-white molded cabinet instead of the usual low-cost imitation wood finish. It costs $77.

Another best-selling Advent product is the Advent 201 cassette deck. Advent was the first manufacturer to introduce cassette equipment - applying innovations like the Dolby System and chromium dioxide tape to cassette, and lobbying for other manufacturers to do the same as they since have. The 201, though there are now literally dozens of competing cassette decks on the market, remains as good as cassette machine as you can find for real sale in day-to-day use. Not only does it perform beautifully, but its design makes it possible to get best recording results and thereby on tape machine of any kind or price makes it easier to get those results, and few come close. In addition, the 201 is a tremendously rugged machine designed so last for years after steady use. It costs $80 and is a bargain in every sense.

Advent's approach is to make only products with something special to offer, rather than the usual long line of models in every price range. Because that approach doesn't require annual model changes and the tremendous manufacturing and advertising overhead that goes with them, the prices of Advent products have gone up very little at a time when everything else seems to cost almost twice what it did last year. (The original Advent Loudspeaker, for instance, has risen only $5 over five years.)

We think you will find it more than worthwhile to see and hear what Advent products have to offer you.

Be sure to hear the Advents.

Recipe #00008

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2. Add Cuervo Gold Especial.
3. See it turn yellow?
4. Put a straw in and drink.
5. If snow is unavailable, use crushed ice. Or, forget the snow, and just put a straw in the bottle. Or forget the straw and just pour some Gold in a glass. Or just have some water. Must we make all these decisions for you?

JOSE CUERVO TEQUILA, MEXICO
IMPORTED AND BOTTLED BY H.T. HEBBLEIN INC., HARTFORD, CONN.

the rice thresher, february 9, 1976 — page 4
increasingly profession-appropriate liberal arts oriented. Such a tendency may many professors are becoming them.

force in directing students of their lectures. However, a rather than on the preparation teachers tend to spend their through the professor's career truly professional attitude, degree of specialization, the question of whether a particular job—since such education will not supply committees and by employers.

University's prestige. A learned on that job—everyone one felt that this kind of technical skills necessary for needs to direct itself to the mastering the basic arts of writing and talking could not the differences were what they need, they will learn in graduate school. What they thus hope to gain from their Rice education is adaptability, an ability to address themselves to a question in such a way as to recognize what the question in essence is and how one might go about answering it. As a result of this basic difference between the professional and pre-professional students, students felt that Rice often satisfies the demands of a professional education better than it satisfies pre-professional students. Too often now teachers of science and of humanities seem to expect students to gain a degree of specialization too soon.

Intro courses important

In answer to the question of how a broader, more liberal education might be made available particularly to pre-professional students, workshop groups stressed the need for improving the quality of introductory courses. While all agreed that such courses often worked very well indeed, they also felt that sometimes courses, especially in the sciences, did not give their students a clear enough overview of the subject introduced. They felt that there was a distinct need for courses which recognized the

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the rice thresher, february 9, 1976 — page 5
Coogs, Refs beat Rice 99-79

by RICK SCHECHTER

It was bad week for Coach Bob Polk. Somehow along the way he contracted the flu. Then he went to Dallas Tuesday night and watched SMU blast his Owls 108-71 in a game that wasn't even close. Returning to Houston he sought rest and a couple of days of quiet at home. Instead he got another challenge from the Rice Alternative Team as they occupied Autry Court and confronted assistant coach Steve Moeller in front of 100-plus spectators who eagerly awaited the never-to-be-game. Finally, Saturday, he crawled off his deathbed only to see Rice lose another, this time to the University of Houston, 99-79.

The UH game looked initially like it might be the long-awaited SWC win for 1976. The Owls were only down by three, 40-37, at the half, and when James Simmons popped in a 15-foot jumper to close the gap to one, Rice fans began to small victory. A scent was all they got. It was at this point that All-everything guard Otis Birdsong and All-Texas Whistle Blowing Champ, Ref Jim Harvey, went to work. Birdsupplemented his 24 first half points with 18 more for a career high of 42 points. Just for grins he hauled down 14 rebounds, 5 more than the leading Rice bounders Darden and Meyers. Birdsong's re bounds came as a result of the shoddy officiating. It seemed that if an Owl came near Birdsong it was good for two free shots.

Harvey was just as destructive. Hiding a red jersey under his zebral stripes, he (with a little help from friend Paul Galvan) blew an SWC record, tying 36 fouls on the Rice Owls, 24 of them in the second half. Making the most of this, the Coogs pumped in an incredible 35 points from the charity stripe during the evening.

There were few bright spots left in Birdsong and Harvey's wake. The Owls full court press did force 23 UH turnovers but Rice lost 15 to the Cougar press, thus negating some fine defensive work. Dave Lowverse led the Owls with 26 points and Elbert Darden added 17. James Simmons found his way into double figures as he hit for 11 points in only his third starting role in conference play.

The Owls travel to the Ozarks next to meet Arkansas before returning home a week from Tuesday to play TCU. Perhaps somewhere along the way Polk will be able to shake the flu and this 17-game losing streak.

JOCK NOTES

Entries — Entries for men's and co-ed softball, men's and co-ed volleyball-wall, and mixed badminton doubles close on Friday, February 13.

***

Rumors that Texas Athletic Director Darrel Royal, has joined Robert Vesco in Costa Rica persist in the wake of continuing investigation of UT's athletic department in the Charles Schnabel graft investigation. Although players from three different sports are involved, no one has done the unthinkable and asked Coach Royal if he didn't know about all this; and also why his school should not go on probation for violating NCAA rules.

Young, adventurous & dreaming of Europe?

A SUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Entries — For men's and co-ed softball, men's and co-ed volleyball-wall, men's and co-ed badminton doubles. See ad.

From $1395.00 and up for 45-92 day adventures in Europe. See ad.

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The Vest. Denim. $8.95

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Lone Star Beer. No Place But Texas.
Wiess to face WRC for intramural cage crown Tuesday

by JIMMY DAY

For the first time in two years Wiess College will not win the college basketball championship. Due to the lack of depth, Lovett and Wiess possibly the two strongest teams, played each other in the first round. In what was probably the best game played on the campus this year, Wiess rallyed midway in the second half to extend route to his first try of the season and the final 11-0 score.

The lead to 7-0.

Wiess scored both offensive and defensive rebounds. Wiess found themselves down 49-42 with 11 minutes to go when Lammers and Bob Baker each hit a pair of outside shots to put Wiess ahead 50-49 with a little over 8 minutes to go. The lead was down before Wiess pulled ahead to stay at 56-55. The lead was only from 2 to 6 points after this, and Lammers, Tupper, and Mark Wiess' first 7 points. The first half ended with Wiess ahead 38-36 after 20 minutes of play. Sid Rich came out in a zone defense in the second half and pulled out to a lead of 38-36 after 20 minutes of play. Sid Rich came out in a zone defense in the second half. Sid Rich came out in a zone defense in the second half.

The game was close for 13 minutes with Baker down, 24-23. Will Rice scored with their starting team for WRC was reinserted, and Jesse Wilson's two quick baskets and a four-corner stall ended Baker's hopes.

Wiess came out pressing in order to get their fast break working and Rick Behrend used the fast breaks to score Wiess' first 7 points. Wiess' first 7 points. The first half ended at 32 all and was characterized by some four-corner drive by both sides. Tupper and Greg Cannady scored itself up for the second half (second half).

Ruggers stomp SMU

by ASUKA NAKAHARA

The Rice Rugby Club boosted its spring record to 2-0 by crushing the Mustang ruggers of SMU, 11-0.

Flyhalf Noel Payne touched down the first try, giving Rice a early 4-0 lead. An SMU penalty resulted in a three-pointer. A three-pointer. By Allen Rodgers just before the half to extend the lead to 7-0.

Seed of half action saw Rodgers shake off tacklers on route to his first try of the season. Team 11-0. SMU seemed to have problems leaving its side of the field. The Rice scrum had a field day winning most of the scrums behind the push of Joey "Blond Bomber" Bevill and Big James Liska. Paul Phillips made some tough plays at wing forward.

The back line of Payne, Matt, Rodgers, Felpas, Harris, Kochvar, and Dick Aarculous looked extended and氓 the 0-14. Italy.

Rice opens union play this weekend against the Gulf Coast Rugby Union. (Last year Rice lost, 8-7.) Grab a beer and watch some hard hitting action.

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STOP IT

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tuesday the tenth
All day. Majora day for freshmen and sophomores. 4pm. SH 301. Rice Pre-law meeting. See Notes & Notices.
6pm. Commons. Meat Loaf avec gravy.
7pm. Rice vs. Arkansas from Fayetteville. KTRU.
7:30pm. KTRU. The Goon Show. “The Dishonored.”
8pm. MSTAAH.
8pm. Hamman Hall. Jumpers presented by the Rice Players. $1.50 for students; $3 for pecans. etc. 526-5404 for reservations.
8:30pm. Jones Hall. The Houston Symphony Orchestra.

wednesday the eleventh
9am-1pm. RMC. Bookmobile sponsored by Rice Hillel. 2-5pm. Commons. Meat Loaf avec gravy.
6:30pm. Commons. Scrub Class terminates.
7:05pm. SH 301. SRUW meeting. 7:30pm. RMC. “I want my mummy.”
8pm. Jones Hall. Symphony. 8pm. Hamman Hall.
8pm. MSTAAH. Beyond the Fringe. $2.50. Call 524-3168 for tickets.

thursday the twelfth
6pm. Commons. Chicken Ranch Steak with gravy.
7:30pm. Media Center. The Mummy (Karl Freund, 1932). $2.50. Call 524-3168 for tickets.
8pm. Baker. BSI. “The Hunting of Poetry...”
8pm. Hamman Hall. Jumpers.
8pm. MSTAAH. Beyond the Fringe.
8pm. Hamman Hall. Jumpers.
8pm. MSTAAH. Beyond the Fringe: $2.50. Call 524-3168 for tickets.

friday the thirteenth
8:45am. Good time to stay in bed.
6pm. Commons. Chinese Pepper torture.
7:30pm. Media Center. The Mummy (Karl Freund, 1932). With Boris Karloff. $1.
7:30pm. HB 224. Rice Christian Community.
8pm. Baker. BSI. “The Hunting of Poetry...”
8pm. Hamman Hall. Jumpers.
8pm. MSTAAH. Beyond the Fringe.
10pm. Media Center. I want my mommy.
10pm. RMC. Night of the Living Dead.

saturday the fourteenth
12n. Jones PDR, Society of Women Engineers meeting. All females invited.
1-5pm. Sewall courtyard. Black Arts Festival (BSU).
10pm. Times Barbershop tentatively schedule softball practice.
7pm-1am. Wiess Commons. Mardi Grass parade, followed by a Dance ($1 in the Grand Hall, RMC. 7:30pm. Media Center. Bridge of Frankenstein (James Whale, 1935). $1.
8pm. Hamman Hall. Jumpers.
8pm. MSTAAH. Beyond the Fringe.
10pm. Media Center. Bridge of Frankenstein.

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