Administration announces salary increase

by Matt Muller

President Hackerman three weeks ago announced a long-awaited pay raise for all members of the faculty and staff.

The 3% across-the-board increase is significant despite the 13% annual rate of inflation because it follows merit-based raises awarded earlier last spring which averaged 7.5% for faculty members.

Over the last two years the faculty have voiced increasing concern about the steadily declining position of their salaries relative to other universities.

Most recently, the report of the Faculty Committee on Educational Enhancement noted that Rice's faculty salaries, among the nation's highest ten years ago, were exceeded in 1978-79 by all major universities as well as by 25 other colleges and universities in the state of Texas.

Funds for the 3% hike came from a budget surplus attributed to a higher-than-expected return on Endowment Fund investments.

Surplus funds appear with some regularity from year to year since the University budgets conservatively, but not for several years have the funds been used for a salary increase.

President Hackerman's decision to apply the funds toward the increase was probably affected by several recent events which accentuated the need for a wage increase.

"The Faculty Council report on salaries was unusually distressing this year," said Dr. Sidney Burrus.

"Also, through Dr. Hackerman, several members of the faculty spoke informally with the Governors about this, so they were more than usually conscious of this situation," he added.

Dr. Burrus applauded Hackerman's decision to use the funds for salary increases rather than for single-year bonuses and to include staff members in the increase, since "they were in as bad shape as we were."

Although the current inflation rate will quickly eat away increases in buying power, Dr. Burrus was pleased with the raises, noting "Rice had been slipping behind even the second-rate Texas schools. Now, this at least heads us in the right direction."

"Even if this doesn't pull us back to where we were a few years ago," Dr. Burrus concluded, "it's darn sure going to help."

Committee postpones decision

by Richard Dees

The Campus Store Advisory Committee postpones its decision concerning the disbursement of some $200,000 of the store's surplus accumulated income. The committee also decided to implement its earlier decision to increase the student discount at the store from 5% to 8% on July 1.

In its meeting April 30, the committee resinded its earlier agreement to divvy up a $10,000 surplus income for future expansions of the bookstore.

Rain delays Will Rice commons renovations

by Wayne Derrick

Work is underway on the renovation of Will Rice Commons. The Linbeck Construction Corporation began the $400,000 project immediately after finals last May.

In 1975 Linbeck renovated the WRC, Baker and Hansen old dorms and did the work on the Rice III Chemistry Building improvements this year. Linbeck has also been awarded the contracts for a new baseball stands and for the renovation of Jones Commons.

"As far as I am concerned, Linbeck has done good work in the past...and they are very reliable," said Campus Business Manager Russell Pittman.

There are no late penalties in the contract. Will Rice Master Dr. C.D. Armenides explained that since contracts normally raise their estimates to compensate for such penalties the University has decided instead "to depend upon the goodwill of the contractor."

Mr. Pittman adds, "such penalties are usually in the range of $50-100 per day. When compared with the overall cost of the contract, these provide little extra incentive for the contractor. We think that the present contract the company will want to meet the deadline so that they will have a better chance for future contracts at Rice."

Though he has no official status in this phase of the renovation, Dr. Armenides is looking after the welfare of the 'store' with an eye to the progress of the commons. He feels that the foreman and the working crew are competent, although he warns that work is still in the preliminary stages. The foundation and kitchen extension are completed, but the crew is three days behind schedule because of rain.

Leaks developed in the commons roof and prevented interior construction. Since the leaks could not be repaired economically, the roof is being replaced. By preventing construction inside the commons, the university will obviously delay completion of the project. However, Dr. Armenides insisted that Linbeck optimistically feels confident that with good weather they will still meet the August deadline.

However, delays are probable. Some construction slowdowns are beyond Linbeck's control. For example, the independent truckers' strike delayed the shipment of a load of steel. Also, according to Mr. Pittman, the construction situation in Houston has changed the great amount of construction in progress across the city means that Linbeck cannot depend

Fondren gets bonus

by Matt Muller

An infusion of year-end surplus funds has allowed Fondren Library to purchase an "off-the-shelf" automated circulation system and to allocate an additional $48,000 to the acquisitions budget.

The old circular card records system, plagued by computer interface problems, quit working last spring and reduced Fondren Library to a manual records-keeping system which made sending out overdue notices virtually impossible.

Acting Librarian Samuel Carrington describes the new equipment as a turn-key system. "There should be no software (computer program) or computer interface problems with this machine," he said.

The new equipment utilizes the same sort of 'bar codes' as used to mark products in grocery stores. Rather than attempting to put coded labels into the entire collection at once, Carrington said the library staff will place the code labels on the books as they are checked out in the future.

Carrington declined to comment on the exact price of the new library funds for salary increases that its cost was "considerable."

"I'd rather not say exactly how much we paid," he said, "but I will tell you that the money did not come out of the regular library budget."

In addition to the $48,000 allocated out of surplus university funds to the books and periodicals acquisitions budget, Carrington reported (cont. on page 3)
RMC policy needs revision

Accustomed to working long hours in the past, student staff members of the Campanile, KTRU, CBO, and the Rice Memorial Center, among others, have had keys that determine who had access to that building after hours, said Pitman, citing the case of a campus store break-in where Campus Police found it impossible to learn who had access from the inside. The Campus Police Chief and other staff members are being paid to determine who had access from the outside. Several solutions were proposed. One idea, quickly discarded because it violated local fire codes, was for the campus police to lock students into the RMC when access was needed after hours. A second solution, which would have required KTRU only, was to construct a doorway from the band hall (to which students have access from the outside) into the KTRU studios. Because this would have cost $1700, Vest and Pitman decided instead to solve KTRU’s problem by paying an RMC employee to keep the building open from 10:30 to 6:30 on Sundays during the summer.

This will alleviate KTRU’s problem this summer, but it is a stop-gap measure. It does not provide for Campanile, KTRU and Thresher staff who need to be in their offices on holidays, when the RMC is closed during the academic year. Both the Campanile and the Thresher sometimes need to work past 2am in order to meet deadlines.

The best solution would be to place security screens on windows and doors in the RMC, keeping valuable storage areas from the general access parts of the building after hours. A rough cost estimate of such screens places the minimum figure at $1500, however.

The University has the ability to withhold final grades from students with unsettled accounts. Memoranda requesting the return of keys have been sent to several organizations, but it is rarely used. The problem is one of enforcement, and several more permanent disposition of the access question will have to be reached.

Bicycling provides alternative

To the editor:

Each week there are 1000 additional cars on the streets of Houston. Soon September, you will be another statistic. That is, unless you have a trusty bicycle under your belt and are waiting to be put to use. Houston is an ideal environment for cycling. The season lasts over 10 months, and the other two months merely demand additional preparation on the part of a rider. Inside the Loop, secondary streets parallel almost all of the main thoroughfares and offer quick and quiet routes to the city centers. Certain of the throughfares are also designated as bike routes.

Route is located in the Southwest part of Houston, where a majority of the cycling population lives and works. The annual Beer-Bike Race, part of the spring Rondelet festival, has encouraged cycling among Rice people in recent years. Four major bike shops are within 10 minutes of ride from these campuses. Others may be found. Houston has a dearth of good parking spaces for bikes, and the even the best may not be convenient or safe.

Bike shops I recommend include:

Houston Bicycle Company Joe Bentley, proprietor 2207 Commonwealth 522-1852
Daniel Boone Cycles 531-3491
528-7109, 526-7011

Deborah Davies Huffman

The Rice Thresher

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The Rice Thresher, the official student newspaper at Rice University since 1916, is published weekly by the staff, except during examination periods and holidays, by the student of Rice University. Phone 527-4801 or 527-4802. Advertising in-will be accepted. Staff and business offices located at the second floor of the Rice Memorial Center, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, TX 77001. Mail subscription rates, $18.00 per year. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of anyone except the writer. Obviously.
TCU administration nixes dorm restoration

Substantial year-end policy changes have been announced at TCU, where a year ago the Masters and Presidents Committee approved a plan for the end of the year approached, to ban pets from campus housing. Too busy to worry about the last-minute regulations, students let the decision stand.

This year, the colleges had hardly any money to spend, and the student body was divided into workshop groups. The program dealt with the advanced degree students or Rice undergraduates; the majority of those taking the course, however, were Rice alumni. The majority of those taking the course, however, were Rice alumni.

Cost, said Laura, is not the only reason the administration gave for choosing to replace wooden frames. "They also claimed the aluminum frames are better insulated and don't create less of a fire hazard."

"But we checked this out," the magazine, "and found that not only are laminated wooden frames no more expensive than the metal ones, they are less of a fire hazard and have equally good insulation value."

TCU’s administration was not very cooperative. "We wanted to discuss this with Vice-President of Student Affairs, who charged of these projects, but he just wouldn't talk to us," says Laura.

Rice residents first found out about the replacement of wooden window frames when workmen came into the dorm two weeks before finals and began measuring the sills for new frames. "We called the chancellor," said Laura. "He said he was very sorry but that he couldn't help us."

So the Restore Jarvis Committee, chairman Richard Seaver, President of the New Magazine, then presenting a new magazine, aiming at a more intellectual market than the other magazines, was divided into two sections of two weeks each.

The program, arranged by the Office of Continuing Studies, was divided into two sections of two weeks each. The first section dealt with Book Publishing and was headed up by recent Director Dan Okrund. Okrund, formerly editor-in-chief of Harcourt Brace & World, now manages his own book packaging firm.

The program participants divided into workshop groups which each assumed all the functions of a publishing house. The houses, given varying budgets and editorial approaches, selected a manuscript from among 14 provided and packaged it for publication.

The third and fourth weeks of the month-long program was devoted to magazines. Magazine.Greene, President of the New Yorker, and two Rice professors, William Martin and Geoff Winningham, who addressed the magazine workshop.

Commons (cont. from page 1) upon their subcontractors to work as promised. Subcontractors often overbook their schedules when much work is available.

Library (cont. from page 1) that the administration approved his budget requests for "substantial increases" in that budget for the coming year.
Robert R. Herring, chairman and chief executive officer of Houston Natural Gas Corporation, has been named the chairman of the Rice Board of Governors.

The 19-member Board of Governors is composed of seven trustees and twelve governors, the latter serving staggered terms of four years each. There are no fixed terms for the trustees, who retire at age 70.

Herring, who is succeeding James U. Teague as chairman, has been vice-chairman of the Board since 1977. Herring’s position as vice-chairman will be filled by E.D. Butcher, the retired president of American Commercial Lines and director of the Texas Gas Transmission Corporation.

Harry J. Chavanne, a 1933 Rice graduate who first became a Board member in 1974, fills the trustee position vacated by Teague.

Herring graduated from Texas A&M University in 1933 with a degree in chemical engineering, first joined the Board as a governor in 1964 and was elected a trustee in 1974. Last year Butcher was the Board’s representative on the Campus Store Advisory Committee. The Committee became a focus of attention last spring when it reported a $200,000 accumulation of surplus income.

In addition to these

"promotions" within the Board, five new members were named to the Board of Governors. Catherine Hannah, Rice 1943, returns to the Board after 1974-1978 service as a governor. Also named to the Board were Houston architect S.I. Morris, Rice 1935, rancher-investor Taylor Ray, Rice 1959, attorney Jack Trotter, Rice 1947, and Paul Howell, chairman of Houston Corporation, a Houston energy company.

The five new governors fill vacancies created by death and retirement during the 1978-1979 academic year.

Kaplan advocates preparation

What rule is there that says everybody can have equal educational opportunities?" asked Stanley Kaplan, director of the Stanley Kaplan Educational Centers. "I’d like to see it,” he said. "One of this nation’s great tragedies is the inequality of education.”

"However,” he added, responding to a question asking if he believed his costly preparation courses for the SAT and professional schools exams (LSAT, MCAT etc.) are a source of educational inequality, "if you think we’re giving students an unfair edge, what do you think the innovative private schools are doing.”

Kaplan’s courses are widely used by high school and college students seeking to improve their scores on standardized tests administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Generally the courses are felt to be worthwhile, though expensive. However, one must ask - especially with reference to the SAT - why tests designed to measure aptitude can be productively studied for:

Kaplan addressed this question during a visit to Houston. "Aptitude is not innate,” he said. “It is developed.” This counters the position of the ETS a few years ago, but, said Kaplan, “the administrator of ETS has recently suggested that ETS is ready to admit that coaching such as we provide can improve test scores.”

When asked whether his review courses were just cram courses, Kaplan responded, “Absolutely not. These cram review courses attempt to cover an impossible amount of material in an impossible amount of time.”

“For instance,” said Kaplan, “many high schools now offer a 20 hour SAT preparation course. Preparing for that exam just can’t be done in so short a time. I’m talking 100, 200, maybe 300 hours not just of review but of first-time learning. People who have taken our courses do better on the tests because they know more than they did before they took the course.

“We do not provide cram courses. We provide supplementary education,” said Kaplan.

Kaplan admitted that the average $300 fee for one of the courses was a substantial amount of money, but he pointed out that "there are a lot of weekend LSAT review courses around which charge $125 for a small fraction of the hours we provide.”

Never giving the impression that big profits were important to him, Kaplan spoke at some length about his firm’s scholarships program. "About 10% of our students are on scholarship,” he said. "I’m a firm believer in finding a way to provide the courses to everyone who really needs them.”

Kaplan was critical of the present educational system but laid the blame on insufficient funding. “Yes, schools must launch programs to beef up basic education, but this costs money, money that isn’t readily available,” he said.
Nuclear project deemed hazardous

TexPIRG, the Texas Public Interest Research Group, partially funded by Rice students, is issuing a call to action concerning the proposed Allen's Creek Nuclear Generating Station. The plant would be situated in Wallis, Texas, just 45 miles from downtown Houston.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is now accepting requests from citizens for the right to intervene in the licensing process of the plant. Any citizen may make such a request.

Citizen intervention is one of the few ways to slow down the all too hasty approval of Houston Lighting and Power's hazardous plans.

The proposed Allen's Creek power plant is dangerous for many reasons, some of which are listed here as contentions for intervention. Citizen intervention involves citizens sending to the NRC statements of objection against the licensing of a proposed nuclear power plant. It is just one step in the NRC process of determining whether to license construction.

The NRC first called for citizen intervention on Allen's Creek in 1974, after Houston Lighting and Power (HL&P) had applied for a construction permit in 1972. However, in 1975, HL&P, for reasons of its own, decided to defer indefinitely construction of the plant. Then on May 30, 1978, almost three years later, HL&P again announced plans to build on the Allen's Creek site.

The NRC gave the Houston public only 30 days to respond to the new proposal. Even worse, the only contentions it would accept were: 1) issues dealing with changes in HL&P's plant design between 1975 and 1978; and 2) "new evidence" (information which had become available only since 1975). Obviously this excluded most of the really important questions about the plant, since the gravest dangers had been known all along.

TexPIRG persisted in an appeal to the NRC to repeal the limitations and, eventually, in spring of this year, TexPIRG won the appeal, the limitations were removed, and on June 13, 1979, the NRC announced that once again it will accept requests for citizen intervention—this time without the restrictions. The deadline for requests is July 18.

Writing the NRC will not commit you to going to the NRC hearings—but it will help to demonstrate the number of people who are concerned about the safety of the proposed plant. Citizen action can be powerful. If TexPIRG, a group which had not intervened last year, the Allen's Creek plant would now be nine months into construction. Your letter is important.

There are four points you must make in order for your letter to be taken seriously.

1) You must state that you wish to become a full party in the construction hearings.
2) You must state that the reason you failed to request the right to intervene earlier is that it was impossible for you to comply with the severe restrictions that were placed on

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**CONTENIONS FOR INTERVENTION IN THE LICENSING OF THE ALLEN'S CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION**

- A nuclear generating plant should not be located downstream 45 miles of a large population center. The Houston Metropolitan Area has a population of 2.8 million. If there were an accident—and Three Mile Island shows us that accidents are possible—millions of people would be affected.
- A city around Houston is heavy, and increasing. The proposed containment structures would not be able to withstand a crash by an airplane. Radioactivity, escaping too soon to be controlled, would fall on Houston in rainfall.
- In its reports, HL&P has dismissed solar energy alternatives without considering "passive" solar systems particularly suited to the Texas climate which maximize normal radiant heat and air currents for heating and cooling in a building. City building codes should require consideration of passive solar system designs in all new construction. This would reduce electricity requirements, thus reducing the rate of imported power demand which HL&P is counting on in its energy projections for the future.
- The Full Environmental Statement for the Allen's Creek plant states that the NRC staff does not compare various reactor systems which could be employed at a particular site as long as they are all "licensable." But the projected radioactive gaseous emissions for the proposed Allen's Creek Boiler Water-type Reactor are several hundred times higher than for the South Texas Nuclear Water-type Reactor. Furthermore, NRC internal memoranda made public last year indicate that there are doubts within the NRC about the advisability of the Boiler Water-type Reactors. The Boiler Water Reactor planned for Allen's Creek should be replaced by a Pressurized Water Reactor.
- The NRC now requires a "redundant automatic scram system" for all reactors with applications submitted after 1977 ("a scram is a meltdown-threatening emergency.
- The containment system proposed for the Allen's Creek plant will not be observed on operating reactors until 1980. Construction of the Allen's Creek Nuclear Generating Station should not begin until this most important safety element has been fully tested. Correspondence between General Electric (the contractor for the proposed Allen's Creek plant) and Potomac Gas and Electric Company in 1976 suggests that the proposed system is inadequate.
- Stress corrosion cracking in the Boiler Water Reactor piping may cause an accident releasing large amounts of radiation.
- High Hermetic seals on some safety monitoring instrumentation may fail during loss-of-coolant accidents, depriving plant supervisors of critical information in an emergency.
- Electrical wiring for the Allen's Creek plant is susceptible to fast flaming in the event of an internal flash fire. A 1976 study by cosponsored laboratories shows that wiring approved by fireproof by the NRC will spread flames along separated cables.
- The BWR/6 (Boiling Water Reactor) design for the proposed plant does not sufficiently protect in-vessel components from flow-induced vibration. In 1976 former G.E. engineers showed that such vibration caused the failure of pressure-relieving valves at five different units from 1975 to 1976.
- Nuclear project deemed hazardous

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Rice: Business As Usual?

Jim Fowler '79

To say that Rice is the Harvard of the South, or, drolly regional, the Vanderbilt of the Southwest, is to deal in both comparative and superlative degrees. Notwithstanding claims to international esteem, Rice University does not expect name identification to be its selling point for prospective students, with the implicit undergraduate curriculum to indulge themselves in the raw pleasures of technical mastery and vocational success. The upshot is a businesslike attitude towards higher education that runs the gamut from the marketing of Rice in admissions to the classroom routine that can be more a test of endurance than willing pursuit of knowledge.

Creeping pre-professionalism is not a syndrome unique to Rice, and accusations of such scarcely produce jaws dropped in shocked disbelief; more likely, one will find approval of some pragmatism in education. The danger lies in the equation of diligence and accomplishment. Legion are the Rice students who set goals for themselves and decide (pro facto that is where their personal pot of gold lies. Along the way, other areas of interest and exploration are gradually excluded, with a sigh for the difficult decisions that priorities place on one's shoulders. By the time graduation arrives (all too soon for some, not soon enough for others), that hard-won diploma can have taken on the significance of a sheepskin resume.

It is tempting to make the asorted engineering fields a collective whipping boy for the sins of the whole University, and picture the humanities in terms of a bacchanalia for those who wish to indulge themselves in the raw pleasures of intellectual curiosity. Anyone who has ever cowered before a bewildering onslaught of required papers will testify to the meaning of drudgery in the humanities. Both academ and engineers may lie awake at night planning the next day's holding action against the workload; relief comes in the universal Rice antidote, "Blow it off."

And, somehow, Rice students do find time for leisure, despite competing claims as to who has more exams and papers in any particular week. Participation in intramurals is extensive, and it seldom takes many steps to find someone willing to shoot the bull for a while. On the other hand, an animated discussion of film history or American foreign policy takes more doing, and usually peter s out before attracting much of an audience. In general, the Rice student body is intelligent, but not especially provocative; affable, but not especially cosmopolitan. Intermittently, individuals at Rice reveal the particular mental prowess that earned each admission in the first place. Unfortunately, the motivation seems obscured in a nagging ambivalence between fulfillment and achievement, with a resulting conflict of interest between breadth and depth of knowledge, quality and quantity.

Any prospectus for improvement must take into consideration the harm that can be done tampering with presently sound practices and liberties. Rice students enjoy a good deal of leeway in determining their education, and so are jealous of infringements. In addition, talk of change leads to talk of money, which eventually filters down to the price of tuition at Rice. An increase in fees could, in turn, affect the pool of applicants. Thus, the circular proposition.

Admissions—"It Takes All Types"

Demographically, the pool of applicants who meet Rice's criteria will shrink over the next few years. This is a function of a shift in America's age distribution, and not a reflection on the mental capabilities of future Freshmen. Competition for promising high schoolers will get tougher, but Richard Stiebel, Assistant to the President for Admissions and Records, feels that Rice will hold its own in recruitment.

Over the past few years, Rice has aimed for an enrollment of 2400-2500 students, including graduates. So, the target for Freshman enrollment has been 525, excluding athletes. Of the 2400 applicants for 1979-80, 896 were offered admission, and so far 526 have enrolled. Of this number, 300, or 57%, are Texas residents, in line with the 60% quota the Board of Governors has set to meet the spirit of the Rice charter. Though an arbitrary figure, it affirms Rice's commitment to the state of Texas as a private institution available to those outstanding students who might otherwise go to a public university.

If Rice desires national prominence, however, any such quota might seem to have a hindering parochial effect. Should an applicant from out of state be passed over in favor of a Texas resident near the end of the admissions process, the difference will not be detectable. Franz Broten, Professor of Materials Science, Master of Brown College, and Chairman of the Committee for Educational Enhancement, indicates that he has been unable to come up with statistics on residence partiality in the admissions process. "I don't feel quite as enraged as some people do about it. The undergraduate body at Rice is superb, comparable to any." Although far from enraged, Dennis Huston, Associate Professor of English, and Master of Hanszen College, advocates an open admissions policy. "We don't have nearly enough students from outside of the Southwest. And the situation can be gotten around, like the previous charter breaches. There should
be no quota; we just aim for the best we can get, no matter where they’re from.”

Richard Stabel maintains that his office looks for diversity. “It takes all types to make up a university; this includes winners and introverts.”

Katherine Brown, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, says that out of four assistants, Stabel indicates that the interview is seldom a major factor in the final decision and hardly ever a negative factor. It is the job of the eleven faculty, two alumni, and two students (some of the Assistant Directors of Admission) to narrow the field down to those 525 who look like Rice students.

If promotional material is any indication, Rice is very aware of its potential market—those young men and women who derive satisfaction from achievement, and perform well under academic pressure.

At Rice, all of these factors translate into one scholarship.

Rice is a great place to study for your vocation...

Though extraction from its context highlights the dual interests this passage advocates, it is not my intention to say that Rice seeks to assuage the doubts many students have about the practicality of a liberal arts education.

Let’s face it, job placement is a topic that lies somewhat beyond the four-year travails of university education.

While some schools have witnessed drops in the number of employers interested in their students' careers, Rice has watched the numbers climb.

Nothing succeeds like success.

The above comes from a pamphlet entitled "A Young Texan's Guidebook to the Complete Education at Rice University," distributed by the Office of Admissions. Written by a Rice graduate, it has received a Gold Quill Award from the International Association of Business Communicators. One survey yet to be run is a sampling of those who will not accept Rice's offer of admission. Of particular interest would be those who prefer Rice for the potential market—those young men and women, instead of Rice, and the main reasons for their decision.

And Then Come The Syllabi

Allotment of time is a crucial matter to most Rice students, particularly as the semester wears on. The average undergraduate takes five courses a semester, plus labs where applicable, so lecture time is a valuable commodity. After a certain point, the expenditure of an additional hour in study or some other activity assumes the familiarity of an introductory economics problem.

Dr. John Flaman, Professor of Space Physics, and Master of Lovett College, "The Rice course load overshadows cognitive knowledge attained through a large number of courses in specialized areas, leading to a deprivation about extracurricular concerns. There is a preoccupation with course work, while the colleges do not always "sweat the small stuff." Pleased with the calibre of students at Rice, he would like to see a greater level of awareness on the part of current societal problems and trends. "For instance, I'd like to see a day-long seminar, with student participation, on energy problems. It's the responsibility of the university to stimulate awareness in this interdisciplinary field."

Dennis Huston does not ignore the faculty's role in the academic routine. "Education at Rice is too much forced on the students; they receive too little encouragement to pursue what they think is interesting." With conflicts of interest forcing students to rank their activities on a scale of significance, many opt for the rigorous commerce, particularly gained through technical diligence rather than for a less regimented exploration of knowledge.

"The course load is perfectly ridiculous; I've always felt that way." Charles Garstde, Jr., Professor of History, and last year's recipient of the Brown Award for Excellence in Teaching, draws upon a British sense of modifiers to impress his meaning. "A student can find himself locked into an academic grind the first day of classes; it's pernicious, to say the least. Considering their sometimes crushing loads, they're not to blame for a lack of concern with societal trends; they've simply set their priorities, at the expense of which is what goes on outside world." Concurring with Huston, he favors a reduced load of four courses a semester for freshmen and seniors, "as a beginning."

Joining the general consensus that the mental prowess of Rice students is as satisfying as ever, he adds a personal observation. "One single consistent characteristic of Rice students—tell them what to do exactly, and they'll do a superb job; turn them loose on a really independent project, and they go to pieces." This predilection for carefully spelled-out assignments characterizes an attitude familiar to Rice professors. Huston points out another aspect. "I appreciate the Teacher Effectiveness forms, but a lot of the questions are designed to allow a student to express pleasure and displeasure with the way the course has defined what he needs to know in order to do well, and not enough of the way in which it has touched his life."

13. The general basis for grading (e.g., weighing of exams, papers, class participation, etc.) was made clear to me early in the course.

14. The instructor was willing to discuss grades given on individual assignments.

On the average, Rice students are not grade grabbers, largely because they perform well enough to earn satisfying grades. In fact, they can attend a few occasional low stuffer to stir competition than normal, or a lack of low stuffer after study improves preparation. "The current requirement for undergraduate courses is the right number; our students go out and perform better than students who have had fewer courses."

Franz Broten does see a need for restructuring of courses to invigorate academic curiosity but, with the availability of pass/fail options, is wary of decreasing the rigidity. "Under the present arrangement, an engineering student would simply receive less exposure to the humanities.

Enhancement Today For a Better Tomorrow

In April, Dr. Broten's Committee for Educational Enhancement produced a comprehensive report on Rice's current academic status, with recommendations for boosting the University's prestige and, and they go to pieces. Suggestions included the establishment of six University professorships, the creation of Rice's own academic stars of the first magnitude; formation of Advisory Councils to assist the divisional Deans (Engineering, Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences) in interdisciplinary coordination and in-depth assessment of each department; recommendation of the current system of distribution requirements, with consideration of a flexible core curriculum; and strong consideration of a substantial tuition increase, in light of current inflationary pressures.

"The attraction of luminaries is intended as a means of improving the University's prestige. Hopefully, such academic celebrities would draw gifted students to Rice, and provide students desiring to study under them, and generous research grants. Dean Brown responds to the idea as follows:

I agree with the proposal to establish half a dozen University Professorships and that these should be used to bring in outstanding faculty at a high salary level. This would replace the loss of several such people during the past decade, a loss which will inevitably occur, though with no necessary attempt to match losses by replacements department by department. The proposed professorships should not however be wholly out of line in compensation or given to the half-dozen top named chairs already on campus.

15. The instructor gave me a printed course syllabus, and I was able to plan for the course requirements in terms of text assignments, collateral reading requirements, and any special projects, research papers, or other special projects.

The proposal is not one that lends itself to strong pro/con sentiments. Some do express reservations in terms of return on salary investments, but adamant opposition does not seem commensurate with the incremental involved. The proposition could evaporate from lack of follow-up, however.

Disatisfaction with the current distribution system does not seem to be as extensive as the Report suggests. The prevailing attitude recognizes shortcomings in the present system, but the alternative of a core curriculum would involve difficult legislation. Huston holds that, "You can't fairly choose those fields which are non-sacrificable." At Rice, departments are anxious to have the student's prerogative to select electives that interest him. If a student avails himself of a balanced course distribution, it is possible for him to receive a broadly based liberal arts education at Rice.

The Curriculum Committee took a step in the right direction in asking each of the departments to recommend courses particularly suited for non-majors and the fulfillment of distribution requirements. These recommendations are available to help students and their advisors in the Course Schedule Book for 1979-80.

The $500 Cadillac Phenomenon

Talk of priorities at Rice usually implies a ranking of those needs which require more immediate infusions of money. Most lists these days include some ordering of faculty salaries, the physical plant, Fondren Library, and undergraduate laboratory equipment. The required steps are substantial, but the Administration cannot be as responsive to competing claims as it would like. Basically the University feels the economy's bite. If preliminary steps are any indication, Rice is attempting to meet its perceived funding problems. This from Dean Brown:

Faculty salaries. The need to increase faculty salaries at Rice is clear to everyone. Next year our standing will be substantially improved by the 3% increase to all faculty salaries. 1979-80 salaries which was announced by the president subse- quent to this report. The increment was made possible by higher than anticipated dividends from some of the University's corporate holdings.

Laboratory Fees. Returning to a laboratory aspect is the consideration. The deans and some of the faculty in science and engineering are eager to see how other schools collect these fees, whether through the department, the dean's office, or central billing, whether as a visible fee or included in tuition and charged to everyone.

(Cont. on page 11)
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The Rice Thresher, July 10, 1979, page 8
Fifty five revolutions per minute rock L.A.

As independent record labels are bought out at a quickening rate and the music industry shrinks to an ever-slightening oligopoly (only six firms dominate the world popular market compared to eight in the pathologically muckraked and hated oil industry), the remaining music moguls are settling into a oligopoly (only six firms dominate the world popular market compared to eight in the pathologically muckraked and hated oil industry), the remaining music moguls are settling into a business strategy so safe and
timid it would have bored J.P. Morgan.

Among pop record companies the current fashion is to cut back sharply the number of new acts signed, but hype to the saturation point what discs (or "new product") they are (affectionately called down on) they do release. Incredibly, a gold record (500,000 albums sold) is now considered a disappointment. The goal today is a "gorilla"—one that sells upwards of 3 to 5 million copies. Obsessed to achieve simian sales, a firm must market a product that the widest range of people find
inoffensive, nonintrasting, and mildly pleasing—e.g., Frampton Comes Alive or the Doobie Brothers Minute by Minute.

In the fight against this universally admitted stagnation, the unpragmatically 45 rpm single has become a subversive weapon. Long despised as a medium suitable only for thirteen-year-old girls, disco persons, and other purchasers of happy idiot music, the two-song single is now the only way for most innovative new bands to get onto vinyl.

The reason is simple. Recording the master tape for a typical hit album costs $150,000. An unsigned group, however, can record, mix, and even press copies of a single inch single for under $1,000. Blondie and Elvis Costello are two acts that started with cutrate singles and have since battled their way onto Billboard's Top 10 album chart.

After all that, I must admit that the first single from Food's Face, the elegant new wave band from some place out in the sticks in Missouri, which played at Rice three times last spring, is something of a disappointment. "Back in 78" is just another Chuck Berry style rocker, distinctive only for the doom-laden lift in keyboardist Dale McCoy's marvelous voice. "Will to Live" manages to work some arty variations off a cliched heavy metal riff.

Despite bargain basement recording conditions, the line musicianship, intriguing lyrics, and outrageousness similar to the greatest rock performers—Mick Jagger and Little Richard—while expending a good deal less energy in the process. Their mere presence on the stage almost dares an audience to get up and do something. And when their music got hot, as in such songs as "My Best Friend's Girl" and "Just What I Needed", the excitement reached a fever pitch. But the questions that immediately arose in my mind (Will there be violence? Is this the beginning of something big?), were leftovers from the sixties, and seemed strangely out of place in 1979.

F. Brotzen

Pit Stop at the Music Hall

Rock and roll drive-thru

Last week's rock concert at the Music Hall was more interesting as an event than for its musical accomplishment. The Cars, a much-heralded New Wave band making their first Houston appearance, provided a glimpse of what it is, left of the rock & roll scene today. The mystery of the rock concert was built up in the 1960s, but the contrasts between then and now point to a new style among rock audiences as well as performers.

The crowd at The Car's concert seemed younger, on the average, than rock crowds of earlier days. With the exception of an occasional jaded punk, most of the concertgoers were clad in the T-shirts, blue jeans, and medium-long hair that have become de rigueur at high schools across the country. The fact that these people still flock to midnight rock & roll gatherings reveals a shift in the focus of youth rebelliousness from university campuses to high schools and even junior highs.

Upon entering the Music Hall, I was shocked to hear loud tunes already emanating from the stage. The concert had started early! I can recall several concerts of the sixties which began three and four hours late. But then, the bands also played three hours apiece.

The Cars' set, on the other hand, was shorter and tighter than those lengthy jams (spiced with the inevitable drum solos) of a decade ago.

The music itself was, as a consequence, less spontaneous than a concert format seems to encourage. One noted critic who accompanied me later quipped: "It wasn't even a concert. They're like Z.Z. Top; they have been referred to as 'arty' New Wave, and the visual elements of the concert sustained that classification. The lighting (which, at the opening, suggested the Twentieth-Century Fox logo), was by far the best I've ever seen. Along with the group's mostly metallic equipment, it gave the stage a stark, almost art deco look.

The Cars' stage image is fascinating; simultaneously refreshing and repellent. They exude a mixture of arrogance and outrageousness similar to the greatest rock performers—Mick Jagger and Little Richard—while expending a good deal less energy in the process. Their mere presence on the stage almost dares an audience to get up and do something. And when their music got hot, as in such songs as "My Best Friend's Girl" and "Just What I Needed", the excitement reached a fever pitch. But the questions that immediately arose in my mind (Will there be violence? Is this the beginning of something big?), were leftovers from the sixties, and seemed strangely out of place in 1979.

F. Brotzen

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The Rice Thresher, July 10, 1979, page 9
Recommendations for July

at the Museum of Fine Arts:

Claude Chabrol Series—Four Saturdays in July will be dedicated to this French Nouvelle Vague director, many of whose films show an intentional similarity to Hitchcock’s style. All of the Saturday films (Juste Avant La Nuit, Que La Bête Meure, Le Boucher, and Les Biches), are suspense thrillers.

Imperial China: Photographs, 1846-1912—A fascinating exhibition of the first photographs taken by westerners in China. The show includes landscapes and historical material, but personal favorites were individual portraits ranging from affluent Mandarins to lower-class workers.

Cultural History: A Mandarin and his family, 1860’s.

Imperial China: Photographs, 1846-1912—A fascinating exhibition of the first photographs taken by westerners in China. The show includes landscapes and historical material, but personal favorites were individual portraits ranging from affluent Mandarins to lower-class workers.

Hollywood Classics—Each Sunday night in July the Media Center will screen a movie from “Hollywood’s Golden Age”. Garbo lays the tragic Camille on the 22nd. Twentieth Century, one of the great examples of the parlour comedy genre, will be shown on the 29th.

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**Rice's Future: Business as Usual?**

*(cont. from page 7)*

Library endowment drive. I agree with the benefits of a separate fund drive to establish an endowment for the Library. The acting librarian is now in the process of preparing a proposal for such an effort.

Physical plant presents a somewhat more complex situation, particularly as subsidence makes Rice more prone to flooding. Over the next decade, this could become the University's biggest headache.

If Rice is to compare favorably with other outstanding private universities and make salaries and facilities competitive, reflections in the price of tuition cannot lag far behind. The tuition for 1979-80 academic year is $2700. Under present arrangements, the next jump would be to $2900 in 1981-82. According to the Enhancement Committee's report, "The present freshman class has required less financial aid than any in our history. Considering that there were surplus financial aid funds this past year, the contention that parents can better afford a Rice education for their children seems valid. Franz Broten thinks a $500 increase worth studying, with a view to stimulating increased support from outside scholarships. "A lot of people feel that you get what you pay for—it's the Cadillac phenomenon."

However, a $500 jump in tuition, even if maintained over a four-year period, could act as a disincentive to those not firmly enamoured of the private university education. In his capacity as coordinator of Admissions, Financial Aid, the Registrar's Office, and Career Placement, Richard Stabell foresees a need for additional staff to handle any major adjustment in tuition. "It would make admissions more difficult, but if necessary, okay."

'Selling Point for Rice'

Each college draws operating funds from the College Fee, a $30 per student charge this coming year. In addition, most have incipient endowments with limited avenues of solicitation. Whether the colleges need more money to fully realize their potential is a matter of some disagreement. For John Freeman, "The Endowment is a long-range goal, more symbolic than tangible." Along these lines, Dean Brown reiterates:

"The Colleges are not paupers. They have the funds already to do almost anything they really want to do, as well as a procedure for increasing those funds. Their greatest resource is the membership of the college itself."

A recurrent conception of the colleges emphasizes their importance as environments for social maturation, supplemental to the classroom, more flexible and encompassing. The infusion of additional funds seems a luxury from this perspective, secondary to the stimulus that student initiative provides.

"In that they break down a large student body into functionally accessible units, I think the Colleges are doing a very good job. I think I would also like to see them become more academic, more educationally oriented, in all senses of the word."

Dr. John Freeman

Return On Investments, Compounded Yearly

Conventional wisdom has it that Rice graduates make for good middle management, and that Rice fails to produce national leaders, genuinely famous scholars, or significant artists. Oddly enough, the problem (if there is one) may stem from a lack of confidence on the part of both Rice students and the University. Rigorous technicality becomes a surrogate for intellectual adventure, as if students succumb to the temptation to live ahead of themselves, indulged by a faculty that sympathizes with their concerns. At times the Rice outlook seems too sensible to argue with, because Rice people do succeed, and the majority are happy with their work. Still, one feels that the student body and faculty could coax more out of the learning experience. If Rice were to develop the habit of exchanging and challenging ideas more actively, it would realize the enormous potential it identifies with national prestige.

Mechanical changes in the curriculum, changes of the type that Garside, an Associate of Baker College, sees money and motivation as a mutually reinforcing pair. With a serious effort on the part of the students, supported by the university, money could be available for ambitious projects and college courses. "One of the dreams I have is to do a college course on the Arts in Houston. You could have money for honoraria. You could do the same thing with Energy Problems—these would work only as College Courses. It would be marvelous."

Dr. John Freeman

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