Business office ditches Fisk phone service

by Matt Muller

Continuing problems with the campus telephone system have led the business office to discontinue the university's service contract with Fisk Telephone Co. and to purchase a contract costing twice as much from the General Dynamics Corporation.

General Dynamics is the parent company of Stromberg-Carlson, the manufacturer of the various pieces of equipment which together are known as the master "switch" for the campus phone system. Ken Williams of the Campus Business Office said, "We figured the manufacturer was the best place to turn for service."

A variety of problems have plagued the Fisk system for some time, although it seems the problems of crosstalk (two or more conversations audible to each other on the same line) and of dead telephones have gotten worse this summer. For this reason, the university discontinued the $1800 per month service contract with Fisk and purchased a $3600 per month contract from General Dynamics.

The Stromberg-Carlson personnel have been working with the system since July 1. Numerous problems remain in the system, however. "We want to get the system up to 100% of capacity," said Williams, "but there are thousands of components and checking them all out is a slow, tedious process."

Campus Business Manager Russel Pitman stated that he felt the university should allow Stromberg-Carlson six months to get the system in perfect order. "However," said Pitman, "this poses a problem: if the system continues to be overloaded after we have determined that it is working at 100% of designed capacity then we will have to go to a new system."

"The university has approached Southwestern Bell," said Pitman, "and they have provided a preliminary estimate of a $400,000 installation cost for new switching equipment which would utilize the existing cables and telephones."

"We went to Bell," said Pitman, "we would want to install the equipment next summer. This would require that we make a decision whether to order the new system or not by October—before Stromberg-Carlson's six month period is over—so we have problems with our time frame on this."

Mr. Pitman also mentioned that with the system already functioning below par, users can expect substantial problems during orientation week and the first week of classes. "During this time before the private Bell lines have been connected everyone who wants to make a call has to use the campus phones. Since there are a limited number of outside lines, we always experience a real overload on the system at this time of the year," he said.

About the possibility of converting to Bell equipment, Mr. Williams commented, "It's a little premature right now."

Thermostats to be set at 78 degrees

by Richard Does

The temperature of Rice buildings will be set at 78° when students return to classes this month.

In accordance with Department of Energy regulations announced July 5, buildings must have their temperature set at 78° for cooling and 65° for heating. In addition, the maximum temperature for hot water will be 105°. However, the regulations do not apply to residential buildings; thus, the university, like all other building operators, must be in compliance with the regulations by August 16 or be levied a fine. 

Rice to host NSF seminar on US-Mexico cooperation

Rice will host a one day seminar Friday, August 24 at which members of the National Science Foundation will inform researchers from Rice and a number of other Texas senior colleges and universities of the possibilities for future scientific and technical cooperation with Mexico.

Dr. Frank Vandiver, Provost and Vice President of the university, said the seminar is a direct result of the meeting between Presidents Carter and Juan Lopez Portillo last year. The National Science Foundation has a Mexican counterpart, the National Council for Science and Technology of Mexico. The two organizations have been working together through a mixed commission for several years. This seminar will pass along to Texas researchers the commission's thoughts about where work needs to be done and where research funds might be available for cooperative studies between the two nations.

Rice was selected by the National Science Foundation to host the seminar "because we're good," said President Norman Hackerman. "They called me and asked if we would do this. I said yes and turned it over to the provost," he added.

Dr. Vandiver, who will preside over the seminar, said early acceptance to attend the session had been received from the University of Houston, University of St. Thomas, Texas A&M University, Southern Methodist University, Texas Christian University, Baylor University, and Prairie View A&M University. "We have attempted to contact several other research institutions in the state," said Vandiver. "For instance, we expect a representative from the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio and we have contacted Baylor Medical School about the seminar."

Since the function of the meeting is to provide information, Vandiver said, "If you're interested in participating in Mexican research, we hope you will attend this seminar."

WRC commons to be completed on time

by Wayne Derrick

Barring any last minute disasters, it appears that the major renovations undertaken on Will Rice Commons this summer will be completed in time for orientation week.

The new kitchen area will be completed and the appliances installed by Saturday August 18, giving the kitchen crew time to check out the equipment before meal service starts Monday.

The Private Dining Room, Office area, and the main dining area in the upper commons all will be completed before Monday the 20th, the first day of orientation week.

The brick work on the Private Dining Room, which has a maximum temperature of hot water at 105°, must have their temperature set below 78°. However, the maximum temperature for hot water will be 105°. However, the regulations do not apply to residential buildings; thus, the university, like all other building operators, must be in compliance with the regulations by August 16 or be levied a fine.
Lawyer advocates English

Dean Brown forwarded the following letter to the Thresher.

Dear Dean Brown:

You inquired how I compared my own undergraduate education with that of my law school classmates. I think I benefited from the rigor (and rigor) of the standards and requirements at Rice. Many of my law school colleagues had to work much harder as law students than they did as undergraduates. I, like most other Rice alumni at Harvard, found that my work load did not substantially increase. On the other hand, many of my fellow students benefited from extra-curricular activities (e.g., summer employment in government, sponsored by their undergraduate institutions) which were either unavailable or unsponsored at Rice.

You inquired whether there is training to which Rice needs to pay more attention. The answer is an emphatic “yes”: English. Over 90% of law school performance is gauged to the language in a literate and organized manner.

Observations:

A great proportion of any good lawyer’s efforts are concentrated in writing. Although most of my undergraduate career was concentrated in courses which required me to write, I subject that I did not feel that much of my law school courses, for English, was for the instruction of instruction in the application of the law. My history courses, by contrast, only required me to write a great deal, but the major emphasis of the instruction was not the quality or quantity of my written expression.

I must add that, having just completed a teaching a college course at Rice which required two essay exams and one research paper, I am disturbed by the degree of imprecision, inarticulacy, and just poor grammar demonstrated by my students. While my class was not a particularly representative cross-section of the student body, I fear that it did reflect a widespread problem.

The pre-law student at Rice would also be wise to take advantage of undergraduate courses available in history and economics. However, no subject surpasses English in importance. Based on my observations of both my classmates and students at Rice, I have joined the camp of those who advocate a return to required courses in English.

Sincerely,

Niel Kenton Alexander, Jr.

Ken Alexander graduated in 1975 with a double major in History and Political Science, took his law degree at Harvard, and is now a practicing lawyer in Houston. He was one of the instructors for a Will Rice College course last year.

Flawn replaces Rogers at UT

Though the summer is generally a quiet period around universities several significant things have happened at the University of Texas at Austin during the last few months. Most notably is the departure of the controversial Lorene Rogers from the UT-Austin presidency. Throughout her several years tenure as the university’s president, Dr. Rogers has come under fire, especially from students, for making snap administrative decisions without consulting the groups with whom the decisions affected. Dr. Rogers was replaced by Peter Flawn, the former president of UT-San Antonio. In an article in the August 8 Daily Texan Flawn was quoted as saying that he would mount a “war on mediocrity” and do what he can “to see that this institution recognizes its full potential, which is considerable.”

No action was taken by the UT administration on charges against the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity that three ATO members sexually molested a male UT freshman during rush week last year. David McCintock, assistant dean of students at UT-Austin, said that “appropriate and sufficient disciplinary action was taken by the ATO national administration when it placed the UT-Austin chapter on probation last October.”

The University of Texas, appointed one of its law school professors, Dr. John Sutton, to the deanship of that school amid student complaints that Sutton’s appointment involved excessive influence on the part of wealthy Law School alumni. Sutton was not on the original list of candidates proposed by a selection committee to fill the post, but his name was put forward at a later date, by the selection committee after consultation with six alumni.

At Texas A&M, senior female corps of cadets members received permission to wear the traditional senior bonnets; the reaction among male corps members has been generally negative. There will be nine senior women in the corps of cadets this fall.

A fire resulted in about $100,000 worth of damages to the six-story Soil and Crop Sciences and Entomology Building at A&M. The Battalion reported. The 111 million dollar building was a year and a half old.

And last but not least, the Daily Texan reported that UT president, acting President of its student shuttle bus service and sold 30 of the old ones to the Aggies.
A recent federal appellate court decision has threatened to put federally chartered credit unions out of the "share draft savings" business. Share draft savings, though legally different from checking accounts, are quite similar to them except that share draft accounts pay about 4% interest on deposits.

The court decided that, since there is no legislation authorizing credit unions to provide such accounts, credit unions are in violation of banking laws against paying interest on checking accounts. However, the court has delayed enactment of its decision until January 1, 1980, in order to give Congress a chance to provide the necessary legislation should it desire to do so.

Many Rice students and faculty have share draft accounts at the Houston Area Teacher's Credit Union, an organization which has been associated with Rice since last winter. Since HATCU is a state-chartered rather than a federally chartered credit union, the court decision will not affect it directly.

However, Texas Credit Union League spokesman Wayne Lough said that state-chartered credit unions have already passed legislation authorizing share draft accounts, said Lough, and it does appear likely that Congress will approve such accounts for the federally chartered credit unions.

Lough refrained, however, from drawing the implication that share draft accounts seemed to be here to stay. "Right now we are just watching the case at San Antonio very closely," he said.

**DOONESBURY**

*Continued from page 1*

![Image of a comic strip by G.B. Trudeau, featuring characters and humor typical of the comic.]

**Seminar...**

*continued from page 1*

observed that "this is really as much a briefing as it is a seminar."

The meeting will take place in the R. Room (at the stadium) beginning at 9am. From 9:30 to 11:30 the NSF representatives will address the delegates, and any students who want to attend, about the areas where Texas research institutions and sister schools in Mexico might profit from technical and scientific cooperation.

The afternoon will be taken up by personal interviews, arranged before the lunch break, between the delegates and the NSF representatives.

**Phones...**

*continued from page 1*

say that the university is seriously considering a new system. Right now we are just negotiating for a proposal and doing our best to make the existing equipment work."

"However," he added, "if we get the equipment working and it still can't handle the load next fall, we'll just have to bite the bullet."

**Energy...**

*continued from page 1*

of up to $10,000 per day per violation.

Various measures have been implemented at Rice in past years to conserve energy. Air systems are turned off in buildings that will be unoccupied for more than 8 hours, and a sophisticated computer system, currently operational in 10 buildings, has been installed.

Implementing a comprehensive conservation plan at Rice is difficult, however, since virtually every building has a different heating/cooling system. Many use chilled water from the central plant, but others mix cold and warm water, while still others use a system in which cold air is reheated. What kind of system any particular building uses depends on the architect, the engineer, and the year in which the building was constructed.

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The Rice Thresher, August 16, 1979, page 3
An Interview with Board Chairman Herring:

Robert R. Herring became the Chairman of the Rice University Board of Governors last June. Mr. Herring, who has served on the Rice Board since 1968, is chairman and chief executive officer of the Houston Natural Gas Corporation. I spoke with Mr. Herring earlier this month, and what follows is a transcript of that conversation. Because of space limitations I deleted entirely some of the questions and answers. Any editing of what remains, however, is indicated by ellipses. —editor

Thresher: How often does the Board meet?
Herring: We meet every month.

Q: For how long?
A: I'd say our normal meeting is about two to three hours. Now of course in addition to those meetings we have regular committee meetings...

Q: As Chairman of the Board will you have a bigger role in making decisions, or are you more a spokesman for the Board?
A: The University has to be run by the President of the University. Dr. Hackerman has done an outstanding job and we are very pleased to have him doing it. But in effect we are in support of Dr. Hackerman. He brings all kinds of problems to us; we do watch very closely the financial side of the business. The Board is extremely active in the building and the maintenance—but in relationships with the faculty and the students and this kind of thing, there has to be one man out there in front. Fortunately we've got the kind of man we need.

Q: What about goals for the University, ideas for the direction the University should take in the future?
A: The University has to be run by the President of the University. Dr. Hackerman has done an outstanding job and we are very pleased to have him doing it. But in effect we are in support of Dr. Hackerman. He brings all kinds of problems to us; we do watch very closely the financial side of the business. The Board is extremely active in the building and the maintenance—but in relationships with the faculty and the students and this kind of thing, there has to be one man out there in front. Fortunately we've got the kind of man we need.

Q: Does the Board have any goals set for Rice's expansion or for changing its nature over the next few years?
A: There is a report of the faculty signed by Dr. Brozen which makes recommendations which are not consistent with all of our objectives. We want as much excellence as we can provide but at the same time, under the pressure of increasing inflationary costs, we feel we are limited in what we can do. I think Dr. Hackerman has done an outstanding job with those confines. There are many recommendations within this report which we are fully sympathetic with that probably we will not be able to support financially.

We are continually trying to increase our financial resources. The Brown foundation of course has been very generous with its funds and we're trying to match Mr. Brown's gifts as he has required. And, as we can improve the earning power of the endowment some of the things recommended here and by Dr. Hackerman can be instituted. One of the things we are very interested in seeing a growth in the business school that we formed some time ago and of course the excellence of the teaching staff is also of concern to us. If we allow our salaries to get too far behind, we probably in maintaining the kind of excellence that Rice aims for. We are constantly aware of and fighting all of these problems.

Q: There was an increase this year of a few percent, but it looks to me like faculty salaries are in the same boat as laborers' salaries—they simply will not keep pace with inflation over the next few years. Do you think this is going to be the case for faculty salaries?
A: We hope that we can keep the salaries moving with the inflationary pressures and we even hope that we can find some ways to exceed them. This is a continuing problem which the Board has to address, but we have to have Dr. Hackerman's recommendations on it. It seems to me that the system might be interfered with to put the Board in too much of a daily contact situation with the faculty or with students. But at the same time I'd like for the Board to be fully aware of what is going on on the campus. Some of the Board members are very active out there—I go by at least once a week, particularly on the buildings and grounds committee matters. I was there during the flood. The Finance Committee that we have stays very close; they're out there every week. However, a good part of our contact is with specific committees or with Dr. Hackerman. It's an area we should be aware of, though, and we'll spend some more time thinking about it.

Q: Some other universities have what appears to be a more diverse group of people on the Board of Directors than this university does. My sense is that Rice has primarily asked business leaders of the community to sit on the Board and I wonder if it might not add some useful diversity for there to be some educators sitting on the Board.
A: You know, we've had quite a number of educators on the Board. I remember Dr. Ewing was on there for a number of years. We've recently had Frank Ryan, a former great quarterback for Rice who's now a doctor (PhD) on for a period. It is a very good point, though.

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The Rice Thresher, August 16, 1979, page 4
Q: A perennial interest—and they've done this at many universities, including some state universities—is placing a student representative on the Board of Governors. At some universities there is a voting student, at others merely a non-voting member. How do you feel about placing a student on the Board?

A: It has gotten to be quite a burden to the Board to keep up with the magnitude of what Mr. Brown has given. There are responsibilities towards continuing the financial side which would make it very difficult for a student to participate in the Board. It is a subject that we've discussed before, but we don't in any way want to interfere at all in the way that Dr. Hackerman has handled the University, and to imply that the Board would be making decisions that a student would participate in seems to me might create an atmosphere which would be harmful to the relationship between the president and the University itself. We're very cautious on this point.

Q: What is the financial condition of the university?

A: We're maintaining our balance, we are very cautiously not going to run a deficit; we're putting as much into building maintenance and improvement as we possibly can; the burden of providing equal athletic facilities for our women has been a load for us the last two years. You've seen what we've done in the gymnasium and the new dressing room for the football field and yet there were some recent interpretations on football facilities—football for women—and we've got a problem there. So that problem is not over with. Still our basic budget is in balance. The yield on endowment funds under the management of Fayez Sarofim's firm has been excellent. We've been doing better than any other kind of funds that I have seen. I saw a study recently where Rice was classed over with. Still our basic budget is in balance.

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The Rice Thresher, August 16, 1979, page 6
Houston's Autumn Sonatas

Although Houston has been until recently considered a cultural wasteland, the city enjoys a healthy share of the arts. Houston boasts of a "progressive" symphony orchestra which has included the premieres of many modern works as well as more familiar classical works in its programs. The upcoming season features the Houston premiere of the Te Deum and a new major piece for chorus and orchestra by Schuman. The performance of the American Composers Orchestra will be particularly interesting. The season opens October 31st with an ensemble of international stature, the Guarneri String Quartet. Unlike most Hamman Hall concerts which are free, the Friends of Music concerts generally carry a three-dollar admission price.

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Thea Musgrave. The upcoming season features the Houston premiere of the Opera, "Thea Musgrave." She is a Höhe of Arts in Europe and has been awarded the highest honor, "Der Künstler." The season opens October 31st with an ensemble of international stature, the Guarneri String Quartet. Unlike most Hamman Hall concerts which are free, the Friends of Music concerts generally carry a three-dollar admission price.

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### J

**Mus 205 — Photography**

**Art 225 — Drawing (HH)**

**Econ 211**

**Chem 101**

**Phys 121 — Technical Physics**

### K

**Art 225 — Drawing (16:30:50)**

**Theater 301**

**Art/Art 225 — Art of Beginning Civilizations**

**Chem 101**

**Phys 121 — Technical Physics**

### L

**Mus 302 — Composition for Non-Majors**

**Chem 101**

**Perform 224 — Astronomy**

**Econ 211**

**Chem 101**

**Phys 121 — Technical Physics**

### TBA

**Mus 307 — Composition for Non-Majors**

**Chem 101**

**Perform 224 — Astronomy**

**Econ 211**

**Chem 101**

**Perform 224 — Astronomy**

**Chem 101**

**Perform 224 — Astronomy**

**Chem 101**

**Perform 224 — Astronomy**

**Chem 101**

### Friday, August seventeenth

- **River Oaks Theater, West Gray at Shepard.**
  - **Fahrenheit 451.**
    - **9:30**
      - **Art 101**
      - **Fahrenheit 451**
      - **Econ 211**
      - **Chem 101**

### Saturday, August eighteenth

- **River Oaks Theater, West Gray at Shepard.**
  - **Fahrenheit 451.**
    - **9:30**
      - **Art 101**
      - **Fahrenheit 451**
      - **Econ 211**
      - **Chem 101**

**Note:** Courses without explicit titles are "Introduction to whatever." Swaremore College publishes a guide to their course schedule in this format. This idea came from them. This is only a basic list. It includes most 100 and 200 level courses.

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**Real Classifieds**

**Wanted:** Full time help. Kinko's Graphics, 654-8161, ask for Julie or Greg.

**House for Lease—West University 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) bedroom, 1 1/2 baths. Central air & heat, microwave. Small children & pets are ok. $757 per month. Call 661-2109 after 4 p.m.


**Notice:** Rappelling—A free demonstration will be given by the Army ROTC on August 22, from 11 am till 4 pm on the 23rd, from 11 am till 4 pm on the Biology building. Earn your "IDC" button!

The Pool—During Freshmen Week, the Rice pool will have recreational swim hours on Monday, August 24 from 12:30-3:30 and Saturday, August 25 10-11:30, 2-4:30.