KTRU proposes new antenna to improve reception

by Suzanne Tolbert

Proposed changes in the broadcasting antenna for KTRU, Rice's non-commercial FM stereo radio station, will improve reception both at Rice and beyond. According to KTRU General Manager Margaret Schauerte, the hedges, according to KTRU reception both at Rice and beyond radio station, will improve KTRU proposes new antenna to improve reception Rice's non-commercial FM stereo comparable to the other University's track facilities summer and to be completed by track stadium, begun during the year," announced Student Activities—at present Ms. Bonnie Carrington. Proposed changes in the Constitutional change which would make the Director of Student Action on this proposal will be taken at a later meeting. In addition, the latest financial report from the Campus Store was examined. The report predicted a net operating loss of $900 for 1979-1980. Explanations for the dramatic change from 1978-1979's net gain of $181,000 include the addition of another full-salaried position, the increase in the student discount for five months to eight percent for ten months, and the fact that $25,000 of last year's income was an extraordinary government flood reimbursement. Complaints about Parking Lot J no longer being available for student use on weekends were also aired. A survey committee will be formed to see if use of the lot by Fondren Library visitors during the limited weekend hours is large enough to warrant the new regulation. In other matters, the Senate received a request from KTRU-FM for help in raising $5,000 for a new antenna, the Registrar's Office requested the formation of a temporary student committee to study and suggest changes for the office, and vacancies were announced for off-campus positions in the SA and the Pub Operating Committee.

Lobby furniture stolen at Jones

Jones College lost over $1,000 in lobby furniture and accessories during summer break, according to college member Susan Smiley. Unusual security problems were posed by the students housed in Jones College during the Rice summer school session. Stolen over several occasions were: a chair, a large plant and accompanying stand, two end tables, two clocks, a brass lamp, a brass urn, and an "enormous" plant.

Richardson College. The shape of the receiving antenna also has an effect: the horizontally-polarized signal now is added to the 500 kHz signal from a vertical antenna, such as a car antenna. The change to circular polarization will help to alleviate both of these problems. First, the change will reduce the blocking effect of large buildings on the signal, so that those listeners who have had difficulty due to physical obstructions will have better reception. Circular polarization will also make the configuration of the receiving antenna unnecessary, since a circularly-polarized transmission can be picked up by any shape of receiver. The result...
spawning the hedges

by David Dow

Ten million third world babies are starving. Thoroughly emaciated, they exist but do not really live; the lucky ones will die. Yet Malthusian shortages from overpopulation do not afflict these infants. Rather, their starvation has been brought about by vicious perpetrators acting with forethought and greed. A modern illusion of the rich, a perpetual aim which seems even less evil: its time came years ago. Why haven’t we enacted it yet? —Matt Muller

36 courses: less is more

Forty courses are too many.

Other universities of established quality require fewer: Yale, 36; Harvard, 32; and Brown, 19. Some of the many reasons for being at a university is to acquire a professional education: "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." (I quote from the report of the 1976 Rice Committee on the Convocation) This sort of education is best acquired within a course structure: an instructor presents and explains material, and we learn it. Reducing the course load would thus reduce the degree to which Rice could offer a professional education.

But there is another reason for coming to a university. Harvardian J. Donald Trump, in his thesis, described and eagerly to laugh at it, is ultimately the most important reason for being here: becoming more of an individual, learning that we must make our own decisions. In short, we are here to grow up.

This sort of education is best acquired away from the classroom. coursework can be a refuge from decision-making; someone else decides for you what is worth your time and attention.

Reducing the graduation requirements to 36 courses (or to its equivalent of 108 semester hours) would allow freshmen and seniors to take four courses per semester instead of five. This is a sound suggestion, and an old one. In 1972, The Rice Thresher's acting editor Steve Jacobs wrote: "while the pros and cons of this plan have been hashed over at length, the fact remains that it will decrease the academic load on students..." Thoroughly feared. With their perennial aim of forethought and greed, a modern university could be reduced to 36 courses (or their equivalent of 108 semester hours). This is a sound suggestion, and an old one. In 1972, The Rice Thresher's acting editor Steve Jacobs wrote: "while the pros and cons of this plan have been hashed over at length, the fact remains that it will decrease the academic load on students..." Thoroughly feared. With their perennial aim of forethought and greed, a modern university could be reduced to 36 courses (or their equivalent of 108 semester hours).

Russell Burton, the Rice University president, recommended that the course load be reduced to 36 courses because "students' busy academic schedules leave them too little time to think about what they are doing." Reducing the course load is a good idea; its time came years ago. Why haven’t we enacted it yet? —Matt Muller

threshing-it-out

Dear Editors:

After spending a rather enjoyable summer, I returned to Rice University and Will Rice College. I unpacked, turned on the air conditioner, and grabbed a shower. I grabbed my soap, shampoo, and washcloth poised for the scrubbing. I turned on the hot water and waited for the state cold water to flush from the pipes. I had a long wait. A hallucination informed me that the water was now set slightly above body temperature in accordance with Mr. Carter's energy saving strategies, and we were on a trial energy-saving binge. The shower was indeed bearable at the new efficient temperature, and I sensed a certain wisdom in the powers that determine such matters.

Later that night, still in awe, I discovered a new power saving feature of R P & L (Rice Power and Light), of much broader scope: at 7:20, the old wing of Will Rice lost all power. I could understand saving money through cold showers, but wasn’t this a bit extreme? Our trusty building and grounds representative informed me that a breaker at Baker (the palace) was responsible for the latest malady, and relief would not come until the next morning. Naively adventurous, I decided to brave the heat, humidity, and darkness. At 2 am, after all efforts at sleep had failed, I retired to the floor of a friend in the new wing of our college, where I blissfully slept for four hours. The next morning I awoke, somewhat sore, to shower at a temperature somewhat below body temperature, as the water pump was also without electricity. Like a typical Rice trooper, I grinned and bear it.

But at dinner, I realized something was wrong. A turkey roll was served which struck me as cold. The dinner was fine, and I think it was due to the water temperature. I angrily ate the meal, and I think I ate a few bites of food.

Yours truly,

Ron Cytron
WRC ’80

The Rice Thresher, August 30, 1979, page 2
more drastic action: they've announced that the MCAT's won't be offered in New York after the new law takes effect. However, the state education commission has announced that the "sunshine" provisions will apply for all students applying to medical schools in New York, no matter where they take the test. That ruling is expected to be fought in court.

ETS has always maintained that their tests measure aptitude, rather than acquired skills and knowledge; therefore, they claim, the tests are colorblind and unaffected by so-called "coaching" courses. However, The New Republic reports that internal ETS studies indicate that this may not be the case—that cultural bias and coaching schools may have an effect on College Board scores.

The problem, reports Barbara Dornich, is that "complete data on the problem is not made easily available by ETS." An ETS study called Cultural Bias in Testing: Challenge and Response—probably the best study of the subject—has been withheld from outsiders. And, despite ETS' claims, the studies are not always available to "responsible researchers," when the Federal Trade Commission investigated coaching schools two years ago, it was forced to subpoena data it needed from ETS.

Earlier this year, Texas state representative Ron Waters (D-Houston) introduced legislation similar to the New York law. The bill died in committee, and local ETS officials were not upset by its failure. Regional Corder, southwest regional director for ETS, repeated the College Board claims that the New York law will require separate tests for that state, which may make comparison of scores difficult. Corder told the Thresher that if Waters' bill passed, "tests in Texas would be different tests; they would not be equated with the mainstream. Tests administered in New York or Texas would have different meanings. It might be that institutions would have to go to a new system of attaching meaning to (the tests)."

Waters' bill was one of ten proposals in other state legislatures around the country, based on New York's action. And the New York law may lead to similar legislation on the Federal level: last month, New York congressman Ted Weiss introduced a "truth-in-testing" bill in the House. The bill resembles the New York state law, but would also require more financial disclosure from the testing firms and disclosure of their contracts with test sponsors.

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Manzo to train execs

Salvatore E. Manzo, a West Point graduate and international business executive, will direct a newly-created program for executive development in the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business and Public Administration. Business and government leaders from the US and abroad will attend the program's courses, which are designed to enable middle-level and senior executives to broaden and refine decision-making skills and business knowledge. Manzo is responsible for planning and implementing the programs.

A former Air Force careerist and El Paso businessman, Manzo has also served as Houston's business executive, will direct a programs.

Point graduate and international making skills and business Administration.

MOB vetoes $12,000 excursion to FSU's annual Gator Growl

MOB members voted Wednesday night not to spend $12,000 to play at the "Gator Growl," an annual homecoming-like celebration at Florida State University. "This year they wanted Bob Hope and the MOB," band director Bert Roth said before the vote. "I think they're going to get Bob Hope, but I don't think they're going to get us." A MOB trip to Tallahassee would have cost at least $18,000, and the Gator Growl organizers could contribute no more than $6,000. The other $12,000 would have been footed by individual MOB participants.

The Rice band was invited to the Gator Growl by its chairman, who saw the MOB play on television when Rice played the University of Florida two years ago.

If the MOB had decided to attend the Gator Growl, the members of the band would have had to fly back to Houston almost immediately in order to play at the Rice-A&M football game the next day.

As for skipping the A&M game to attend the Gator Growl, Roth said there was "no chance. It wouldn't be right to skip a Rice game to play somewhere else. Besides, we're partially funded by the Athletic Department."

Registrar's Office announces revised registration guidelines

Following a summer in which many students complained of receiving grades late or not at all, the Registrar's Office has instituted newer, more stringent methods of recording student information.

John Brelsford, Rice University's new registrar, emphasized that students must clear their debts with the University and return their new "status forms" to the Registrar's Office before they can register for classes. Registration is in Sewall Hall Thursday and Friday, September 6 and 7. Failure to register on time will, without exception, cost the student $25.

Each status form will carry all of the basic information about a student, replacing several forms used in the past. Before registration, returning students must examine these pre-printed status forms to ensure that the information is correct. New students will fill out a blank form.

Groundwater...

"The fail very dramatically just because of the groundwater-surface water incompatibility," Ward cautions. Differences in pH levels between the two water types can cause precipitation of minerals, which in turn can plug the pumping holes. But even more importantly, Ward questions the philosophical and ethical propriety of pumping contaminated surface water into aquifers, which typically carry pure, clear water remarkably low in trace contaminants. "Should we deliberately contaminate groundwater for any purpose? The answer," says Ward, "is no."

Especially in the Houston area, Ward sees "no comparison" between the quality of groundwater and surface water. "Even water coming straight out of the East Texas Forests is brown," he says, "because of tannins." If mixing naturally-contaminated surface water with groundwater is inadvisable, according to Ward, the deliberate pumping of polluted water back into the ground is dangerous.

The California recharging projects pump municipal waste waters, "treated to a degree," into threatened aquifers. One unpleasant side effect has been widespread dumping of chemicals and its consequences, he says, will be at the forefront of future groundwater research.

"Widespread dumping of chemicals in the Beaumont area is another cause for concern about water quality," says Ward. Thousands of private chemical dumps remain to be discovered, he believes. Chemicals, often stored in rusty barrels, can easily seep down to the water table and poison a community.

"Historically, we've literally waited for hurricanes to clear those dumps out," asserts Ward. Study of chemical dumping and its consequences, he says, will be at the forefront of future groundwater research.
Discovery of $20,000 leads to new light board

by Anita González

A cost of $20,000, a new lighting board for Hamman Hall and the Rice Players has been purchased. The lighting system, manufactured by Decor of San Marcos, is called a Memri 99 and 199, and is expected to arrive within the next two weeks.

When Hamman Hall was first opened in 1958, an outdated small lighting board was installed. The system was satisfactory only for small events and small lighting board was not properly prepared Rice athletes for races on all-weather surfaces. "The old track was a liability (to recruiting)," Straub predicted that the track improvements will enable Rice to have more home meets. "The last thing we want to do is to lose interest in our track and the Rice Players has been very supportive of Rice track," he said, "and this repair project is the second rejection. According to the University, the theater department had already received $20,000 the year before, and the request for more funds was thought inappropriate. That was the first I had ever heard of any $20,000!" laughed Havens. "I told them that I would be right there!"

The new lighting board will feature a memory system which allows the director to program into a computer the different light levels for each scene. Unlike the present system which needs numerous light adjustments before each scene change, the new one will require only the pull of a lever to fade in and fade out the lights.

Concludes Havens. "We've worked almost 15 years with an inadequate lighting system. It's about time we have a 'real one.'"

KTRU antenna... continued from page 1

In addition, Straub said, the new track surface will improve the appearance of the whole track area. The blue-colored surface will be "very nice looking," complementing the "park atmosphere" which the stadium already enjoys.

Track renovation... continued from page 1

Although formal consent of regulatory agencies must still be sought, Schauerte believes that KTRU's planned improvements will be approved. The Federal Aviation Agency has given tentative approval to a plan to raise the height of the antenna by approximately 15 feet. Since the change to circular polarization is a minor one, the Federal Communications Commission is expected to approve KTRU's request, Schauerte said.

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by Margaret Schauerte

In the past three years, the Rice University campus suffered two "freak" downpours, each occurring in a matter of hours. The heavy rains caused flash floods which covered over one third of the campus and caused substantial damage to buildings and property, destroying equipment, books, and archives. The first major flood of June 15, 1976, caught Rice completely by surprise. What started out as an early afternoon shower became a great lake of water, finding its place amongst students' belongings in college basements, the Army ROTC offices, Central Kitchen, and the entire basement of the RMC. Willy's Pub, KTRU, the Campus Bookstore, and the band room were virtually destroyed by four feet of water. Physical Plant lost several chillers (air conditioning units) and major pieces of power equipment. Monetary loss was huge; loss of morale, immense.

Subsequent flood control measures helped in the April 1979 deluge, but prospective Rice freshmen visiting on that day were shocked by the extent of the damage. The rice Thresher, August 30, 1979, page 6

The buildings to the left of the black line—including the RMC, Sid Rich, the gym, the Media Center and Rice Museum, and parts of Hanszen, Wiess, and Will Rice—are within an officially-established "flood-prone area." For explanation, see text.

Is Rice Sinking?

Yes.

The unexpected wetness last April not only pointed out the few remaining trouble spots on campus, but also provided exam-stressed students with a few new forms of water recreation: aqua soccer, aqua- volleyball, and swimming down soon-to-be-named Alumni Drive. The vast expanse of water reflected the nighttime splendor of the "Gulf Coast Venetian architecture" that Art History's Dr. William Camfield often speaks of. Valhalla celebrated by opening its doors and letting water flow in, and beer out.

Monsun-like weather is typical of Houston in the spring and early summer, but the rain was not the sole cause of the floods. The Rice campus sits on the edge of a very large, elongated geological 'bowl' of Houston in the spring and early summer, but the rain was not the sole cause of the floods. The Rice campus sits on the edge of a very large, elongated geological 'bowl'

The Earth is Falling

The City of Houston suffers from large-scale growing pains: poor mass transit and a deteriorating public school system. Probably the most serious urban malady, land subsidence, is a long-term condition which is, at present, incurable. Subsidence is an indirect consequence of rapid city growth and the concomitant economies of poorly executed land planning, land development, and inadequate funding. It occurs when normal groundwater levels are lowered by pumping to supply the increasing industrial and domestic demand for water. The rate of subsidence can be slowed, and even halted, but not reversed. Basically, the compacting of clay strata lying in Houston's geological substructure causes subsidence. Dr. H. C. Clark of the Rice Geology Department describes the cause of compacting as water loss in the strata. This water is intrinsic to the structure of the clay strata, or "Hunes," as they are called. When the natural water table falls below a lens, the lens' bound water seeps down to the existing water level. The clay lens, without aquatic support, is then compressed by the weight of the earth above. The process is irreversible because the compacted clay can not be made to reabsorb water.

Subsidence exposed the region to a potential danger: the saline mix of hurricane storm tides. At the time, the initial land subsidence 'scare' predicted total inundation of the region from normal tides in a few years. The buildings to the left of the black line—including the RMC, Sid Rich, the gym, the Media Center and Rice Museum, and parts of Hanszen, Wiess, and Will Rice—are within an officially-established "flood-prone area." For explanation, see text.

The numerous industrial developments to the southeast of Houston—the Texas City and Pasadena refineries—placed an enormous demand on the submarine water supply. Subsidence exposed the region to a potential danger: the saline mix of hurricane storm tides. At the time, the initial land subsidence 'scare' predicted total inundation of the region from normal tides in a few years.
Because of subsidence, local incidences of flooding, both minor and severe, will increase. Rice can expect another major flood within the next ten years.

West Side Story

The U.S. Geological Survey conducted several "first-order" leveling surveys in the years between 1943 and 1978, using benchmarks established throughout the Harris-Galveston county area. Their surveys indicate that subsidence in the west side of Houston, from downtown out to Addicks, has accelerated. Rapid, unplanned urban growth, resulting in diminished sinkage areas and increased water demand, is the cause.

Within months, real estate developers have extended the fringes of the city with vast housing projects, crowding marshy tracts of west side farmland with apartment complexes, town-homes, condominiums and middle-priced houses. The sl. subsection causing concern in this region, draining and waterproofing, are synergistic. Acres of non-porous concrete foundations and black pavements now block the soil from absorbing excess rainwater; and the increasing number of water users residing in the closed-packed dwellings are demanding more and more from the subterranean aquifers 1,200, 1,600 feet below.

Unlike the immediate coastal regions, the danger from subsidence in the west side is localized. Planetary winds from random showers can devastate parts of Houston while much of the city remains dry, or at most damp.

To make matters worse, a solution to Houston's subsidence problem is presently unfeasible. The available surface water supply in the northeast is simply insufficient for a city the size of Houston. Plus, if an enormous aqueduct were constructed to transport water to the west side, it would meet with a bottleneck: the existing water mains, designed to carry smaller flows to the water users in the mains, designed to carry smaller bottleneck: the existing water transport water 40 to 50 miles to Houston. Plus, if an enormous surface water supply exists one chance in any hundred years," said Mr. Pesl. But, the city likes us to have it... if we didn't, then they'd have to supply water to us, and it's the same story...."

Another defender of the Rice well, Dr. Mason Thomson of Environmental Engineering, claims that we draw "a very high quality water, an incredibly low level of trace organics. Most contamination comes from chlorine and pump lubrication." Thompson says the well's source is recharge back into the North Central Texas, typically a pure and constant water supply. However, the same recharge basin is shared by all local wells, and is insufficient for present demands.

The Big Sink

The flood prone areas, or flood plains, of Houston have been determined by the U.S. Geological Survey. A little over one-third of the Rice campus resides in the flood plane encompassing the general Braes Bayou area. In a flood plane, by definition, there exists one chance in any hundred that the region will flood in any given year. Campus Utilities Manager H. Russell Pitman emphasized just how low the elevation at Rice is. "The normal water level in Braes Bayou is sea level," he says. In the flood of last April, this intersection (just south of Hermann Park) saw only six feet of clearance between the swollen bayou and the bridge.

Bringing matters closer to home, Pitman explains that the 1976 flood waters on the Rice campus rose to 50.5 feet above sea level. The elevation of the Hermann Brown building was, at that time, 51.5 feet above sea level. Subsidence has succeeded in changing those numbers. Since 1976, Rice has dropped 4.5 inches. Assuming the local subsidence rate does not increase, the Hermann Brown building will have subsided 7.5 additional inches to a 50.5 foot elevation by 1982. After this time, the basement ICSA complex could face inundation from a flood of equal magnitude to the 1976 deluge.

The Rice Memorial Center is facing similar prospects. Its lowest point is near the rear entrance. From a lesson learned in the 1976 flood, a two foot dike was constructed around an opening into the basement mechanical room. The water level was 7 inches from the top of the dike in the April 1979 inundation. Presumably, the dike will afford sufficient protection until 1983, when it, too, will fall below previous floodwater levels. Other buildings located in the flood plane will be subject to similar consequences.

Tread Water

Little can now be done about stopping subsidence. Closing the Rice well would prove futile. The solution to this major Houston area problem will be arrived at only when it becomes critical. Until then, Rice University can— and will— take measures to waterproof itself to protect its valuable physical resources. Dr. Norman Hackerman explained that the recent work completed at the gym, "the big ditches," greatly improves floodwater egress by utilizing a little known underground bayou.

Is there an answer? Not yet.

The alternative to expensive transportation of surface water from northwest Houston reservoirs to users in sinking south Houston is to pump waste water back into the depleted aquifers. This process, known as recharging, is a major concern for Ward, director of Rice's newly-established National Center for Groundwater Research. See related story, page 2.

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The Who's 15-year rampage

The Who's 15-year rampage through pop culture, opens with the boys churning out their Generation on The Smothers Brothers TV show. As was their wont in 1967, they concluded the show by smashing their instruments; but the stagehands, whom Keith Moon had bribed to put a little extra flash powder in his bass drum, had overenthusiastically loaded it with about a megaton of high explosives. The detonation sent Moon flying off the stage and deafened guitarist Pete Townshend. Into this anarchy strolled Tommy Smothers, carrying an acoustic guitar and looking like he was about to ask the band to join him in a medley of Peter, Paul, and Mary songs. The dazed Townsend staggered over to Smothers, took the wooden guitar away from him, and stomped it into splinters—truly, no one could have missed the fact that the Who were unforgettably loaded with about a megaton of high explosives. The stage and deafened guitarist was left standing on the Mid Sixties isn't surprising since their early three-minute, 4 or 5 chord singles like Can't Explain and the Flawless The Kids Are Alright (which is inexplicably missing from the movie) have been a major influence on the best of the newer songwriters—e.g., Joe Jackson, Tom Petty, and Nick Lowe. The colonial success of The Knack points out that the public is likewise ready to give in to the simple appeal of a snappy song with a good tune and a big beat. But the movie doesn't rechoreograph history to suit today's sensibilities. It doesn't hide the tunes are, the story is... kinda dumb.

In truth, we shouldn't blame Townshend too much. It's practically a regulation of the Composers Union that operas must use dismembered librettos. Most opera composers, with the obvious exception of Wagner, hired librettists to take the blame for the lyrics and plot. Further, this film lovingly portrays The Who's infatuation with smoke bombs and guitar smashings, even though only uncool groups like Kiss resort to them today. The movie even includes a priceless 8mm backstage shot of Pete touching up his fake eyelashes.

When blues based bronto-sauruses like Led Zeppelin and ZZ Top won mass followings in the Seventies, The Who is shown to have been the most ephemeral shard of rubbish with a aura of cosmic significance—grew in celebrity, the record-buying public developed a craving for mystical bombast. The Who responded with that lovable dinosaur, Tommy. When I was in grade school I believed that because Tommy was (gasp) ... an opera, we had to be the most profound work in the history of rock music. (My classmates and I also knew that since Imo-gudda-da-vuda was the longest song it was therefore the best song.) In more recent years we've all noticed something about Tommy: as fine as the tunes are, the story is... kinda dumb.

As the decade aged, and that most of the public's LSD—its capacity to invest the most ephemeral shard of rubbish with an aura of cosmic significance—grew in celebrity, the record-buying public developed a craving for mystical bombast. The Who responded with that lovable dinosaur, Tommy. When I was in grade school I believed that because Tommy was (gasp) ... an opera, we had to be the most profound work in the history of rock music. (My classmates and I also knew that since Imo-gudda-da-vuda was the longest song it was therefore the best song.) In more recent years we've all noticed something about Tommy: as fine as the tunes are, the story is... kinda dumb.

Townsend: Rock & Roll the way God intended.

Woodstock (where The Who headlines), it's refreshing to remember that the group never fell for all that bille that was shoved around back then about rock and roll being the tribal music of the Aquarian age of peace and love. "What do you think the Woodstock era changed?" Townshend is asked. "It changed me. I hated it."

The scene then shifts immediately to the stage at Woodstock, where a grim Towenhend is concluding the set with a horrid cacophony unleashed by shaking his poor guitar like a rag doll and slamming it against the stage floor. He stabs off accompanied by a deep roar of pure blood lust from the 400,000 peace-and-lovers. Any fool could have observed that rock and roll simply does not sound like the musical expression of universal harmony—any honest fool. Although they committed their share of follies—heroic follies—in the years from 1964 to Moon's tragically silly death in 1978, Townsend, Moon, Entwistle, and Daltrey—unlike so many of their generation—have never been fools or liars.

—Steve Sailer

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Rice Players open fall season with Guare's House of Blue Leaves

The House of Blue Leaves
Written by John Guare
Directed by Neil Havens

(Ed's note: Due to Thresher deadlines, a rehearsal of the play, rather than a performance, was reviewed.)

John Guare's The House of Blue Leaves, to be presented by The Rice Players Wednesday through Saturday, reevaluates that perennial moral question—premarital food. It's the same old story: Artie meets Bunny in a steam room; Bunny hazards a mention of duck a l'orange, Artie falls in love.

Now Bunny isn't easy: sex, sure—but she's waiting for that ring before she cooks his "two eggs over easy". Artie, who admits he's "too old to be young talent", wants to fly to California with Bunny to find fame and fortune in songwriting. But first, Artie has to get rid of his wife, Bananas (who, by the way, has recently tried to slash her wrists with spoons). Sending her back to the asylum seems to be the best solution.

But things aren't that easy. Artie's son, Ronnie, is A.W.O.L. and, let's face it, a little nutty-cuckoo. This, coupled with the fact that Artie's best song is suspiciously reminiscent of "White Christmas", adds to the confusion of a seven-simple play.

However, there may be more mayhem than the Players had planned. As of Monday rehearsal, much of the blocking needed to be smoothed out, the timing to be perfected.

In addition, there were several aspects of the acting which deserve attention. Patrick Brady, as Artie, will have to command the stage; he is the focal point around which the blue leaves fly. It seems likely that Brady will succeed at this difficult task of stage presence through his exceptional musical talent.

There will be no problems with Bananas. Margaret Elsea is so attuned to her role of a mental patient that one does wonder... Although Linda McNutt was having some problems with consistency in her portrayal of Bunny, her characterization should be more fluid by Wednesday night. Eddie Burke, who plays Ronnie, has developed his army psycho role into a truly believable looney.

Other cast members include Cindy Pincus, Martha Reinhart, and Lou Ann Fields as three nuns (don't ask), Scott McDonald as Billy Einhorn, Tom Birch as an MP, and Bart Stagner as The Man in White.

Sandy Havens directed this production. It's a challenging play to put on, and, from what I've witnessed, it's well worth seeing.

—Scott Solis

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The Rice Thresher, August 30, 1979, page 9
Longhorns look toward Cotton; Owls wait another year

by Greg Holloway

Because of its extensive, all-expenses paid trip to all nine schools of the Southwest Conference, the Thresher feels extremely qualified to predict this year's order of finish in the SWC. These rankings are extremely unbiased. Payola, kickbacks, and three-martini lunches were held to a minimum whenever possible. Any correlation between a school's ranking and its expense budget is coincidental.

Here are the Thresher's 1979 SWC football predictions, with last year's record in parentheses. Void where prohibited by sound judgment:

1) Rice Owls (2-9) - The traditional first choice. Ray Alhorn has a full year under his belt and has a talented group to work with this year. Randy Hertel is back at quarterback and Earl Cooper is set for a good year at fullback. The Owls may chew up a little more yardage on the ground this year if the offensive line shakes off the mediocre years in the past. The defense should be improved by Greg Holloway

2) Texas Longhorns (9-3) - The football machine rolls on. The 'Horns return 9 of 11 starters from a defense that wasn't exactly porous last year. All-American Johnnie Johnson heads up the defense that includes middle linebacker Lance Taylor, defensive tackles Steve McMichael and Bill Acker.

On offense, Johnny (Lam) Jones is the fastest in the west. At quarterback, sophomore speedster Ronnie Little competes with steady Jon Aune for the starting nod. A lot of Texas' fortunes ride on the performance of the yet-unproven running backs: A.J. (Jam) Jones and LeRoy King are the returning starters, but both had mediocre years in 1978 and need to improve. Texas will also sorely miss the services of Saint Russell Erleben, who led the squad in scoring last year.

3) Houston Cougars (9-3) - UH could be close. Houston lost 13 lettermen from a Cotton Bowl year, including QB wizard Danny Davis and 1000 yard men Randy Love and Emmett King.

Luckily for the Coogs, three able lettermen are ready to keep the offense moving. Delrick Brown, Terald Clark, and John Newhouse have the potential to be as good as their predecessors.

The defense lost four starters but is still strong behind the likes of linebacker David Hodge and tackle Hosea Taylor.

4) Texas A&M Aggies (7-5) - The defense is the number one question mark—seven new starters step into action this year. Mack Moore is one of the promising newcomers.

On offense, things look better. With Mike Mosley at QB and Curtis Dickey and George Woodard both at running back, A&M can be sure of putting some points on the board.

5) Arkansas Razorbacks (9-2-1) - Any team with Lou Holtz can't be all bad. Quite frankly, Arkansas lost almost everyone to graduation. Coach Lou Holtz says, "We have some strengths, but there are enough liabilities to cancel our strengths. A lot will depend on how quickly our younger players develop."

The players to look for are offensive lineman Greg Kolenda and running back Roland Sales, both All-SWC possibilities. The defense is full of newcomers. Lou Holtz tells the story for his 1979 Arkansas team with a couple of favorite sayings: "I assure you we will move the ball. Hopefully, forward," and, "We're going to be better than the prognosticators believe, but not as good as the alumni think."

6) Texas Tech Red Raiders (7-4) - The surprise team of '79 might do it again. Texas Tech wasn't supposed to win anything last year, but they did. This year's squad has virtually the same personnel. Seventeen starters and 47 of 58 lettermen return from the '79 squad.

The surprise team of '79 might do it again. Texas Tech wasn't supposed to win anything last year, but they did. This year's squad has virtually the same personnel. Seventeen starters and 47 of 58 lettermen return from the '79 squad.

Two of the men who make things go for the Red Raiders are the SWC's leading rusher, James
Predictions...

Hadnot, and the league's newcomer of the year, QB Ron Reeves. Giving these two support is the offensive line, where five of six starters return. One problem is the lack of experienced wide receivers, which could allow opposing teams to concentrate on Hadnot's running game. Overall, the defense should be faster and more experienced, but will miss linebacker Don Kelly and noseguard Curtis Reed, who were one-two in total tackles last fall.

7) SMU Mustangs (6-4-1) - Mustang Mania may finally pay off. SMU could easily move up quite a few notches on the SWC ladder. They've had a very good recruiting year and a reasonably sound base to build upon. Offense is the Ponies' strong point. Mike Ford is the finest pure passer in the league and Emmanuel Tolbert is the SWC's premier receiver. This duo should get quite a bit of support this fall from two highly touted blue-chippers: running backs Eric Dickerson and Craig James. If the offensive line performs reasonably well, the Mustangs will be tough to stop. The Ponies' big weakness lies in their defense. They lost six starters, including three in the secondary. One bright spot for SMU's defense could be lineman Michael Carter, the junior shot-put sensation who may decide to play football for Coach Ron Meyer in '79.

8) Baylor Bears (2-9) - Baylor still believes. The Bears were a much better team last fall than their record indicates. The only true losses of sizable margins were by 18 points to Tech and 14 points to Rice. This year's team could be in for some problems, however. Eight starters are gone, including defensive star Tony Green and offensive sparkplug Greg Hawthorne. Coach Grant Teaff has newcomers Larry Inman, James May, and Mike Lively to help him but will probably need to wait another year for a solid club.

9) TCU Horned Frogs (2-9) - The Frogs don't have a chance. They lost a good quarterback to graduation in Steve Bayuk, but only three other starters. The year of experience may have helped this young club.

The Frogs are not rated a contender, but could surprise a few teams if newcomers like Reuben Jones and Scott Loeb are able to perform immediately.

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