RMC hours face possible cuts

by Jeanne Cooper

Willy's Pub and the Rice Memorial Center itself may be forced to close several hours earlier each night if sufficient funding is not found. According to Student Association President Tim Stout, the RMC's closure for the night is a concern for the university. As a result, the Pub Control Board will consider three possible solutions at its next meeting on December 2. One alternative is to close the RMC at 11 p.m., three hours earlier than usual; another is to close entirely during the summer and use the money for a late-night RMC staff during the school year. (The Pub loses an average of $2,600 per month during the summer.) The RMC is currently operating at a loss, and this closure will be discussed further at the next meeting. Stout believes that both options need to be considered before a decision is made.

Curriculum discussed

by Michael Trachtenburg

Insurance policy changes for Rice students' health insurance have been discussed at the Student Health Committee meeting. A new policy, which will be effective at the beginning of the fall semester, will require students to pay higher premiums and co-pays. This change is intended to reduce the university's costs and ensure that students have adequate coverage.

Keystone policy may drop plan; late semester start expensive

by Joan Hope

Student representatives are concerned about the possible discontinuation of the health insurance policy with Keystone. They are discussing alternatives to find a new insurer. The university has contracted with the current insurance company for the 1980-81 academic year but may discontinue the plan by October. At present, some 150 students have yet to submit information concerning their health insurance coverage. Keystone will decide in January, based on first semester statistics, whether it should continue its program for graduates and undergraduates at Rice.

"We're probably going to have a different type of policy next year," predicted Director of Student Activities Bonnie Hellums. "And that the university will ask Keystone and other insurance companies for different proposals in January. The university will then select one that seems feasible for Rice students and will take bids from the companies on that proposal as well."

"Each year, an insurance company has the right to discontinue a policy if it feels it will incur large financial loss," explained Rice insurance agent Kay Carwile of the Cravens, Dargan and Company Enterprises. Carwile confirmed Hellums' prediction that any new policy will not be developed until mid-January. She added that, in that event, a report on what insurance policy will be offered to students is "premature."

Lerner forses possibilities for U.S.

"People ask me 'are you optimistic or pessimistic about our future?' Lerner said. "I reply that I'm a pessimist. When it comes to the future, it's in ourselves, not in the stars." Lerner urged that we put American with the hands of others, "back to work," as Reagan suggested, but also "back to thinking, back to innovating, back to some kind of a value system."

"Lerner described the presidential election itself as 'a kind of earthquake,' the culmination of things that have been going on. These were 'discontents, resentments and social anger' in the American people, he said. Those feelings were expressed in the vote for Reagan. Lerner hinted that Reagan's "obession" with his own capacity to triumph over difficult circumstances in life might make him unsympathetic to the disadvantaged in America. Describing himself as a liberal and a Democrat, Lerner still felt that there were "seemingly innocuous" things which liberals should learn from the decisive shift by American voters. He argued that the emphasis on reform, the concern with securing equal access to life chances manifested in the civil rights and women's movements and in the growth of the welfare state, for all their benefits, had divided America.
Engineers and industry

Universities graduated some 62,000 engineers last year (of which Rice produced 166). I dare say few of the graduates had much trouble finding a job. IBM and Texas Instruments alone would hire every electrical engineer on the market if they could.

Starting salaries are now pushing over $24,000. Some new graduates earn more than two-and-three-year veterans of the company.

It is a little wonder that few of these graduates decide to spend four years earning less than $7,000 a year as a graduate student and then take a job for less than $30,000 as an assistant professor. During the first ten years after graduation, the engineer that goes into industry should easily earn more than $100,000 more than his colleague in academia. No wonder universities are beginning to have trouble finding qualified faculty.

Rice does not have that problem yet. But it, and universities like it, will begin feeling the pinch during the next couple of years. Unfortunately, there is little universities can do to solve the problem by themselves.

What is needed is a change in attitude. Industry must understand that it is, as George Brown said in his letter two weeks ago, “killing the goose that lays the golden egg.” They must also understand that all aspects of a university education are important, not only those that match the needs of industry.

Supporting engineering programs isn’t enough—especially since many of those engineers later become management personnel asked to analyze materials and make decisions in areas the students never went.

It will be a long time before the lack of good engineering faculty and good universities in general begins to cut into the pocketbook of industry—it may never do so directly—but it threatens the very existence of KTRU, which needs continuous access and which operates on a marginal schedule as it is.

The gate plan proposed by the informal committee of student leaders combined with either a strict key plan or access problems. That plan, of course, runs into the first objections, the middle classes, who control the government were too busy with Realpolitik to implement socialism.

That was the unfortunate reality. Nevertheless, the Social Democrats (the governing party) appeared to the German middle class to be nothing more than ordinary Communists. Then, as Communism conquered the rest of Europe in 1968, a violent Russian occupation, the appearance destroyed Bernstein’s plan. His Revisionist tactics depended on a coalition between the German working class and the rapidly changing middle class. His hope began to sense: A worldwide inflation had pulverized Germany’s economy. The middle class grew more and more reliant on large agricultural and industrial enterprises. Class living standards of those in the middle class declined to levels associated with the industrial proletariat. Bernstein expected that the potential economic similarity of their situations would coalesce these two groups into a perdurable socialist constituency.

It never happened. As I suggested last week, Bernstein did not understand the impact of appearances on voters; his Revisionism lacked psychological insight. Contrary to his expectations, the middle class failed to “discover its proletarian heart.” Quite simply, there was one thing even worse than a staggering loss of income: loss of status.

When World War I ended, the Germans elected a socialist government. Eduard Bernstein saw his strategy of electoral gradualism being “run off the rails.” But the socialists themselves were divided into two hostile forces. Radical Independents like Rosa Luxembourg clamored for revolution and moved: Goltsev to Bolshevism; at the same time, the Majority Socialists drifted further to the Right, actually allying themselves with staunchly conservative vested interests of the old order including big business and the army. Bernstein’s Revisionism hovered uncomfortably between the volatile extremes. He pleaded desperately for the party to unite, but the party did not listen.

The Majority Socialists who controlled the government were too busy with Realpolitik to implement socialism.

Instead of bolstering the Socialist government, middle class parties rallied to the Nazi banner. In Peter Gay’s words, the Nazis’ “aristocratic philosophy” offered social prestige and recognition to impoverished “brain workers,” and was taken as a promise that the Nazis would rescue these workers from proletarianization. The Right succeeded where the Left did not because the Nazis understood the critical role psychology plays in class relations; they managed to woo the working classes by appealing to their weak spot: an obsession with economic appearances.

Do American votes lie vulnerable to similar strategy? They ask the question is to answer it.

Conspicious consumption most brilliantly illustrated American society of status seekers. Ostentatious displays of wealth pervade every level of American society: the wealthy, the nouveau riche, and the middle and lower classes.

Especially the middle and lower classes. By assuring them that they too can become millionaires, the American myth of social and economic mobility fuels these gaudy material exhibitions. Highly visible wealth presumably signals success.

Never mind that the upward mobility theme is a disingenuous one, that while absolute living standards continue to rise, so does the gap between the uppermost and lowest levels of society. Ignore that reality; appearances matter more. Their relative impoverishment inspires no political action because the absolute wealth of the lower class vis-a-vis that of their fathers and vis-a-vis that of Third World peasants is extraordinarily grand. Only delude the horrors of state ownership of the means of production. The prospect of losing the food, the cars, and the houses to “brain workers,” just as it prodded the myopic German middle class toward Nazism, blinds Americans to socialism’s ethical appeal. The cajolery objections are hackedneyed, empty, and insane but somehow convincing: Protestations that socialism requires and enforces total equality, that it pulls everyone down to the lowest common denominator, that it crushes initiative, and that it retards all sorts of progress would be comical in their shallowness if they did not attract so many adherents, adherents who, in the end, want to see socialism.”

America’s capricious claque, which amounts to virtually the entire citizenry, recoils from even Democratic Socialism because the conventional wisdom insists that it will squash our prosperity. A proposal, ominously reminiscent of the Germans’ disastrous linkage of socialism to Nazism. Clearly, a massive psychological barrier threatens the American Revisionist strategy. Any Lettish party must dispel the apocalyptic images associated with socialism before an electoral strategy can succeed.

Potentially, as fortuitous as the images are, they rest on (what I will argue next week) a faulty premise. Typical American image is directed to the economic prospects of socialism base themselves not in reality, but in highly misleading appearances.
Cookware company booted from SFA

Stephen F. Austin University officials issued a warning to students looking for bargains. Companies such as American Bridal Consultants, Inc., and American Bridal Consultants, Inc. have been canvassing students for sales, The Pine Log reports, both on- and off campus.

Solicitation of any kind on campus without a permit from the Student Development office is a violation of S.F.A. University policy. These companies deal in off-campus software, china, cutlery, stoneware and glassware and are especially tempting to those students who live off-campus in their own apartments. Typical sales promotions offer free meals, vacations, and magazine subscriptions to entice twelve or more students into holding a private "party" where sales representatives of the company can tout their wares. The fine print in literature concerning these gimmicks often reveals a catch. Either merchandise sales are often accompanied by contracts with blanks in them, or hazy refund policies.

Claims made by Mariac that the company has been in business for 25 years were revealed to be false by the Indianapolis Better Business Bureau (where the firm is based.) BBB says it was founded in 1978. Owed by American Marketing Associates, the firm claims to have been doing business at S.F.A. for 15. Larry Helmuth, Executive VP, was meeting for Mariac, adds, "We have an enormous amount of very, very happy and satisfied customers."

UT's yearbook bans racist Greeks

The Texas Student Publications Board voted to ban organizations from the UT Austin Cactus yearbook in which were not registered with the university or had a non-discriminatory statement. After an hour of discussing ethics versus finances, the board approved 10-1 a motion requiring non-discrimination which had been opened at last month's meeting. "Financially, the Cactus could stand to lose $64,000," if sororities and fraternities refused all support of the yearbook, estimated Kim Mickelson, Cactus editor.

Sororities are currently the only organizations represented in the yearbook who have not signed an agreement non-discriminatory on the basis of race, creed or national origin when selecting members. In 1968, sororities at Texas refused to sign such a statement and lost privileges held by registered student organizations. Approximately $20,000 of Cactus revenue came from pages bought by Greek organizations, which account for nearly forty percent of yearbook sales.

Martin Bigson, Associate Professor of Journalism, said he "would not like to sink the Cactus, but maybe it would be better to do what we have done." Board member Eli Cox concluded that the ethical question was more appropriate than the financial issue.

Columbia starts late night minibus runs

Columbia University in New York City has created a "midnight minibus" to carry students from one campus location to another. The university has buildings and dorms located in many different sections of the Big Apple, and the bus route was created in response to a rash of muggings last month in the area. The service, in operation for about three weeks, carries 60 passengers a night, free of charge, and runs a bus every half-hour from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

A&M senate nixes student center pub

Texas A&M student senate voted overwhelmingly to keep beer out of the Memorial Student Center Basement. The Basement is an area similar to Willy's Pub in that it features live entertainment and programs by local figures, but does not serve alcohol. Recently, the student senate at A&M has been contemplating purchasing a beer license for weekend use, in an attempt to compete with the many bars and clubs located in College Station. The Basement Competitiveness resolution, however, was defeated by a 54 to 18 vote after limited debate. The cons brought out in the debate against serving beer were:

• To serve beer there would change the type of crowd that goes to the Basement. Tracey Cox, V.P. Finance, said, "People go there because there is no beer. Something is wrong with the Basement if selling beer is the only way to increase attendance," Cox told The Battalion.

Beer sales at the Basement would degrade the quality of the entertainment and would generate a lot of trash.

Many arguments against a beer license centered on the reverential nature of the MSC itself, which was built in honor of deceased Aggies. Tom Essellbrum, a senior senator, said arguments that the MSC Basement is not a part of the MSC because it has a separate entrance, and Corps of Cadet members are not required to wear uniforms inside the Basement are not valid. "You don't have to be a building construction major to see that the Basement is a part of the MSC," he said at the meeting.

Chief pros in the discussion centered on the hopes that a beer license would help the Basement serve as alternative to crowded local bars. Julie Spin, V.P. for Rules and Regulations, said "it will help attract better entertainment and provide better service to students."

I'm sorry. I'm not ready for Christmas yet. But Lord knows Christmas is ready for us.

The signs had been easy to ignore before this: the Original Christmas Store had opened up in late September, but that's out in the suburbs; they deserve trivia and tinsel early out there. And certainly, the weather—while occasionally yucky in typical year-round Houston—hasn't done anything to remind folk that it is, after all, the middle of November.

But this week...oh, my. The vinyl 4-foot Christmas trees suddenly are poking along the tops of the display shelves at the Eckerd's, the Campus Store, and the collection of Christmas Wry Cards is on the table blocking one's way into the bookkeeper; the Christmas is ready for us. But Lord knows Christmas is ready for us.

It takes time to go, ready for Christmas—time to assess the past year, what we've done for others, to others, how we stack up this year compared to last year. Not to mention the mechanical aspects of finding the right gifts, cards, and whatnot. And, simply put, feeling good yourself. One's fellow man isn't easy when you're afraid that he's going to wreck the curve on the 211 final. Yes, I suppose I'll be ready for Christmas soon enough. But not now. See me after finals.
Faculty urges careful evaluations

To the editor:

Enclosed is a letter first printed in the Thresher in 1977 from Prof. Charles Stewart, then chairman of the Committee on Undergraduate Teaching. I believe it has been printed annually in the Thresher, and since it nicely expresses the Committee’s sentiments, we ask that you print it again this year.

* What is the point of teacher evaluations? I criticize a professor one semester and he is still doing the same things the next semester. Teachers don’t seem to improve as a result of the teacher evaluations, so why should I waste my time with them?

* Since becoming chairman of the Committee which administers the teacher evaluations, I have heard objections like the above expressed by quite a few students, and it has become clear that many students do not understand how the evaluations are used or the impact they have upon this campus. Let me try to make a fuller explanation.

The teaching evaluations provide virtually the only information available about the quality of a person’s teaching. This information plays an important part in determining whether an Assistant Professor is promoted or given tenure. Low teaching ratings can keep a person from being promoted, and thus cost him his job, while excellent teaching ratings can save the job of a person who might not otherwise be promoted. The hand-written portions of the teaching evaluations of each person considered for promotion are read carefully by the Committee on Undergraduate Teaching, which prepares a summary of these evaluations. These summaries, along with the computer printouts from the objective part of the evaluation, form part of the credentials examined by the University Council in deciding on promotion.

* That’s all very fine,” you say, “but most professors already have tenure, so the evaluations don’t matter to them.” Wrong again. The amount of each person’s yearly salary increase can be influenced by the quality of his teaching evaluations. How much influence this has varies from department to department, but in some cases it can play a major role. Since faculty salaries at Rice are low to begin with, and since inflation makes it harder to live on small increases, greater personal satisfaction is often important in practical terms. And since it is generally believed that, although teaching counts toward promotion and salary, research counts a lot more), such people certainly deserve the reward of thoughtful praise on their teaching evaluations. However, most cannot help but being influenced, to at least some extent, by practical considerations. This should seem natural. How much less work would you do in most of your courses if they were not being graded? Working harder is a natural human response, and however unlikely it may seem, professors are human too.

Thus, it is important to most faculty members to receive good teaching evaluations. And this means that the evaluation system is important to the quality of the education that you receive. Remember that there are other pressures on faculty members. We know that we are evaluated on how much research we produce—the more we produce, the more likely we are to be promoted or to receive good salary increases. The more time we spend on research, the more we produce; and more time on research means less time on teaching and, therefore, poorer courses for you. If the quality of our teaching didn’t make any difference to us in practical terms, there would be a great temptation to spend nearly all of our time on research, to the detriment of the quality of the education that you receive. The fact that teaching is important in practical terms minimizes the extent to which this happens, and the student evaluations provide the mechanism by which the quality of teaching is given its practical reward.

Thus the great contribution of teacher evaluations to the quality of your education is not so much that they tell individual teachers what they are doing wrong, but that the evaluations provide incentive to the teachers to do the best that they can.

I should point out that, in fact, the teaching evaluations frequently do help individual teachers to improve. I think that most of us can point to things that we do in our teaching that were first suggested by student evaluations. Possibly the reason that many of you haven’t noticed this is, by the time you have a particular teacher, he has already made all the improvements that can be made easily, and the faults that he has left are ones which take longer to correct. The most dramatic improvements probably take place in the first couple of years of teaching.

“The above is a somewhat over-simplified portrayal. There are many professors at Rice who work devotedly at their teaching simply from love of the job and pride at doing it well, and who would do just as much even if it did them no practical good. In fact, such people are probably making a sacrifice, since it is generally believed that, although teaching counts toward promotion and salary, research counts a lot more). Such people certainly deserve the reward of thoughtful praise on their teaching evaluations. However, most cannot help but being influenced, to at least some extent, by practical considerations. This should seem natural. How much less work would you do in most of your courses if they were not being graded? Working harder is a natural human response, and however unlikely it may seem, professors are human too.

Thus, the evaluation system is important to the quality of your education. However, the success of this system depends upon the students being thoughtful and conscientious in making the evaluations. Some students do not bother to fill out the evaluations. Others treat them with frivolity or vulgarity. To do that is to disparage a system that is designed for your benefit. The evaluations are taken seriously by those who read them. You should take them seriously too.”

Anne Schnoebelen
Chairman, Committee on Undergraduate Teaching

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Music student dies in auto accident by Bruce Davies  

Marion Hicks said that it would cost $2,725.50 for staff who provide student services, such as food service, that would go unused. If the proposal was implemented, the staff would have to be paid during those two days anyway. One alternative to this problem was to establish mandatory vacation for those employees for that period.

Stout also explained that the cost for such a move would be substantial since students would need the use of school buildings two extra summer days that would require the buildings be cooled. "It cost more to cool buildings than it does to heat them," said Stout. "And the money the students pay to cool and heat the colleges does not cover the expense of cooling or hearing the other university buildings."

The Residential College Center where he was treated for facial cuts received in the accident. Wakefield died at the scene of the accident.

Wakefield, a voice major in the Shepherd School of Music, was working towards her master's degree. She held a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Oklahoma. The Shepherd School Student Council has announced that it will establish a memorial fund with a $500 donation to Fondren's Music Library. Donors wishing to add to the fund may do so by contacting the gifts and memorials office of Fondren Library. The money will be used for the purchase of works in vocal literature.

Committees collaborate... continued from page 1  

Chairman of the Faculty Subcommittee, Franz Brotzen, suggested in his proposal that the Provost's Office help the faculty committee to "review the suitability of existing courses that are used widely to satisfy distribution requirements." He urged that the courses be reviewed on the basis of whether they are "reasonably demanding, intellectually challenging and containing a broad scope of material to conform with the basic concept of distribution requirements."

Other faculty subcommittee members concurred with Brotzen that a study of the present distribution system would be a good start. Political science Professor Robert H. Dix also agreed that a strict curriculum requirement would be unwise. "My gut feeling is that a full set of prescribed core courses is a) a pedagogic mistake and b) a logistical/political impossibility," stated Dix in his proposal. Dix also stated that the issue of core curriculum "boils down to how to

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Players chalk up another success

The Caucasian Chalk Circle
by Bertolt Brecht
Directed by Neil Havens
Thresher/Fine Arts

The stage is bare except for two totems of masks and a large painted circle on the floor. Four musicians stroll out and take their places on a platform to one side. And then the solemn and eerie procession of the entire cast, dressed in gray, onto the stage. Each player retrieves his mask and retreats into shadow. The storyteller opens his text and the fascinating spectacle of the Rice Players’ production of The Caucasian Chalk Circle begins.

Set in the Caucasus region of Georgia in ancient times, the play tells the story of Grusha (Katie Sammons), a servant girl in the Governor’s (Gilbert Guerrero) household who, after a mutiny by the palace guards in which the Governor is killed and the city sacked, saves the governor’s heir, the baby Michael, and raises him as her own. But the Governor’s wife (Lou Ann Fields) demands the child be returned to its rightful mother, and it is up to the boisterous, Falstaffian Azdak (Scott McDonald) to decide who the rightful mother is.

The Players’ treatment of Brecht’s comedy is both ambitious and remarkably successful. Sandy Havens has done an outstanding job of directing, and the entire production is characterized by innovative staging and excellent acting. The actors were onstage at all times during the performance, although they were in character only when they were inside the circle. Outside the circle, they became spectators and actors, changing costumes, providing sound effects, arranging props. This method of staging had two advantages. First, it made the action of the play seem continuous, one saw the play not as a series of discreet scenes, but as an organic whole. Second, it conveyed either frailty or toughness.

However, the make-up and the costumes had a brilliance that would be familiar to a Chinese audience, are incompres- sible to Americans, and the music and singing are discordant.

The performance was enjoyable for reasons other than its superb make-up and costumes. In addition to impressive displays of everyday acrobatics, there were incredible feats of juggling, tumbling, balance and timing performed with rings and batons. Altogether, Wednesday’s performance was enjoyable although the Governor died, his last those experiences which should be savored sparingly.

—Deborah Knaff

The staging also allowed for several clever and startling effects. When the governor did last breaths were created by the entire cast breathing simultaneously. Fingers striking palms produced the sound of melting snow dripping from a roof. The interesting thing about these effects was that they could be seen as well as heard.

The acting was consistently praiseworthy. The whole cast seemed to possess a tremendous self-confidence (perhaps another effect of the staging). Katie Sammons played a convincing Grusha, displaying emotional range from tender concern for justice. Although her make-up may have been a bit heavy, she used her body extremely well to convey either frailty or toughness as the situation demanded. Juan Zalles was a sincere and faithful Simon.

The play’s comic characters were all very strong, particularly John Heaner, who used his voice and physical presence to create a Corporal both menacing and laughably funny, and Hal Kohlman as a raunchy, drunken monk. But the comic centerpiece was Azdak. Scott McDonald managed to create a near-perfect blend of hearty decadence and corruption with a sense of social justice as he reigned over his kangaroo-court-with-a-conscience in a self-proclaimed era of wonderful “confusion and disorder.”

Altogether, Wednesday’s performance was enjoyable although the Governor died, his last those experiences which should be savored sparingly.

—Deborah Knaff
Police arrest Music Hall audience

The Police
Music Hall
November 14

Ah, the poor people who came in so starry-eyed from seeing a certain Mr. Springsteen. Many of them still don't realize that the week's best performance actually came one night earlier in the intimate setting of the Music Hall, as the Police took to the stage, playing their unique brand of New Wave white reggae to the fullest. You just had to be there.

The Police, headed by the charismatic lead singer/bassist/sex symbol Sting, with Andy Summers on guitar and American Stewart Copeland drumming, had control of the enthusiastic crowd playing their unique brand of New Wave white reggae to the fullest.

Margaret Roche's "One Season" and "This Feminine Position" close the album with a grinning commentary on today's supposedly liberalated society. With their exceptional tonality, The Roches may prove to be the most talented female vocal group for the next few years. Missing out on the high quality musical insanity that Nards has to offer should be avoided. Rating: 1

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Records

A Roche by any other name...

Nards
The Roches
Warner Brothers Records

The Roches, three sisters from the East Coast, have blossomed into very successful entertainers. On their new release, Nards, The Roches (Maggie, Terre, and Suzzy) continue to develop a breed of music that could be coined "acu-punk." The group implements beautiful vocals and guitar within lyrics that are sometimes sick and mostly ironic. The title cut, "Nards," explores the familiar horror of growing up with tremendous harmonies. Cole Porter's "It's Bad for Me" describes the dilemma of being romantically worshipped, and is performed a capella. Humor again reigns on "My Sick Mind," a ballad of psychosis. "The Death of Suzzy Roche" relates the price of fame as Suzzy is stabbed in a laundromat by a jealous attendant. On a more serious note, the ladies turn in a stellar performance on "Factory Girl," a traditional Irish folksong.

Clues
Robert Palmer
Island Records

Robert Palmer's Clues marks a major departure from his earlier career. Palmer's developing friendship with keyboardist Gary Numan has greatly influenced his style. The transition does not come easily. "Looking for Clues" sounds almost like disco with its staccato percussion and "Johnny and Mary" falls short because of a repetitive melody. Two heavily metallic songs, "Sally Girl" and "Not a Second Time," seem out of place on the record.

"I Dream of Wires," written by Numan, eerily opens side two with Cyborg-like vocals. Palmer accents some heavenly piano with Bahamian percussion on "Woke Up Laughing," a joyous cut describing a tropical thisus. Palmer also includes a fine reggae piece with "What Do You Care," a Numan-Palmer collaboration, "Found You Now," closes out the album with some great organ. The excellent voice of Robert Palmer is sometimes lost amid Clue's attempt at complexity. Still, Palmer's experiment with the approach of Gary Numan deserves a listen. A duo album by the pair would prove most interesting. Rating: 2

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The Magic Flute
by Wolfgang Mozart
Houston Grand Opera
Jones Hall

It was cute. Although that is not usually the word one conjures up when one is thinking of opera, the Houston Grand Opera's performance of The Magic Flute could really be described in no other way.

Mozart's two-act opera is essentially a fairy tale. It is the story of Tamino, an Egyptian prince, in his attempt to win the heart of Pamina, the daughter of the Queen of the Night. Tamino first has to rescue Pamina from the sorcerer Sarastro, then he must undergo an initiation to prove himself worthy of rescuing her. The opera is essentially a fairy tale. It is the story of Tamino, an Egyptian prince, in his attempt to win the heart of Pamina, the daughter of the Queen of the Night. Tamino first has to rescue Pamina from the sorcerer Sarastro, then he must undergo an initiation to prove himself worthy of rescuing her.

All of this fantasy action was set against an incredibly lavish background. The sets of the Houston Grand Opera's production were the most outstanding aspect of the show. In the second act there were six set changes, in addition to changes of the backdrop itself alone. These continuous changes in scene produced a stream-of-consciousness effect and helped to energize an otherwise languid performance.

In the Zone

Suppose that Francis Bacon actually did write the Shakespearean plays. Suppose that William Shakespeare is nothing more than faded ink on parchment, a signature on a will or a couple of lawsuits. Suppose Shakespeare is himself the greatest fictional character ever created in one of the longest-running comedies of stage history. All of this dreamed up, elaborated, and written down by Bacon in the supreme literary joke.

But what do we know of Francis Bacon? Letters, allusions by his contemporaries, a painting, a bust. Evidence really of no greater validity than that on Shakespeare. Perhaps the idea of Bacon was a literary hoax as well, written by an even greater Elizabethan genius.

But who? Recent scholarship has come to see the doughty queen herself as the author of the Bacon-Shakespeare put-on, largely on the evidence of her earlier historical novel, The Spanish Armada, co-authored with Philip II of Spain. But as critic of the Elizabethan theory point out, it would have been extremely difficult for Bacon to have written down the action on stage as no one else in the cast was able.

After all these serious comments, the final word on The Magic Flute is still that it was cute. Mozart intended when he wrote the opera that it should have popular appeal. Houston Grand Opera certainly kept up this tradition (as can be seen in these costumes of some of the second-act characters). Notwithstanding, the production was worthwhile.

—Tim Doyle and Deborah Knaff

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The Rice Thresher, November 20, 1980, page 8
Tonight shows at 7:30 and 9:45 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday films start at 10:00 a.m. and go on all night. Tickets are $4 until Sunday, November 23. Today and tomorrow there will be screened at the River Oaks Theatre, Saturday and Sunday, November 22 and 23. "2001: A Space Odyssey" and "Silent Running," shows at 4:45 and 9:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m. futuristic fantasy about the members of a space station. These two shows will be screened at the River Oaks Theatre, Saturday and Sunday, November 22 and 23.

Barbara Kapple's documentary about the coal mines of Harlan County, U.S.A. is at the Media Center this Friday and Saturday. The film is the story of miners striking for a union contract, and was shot entirely on location. The film, "Harlan County, U.S.A." portrays a union struggle in Harlan County, Kentucky, USA. This Academy-Award winning documentary was shot entirely on location.

The concert is free. "Planets Suite No. 3 in D major," "Concerto in A minor for Violin and Cello," and "Symphony No. 3 in E-flat major. Conducted by Sergio Commasona, the performances are Saturday, November 22 at 8 p.m., Sunday, November 23 at 2:30 p.m. and Monday, November 24 at 8 p.m. in Jones Hall.

The show is at Hamman Hall at 8 p.m., and tickets are $2 for students, $3 for faculty and staff, and $4 for the public. The Players, under the direction of Neil Havens, present "A Permanent Heritage: Major Works from the Museum Collection." Decorative arts, photographs, furniture, paintings, and sculptures from antiquity to 1945 can be seen in Upper Brown Gallery at the MFA, and post-WW II in Cullinall. In addition to the predictable Fra Angelico,Degas, Renoir, Cezanne, Matisse, there are works from the museum's Asian, Pre-Columbian and Tribal Arts Collections.

This Academy-Award winning documentary about the coal mines of Harlan County, USA is at the Media Center this Friday and Saturday. The film is the story of miners striking for a union contract, and was shot entirely on location. The film is about the members of a space station trying to survive Earth's nuclear holocaust, is on at 3 and 7:30 p.m. 2001. Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece of the future, shows at 4:45 and 9:15 p.m.

The Rice Thresher, November 20, 1980, page 9
The Rice Thresher/Sports

Pierce leads Owls to opening 83-72 cage win

by Steve Bailey

All-American candidate Ricky Pierce led Rice with 26 points and 10 rebounds, and freshman Teddy Johnson passed out five assists in Rice's 83-72 opening win against the University of Windsor, Canada, Lancers at Autry Court last Saturday.

"We just played damn good," sophomore Kenny Austin explained. "We were a little slow on defense," Johnson summarized. "but we had great help from Austin." The other Rice freshman that played, Tyrone Washington, added 10 points on five of ten field goal attempts and took the ball away from Windsor three times in 22 minutes. Johnson played 24 minutes, though neither of them started, and in head coach Mike Schuler's words, "The two freshmen did a very good job."

In this exhibition victory, Schuler saw a few areas of weakness that he hopes to improve before the Owls head to Clemson for the Thanksgiving tournament. "We just aren't very good defensively. We aren't good enough. They're very good kids—not by nature mean and nasty."

"We committed some dumb fouls, and we did not do well on the boards," Schuler said. Statistics, and the fact that Rice had played better last season, bear out his latter comment. Windsor led in rebounds 37-35 and Rice committed more fouls, 22-16.

Rice took a 44-40 opening lead in the game after Glen Rieke, starting for the injured Donald Bennett, controlled the tip and shortly afterwards. Austin tipped in Pierce's shot, then stole the ball from Windsor on their end of the court and dribbled down court to help himself to the slam.

Last year Bennett did not start a single game, but he would have started Saturday night had he not been sidelined with a hip pointer. And last year when Austin stole the ball, he looked for someone else to control the fast break, but his drive to the basket Saturday night was flawless, and almost looked graceful.

Rice led the game for most of the opening ten minutes, but Windsor managed to tie and even go ahead until Austin tied it again with 5:50 left in the first half on a shot off the board. Windsor called time out, then returned to the court and promptly turned the ball over, and a few seconds later Lancer center Stan Korosec sent Austin to the line to put the Owls up by two. The score was never tied again, and Rice led at the half, 47-42.

In the second half, Pierce immediately widened the gap to 49-42 on an eight-foot turnaround jumper, then was involved in an interesting play on the other end of the court. As the Lancers' John Ritchie (who led the game with 27 points) drove to the basket, Pierce positioned himself in front of Ritchie and tried to block the shot. While Ritchie's shot missed its mark, Pierce was called for a foul, and Ritchie went to the line and hit one free throw. It was then that the officials notified Rice and the scorer's table that Pierce had additionally been called for goaltending while committing the foul.

Pierce now had three fouls along with Austin and Rieke, just under the 16-minute mark, with Rice ahead by three, Schuler put Bobby Tudor, Williams Wilson, Johnson and Washington on the court with Rieke, and Austin and Pierce sat out for several minutes. "We made our run with [Austin and Pierce] out of the game," said Schuler. Indeed, when Washington scored on a layup from Johnson and Rieke hit one of two free throws on the next possession, Rice held their largest lead of the game, 70-55. At 7:25 both Austin and Pierce were back on the court, and although Austin fouled out with 1:12 left, Rice was able to coast to the victory.

The Rice men's tennis team played very well and the housing for the players was great," reported Jay Goode. Although Goode, Albert and Park lost their first round singles matches they are improving and looking forward to their next tournament, a USPTA (United States Professional Tennis Association) Tournament at the Chancelor's Racquet Club in Houston, December 11-14.

Holland takes 1st at Pinewood

by Eileen Curreli

"Rice's Max Holland won the singles title to lead a fine Owl performance at the Pinewood Country Club Invitational in Beaumont, Texas, this past weekend against teams from the University of Southwest Louisiana, Lamar and Louisiana State.

Holland's first match was his toughest, but he won it 6-4, 6-4 over Patrick Hughesman (USL). He salvaged the match by winning the tiebreaker 6-4 and adding, "The match was too close for comfort, but I started playing better and he fell to pieces."

Holland's next victim was also from USL, Boyd Bryan, whom he dispatched easily 6-2, 6-4. In the semifinals Holland met fellow Rice team member and doubles partner Tom Cushing. In a "satisfying match" for Holland, Cushing (the number two seed) fell 6-2, 6-2. Cushing, the only seeded player from Rice, felt Holland "played well, and I just couldn't hit my shots."

In the final round, Holland defeated LSU's Carl Winslow 6-2, 7-6, to gain the singles title. Freshman Don Tomasco also had a very good tournament, reaching the quarter finals in singles and semifinals in doubles with John Albert. Tomasco lost to eventual finalist Carl Winslow (LSU) 6-6, 6-3 after winning a tough second round match from Tom Webber (Lamar) 4-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Overall, the tournament was run very well and the housing for the players was great," reported Jay Goode. Although Goode, Albert and Park lost their first round singles matches they are improving and looking forward to their next tournament, a USPTA (United States Professional Tennis Association) Tournament at the Chancelor's Racquet Club in Houston, December 11-14.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Contact Career Counseling and Placement for sign ups.

The Rice Thresher, November 20, 1980, page 10
Bears beat Owls for Cotton

by Jay Grob
and Michele Gillen

Abercrombie run on the first play from scrimmage, his one-yard touchdown grab bested Baylor's successful play and Robert Bledsoe's

the Southwest Conference football championship and an automatic Cotton Bowl berth. However, Baylor could do anything but coast the rest of the way as the scrappy Owls made a fight of it before losing by the final score of 16-6. The loss gives Rice a 4-6 season record with one game against the University of Houston to be played. "Baylor is a fine team and they executed well today," said Rice coach Ray Alborn after the game, "but I'm awfully proud of our kids. I can find no fault with them. Mostly, I'm just disappointed for our seniors."

Twenty-three seniors suited up for the final home game against Baylor.

Abercrombie's opening heroics, however, took a bit of a hit after the Rice offense. Following the Baylor kickoff, Rice, with senior Randy Hertel (15) and Keith Kveton (80) back the hit, immediately drove down the field. Starting at their own 25, the Owls proceeded all the way to the Bear 17, before the strong running of Calvin France (12 carries for 74 yards) and Hertel passes of 11 and 13 yards to Hosa Fortund and Al Whifield, respectively. Unfortunately, the offense sputtered deep in Baylor territory and Rice had to settle for a 35-yard Kenneth Sam field goal.

The two teams traded field goals in the second quarter. Baylor scored first as Robert Bledsoe and Al Whifield, respectively. Rice, however, could move at all in the second half, gaining only 52 yards in the half, after garnering an impressive 222 yards in the initial 30 minutes.

"We just couldn't get the ball in the end zone. We'd move the ball into their territory and then the defense would sputter," said fullback Frank Wilson, who gained 46 yards on 12 carries.

The Owls have a week off to lick their wounds, before ending the season a week from Saturday in the Astrodome against the University of Houston Cougars. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Hosa Fortund, who grabbed four passes for 44 yards, put it simply: "We did what we thought would work, but it didn't."

The Owls have a week off to lick their wounds, before ending the season a week from Saturday in the Astrodome against the University of Houston Cougars. Game time is 7:30 p.m.
Subtle Touch takes title
by Sandy Snyder

The open volleyball tournament ended Monday, November 10, with a single elimination play-off between the three league champions. The Blue Ribbons drew a bye, leaving Subtle Touch to play The Mooners for the title. The Blue Ribbons played well, but not well enough to beat Subtle Touch. The members of Subtle Touch earned their tickets to the championship barbeque with the match score of 15-3, 15-12.

In the championship game, the Blue Ribbons played well, but not well enough to beat Subtle Touch. The match score of 15-13, 15-6.


The college championship was handed to Jones as they beat Lovett in the final match 15-13, 8-15, 15-3.

Brown 12-0. Travis' first score came on a long run from Paulson.

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The Rice Thresher, November 20, 1980, page 12
OWLOOK

Autry: Home of winners

Experts predict Owls will finish fourth in conference play

Last season the men's basketball team finished eighth in the Southwest Conference, but they will not take anything for granted this season. Street and Smith, a well-respected basketball magazine, picked Rice fourth this season, and many observers feel that a higher finish is possible.

Rice is being called "the most improved team of the SWC," a result of good recruiting and a young returning squad. They played very good basketball in the second half of SWC competition last year.

The most notable improvement will be depth. After adding guards Rodney Johnson and Tyrone Washington, both of whom will see considerable playing time this season and possibly start, Rice has a squad that is deep at the guard position as well as the front line.

So deep, in fact, that Rice may well use three guards quite often this season. Senior starters Anthony DeCello (the only senior on this year's squad) and Bobby Tudor, Willis Wilson may be ready to regain the form of his freshman season, when he was thought to be an outstanding guard prospect. "Willis the other night played as outstanding a game as he's played in his career," head coach Mike Schuler said this week in the wake of Rice's opening 83-72 victory over Wtins on Saturday night.

"Bobby Tudor has enjoyed the most month since he's been here," Schuler said. "He made DeCello, Tudor and Wilson so much better already. The whole team is quicker after working out with those two." They have made [Kenny Austin and Ricky Pierce] quicker. They realize if they go down the floor they're going to give them the ball."

If Schuler is interested in the guard situation, he must be ecstatic about his front line. The Terrible Tandem, Pierce and Austin, proved themselves to be among the top players in the conference last year. Both have quickness to play the man-to-man, and as the team improves, Schuler might want to experiment some more. While in the man-to-man, Austin was able to strip the ball from a Windsor player and drive for the bucket. Windsor was having trouble passing. Rice was doing a good job of denying the ball. Still, Windsor had the fundamental skills to exploit the man-to-man coverage and force Rice into the zone.

The other freshman recruit, John Witten, had back surgery earlier and will sit out this season, but is expected to start playing four years starting with the next campaign.

One of Schuler's favorite topics is Pierce. He thinks the 6-5 junior forward deserves national recognition, and he is right. "Ricky Pierce in my opinion is the premier player in the league," he asserts. "I wouldn't trade him for anyone."

And when all is said about the players, Schuler discusses the importance of fan support to a winning team. "It's not any fun to play without a whole bunch of people in the stands," he commented Saturday night. Much of Rice's expected success may depend on whether Autry Court does become, as coaches and players around the SWC are saying, "the toughest place in the conference to play."
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IN THE COLLEGES

LOVETT
Gary Foster

Two great Lovett movies are soon to be released. On Tuesday, November 25, come and have a great time at the showing of "Buck Privates." Admission is 25 cents at the Children's Lane Hall Tuesday night. On December 3, "The Goodbye Girl" will be shown at Hamman Hall. We have gone to great lengths to ensure your enjoyment of this movie because, for the first time, a movie shown in Hamman Hall will be endowed with good sound!

Otherwise, this will be a pretty moderate week: enjoy it!

WILL RICE
Robin Boring

College Night is this Friday. Sign up to be a bartender, or help set up (that starts at 2 p.m.) or stick around afterwards and help clean up. Remember, dinner wine is BYOB. Before dinner cocktails are at 6:45 p.m., dinner is at 7:30 p.m. and the dancing starts at 9 p.m.

If you plan to move off-campus next semester please tell Joe Motro or Babs as soon as possible. There is a $50 fee if theinker is notified by December 1, after that it's $75. If you want to change rooms you need to see Joe Motro. If you live off-campus and want to move on, see Babs and put your name on the waiting list.

The Jumps are having a Thanksgiving dinner for anyone who is going to be here over the holiday. If you can't be with your family, sign up in Babs' office and get a good meal anyway.

BROWN
Linda Bosse

University masters and co-masters will be eating at Brown tonight before the Masters and Presidents' meeting at Brown House; with all the misconceptions around campus about single sex sororities, this could be your big chance—captivate everyone and everything.

If you're moving off campus or withdrawing at the end of this semester, you need to tell Mrs. Von Eiff by December 1 to save $25 from the $75 charge. Also, her office is not Tiffany's—she's had some jewelry for months, so if you've lost something, stop by the see if she's got it.

TG tomorrow with Baker, Jones and Sid.

SA
Carol Wilder

Un-bait your breath! This is the heralded third Thursday of the month; you need wait no longer for the GSA meeting, at 7 p.m. at the Conference Room of the RMC.

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The problem solver.

The Rice Thresher, November 20, 1980, page 15
The Rice People's Calendar

Friday, November twenty-first
7:30, 9:00, 11:00 a.m. Warren Commons Forums, Free. Museum of Fine Arts, The Die is Cast, $2.
River Oaks, THX 1/8, (7:30) and A Clockwork Orange (9:30).
Saturday, November twenty-second
5:30 Media Center: Chris Chris Bong, $1.
9:00, 10, and 12 N. Texas, Jhansil Cove, Classmates, $2.
Main Street Theatre. You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown classes, $3.
Media Center: Workshop. Circle up for Your Own Class schools.
Sunday, November twenty-third
5:30 Media Center: Lauren, abbreviated by Dr. Hans-Bernhard Moorler, $1.75.
River Oaks, Science Running (3:30) and 2001: A Space Odyssey (4:45 and 9:30).

Monday, November twenty-fourth

Tuesday, November twenty-fifth
River Oaks, Johnny Guitar (7:15) and Rancho Rotozoo (9:30).

Wednesday, November twenty-sixth
River Oaks, Night of the Living Dead (7:30) and The Fog (9:15).

Thursday, November twenty-seventh
5:30 Main Street Theatre: A Christmas Carol. 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30. Department of Economics.
River Oaks, Magic of Singing (9:30) and A Christmas Carol Free.
River Oaks, Johnny Guitar (7:15) and Rancho Rotozoo (9:30).

Friday, November twenty-eighth
5:30, 7:30; 9:30 Media Center: Letters from an Envelope. Free.
River Oaks, Night of the Living Dead (7:30) and The Fog (9:15).

Saturday, November twenty-ninth
5:30 Media Center: The Man Who Laughed, $1.75.
River Oaks, Cross of Iron (7:15) and The Big Red One (8:45).

If you are planning on going to the Rice U. of Houston football game in Brown, we and we want to encourage everyone to come check it out. Meetings and events that week at 7 in 107 Rayzor Hall at which we discuss the tailgating prospects for the week. Fire free to drop by. Beginners are welcome.

The Rice Philosophy Club will meet Tuesday, Nov. 25 in the Rayzor Brown Lounge, Room 240 at 7 p.m. Rob Irials will read a paper, “Free Will and Determinism.” Discussion is invited.

The Foreign Language and Literature Department welcomes applications from all fields for participation in the upcoming 1980 Language Program. The program will last for five weeks, Monday through Friday, Nov. 21 at 3 p.m. Kyle More Room of Fondren Library.

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