Faulty hardware short-circuits computing class

by Tibor Roberts

The Electrical Engineering Department's "computer organization and software" course, Elec 320, lives or dies by the performance of its computer hardware. Since last fall, when this decision was made to replace an outdated and failure-prone machine, problems with the main computer have been disastrous to the lab-oriented course.

According to Professor Favé Briggs, technical difficulties, more than once during the fall and again this semester, the PDP-11/45 computer used last fall was on its last legs, and was kept together only by cannibalizing other computers of the same model on campus. Although it failed more than once during the semester, it was repaired quickly.

Decision was made to replace an outdated machine, then it was repaired quickly, but it failed again. As this fall began, all the problems seemed to have been ironed out, but no one had conducted a complete test of all the hardware required to edit and assemble programs for the lab. When everything had been loaded onto Phobos in preparation for the first lab assignment, some critical programs failed to function. This problem continued until Monday, October 1, but according to students in the lab Phobos now seems to be functioning properly, though lacking some useful debugging utilities.

Briggs feels that the class will be lucky to complete five labs this time and that it "might turn out to be more work" than one would have had to do if the system had functioned correctly. He feels that an error of this magnitude is not expected to change in the foreseeable future.

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RMC trogs favor student center

Fundraising and architectural planning for the expansion of the Rice Memorial Center are grinding slowly but surely along. Yet the close these two lines of development come to completion, the more important it is that students know what is being built and why. Student input and support are crucial to ensure both that the RMC fundraising shall be successful and the design useful.

The enlargement of the RMC was proposed by students to provide better facilities for students. It will be, for the most part, of little use to the administration in its day-to-day task of transforming corporate wealth into education. The fund drive being organized by the Development Office once again demonstrates that the Board of Governors knows we're here.

It would be nice to have some guarantee from the administration that the proposed hundreds of square feet of new student lounges would be just that: areas where we can sit, talk, and study without being evicted regularly for special meetings of non-student or even non-Rice groups. These spaces should be in addition to, and separate from, the student meeting areas in the current plans.

The bookstore has requested, for a number of reasons, that their space in the expansion be arranged all on one floor. This would open up a large amount of basement space that should be split between an addition to the bandhall and a student lounge. Such a lounge, with a screen-type wall enabling it to be either merged with Willy's Pub or separated with its own access to the stairway, would solve both the problems of overcrowding in the Pub and the lack of consistently available student lounges.

Furthermore, this lounge would never be rented out from under us. What self-respecting Rotary Club would pay money to have their meeting in a basement?

But, nitpicking aside, the RMC expansion will be a great thing for Rice students, especially those undergraduate off-campus and graduate students who feel no particular attachment to any single college. So if someone does ask you to contribute a buck or two to the expansion fund, don't bitch. By showing other, larger donors that Rice students are behind this project, your investment will be returned a thousand fold.

— Paul Havlak

Penguins vs. God? No challenge.

Okay. Bloom County fans, it's time to play hardball. I received a petition this week, with 198 signatures, asking that we run both comic strips. You see, Garry Trudeau has decided that we cannot run both comic strips. So there.

But, no way of knowing if any of the signatures are valid. But noting this rather strange reception, I questioned the graduate students about their connection with the undergraduates at Rice. There was no connection.

Not one undergraduate party had these students attended. The group had eaten at the colleges a total of four times in a two-year period. Between them, they did not know more than ten undergraduates. This struck me, a student in limbo between undergraduate and graduate work, as rather odd. Why, the grad students were approximately the same age as the undergrads. (They could probably at least help with homework.)

The divisions that exist are not fruitful, and should be minimized. My idea of a university is a group striving together both intellectually and emotionally, to become better persons. Waipy, preconceived barriers presently do not allow such development.

So, I offer the following challenge. Undergraduates, ask a graduate student to lunch at your college. Talk to him, and see what he has to offer. Graduate students, try to go to a TG or maybe even a regular party. I think you’ll be glad you did.

— Paul Havlak

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INTEGRATING THE HEDGES

by Gerald Corcoran

A funny thing happened the other day. I was walking down the main boulevard, near Willy's statue, with a couple of friends of mine. They are Rice University graduate students. Now I am not prejudiced. A friend of mine is just a friend, not a black friend, or a Jewish friend, or even a Rice University graduate friend. However, it seems many undergraduate friends of mine are not so enlightened. Their pointed indifference to my friends (excuse me, Rice University graduate students) annoyed me, and probably did not make my friends (whops, not specific enough) feel too good either.

Noting this rather strange reception, I questioned the graduate students about their connection with the undergraduates at Rice. There was no connection.

Not one undergraduate party had these students attended. The group had eaten at the colleges a total of four times in a two-year period. Between them, they did not know more than ten undergraduates. This struck me, a student in limbo between undergraduate and graduate work, as rather odd. Why, the grad students were approximately the same age as the undergrads, lived in close proximity to the University, and even had some complementary interests with undergraduates. This was definitely a puzzle. No natural barriers existed, and yet, no contact. There was no dearth of opportunity either. Approximate-ly one in every three people one meets on the sidewalk is a grad. You see, the grad students are here for the same reason as the undergrads, that is, to learn. They generally are nice people. They have something to offer to the University as a whole, as well as to individual undergraduates. (They can probably at least help with homework.)

The divisions that exist are not fruitful, and should be minimized. My idea of a university is a group striving together both intellectually and emotionally, to become better persons. Waipy, preconceived barriers presently do not allow such development.

So, I offer the following challenge. Undergraduates, ask a graduate student to lunch at your college. Talk to him, and see what he has to offer. Graduate students, try to go to a TG or maybe even a regular party. I think you’ll be glad you did.
RPI fall hockey line a long-standing tradition

Last week, the traditional "Hockey Line" at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute formed outside the Student Union. For eleven years students and faculty endured low forty-degree temperatures in order to get season tickets to sixteen home RPI hockey games at $37.50 a set. The team, champion of the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division I last year, and according to The New York Times, "going to a hockey game has become akin to observing a holy day of obligation" at RPI.

"Every autumn for years — no one really knows how many — the "Hockey Line" has existed through rain, sleet, and cold of night. Last year, the queue waited thirty-eight days. "Why do we do it?" said Daniel Berger King Berg, the acting president of the institute, "to prove our faith, to affirm our identity, to feel like part of something greater than ourselves, to be a part of the Turkey. The New York Times traced the tradition of the "Hockey Line" back to the architecture of the school's first arena, which was an old navy warehouse assembled at RPI and stuffed with seats in 1953.

Beams and pillars in the converted warehouse were visible to supporting the roof blocked the view of many fans. And so, legend has it, students formed a line well before. If the truth be known, I don't know why we do it."

Baylor voids charters of non-Baptist groups

Religious groups not officially affiliated with the Baptist Student Union at Baylor University recently got the word that they could no longer meet on campus because of a recent decision to revoke their charters. President Herbert H. Reynolds told the Lariat that the decision had been made due to requests for charters from religious groups with non-orthodox Christian beliefs. Referring to such groups Reynolds said, "Some of them could be groups that would be fringe groups, if you will, groups that would not necessarily be mainline Christian groups."

Baylor has had a policy that religious organizations and denominational groups meet off-campus, but it has not been strictly enforced, according to the president. "You've got to remember that this is a Baptist school," said Ruben Santos, director of the Daniel Student Center. He added, "I think it's matter of having enough space to accommodate everyone." Santos said that the members of his inter-varsity Christian Fellowship, stated that space is not the problem.

Frosh faults exclusion from football rankings

To the editor:

In reference to your rankings of the intramural football teams in your September 28 issue, I would like to ask whoever "Seth" is to give a valid reason for leaving the freshmen teams off the list. Yes, they do play in their own league, but so do the Tuesday League teams, the Friday league teams, etc. Even if the No. 1 team never plays each other, it is ranked in the top 20. It is the opinion of one or a group of people who know what they are doing that determines who's better than who. I propose that "Seth" doesn't know what he's doing and that he might not know enough about football to recognize the difference between a good freshman team and a bad upperclass team.

Therefore, he shirks the responsibility and falls back on the excuse that "freshmen teams play in their own league." I do not believe that Lowell's teams should be made into "frosh faults." Granted, the level of play of the upperclass leagues is higher than that of the freshmen, but an honest evaluation of all the teams should be made. If, by chance, a freshman team should appear to be one of the top 15 teams, it should be acknowledged.

David J. Gano

Owkeepers share in duties, says LaBorde

To the editor:

I would like to correct two errors which were made in the Thresher of 28 September. First of all, it referred to me as "head" Owkeeper. I do not consider myself a head anything. At the SA meeting Monday night I was officially referred to as "one of the Owkeepers at Lovett College." I do not consider myself a head anything. The Rice Thresher, October 5, 1984, page 3
Committee's guidelines instruct faculty on proper grading policy

Because too many Rice students are unaware of the specific academic rules regulating their life, they run the risk of damaging their records, claim members of the University Committee on Examinations and Standing.

The committee enforces the academic regulations of Rice University and is made up of three undergraduates, ten members of the faculty, and two ex-officio members: Vice President for Undergraduate Affairs Ronald F. Stebbings and Registrar James Williamson.

According to Professor of History Gale Stokes, who chairs the committee, "the committee enforces the rules but grants exceptions for good cause. The rules come from the faculty, and the committee's job is to convey as clearly as possible the faculty's intentions."

However, members of the committee said that problems frequently arise because students are ignorant of Rice's academic rules, not from circumstances beyond their control.

Moreover, these guidelines will undergo changes over the next few years. Three regulations found in the current General Announcements are already different, members of the committee said. A student is now placed on academic probation if his grade-point average for the semester or his year placed on academic probation if either are below 1.67. A student is suspended from the university if he is placed on academic probation a third time or earns a GPA less than 1.00 for the semester, except if he is completing his first semester at Rice. The faculty adopted these last year, and they will appear in the 1985-86 General Announcements. For a student who matriculated under the old rules, the set of rules — past or current — which is more beneficial to him will be applied.

The third change concerns degree plan. These complex forms are now obsolete. Said Williamson "Although these forms are a good exercise in planning the courses that a student needs to take, they are impractical in the amount of needless paperwork they generate." All that is needed now is the form, "Application for a Major."

The committee also noted that information about registration, finals, designating courses Pass Fail, incompletes and others, academic probation and suspension, and readmission to the university can be found on pages 65-70 of the General Announcements.

In addition, this year the committee has released a revised copy of "Faculty Grading Guidelines." The guidelines were prepared to "reduce or eliminate some of the problems in connection with grading that have been brought to the committee." They include the following:

• The evaluation of the student's performance in a course and a decision on the grade is the responsibility of the designated instructor or instructors in the course. No student should be given an extension of time or opportunities to improve a grade that are not available to all members of the class except for verified illness or justified absence from campus. Students who have three consecutive final examinations may, however, be allowed to take one of the examinations at another time.

• Students in independent-study courses are not to be allowed an extension of time beyond the time when grades are due. Faculty are to submit grades at the end of the semester for such students based on work completed during the semester. The instructor directing the independent study bears a joint responsibility with the student for seeing that what the student undertakes is appropriate to the span of a semester and the degree credit the student is to receive.

• The basis for grading and the expectations on all written assignments or tests should be clearly explained to the class in advance. The instructor should explain clearly which assignments or homework are covered by the Honor Code and which are not. To prevent allegations of plagiarism on written assignments, students should be warned that all indirect quotations from other sources must be acknowledged.

• Instructor should be willing to give any students an explanation of his or her grade as consistent with the grading for the rest of the class.

• No instructor may change a grade after the grade sheet has been submitted to the Registrar except for a clerical error in calculating the grade. All other grade changes, including retroactive change to withdrawal or incomplete must be approved by the Committee on Examinations and Standing on the basis of a written petition from the student and information from the instructor.

• There is no University requirement that a final exam be given in a course. However, the University Council and the President have expressed their concern about final exams given during regular class time toward the end of scheduled classes.

generally in lieu of a final examination, since there is no compelling the number of such tests [that] a student may have within a period of one or two days, and

• unlimited time, take-home final examinations [that] cannot be completed in the three hours normally allowed for final examinations but encourage students to spend a day or more in completing the test in the hope of improving their grades.

Both practices defeat the intention of allowing students to divide their time between their various classes to their best advantage. This is the purpose of the reading period and self-scheduled final examinations.

• The Committee urges the faculty to preserve all examinations and written material not returned to students as well as grade records for the semester for at least one month into the following semester so that students may, if they wish, review with their instructor the basis for the grade which they have received.

• Freshman students receive mid-semester grades around the eighth week of the fall and spring semesters so that they can, if advisable, enroll in tutoring or drop a class for which they may not be prepared. Faculty members grading final examinations for their classes will be asked to submit grades of standing for these students during the seventh week of the semester and should schedule the grading of tests, quizzes, or homework assignments accordingly. These grades are not recorded on the transcript [or] calculated in the GPA, but they are important indicators for students and their faculty advisors.

If a student feels that he has a valid reason to be exempt from any academic regulation, he should submit a petition detailing why to the Committee on Examinations and Standing, in care of the Office of Undergraduate Affairs. Any additional documentation is at the committee's discretion. Since the committee hears students' petitions on Thursday, the petition should be submitted by five o'clock on Wednesday.

THRESHING IT OUT

continued from page 3

pointed out that both Chip Pratt and I have put in a lot of work taking care of Sammy. Thank you Chris. After all, can one head an organization of two people? I appeared at the SA meeting to present a report on how we spend the SA's money on Sammy and to make a case for the great expense of re-roofing her house. I went because I am in charge of public relations, such as obtaining food, keeping in touch with the vet, finding us an owl, etc. Chip has more than three years experience in actually handling Sammy, and thus he is in charge of them. Therefore, I would like the Thresher to please recognize the joint responsibility Chip and I share as co-Owkeepers.

This brings us to the Thresher's second mistake. Notice that I have referred to Sammy as "her." This is because Short for Samantha, is a female Great-Horned Owl. We have this from her vet, who did a test last year to see if she could become a foster mother for orphaned owls. Do not refer to her as a he. She definitely does not like that.

Greg Laborde
Lovett '86

Petitions and Thresher statements for the October 23 Honor Council election are due on October 9 in the SA and Thresher offices.
Mondale unable to capture political center says Brady

by Valerie Roby

As part of the Alumni Institution lecture series, Rice University President Professor of Political Science David Brady spoke about the importance of the presidential elections on October 2.

Brady, speaking to an audience of about 100 Rice alumni, focused on how the process of nominating a presidential candidate, particularly in this year's Democratic nomination, affects the campaign.

"The quality and quantity of specific groups play an important role," said Brady. "The result is that he only strategy is to try to win over soft support from the parties leaders choose candidates. This "democracy between parties" leads to a narrowing of nominating criteria: the candidate who is most likely to win is automatically nominated."

"The current nominating system in the United States, "democracy within parties" involves all party members in the choice. "This is particularly problematic because party membership is hard to define," said Brady. "Our nominating policy is inadequate to the role of special interest groups, money, and the media in the election." 

"Interest groups have something specific to gain by the election of the political party. They are important because the parties need an effective way of reaching voters. "Political parties lack less and lose more of a role."

"The political parties influence. Brady stated, comes from their organization and regulations. Rules and the structure they set up make a difference between who wins and who loses," said Brady. "Some parties have policies and process that affect the candidates ideological stands."

Brady explained the more liberal tendencies in Walter Mondale's platform as a result of the months of discussion. Brady defined the two major standards on which votes are won: leadership qualities and issues. Polis have shown that Mondale trails behind Reagan in the public's mind. "In fact, Mondale's platform is a result of his lack of understanding of national affairs. Brady feels, however, that Reagan and Mondale have fairly equal numbers of voters.

"Mondale is correct to hit on the issues because that is what Mondale is most vulnerable to," said Brady. "Reagan's weaknesses include minorities, talks with the Soviet Union, and the environment. He remains strong on the economy and the deficit."

Reagan has an additional advantage, Brady explained, because the voter support for him is more positive. In contrast, "sixty percent of the Mondale-Ferraro vote is simply an anti-Reagan vote," he said. 

The unusually low number of undecided voters will make campaigning more difficult for 20 percent of all voters are undeclared before the campaign, this year's only 15 percent of voters have chosen a candidate. This means, Brady said, that undecided voters must try to convert their opponent's voters to their side. "Reagan's secure votes is, less vulnerable to such attacks."

"As a candidate, Mondale is not a very charismatic speaker but he is also a very good debater," Brady said. "Some people say, 'don't get aggressive,' but when there are five weeks to go and you're 13 to 25 points down in the polls, you might well get aggressive."

Brady added that all those factors pointed to a probable Reagan victory, with a Democratic but more conservative House of Representatives and a Republican Senate.

Owlnet needs DTIs

(continued from page 1)

secure communication link less subject to delays.

The lack of DTIs is the major limitation for Owlnet at the moment. Two DTIs, each college is now supposed to have a hundred data lines connected to the switch, of which could be hooked up to a DII.

Rice undergraduate and graduate students wrote most of the software for the network.

Rosene's group developed the programs for the IBM 4341 (the "post office" for the mail network) and for IBM personal computers. Undergraduate Kim Taylor led the second group, which wrote software for the Apple Macintosh. Dr. Ken Kennedy, chairman of computer science, supervised the IBM group and Professor Don Johnson of electrical engineering, who is also chairman of the Apple University Consortium, oversaw the Macintosh programmers.

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Briggs wants Macs for ELEC 320

(continued from page 1)

between the two courses. Second, he said that if one computer broke down, a student could move to another and resume work. With the present system, a major failure halts all work on class projects. Third, he said that the Macintoshes could do their labs at home and thus eliminate congestion and overuse of the computers; at present, too many users and terminals can cause a system overload.

A fourth reason for switching computer work from the PDP-11 to the Macintosh is the assembler. Briggs feels that both candidates have been in control of the computer since the mid-1960s. The Macintosh assembler contains some features that are not present in the Macintosh of the future, and can be used to run parts of programs on the Macintosh itself for debugging.

No maintenance staff would be necessary for keeping the Macintosh software up-to-date. Briggs claims, because Apple would provide new information and programs as they come into use. Furthermore, the central processing unit of the Macintoshes on which programs are actually executed is identical to the one in the Macintosh. Lastly, he said that the Macintosh is "out-of-date." Briggs submitted a proposal to allocate money to buy the Macintoshes, but it was not funded; the $20,000 that was needed to buy the Macintoshes would have been used to buy computer software that would be needed with them at the end of the spring semester of 1984. The projected cost of the purchase is about $20,000.

According to Dr. Seynes Burrus, acting chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department, the Macintoshes may not be available for coursework next academic year, and software that would be needed with them at the end of the spring semester also will not be available. 

Furthermore, said Burrus, "It is not my understanding that the (PDP-11/44) computer is 'out-of-date.'" Burrus went on to say the problems being experienced were not actually caused by the computer, which is fairly new, but by the software developed at Rice to go with it.

Burrus said of Briggs' proposal to buy the new Macintoshes, however, that "in the long run it will go through."

Briggs pointed out that purchasing the Macintoshes would not be wasting the investment in Phobos. He said that although it may have costed twice as much as the 320 course, "it can still be used effectively as a time-sharing system."
Scheid’s jogging guide becomes a runaway success

by Scott Snyder

Academic Adviser to Student-Athletes Mark Scheid and Allen Lawrence, Scheid’s running partner and coach and the 1956 Australian bronze medalist in the 10,000-meter run, have recently authored a book, The Self-Coached Runner, and they will be speaking and answering questions about running and about their book this Monday at 6:45 p.m. in the Hanszen commons.

Lawrence has been running off and on for nearly thirty years, and, in addition to his Olympic bronze medal, he is the only man ever to win both the NCAA and AAU cross-country titles in the same year, 1959-60. After a thirteen-year break, Lawrence resumed running competitively in 1977, and continued to win championships, setting world records for his age group at eight, ten, fifteen, and twenty-five kilometer distances. His running career was interrupted in 1982 by cancer surgery, but within six months he had regained his old form, continuing to be competitive internationally in his age group.

Scheid began running eight years ago, and had had moderate success as a runner in races of various distance when he started to train under Lawrence in 1980. Since his training, Scheid has won medals in national age-group competition at 600 yards indoors and 5000 meters on the road.

“We sat down in June of 1983 and started putting the book together. We had planned to tie the book to AI’s Olympic background for promotional purposes, so we had to get it done in order for it to be ready by this summer,” said Scheid. “It’s selling much better than our publisher thought it would.”

The book, which has already sold out its first printing in only five weeks, discusses problems of self-coached runners, the philosophy of the runner’s workout, form, injuries, stress, burnout, and competition. It also contains suggested training schedules, which are designed to help both the runner who is just getting started and the seasoned competitor to prepare for various events from the 10-kilometer to a five-hour “survival” marathon.

“We give you guidelines in the book on how to coach yourself. When you start off, the book takes the place of a coach, and then ideally by the time you’re familiar with the concepts in the book, you can really be your own coach.”

Scheid and Lawrence, of course, are quick to contend that their book is not just another “how to” book about running. “In the ten years that I’ve been running we’ve gone from a real desert of information about running to the opposite situation,” says Scheid.

“Because of the running boom and because of the subsequent running information explosion, most runners now have the opposite problem. They have so much specialized information available to them that they don’t know how to put it in context. What we thought we could do that no other book had done was to put it all in perspective and give them a reason and a philosophy behind the workouts.”

Lawrence says, “The other main reason that we know it’s unique is that in looking at all the other ‘how to’ books, and at different seminars, we are able to relate to running on the reader’s level instead of taking a look at a runner like Alberto Salazar or Bill Rodgers and discussing the training on their level. What we were able to do is to show case histories of the so-called man and woman in the street. We can show people from different professions and different age groups what they need to know in order to accomplish their goals.”

Lawrence and Scheid are hoping that their book is a best-seller. “I’d like to say that it’s the best running book ever written, but I don’t know if that’s true or not; it’s certainly in the top two or three,” says Scheid. If it keeps on selling at the rate that it has during its first month on the market, it may very well be on the best-seller list soon, but dreams of possible success haven’t kept the pair of authors from thinking about what they’ll do next. Scheid says, “We’re thinking about doing a sequel that involves track work, a subject that draws a lot of interest in running now. Most people are burnt out in high school or college by track work, but it’s really a necessity for proper training. We’re not really sure about future plans, though.”

There are approximately 34 million Americans on some kind of running schedule during the year, and millions of these compete in various runs for charities sponsored by different institutions. These runners are the ones who are likely to gain the most help from this book. However, the book would probably appeal to any person who runs even semi-regularly.

Scheid says, “There comes a point in a jogger’s life when he finishes a workout and starts to ask himself, ‘I wonder how fast I can go around campus?’ or ‘How far can I go?’. Once you start asking that question you’re hooked.”

“If you are hooked, Mark Scheid and Al Lawrence know where you can get a good coach for under ten bucks.”

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Bostonsians fails to make transition from novel to silver screen

The Bostonsians
Directed by James Ivory

Anyone who attempts to make a film of a novel by Henry James takes on a task of almost impossible proportions. To my knowledge, there have been only two brave souls who have screwed up their courage to do just that. One was Truman Capote, director of The Innocents, which is based on The Turn of the Screw. The second, of course, is James Ivory, who directed The Bostonsians, based on the novel of the same name. Capote succeeded in capturing the sense of The Turn of the Screw on film. Ivory, though, meets with less fortune.

The plot of The Bostonsians is relatively simple. Olive Chancellor, a suffragist and a suppressed lesbian, takes Verena Tarrant, a young, rather pliable girl involved in the suffragist movement, under her wing, determined to form her into a model suffragist. Basil Ransom, Olive's distant cousin from Mississippi, with chauvinistic and chauvinistic attitudes about women, also finds himself attracted to Verena's impressionable personality. Chancellor and Ransom battle each other for Verena's affections, and no, I won't tell you who wins.

With a plot of such simplicity, it is obviously the actors that make the film. Vanessa Redgrave must be congratulated for her performance as Olive. Her first words to Verena, an invitation to her house, drip with desire to form Verena, to liberate Verena from her father, and to touch Verena. But it is Olive's moments alone that are the most moving. A facial expression, an attitude, even her handling of a stack of letters give the audience a sense of triumph that in the novel would be one of James' long interior dialogues.

The other principle actors, though, do not give the same quality in their performance. Madeline Potter, as Verena, has some superb moments. At times she captures that sense of Jamesian innocence (which always includes a hint of knowing) with a smirk, a giggle, a gesture that lets the audience know that she is wise to the game. She captures that sense of Jamesian depth. James' Ransom is a rather stoic, introspective, and intellectual man with a good deal of tenderness, protectiveness, and even vulnerability. Ivory's Ransom, though, is merely a shadow of James'. The viewer is left to guess too much about Ransom, and we develop little sympathy for him despite all of Christopher Reeve's attempts to give him life.

Still, The Bostonsians is not a complete failure as a film. Visually it is strikingly beautiful and exquisitely staged. Its music, too, is a treat. If you have never seen anyone play an organ, you should definitely see at least the opening credits. But don't go expecting to see a film with as much resonance as James' novel. The Bostonsians simply could not make that leap from the literary to the visual arts.

Carolyn Austin

Surprise, surprise: Teachers a quality film about schools

Teachers
Directed by Arthur Hiller

O (insert the deity of your choice here), not another juvenile film depicting an embattled school zone! Not another Fast Times at Ridgemont High, another Class of '84, another Good Morning, Miss America.

You would think that Hollywood would refrain from dumping on the market yet another exploitive view of the troubled American school system. The only redeeming value they have for the maker is that these low-budget bombs bring in the bucks. Maybe quality doesn't count for anything in film anymore.

But surprisingly, Teachers is different for two reasons. First, it treats the subject of modern high schools both seriously and sensitively; and second, it succeeds with this approach in making an above-average film.

Nick Nolte plays Alex Jurel, a burnt out, disillusioned teacher. A former Peace Corps volunteer, he has now, after fifteen years, acquiesced to the system and is increasingly cynical and apathetic. It is rare for him to show up on Mondays since he has taken to drinking heavily on the weekends.

Enter Lisa Hammond (JoBeth Williams), an idealistic lawyer and former student of Alex. She represents a student who graduated from J.F.K. High but never learned to read or write. She is suing for a million dollars.

Judd Hirsch (of Taxi) is Vice-Principal Roger Reuel, who is Richard Mulligan, on escaped mental patient, teaches history at J.F.K. High as a substitute teacher. He also has been assigned the task of forcing all the teachers to lie during their depositions so that the massive settlement of the problems at J.F.K. are not revealed. Disclosure would mean that an upcoming bond election would not pass and the school district would lose money.

Alex gets caught between these two, unsure of even his own feelings. He has spent so much time in the system that he has a difficult time deciding what is right not only for him, but for the school.

The director is in a precarious position in the manner in which he handles the story, for one step too far and he would encounter the realm of the banal and trite on the one hand, or the world of juvenile bathroom humor on the other. Hiller manages successfully to straddle this path and keeps the film firmly on direction. He

Carolyn Austin
Rice Players’ Working polished, hilarious, bursting with energy

Working
Directed by Neil Havens
Through October 6

The Rice Players should be extremely proud of their season-opener Working. Monday night’s performance was polished and professional due to high energy and strong singing and speaking voices.

Working was an excellent choice for a musical production, both for the Players themselves and for their audience. Working is not a typical musical with some asinine plot; this play belongs in the same genre of musicals as A Chorus Line: individuals telling their life stories in a particular context. In this case, the characters tell of their experiences in the workplace and how they feel about working. A range of jobs are presented—from steelworking to editing. Yet most of the characters would agree that their jobs are monotonous and that they spend the majority of their time handling more stimulating work.

Often there is a desire of despair in the characters’ voices; their only hope lies in the future of the next generation. It sounds depressing, but the powerful humor and energy of the characters make the musical comedy. The characters come across as real, for they remind us of ourselves; yet we laugh at the absurdities and commonness of the characters in spite of ourselves.

Although the musical is simply a series of characters describing their lives, the play has a certain amount of structure, which prevents it from becoming one of Affairs of Art. Numbers by the company form bookends to the play. The opening number, “Grunty Day,” includes energized use of all the actors; they take their places on stage and the entire cast then breaks into a song-and-dance number pantomiming their various jobs.

The monologue of the steelworker (Lee Chilton) follows the opening number and precedes the closing one. Although most of the cast members play more than one role, Mr. Chilton remains the steelworker throughout the musical, for his character appears again and again. He portrays his character with strength and dignity. The steelworker expresses a need for recognition both of his work and as a human being. The scenes are also made vivid by the use of different voices, each character portraying his or her own perspective on the world.

A scene from Working during the song-and-number, “The Devil Takes the High Road,” clearly shows the characters’ desire to escape from their mundane jobs. The opening number, “Grunty Day,” is a perfect example of this. The characters are shown doing their daily routines, but they also express their desire to escape their jobs.

The opening number, “Grunty Day,” is performed with high energy and strong singing and speaking voices. The characters portray their jobs with humor and wit, creating a lively and engaging performance.

The show is about the working class and the challenges they face. The characters are shown dealing with difficult situations, such as low pay and long hours. However, they also have moments of joy and laughter, which helps to balance the tone of the show.

Della Pittura shows Italian art from late Medieval to Baroque

Della Pittura: 300 Years of Italian Painting
Museum of Fine Arts

With all the exposure given to “imports” like the Shanghai show, one may think that the Museum of Fine Arts is nothing but empty gallery space in their absence. While the recent “Cubs” exhibition is a success, the Modern Art area is currently just white walls, scaffolding, and spotlights, art does still exist at the MFA, but one has to hunt for it. The course of its reorganization of the European Works, the Museum has unearthed a few treasures from the permanent collection and gathered them together as Della Pittura: 300 Years of Italian Painting in the Gladys Madigan Andrews Gallery.

The exhibition consists of fifteen works (five a century) representing the metaphors of Italian art from late Medieval to Baroque style.

The exhibition begins with a scholarly monograph on painting written in 1436 by Leon Battista Alberti. Like the book, the show gives evidence of the rich variation of style and artistic exchange present in the art centers of Italy over the course of three hundred years: Florence, the Tuscan commercial capital; the literary court of the Este family at Ferrara; Venetian; Papal Rome; and Spanish-Ruled Naples. Tracing the works back to the fifteenth century reveals the deep influence of Catholicism on the society. Ten of the paintings are on biblical or allegorical subjects, and two are secular portraits.

The earliest work is the luminous “Madonna and Child of the Goldfinch,” dated before 1405. Icon-like, the picture features a background of gilt brocade actually embossed onto the wood plaque. Although the poses of the two figures seem stiff and the Christ’s crushing of the bird looks rather out of character, the tempera colors glow beautifully, hating the Mother and Son in ethereal light. The artist remains unknown but the renown of this painting has tipped him the Master of the Stearns Madonna.

A small Fra Angelica, a gruesome St. Clare, and another Madonna and Child also make attempts at indicating perspective and depth, with interesting results. Either the artist captures his subjects’ figures successfully, as in Fra Angelica’s “St. Anthony,” who contents himself with escape the temptation of a gold nugget, or in the wolves of “St. Clare,” he is tempted quite convincingly, or he manages to get the message across. “Madonna and Child,” by Antonio Vivarini, has a dimensional hall with a famous garden which sits a featureless Mary. Obviously the artists try to break free from the Medieval approach, but their primitive style forces symbolism.

A refinement of technique is visible in the “Martyrdom of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba” executed by the Master of the Stearns Madonna in 1470. This tondo (round, not rectangular plaque) is brilliant, with technically superb perspective, elaborate architecture, and richly gowned figures reflecting the courtly style of the Este family.
Bad Movie of the Week: The Wild Life

The Wild Life
Directed by Art Linson

The Wild Life is not a sequel to Fast Times at Ridgemont High, but it may as well be. I never saw Fast Times. I never bothered with it. That, however, makes no difference. As Janet Maslin of The New York Times states, "the new film does much more than follow 'Fast Times' as it repeats it," and so one need not see both to know what goes on in either.

I wouldn't have bothered with The Wild Life except that I get to place one yearly vote in the Yearly Artistic Criticism. There is no reason to see this movie, unless one enjoys watching average actors perform unoriginal roles in a mundane setting. The writer of Fast Times, Cameron Crowe, also wrote The Wild Life, and he seems to be incapable of anything but rehearsing old material.

Sean Penn's little brother Christopher essentially plays the same part that Sean had in Fast Times, that of the dimwitted party animal, but this time his name is Tom Drake, and he is a wrestling champion. Remember the overused phrase, "totally awesome"? Well, that has been replaced by "it's casual," and before the end of the movie it becomes terribly old.

Anita is Tom's girlfriend, a trendy girl so much the antithesis of Tom that their match is unrealistic. Ostensibly she is "outgrowing" Tom, and for a while it appears that she will succeed in ridding herself of her unworthy companion; yet at the end she succumbs to his puerile pleading, much to one's vexation.

Then there is Bill Conrad, the stereotypical, intellectual, sweater-clad nice guy. What is bothersome about this otherwise acceptable character is that he is "almost nineteen" but is still only dreaming about "meaningful relationships." His brother Jim is almost believable, too, as an angry adolescent obsessed with the Vietnam war, but, to quote Maslin again, "he is given...a major epiphany that is conventional if not altogether false." Consequently, he ceases to be any sort of worry for the audience and instead becomes a militant nuisance.

The acting, as a whole, seems to hover at about average. I was surprised to find Rick Moranis in this film; he is still only dreaming about the norm. The only truly amusing scene, which shows Mrs. Conrad taking home movies of Bill's departure from home (to move into an apartment fourteen blocks away), apart from that, The Wild Life relies on rough slapstick, weak humor, and simply predictable drama. And the soundtrack isn't very good, either.

—John Knupp

The River Rat
Directed by Tom Rickman

Tom Rickman's The River Rat could have been a great movie, the sort of movie that your grandchildren would recognize fifty years from now and ask you if you had seen it when it was first released. Unfortunately, Rickman succeeds in taking a perfectly good idea, and, through perhaps the most inept screenplay I have ever seen, turning it into a typical, mediocre film.

The basic idea behind the film is that Billy (Tommy Lee Jones), imprisoned from the age of fifteen, has been released and must now contend with his freedom and with his thirteen-year-old daughter. Billy finds himself a part of an interesting generation gap; his daughter is perhaps more "worldly" than he is. The traditional father-daughter relationship can be considered only as a friend-friend relationship.

Rickman chooses, rather than to exploit this excellent idea, to introduce a "dramatic element" into the film, which can best be described by the word "trite." It seems that Billy bribed the corrupt prison psychologist into securing his parole with the promise of money that he had hidden down the Mississippi River. The evil psychologist naturally pops up in Memphis, which Billy and his daughter Jonny are visiting. He forces Billy and Jonny down the river at gunpoint so that he can recover the hidden money.

One of the basic problems of the film is that this dramatic plot does nothing to enhance the personal one. The father-daughter relationship, which is the potential strength of the film, is buried beneath the onerous burden of a dramatic plot that is neither well conceived nor well delivered.

There are other problems with the screenplay. Billy was sent to prison for life at the age of fifteen. By doing some rather simple arithmetic, one can find that Billy was given a life sentence in the mid-1960's, a more civilized time in this nation's history when we were not giving juveniles life sentences. Of greater importance is the complete lack of resolution of Billy's character. Did he commit the murder of which he was convicted, or, as he claims, was he merely an innocent bystander? According to a press release he is innocent; yet he lies so frequently in the film that it is impossible to believe his claim. Billy is not the only character who is treated poorly. Doc Cole (Brian Dennehy), the evil psychologist, displays characteristics of both a homicidal maniac and of a calculating criminal without ever fully being differentiated into either classification. Perhaps the worst character is Jonny (Martha Plimpton), Billy's tomboyish daughter. Rickman assigned Plimpton dialogue which is utterly nauseating, pointless, and stupid — and Plimpton delivered. Jonny is played in the same awkward, lackluster manner whether she is expressing curiosity, hatred, or love of her father.

The only good point of the film is Jonny's acting as Billy. Any oversight in Billy's character development is certainly the fault of the writer, not the actor. A good writer could have probably done something with the basic idea behind this film, but Tom Rickman is obviously not a good writer.

—L. Gene Spears, Jr.
Excellent Chorale makes up for mediocre music and plexiglass

Houston Symphony Orchestra September 30, 1984

At this particular performance of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, one could experience a wide range of musical combinations: a good performance of a mediocre piece of music, a mediocre performance of a good piece of music, and, fortunately, a good performance of a good piece of music. But before addressing more important matters, I feel that a digression is necessary. Apparently, the Engineer in Charge of Hanging Plexiglass from the Jones Hall Ceiling did not read the Thresher of three weeks ago, because the same piece of plexiglass was dangling from the roof, causing little ghosts doing exotic dances to be reflected onto the piano of the violin soloist, Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich. The orchestra’s general stage presence would be greatly enhanced if someone were to remove this silly obstruction. End of digression.

The concert opened with Beethoven’s “Overture to King Stephen.” The work, originally written to accompany a play concerning Hungary’s patron saint, is not among Beethoven’s more coherent. The opening minor chords were played in a manner that captured the general mystery surrounding the music. This led quite nicely into a vaguely Hungarian theme, well executed by the orchestra, which one might consider to be introducing a “human” element to the story. Thereafter, with a few exceptions, the music seemed to leap from crescendo to crescendo, from climax to climax, with little regard for anything else. The orchestra followed Beethoven’s music religiously, doing what would be expected in any given passage; but the work was not effective overall. The brass lines became too heavy and the music became muddled. If we were not for these problems, this would have been quite a good performance.

Bishop-Kovacevich mastered the full range of effects present in the first movement, from the cascading arpeggios that open it, to the subtle delicacy of the secondary theme. The Houston Symphony handled the piano passage with a substantial, yet never overbearing, accompaniment, capturing the beauty and sensitivity of the orchestral score without masking the subtle solo effects. Considering the fact that Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich has recorded all five of Beethoven’s piano concerti, one could easily attribute this performance to an “off night.”

Giuseppe Verdi’s Four Sacred Pieces, which were not originally conceived as a single work, are quite effective when played together, as evidenced by the second half of this concert. In fact, the Houston Symphony Chorale delivered such a wonderful performance that it makes one wonder why the HSO does not perform more choral music than it does. The first piece, an “Ave Maria,” is modeled upon the traditional Roman Catholic prayer in praise of the Virgin. By mixing the simple clarity of the voices with the subtly shifting chromatic motion, the unaccompanied chorale expressed the serenity and beauty of this, perhaps the most personal of the traditional prayers of the Church. The second piece, the “Stabat Mater,” a very long work depicting the lament of the Virgin upon the death of her son. The chorale could attach itself to this work as one to express the intense power of this work. I was particularly struck by the ending of the work, which was played beautifully: a subtle shift from the lugubrious minor to a simple major chord, indicating hope for the future. The third piece, “Laudi Alle Vergine Maria,” is another hymn of praise to the Virgin, performed with the same subtlety and sensitivity as the “Ave Maria.” The Four Sacred Pieces end, appropriately enough, with a “Te Deum,” a hymn of joy and thanksgiving. Here, the chorale and orchestra highlighted the personal nature of the music, providing an appropriate close to an excellent performance.

—E. Gene Spears, Jr.
**The Houston Grand Opera** will be presenting the premiere of Philip Glass' third opera, *Akhnaten*, on Friday, October 12, at 8 p.m. in Jones Hall. The opera, sung in Hebrew, Egyptian, Akkadian, and English, relates events in the life of the noted Egyptian Pharaoh and evangelist of monotheism. Other performances are scheduled for October 16, 17, and 19. Tickets range from $18.50 to $24.50. For more information, call 226-ARTS.

**Music**

Faculty recitals by the Shepherd School of Music include a performance by double bass player, David Malone, and an *Evening of Opera,* to be presented by various vocalists. Mr. Malone will be performing Birkenstock's *Sonata in e minor, Valentina,* by Jacob Druckman, *Stadtplan,* by Gabriel Faure, and Ramsier's *Divertimento Concertante* at 8 p.m., Saturday, October 6, in Millford House. On Sunday, October 7 at 8 p.m. in scenic Hamman Hall, Frances Bible (mezzo-soprano), Jeanette Lombard (soprano), Eugene Talley-Schmidt (tenor), and Mary Norris (piano), will perform selections from Verdi's *Rigoletto* and *Aida,* and from Ponchelli's *La Gioconda.*

**Miscellaneous**

The *Texas Renaissance Festival* will be opening this weekend in Plantersville, TX (about two hours north of here). The Festival features "Renaissancy" food, entertainment, and crafts. Admission is a deceptively low $10, but bring lots of money. "Renaissancy" food is surprisingly expensive. For more information on subjects such as how one goes about getting to Plantersville, call 356-2178.

**Opera**

Novelist John Irving will be giving a reading at 8 p.m., Friday, October 5, in the Rice Memorial Center. Perhaps his most familiar work is the novel, *The World According to Garp.*

**Film**

The Museum of Fine Arts will be presenting the best films of Oberhausen, the prestigious European festival, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 6. Included will be 7 short (8-25 minute) films from Germany, Poland, Hungary, and El Salvador. Admission is $2.

**Arts**

*Philipp Glass: The Manuscript for Akhnaten* is currently being presented by the Contemporary Arts Museum. The exhibit consists, appropriately enough, of the original score to the opera, which will be presented by the HGO on October 12. Museum hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and admission is free.

**Doll House Miniatures Exhibition**

The Museum of Fine Arts will be extending its current run of William Finn's *March of the Falterous* through October 13. For information concerning all performances at Stages, call 225-9539.

**Miscellaneous**

*La Vie Moderne: Nineteenth Century French Art from the Corcoran Gallery* will be closing at the Museum of Fine Arts on Sunday, October 7. The exhibit, which includes works by Degas, Monet, and Renoir, explores the rapidly changing French world from the Napoleonic era to the twentieth century. For more information, call 526-1361.

**The Houston Museum of Natural Sciences** will open its *Doll House Miniatures Exhibition* on Saturday, October 6. According to 1984 Doll House Chairman, Mrs. Mary Broussard, "doll house miniature collecting is the third most popular hobby in the United States." The exhibit features twenty-two complete houses and a $2 admission is charged. For more information, call 526-4273.

October 9 is Camille Saint-Saen's birthday. Bon anniversaire, Camille.

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**RICE DEGREE CANDIDATES**

On October 30th and 31st representatives will interview degree candidates **on campus** for positions in:

**MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CONSULTING**

Sign up now in the Rice Placement Office for an interview.

An introduction to our firm and its training program will be presented October 9th, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the "R" Room at the Rice Stadium, with a reception to follow. All degree candidates are invited.

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Owls anxious to get a slice of top-ranked Texas sirloin

by Mark Matteson

In facing the Texas Longhorns tomorrow, the Rice team figuratively will have jumped out of the pan and into the fire.

The Owls, who were treated quite rudely last weekend by the defending national champions, Miami, will now play this year's currently top-ranked team. Texas, as usual, has an extremely potent team and will pose as Rice's most extreme challenge this season.

Thus far, Texas has been quite impressive for a "rebuilding" team. The Longhorns, who lost 22 players to graduation last year, were hoping that the "tougher competition of [Texas] schedule would help this football team jell into a good one," according to Longhorn coach Fred Akers. It has, indeed, as the Longhorns are already 2-0 with wins against Auburn (35-27) and Penn State (35-27). The victories are even more impressive considering that both opponents were ranked in the top five in the nation in preseason polls. "We don't rebuild, we want to find the best way of increasing our running game," said coach Akers.

The Owls, who have never beaten Texas while Akers has been coach, are quite wary of the Longhorns' strength. "As I said after last week's game, I don't know what could be worse than a Hurricane, but we'll be playing it next week," coach Brown said. "We're playing the best football team in my seven years of coaching."

The Owls will be in reasonably good health for the game. Defensive end Terry Lowe (84), tackle Tony Degrate (372) and back Chris Nichols (31) are out. However, the team's starting backfield is healthy: tailback Tony Degrate, quarterback Todd Dodge (13) and left tackle Tony Degrate.

The Owls have a three-game winning streak against the Rice team and will pose as Rice's most formidable team. Thus far, Texas has been quite enterprising, beating opponents more than 400 yards total offense. In piling up the yardage, the Longhorns revealed a unique formation that included three tight ends, two fullbacks and three tackles. "I

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**FOOTBALL**

**Hurricanes’ whirlwind offense too strong for Owls**

by Scott Snyder

Neither rain, nor the Rice defensive line, nor the secondary could stop Bernie Kosar from delivering the biggest passing package in his career last Saturday night as Miami rolled up a 38-3 victory over Rice at the Orange Bowl.

Kosar rolled up 386 yards passing against the Owls, completing 25 of 37 passes and throwing for three touchdowns. The rest of the game belonged to Miami and Bernie Kosar, who, behind his solid offensive line, simply stood back in the pocket and waited for receivers to get open, then threw, and threw, and threw.

“We just couldn’t get off our blocks,” said linebacker Doug Johnson. “When a quarterback of his caliber has the game he had tonight, I don’t think there’s anybody that could stop him. If we had halfway played, it would have been a close game.”

On the offensive side of the ball, Rice had even more trouble. Although the Owls committed only two turnovers, Miami stifled the offense by changing their defense. Miami double-covered the Rice receivers, leaving only four people on the line to guard against the rush. “We’ve got to be able to run the ball when we have guys blocking against four,” said Brown. “They knew we couldn’t run it right down their throats.”

Since Miami was playing a loose, pass-oriented defense, Rice tried to get the running game going against Miami, running more rushing plays than pass plays for the first time this season. But Rice could only crank out 85 yards in 33 rushing attempts, hardly enough to come back against Miami, who led 21-3 at the half.

In the second half, Miami did an even better job of stifling the Owl offense, holding Rice to only 39 yards, including 40 yards passing. “We weren’t in awe of them, but I think we gave them too much respect,” said Kelly Connor.

Free safety Rayford Abraham said, “we should have played better, but the score could have been even worse. We’re a team that’s building for the future, the only way to win is for us to do all the little things and to play consistently. We can’t have mental breakdowns.”

“I thought our team would play like it had everything to win and nothing to lose,” Brown said. “But we didn’t. We didn’t quit, but we didn’t play to win, either. I saw a blank stare from the entire team when we took the field. It started with the quarterbacks and went throughout the team. We just weren’t ready like we were the first two games.”

Brown, however, was pleased with one aspect of the team’s play at Miami. DeWayne Burnett punted right times for a 41-yard average including one that was downed by Tommy Ilarra at the one-yard line late in the second quarter. However, Miami quickly moved out of danger of a safety on the strength of Kosar’s passing ability.

Despite last week’s loss, Brown is looking forward to this week’s game with Texas. “Texas won’t throw as much as Miami did,” said Brown. “They’ll be much more likely to take the ball right at us with their pitch and run. Texas are two different teams, but they’re two of the top teams in the nation.”

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**SPORTS NOTES**

‘34 Owls celebrate first SWC title

by Scott Snyder

The 1934 Rice Owl football team which won Rice’s first SWC football championship with a 9-1-1 record will be special guests at tomorrow’s game against Texas.

The team, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary since that championship season, will have a chance to share old memories at a special buffet held in their honor tomorrow at noon at the Tides II Motor Inn. Tomorrow night, they will be honored for their accomplishments and introduced prior to the game.

Highlights of that 1934 season, which over 20 of the original 34-man squad will commemorate, include a 20-9 win over Texas and a 25-9 smashing of the Aggies. The only blemishes on the team’s record were a 7-2 loss to TCU and a 9-9 tie with LSU while Louisiana Governor Huey Long helped lead cheers.

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by Don Tomasco Jr.

The tennis team opens its season this Saturday against Houston Baptist University at Rice at 2 p.m., and though it's early in the season, according to coach Larry Turville, Rice looks to be a strong contender in the SWC race.

This past summer could prove to be a catalyst for the Owls since many of the players used the time for tournament competition around the U.S. Sieckman and Petty played the U.S. National Claycourt Tennis Doubles Championships. Two already have strong doubles teams in reaching the finals of the men's doubles in the team Labor Day open.

Talented freshmen Scott Melville, Andrew Taylor, Doug Troy, Mark Kriscunas, and Chuck Bratka will also contribute to the team. This years recruiting for Coach Larry Terville could be one of the best ever recruiting years for Rice Tennis. Newcomer Scott Melville is ranked number two in Southern California and was a member of the National Junior Davis Cup team, while carrying a top 15 singles ranking in the U.S. in the junior division. He teamed with doubles partner Andrew Taylor to reach the finals of the junior claycourt tennis doubles championships. These two already have shown they have the talent to play collegiate doubles teams in reaching the finals of the men's doubles in the team Labor Day open.

Freshman Chuck Bratka was the winner of the Texas 5A State Singles Tennis Championships, and freshman Doug Troy and Mark Kriscunas were top-ranked players on their high school teams, completing the talent-rich group of freshmen.

With depth like this, the enthusiasm is very high among team mates. Lamar Morris feels that "...enthusiasm and competitive feelings are very strong since there's no set lineup to date; each player is hungry for positioning on the team." He feels that "with young players and experienced upperclassmen, the tough competition is creating a keyed-up atmosphere." David Petty says "with the added depth of new talent, and from strong fall workouts keeping the team strong and healthy, the team should be competitive and ready for HBU."

The players all feel crowd support could play a big factor in drawing to the season to a winner. Martin Sieckman says "the enthusiasm could be the turning point for us since it's really exciting to have schoolmates pulling for you." Petty and Morris share the same feeling about the home support. From Petty: "You want to do well for yourself, but you want to win for the school. It's more gratifying to win with support from schoolmates."

Morris wants to see more people out but also feels that "...rowdiness is very important, it really fires up the players. College tennis is a different breed from that on T.V.; you're supposed to go wild."

RUGBY

Ruggers crush chiropractors, 60-0

by D. Schafer

Last Saturday at the rugby pitch Rice romped a shell-shocked Texas Chiropractor College team to the tune of 60-0. In a lopsided game from the opening kickoff. Rice was able to run the ball at will against the poor tackling TCC backs. Fine passing and excellent support led to try after try with the total standing at 12 when the final whistle blew.

Fullback Greg Byrne and center Mike Glass had three tries each. Scrum standout Chuck Naudet led Jeff Maranacci, Mike Clark, Rob Lain, Ted Anders, Larry Wald, Steve Nations, and Mark Tucker, and were able to control the flow of the game, winning the ball in the key goal line situations to set up the scores. Back Rob Palencher was on the receiving end of one of those scores after he broke several tackles near the goal line.

Kevin Manweller got another of those scores when he was able to pounce on a loose ball in the TCC end zone. Scrum half Walter Vobach to tackle the TCC runner at the two. The loose ball was turned over.

Greg Byrne eludes the grasp of a chiropractor.

—H. Turner

Keneally got into the action with a first-half score and at intermission the score stood at 36-0. The second half was academic, with Rice able to control the play and keep the chiropractors scoreless. TCC had only one real scoring opportunity, but was rebuffed when Chip Boland teamed up with Steve Vobach to tackle the TCC runner at the two. The loose ball was turned over.

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The Rice Thresher, October 5, 1984, page 14
Women's Intramural Soccer

Jones, WRC, Lovett fight for shot at undefeated Hanszen

by Stephen McVea

Women's intramural soccer play continues as Hanszen remains the only undefeated team in the tournament.

Hanszen has not been scored on after nipping Jones, 1-0, Monday afternoon. After an early first-half shot by Wendy Brockman, the Hanszen defense worked well to keep Jones scoreless.

WOMEN'S INTRAMURAL SOCCER

A great goal by Tony Mason helped the team improve its record to 3-2-1 while playing considerably better and keeping the ball on the Rice end of the field for most of the half. With six minutes to go, the Owls managed to get an insurance goal when Tony Mason scored on a corner kick. The Owls came off of an 8-3-0 season when Rice finished second in the Southwest Conference, a result which is "going to be hard to top," although Rice "has yet to fulfill its full force," Coach Mike Henshaw optimistically noted. "Total support is needed to give the Rice ladies maximum motivation. The Rice soccer team can bring home the bacon."

The Rice Thresher, October 5, 1984, page 15
Netters prepare to average injury-laden season, shoot for title

by Ted Anders

As Southwest Conference women prepare for the upcoming tennis season opening this weekend, they should be forewarned of a group of competitive individuals who labor toward perfection in Rice’s Jake Hes Tennis Stadium.

Led by coach Paul Blankenship, the Rice women open their season in Austin at the Westwood Invitational Tournament where they hope to surpass the 1982-83 season that saw Rice break into the national rankings and to average the loss of an equally promising 1983-84 season because of key injuries.

Blankenship will have a lot to work with, having come off an exceptional recruiting season. Although one outstanding recruit per year is usually sufficient to perpetuate a winning tennis tradition, Blankenship boasts three. Freshman Lori Cronk from Seattle, Washington was ranked number three in the Pacific Northwest division of the United States Tennis Association (USTA); Maryland’s Allison Braden won the Mid-Atlantic. Junior Gigi Sacaris, a transfer from Houston Baptist University, brings a solid academic record to Rice after impressing Coach Blankenship last season while playing against Rice.

Of returning players, sophomore Wendy Wood was ranked number 33 in the nation last year and is the consensus favorite for top player, although no one has been guaranteed any position yet. Blankenship, in fact, is quick to point out that all rankings must be earned. South African Wendy Brookman reflected on the squad, marvelling at the intense, competitive atmosphere. “Any of the top six could play one through six,” she asserted. “The team looks really good.” Brookman expects the current round of challenge matches to be “the most hard-core” she has experienced. Coach Blankenship mentioned her prominently, citing recent “very good” play. Blankenship has high expectations for Brookman, who comes off a junior year during which she was redshirted.

Senior Tamara Ray is most valued for her leadership qualities. She was chosen last year as the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association Scholar Athlete of the Year and, according to her coach, “she has led us both on and off the court all year.”

When Coach Blankenship recruits players, he looks particularly for aggressiveness, a required quality in court play. Last year Rice won the SWC doubles title with Susan Rudd and Wendy Wood; this year, however, there are no guarantees of success in doubles play.

Additional talent comes in the form of spunky Eileen Curreri, a senior whom Blankenship labelled “one of the all-time scrappy girls in terms of mental toughness and particularly in terms of dealing with losses and in general playing with a lot of character.” Blankenship calls her “amazing” and states that she has never seen anyone, male or female, so mentally tough as she is.

Rice’s toughest opposition will come from Austin, where UT star Beverly Bowens ranks among the top in the country. TCY, Houston, and Texas A&M also will contend; SMU, a strong opponent in the past, has lost several players since last season, some to the professional ranks. Rice will be as qualified as anyone to challenge Texas for the SWC title.

It is hot, and the afternoon sun imposes a blinding radiance on the courts. The incessant popping ball-on-racket strings accompanies the voice of Paul Blankenship several hours per day as he instructs, coaches, and critiques his students and athletes; even when dragged off-court for an interview, his eyes dart horizontally for precious glimpses of his players. The man lives tennis; he is driven and states that he expects the best from his players. If those players deliver their best, an SWC title may be their reward.

Endurance runners take third, Guy wins

by Kevin M. Gass

On an ideal day for cross country, the Owls hosted the Rice Invitational meet along the Buffalo Bayou. The running Owls were coming from a disappointing second-place finish in Cambridge, Massachusetts and appeared ready for the big day.

Yet, several factors, some lingering and some new, prevented the Owls from placing higher than third against Lamar and Louisiana State. Lamar scored thirty four points and placed three runners in the top four. LSU, whose team scored thirty points, who boasted four runners in the top ten. Rice, who racked up 71 points, was not under the weather. He, more than some of the others on our team, seems to have caught the bug that's been going around campus. I wouldn't consider our finish anything to be concerned about at all.”

Of some consolation to Rice was that the Owls barely beat the Owls in the lead in the race for the SWC title may be their reward.

First place finisher Gawain Guy was excited by his performance and looked to the future: “Until recently I had doubts about myself as a cross-country runner. I felt much more like a member of the track team who ran cross country than a member of the cross-country team. But after setting myself run well, I know I can do this as well.”

Guy next meet is two weeks away, on October 19 at the University of Texas, and the team feels that it will be ready to race in Austin. “There is absolutely no reason why we shouldn’t win,” says Gawain Guy. “If everyone runs as they are supposed to run, we will win. It’s time for us to start talking about winning and start winning.”

Ruggers win

continued from page 14

picked up and kicked out of bounds to save the shutout.

This Saturday at 2:00 at the turf pitch north of the gym, the Rice rugby club hosts a strong team from Corpus Christi. Last year the Owl ruggers barely beat Corpus by a score of 13-10. A win in this cup match would send the Rice cup record to 3-0 and put them in the lead in the race for the division championship.

Like this Typeface? Work with us, and put it to good use!

The Thresher needs large numbers of human beings for a wide variety of tasks. Featured among these: Assistant Editors in News and Sports! Photographers, and Theatre Reviewers!

Any and all upperclassmen who are willing to undertake these challenging positions should drop by Sunday October 7 at 8:30 pm, to talk with the Editorial staff. (Willing and capable Freshmen are certainly not excluded.)
## Intramural Touch Football

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## Saturday League

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flax Stix</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Revolution</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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## Sunday League

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>W</th>
<th>L</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We Won The Frip</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyler's Tallboys</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squids</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Baker sewing machines may be checked out from Mike Murphy (the head waiter) must give them your name, your phone number and your spring semester plans. Congratulations to the newly formed football team. There will be a $1 Dinner Cookout this Saturday at the UT football game. Beer and hamburgers will be served at 5:00 p.m.

Before the fun begins Saturday, the stage must be built. All you handy-persons pick up a hammer and come join the fun in the Commons. Speaking and singing parts are available. Bring prepared music for the singing parts.

JOHNS

Lynn Weakes

There will be a $1 Dinner Cookout this Saturday at the UT football game. Beer and hamburgers will be served at 5:00 p.m.

Before the fun begins Saturday, the stage must be built. All you handy-persons pick up a hammer and come join the fun in the Commons. Speaking and singing parts are available. Bring prepared music for the singing parts.

BROWN

Linda Haugan

Attention all Brown women: there will be a pizza party in the commons on Sunday, October 7, at 6:30 p.m. The price is only $7.75 for all the pizza you can eat. Off-campus women are encouraged to join, too. Monday night, Dr. Zeff will speak after dinner about graduate schools of business. Everyone is welcome. Be sure to check the sports bulletin board by the elevators for up-to-date information about practices and games. We want everyone out to cheer Brown on to victory in all sports.

HANSEN

Ronnie Segal

Auditions for the Hansen musical production of Side by Side by Sondheim will be on October 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. in the Hansen Commons. Speaking and singing parts are available; bring prepared music for the singing parts.

IN THE COLLEGES

Off-campus people should get their meal subsidy cards from Heather Miller (room 224) or Marcine Gibson (room 200). You must give them your name, your phone number and your spring semester plans. Congratulations to the freshman football team. The Naughty Monkeys, who completed a fine season last Saturday, finally, remember that College Night is just two weeks away.

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Angie Gatica

Service Representative

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Wheelie Station • St. Louis, MO 63108

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☑ A Guide To Switchboards

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
ZIP:

A Texas providing telecommunications for a growing state.

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by the people, for the people who misclass

Perhaps—and almost certainly—what the Better Body Bureau of Brominton Court meant to imply by "males who like you are jerks" is that males in Brominton are jerks.

Watch it, chicky. A Brompton alum edits these crappy submissions. Besides, Mary Ann would be furious if she knew about all this adverse publicity.

—br, type

"New York is the Mecca of cheesecake."—Dr. Treosett, Misc 381, 9:30, 1:36 p.m.

How fun. He's a cheesecake connoisseur, too, not just a film ennui-and-a sexist pig.

I meet some people during Freshman Week who didn't drink. And what's more, some of them still don't.

A behind-the-grating arch's very best pick-up line: "You have a car and I need a ride. I'll treat you to the Domino's man!"

Pick-up line: "You have a car and I need a ride. I'll treat you to the Domino's man!"

Overheard at Baker: "I will tell my body to the Domino's man!"

You know, guys. more and more I get the feeling that Baker is a very strange college. I've seen some of these late-night homework sessions, even participated in a few of them. And I'm pretty convinced you have the highest concentration of lunatics outside of the Computer Science Department. At these esophageal outpourings coming from your mouth, I would say that even remotely resembles a Chinese checkeredboard from overseas.

The Biggest Megalo-Pervert Award goes to none other than that sinner of sleep, Joyce Bethel. Joyce, patronizing the nerve to create a list of people who haven't gone to bed yet, is in the back row so you can sleep. Dear, expensive computer has not slept once this year. Keep up the good work, Joyce. That computer was worth every penny.

Meike Studemann

A little known event of the late 15th century: "Four years later the Swiss defeated the troops of Maximilian and the Swabian League, ..."—from Laeter Medieval Europe from St. Louis to Luther by Daniel Wale, p. 90.

You know...you're starting to hurt.

9:55 p.m. Sun. RMC office

Anne, you'll need some more training if you want to do the Indy 500. Really. You don't want to bite off more than you can chew, do you? Gentlemen, start your engines.

To the Haennze highschoolers who sit in the cheap seats in Misc 376. Why don't you go up and go to college—stop passing notes to one another, or the principal may spank you.

The shamen tell us that there exists a thing that created the universe. The shamen tell us that the creation demands the adoration of all the intelligent life in the universe. The shamen may be trying to tell us the most ridiculous idea ever conceived of by men.

October 27, 3:30 p.m., College Station: 60,000 Aggies cheer as the announcer proclaims a "MOB salute to the Corps of Cadets." As the first twangy chords of an unauthored arrangement by Culture Club split the night air, the MOB proudly forms the word "Corps!", across the griddor. Then, as the lyrics begin, the exclamation point shifts subtly into an "e." Pre-dawn napism is followed by cadet tuskies winding combing the steam tunnels for survivors.

Will the two lovers in Comp 423 please quit? Be silly, make love, and have arguments somewhere else. The least you could do is sit in the back row so you won't disgust the rest of the class.

There's nothing worse than walking around with an unsightly personality, especially if it's your own.

Dear Son,

"Life is fucked," everyone says. And boy...it's true. Children have adult dreads its existence. I'm sure you will never have to be a survivor.

Diary

P.S. Worm fodder. Hugs—Dad

It's complete!

Nutritious and appetizing, a full meal you don't have to take time out to enjoy...because Domino's Pizza won't keep you waiting!

Just give us a call. Within 30 minutes a high protein dinner will be delivered to your door at no additional charge. So kick off a really great evening at home...call Domino's Pizza...we're #1 for rushing!

Fast, Free Delivery

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Double Cheese!

Free Thick Crust!

Get double cheese on any large pizza!

One coupon per pizza

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Win or Lose

Domino's is Great After the Game!

Follow us on social media for special deals & coupons:

Get double cheese on any large pizza!

One coupon per pizza

Free Pepsi!

Get free Pepsi with any 16" pizza!

One coupon per pizza

Dinner Special!

Only $9.95

Get a 16" pizza and 2 drinks and 2 sides! One coupon per pizza

For 16" pizza only

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**Genetically predisposed miscalls**

This is a miscall about miscall. A madamucan. A delightful anything but to know the best that is known and thought in the world, to make the impossible possible. God knows we have less of it than we think. If one wishes to say, "Turk you, you snooted pin-head," one must be slightly guarded. If one wishes to print the same thing, one must seek a relatively free forum, a true rarity in their polite, self-censored days. Miscalls in about as close as we get at Rice. If you want to pull that pin, the side of the Goodyear blimp, you're welcome.

I wish we had a truly free forum on campus. It's better to have walls, but it's not true free. I guess, being a madamucan. A place where personal attacks and the "merely checked" would be welcome. Of course, 99% of what would be printed would be utterly crap. But it's true anywhere. Look at The University Blue. This isn't at all free, but it allows persons with ideas, even degraded, to print and to have them printed publicly and view them with a more objective eye.

Meanwhile, as Batman and Aquaman are subjecting Robin toinski Margaritas.

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**Intrauterine n&n**

Free guppies! All ages and sizes, male and female. Already housebroken and happy to come. Call Linda at 630-8608 or come by Lovett 302 and pick up a new friend.

**SA affiliate organizations** (clubs must submit a list of officers, data, and facility for the Minority Students), and 41 United States State of Intern Programs.

**Challenge found in Mech Lab on 9/26. Call Linda (630-820) to claim.**

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**Bank accounts are currently open, but statements have not been picked up in many months for the following organizations:**

American Society of Civil Engineers

Christian Science Organization at Rice Club Incorporation

Elzleith Hubbard Library Society

Phi Lambda Upsilon

Rhone Poulenc Dance Society

Rice Association of Gifted Students

Rice Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Rice Libertarian Association

Rice Student Board

Rice Student Athlete Baseball League

If you are an officer for one of these groups, come by the Office of Student Activities, RMC, and pick up your account information. If no claim is made by October 15, the Director of Office of Student Activities will close out the accounts and deposit any remaining funds in the SA account.

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**Help wanted: Need non-smoker for computer data input. Typing skills helpful, but accuracy is important. Work Schedule flexible. You should be able to earn more than $10 per hour. Call Ellen at 661-6850.**

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**Campus Store Board: any students interested in serving on the board please apply in the office by Jan 5, 1985.**

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**Rentals, talks, seminars**


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**Lectures, talks, seminars**

**Genetics and Predisposition to Miscalls**

You noisy people who gibble, clatter, and socialize up and down the stairs and halls of the rice, the people in the smokers' lounge are STUDYING! The intellectual maneuvering of the non-smoking-powers-that-be around campus, this is the place where we may indulge our private world and think about getting to know these people, please have pity on those of us who must attend to our nicotine addictions while hitting the books for long hours and 24 UP.

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**There's nothing more you can leave behind**

1. What do you see—get it into your mind
2. This looks better when the world is black (repeat chorus)
3. So grab a fork and make a first attack.
4. Cheese ball, smoke, smoke
5. Poke, poke. Poke your eyes out.
6. Eyes out, eyes out.
7. Yay in your hand and poke your eyes out.
8. I can't see too well, what's it all about?
9. Contact Mr. Trinch 871-9066.
10. Share condo near Rice—non-smoking female preferred, furnished, w/d, dishwasher, microwave, cable, covered, parking, security, pool, $225 and share utilities. Call 791-1702.
12. The Rice Gay/Lesbian Support Group will meet Sunday, Oct. 7, at 7 p.m. at David's. We'll discuss a videotape concerning parents of gays. For locations and info, call the Gay Switchboard, 529-3211.
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