Admissions Office seeks minorities

by David Schnur

Members of minority groups at Rice are hoping to air complaints about the university's policy on minority issues at a meeting of the admissions committee today. The meeting, scheduled for 4 p.m. in the physics amphitheater, will be the first time the committee has specifically discussed making Rice more attractive to minorities.

As of last fall, blacks comprised four percent of the total student body, an increase from 2.8 percent in 1980. Another 2.9 percent of Rice students were Hispanic, down from 3.1 percent in 1980. Oriental students made up 4.5 percent of the Rice population, a large increase from 1.2 percent four years earlier. Despite the increase in the number of minority students at Rice, many minority students now feel that the university is not a good place to work.

According to Jones senior Jana Sanchez, co-president of the Hispanic Association for Cultural Education at Rice (HACER), the admissions committee has not been effective in recruiting minority students. 

Athlete test scores continue rise

Cheryl Smith

The academic credentials of incoming freshmen athletes continue to be higher than those of previous years, according to Advisor to Student Athletics Mark Scheid.

The academic credentials of student athletes became a major issue at Rice in 1983 when the Board of Governors announced it would spend more money on the university's football program. During that same year, faculty members criticized the university for having a dual admissions process, one which did not force athletes to meet the same requirements as other incoming freshmen.

Test scores and other measures of academic ability for athletes have improved since that time, however, due to better recruiting. Scheid said.

Scheid said the incoming student athletes for this year post an average SAT score of 1200 and that should be slightly higher than the 1038 average of last year, Scheid said.

This class was comparable to that of last year in class rankings as well. Three of Rice's incoming athletes this year were the valedictorians of their high school graduating class, the same number as last year.

There were big improvements in the average freshman SAT scores of volleyball and basketball players, he said.

All the other sports, including football, maintained scores for incoming students of over 1000 Scheid added.

Scheid cautioned that an SAT score is not a good indicator of success at Rice. Scheid said the correlation between SAT scores and grade-point-average at Rice to be only about .25.

However, the SAT score is one indicator which the administration looks at closely. It comprises one of the measures used in new recruiting standards for athletes established this year by Provost William Gordon. Dean of Admissions and Records Richard Stabell, and Head Football Coach Watson Brown.

Very few athletes are admitted as "exceptions" to the strict new standards, Scheid said.

Most sports are only allowed one exception per year, whereas some of the smaller sports are only allowed one exception every three years, he added.

Football, because of the number of recruits, was originally allowed a maximum number of five exceptions.

However, Brown voluntarily reduced the number to three for this year.

Correction

Due to an error in the computer printout of course ratings used by the Thresher in last week's article, Robert Kauffman was listed among the lower-rated teachers on the one to five scale. In fact, his course, Span 202, was rated a 1.5. Scores are determined by averaging the teacher effectiveness and course quality scores.

The Thresher regrets the error. (See Thresher it out on page 2 for more information.)
Evaluating the evaluations

An article we ran last week reporting the results from last semester's student evaluations of teachers and classes has been the subject of much controversy among professors. The controversy is primarily a result of perceived inaccuracies in the Thresher's reporting of these results, but underlying these complaints are three more basic questions: What is the purpose of the student evaluation system? What is the purpose of the student evaluations? Are they accurate indicators of a professor's performance?

First, we at the Thresher were absolutely within our rights to publish survey results since they are public information, located in the college and in the library's reserve room, and open to any member of the student community. Our reporting of these results is, in fact, a public service; they are certainly appropriate subject matter for our newspaper.

Professor Haskell argues in his letter that we should have published information only on teachers who fared well on student evaluations. But I believe that publishing information that may seem critical of Rice can be constructive and will eventually help make the university better. For instance, the availability of a large body of qualitative opinion, not on a list of students or courses. One of the duties of this newspaper is to act as a mirror for Rice and to be willing to publish Rice's deficiencies as well as its merits, and our ability to publish results of student evaluations is crucial to fulfilling that aim.

This is not to say that I defend the way that we presented the information. Several professors have complained that we tagged the survey results with value judgments such as "best," "worst," and "popular," when in fact no fair measure of these categories exists. Obviously we were wrong to make value judgments based on the statistical data available. We regret our error, but I stand by our decision to publish statistical results of the student surveys.

A second question that the article raises is that of the purpose of student evaluations. Practically, the evaluations serve at least four purposes. The evaluations give students the opportunity to express their opinions about how courses are structured and conducted; they give faculty members the benefit of constructive criticism in their courses; they provide data which is useful to the administration and the University Council in making promotion and tenure decisions; and they give students helpful information about the value of courses and professors.

But the crucial question that the article raises is the ability of the evaluations to serve as a gauge of a professor's performance. Certainly, the use of quantitative data only is inadequate in determining a professor's performance, but use of both qualitative and quantitative data in the survey process eliminates this problem. Both the qualitative and the quantitative parts of the survey are used by committees that help determine faculty promotions and tenure. Unfortunately, only the quantitative data are made available for student use. This limits the student's ability to make informed decisions, part of the purpose of the evaluations.

Making both parts of the evaluation available to students would help to remedy this problem. Professor Haskell mentioned the idea of having computer printouts produce course reviews. But editors of these reviews depend on the availability of a large body of qualitative opinion, not on a list of statistics.

Iron Shrapnel Man

by Robert Boyd

The Rice Thresher, September 6, 1985, page 2

Haskell condemns 'worst profs' listing

To the Editor:

Last week you published under the headline "worst profs" a list of faculty members who had the misfortune to rank lowest on the spring course evaluations. As the chairman in 1984-85 of the Committee on Undergraduate Teaching, which sponsors the evaluation system, I must protest your decision. The data produced by the evaluation system were never meant to be used in such a harsh and invidious manner.

Publicizing information of this sort does not serve a valid purpose; any more than it would for the student surveys.

But the crucial question that the article raises is the ability of the system to accurately identify among the many teachers who are good, the worst five or the top ten teachers (to make it possible to distinguish between the bottom ten who perform poorly and the top ten who perform consistently well). Most professors, those who are committed to teaching, would find such a system quite unacceptable and would rather that the survey results not be published at all. Those who compile lists of the "worst" or the "top" ten teachers (to make such a list of the bottom ten) are taking the numbers too literally and using them to judge both their own performance and the performance of a group of teachers.

Given mistakes in the reporting and interpretation of the 1985 Spring course evaluations, I believe that no confidence should be placed in them, at least the ones for our department, until all mistakes are corrected. In the meantime, I hope the Thresher will correct those specific mistakes concerning the above mentioned members of this department.

Professor Thomas L. Haskell
Department of History

Results of spring evaluations wrong

To the Editor:

Your August 30 article naming "Best/Worst Profs" was based on the Spring 1985 student evaluations. Those evaluations reported in computer printouts available in Fondren Library and in the colleges are extremely misleading as far as our student community is concerned. The printouts report scores for seven non-existent courses, omit evaluations for a number of existing courses, and give erroneous scores for one course. Dr. Helen Conner's Latin 312 received a perfect score of "1.0" but was inexplicably not included in the Thresher list of courses receiving perfect scores. Dr. Robert Kaufmann's Spanish 202 was wrongly included in the "worst course" list, because his evaluation scores were incorrectly reported on the computer printout. The Thresher reporter failed to notice that while only 10 students were enrolled in Dr. Kaufmann's course, 38 students allegedly responded to the evaluation.

Given these mistakes in the reporting and interpretation of the 1985 Spring course evaluations, I believe that no confidence should be placed in them, at least the ones for our department, until all mistakes are corrected. In the meantime, I hope the Thresher will correct those specific mistakes concerning the above mentioned members of this department.

Maria Teresa Leal
Chairman, Department of Spanish, Portuguese, and Classics
Jackson talks to Ivy brass about SA

The Reverend Jesse L. Jackson met with seven of the eight Ivy League College Presidents in mid-June to ask their support for legislation imposing economic sanctions on the South African government.

The Reverend Jackson reported that the officials agreed to join Harvard's President Bok in public demand for increased support for legislation which would economically punish the South African system of apartheid.

Officials told the Crimson that Jackson and the majority of the presidents agreed that reform programs such as the Sullivan Principles are insufficient, that selective divestment of stock in South African companies deemed ethically delinquent is necessary; that, if conditions for blacks in South Africa do not improve, complete divestment should be ruled out; and that more black students, both American and South African, should be enrolled in prominent U.S. universities.

Jackson aides were positive about the magnitude of the response to his appeal. The Reverend Frank F. Watkins, "There certainly was some interest among the presidents who were not questioning. They seemed sincere."

"There were certainly disagreements," Watkins continued. "The presidents didn't want to divert, but everyone felt with a good taste. One can't expect much more."

A spokesman for the Ivy League President's Council, however, told the Crimson that such meetings produce bind committees and not a major action, and that Jackson and the presidents did no more than discuss alternatives to the university's current investment policies.

SA investments cloud comp deal

The extensive South African investments of a firm bidding to supply the University of Texas system's planned "super-computer" could "involve the UT System in another light with student organizations," according to UT's Daily Texan.

E.T.A. Systems, a subsidiary of Control Data Corporation, is one of five companies expressing an interest in supplying a machine capable of six million computations per second. UT officials formally met company representatives Aug. 23.

A memo sent to potential suppliers listed factors relevant to UT's decision: the computer's record in research computing; its performance using current UT software; the company's own research programs; the company's capability to service the computer; and whether the computer is "state-of-the-art." The memo did not list the company's investment policy. When asked whether the UT System had discussed ETA's South African investments with the company, Keith Knapp, a company official, told the Texan, "No one has mentioned anything about it."

But Barron Wallace, vice president of UT's Black Student Alliance, told the Texan that the committee's selection criteria might include issues that are important to student organizations advocating that the university avoid companies that do business in South Africa.

"We feel it should be a high priority in the selection process to distinguish between companies that invest in South Africa and those that don't," Wallace said.

SA students prime targets for police

Black students in South Africa's secondary schools and universities have been prime targets of police action since the country's P. W. Botha era. Two UT's students, "homelands" presidents proclaimed a state of emergency on July 21, reports the Chronicle of Higher Education.

According to the Detainees' Parents Support Committee, an organization monitoring detentions, students are a clearly identifiable target group of the government crackdown.

Secondary school students belonging to the Congress of South African Students and local "youth congresses" have led the protests against apartheid, and are credited with starting the widespread unrest of a year ago. Detentions of secondary school students far outnumber those of their university counterparts, primarily because few South African blacks attend universities.

Most blacks who pursue higher education attend "homelands" universities, institutions in the territories designated as separate countries for South Africa's blacks under apartheid. Over the past year some of these universities have hosted anti-apartheid activities, mostly class boycotts. At the University of Western Cape, an institution for those of mixed race, students have defied the request from the university's principal that they return to classes. The boycott is allegedly enforced by a small group of activists who patrol the campus, protecting their identities by covering their faces with hankerchiefs. In late July, police fired tear gas at protesting Western Cape students.

Students at another "home-land" institution, the University of Transkei, ended their boycott with a warning: "If students to lose credit for the entire academic year."

Since the state of emergency, however, homelands universities have been relatively calm, with a spokesman from the University of Fort Hare in the Sake homeland calling the campus situation "astonishingly normal." Another active leader told the Chronicle of Higher Education, "Most student activists are either in detention or in hiding. Our communication has broken down."

A&M frat fined $50 for eating bacon

According to the Texas A&M Battalion, A&M students belonging to the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity were fined $50 for feeding a neighbor's pig.

The Battalion reports that fraternity members killed a pig caught around the Sigma Phi Epsilon House and hung its remains from a tree. James Saxon, the fraternity comptroller, said the members responsible didn't intend to harm anyone.

"The pigs have been wandering around for days," Saxon said. "We didn't know who the owner was. Then, one day, someone said, 'Why not eat it?' So they killed it and hanged it up to skin it. We didn't eat the whole thing because they didn't clean the whole thing."

The animal's owner, Albert Warren, lodged a complaint with the Office of Residence Hall, a Texas A&M professor of veterinary microbiology and parasitology and occupant of a house immediately beside the one where the pigs were killed. Saxon and Warren have both been charged with the incident, and the animal's owner has demanded that the fraternity members be punished.
Teacher number ratings misleading

To the editor:

I was chairman of the committee that decided on the current format for the student evaluations of teaching, and that formulated guidelines for the use of those evaluations. As such, I would like to make several comments on the article in the Thresher of August 30th, about the evaluations from the spring semester.

I applaud the Thresher for giving public recognition to high quality teaching. However, I question whether the use of the numerical scores from the student evaluations is the best way to do it. Usually, the numerical scores show a strong correlation with the quality of teaching. However, they can sometimes be influenced by factors not related to the quality of teaching, such as the entertainment value of the lectures or the stringency of grading, or by factors over which the instructor has no control, such as the size of the class, whether the course is taken by changing or necessity, etc. Moreover, the numbers are not accurate enough, statistically, to permit meaningful distinctions between numbers such as 1.7 and 1.74.

Usually, the handwritten comments on the evaluations show clearly the reasons for the numerical scores and thus provide a much sounder basis for judgment. In recognition of this, the faculty has established the policy that, "whenever the total number of students completing the evaluations of their teachers is 10 or larger, the faculty is allowed to post the written comments on their office doors in addition to the numerical scores." The handwritten comments do not make the distinctions that are very clear from the handwritten comments. Choosing the "best" on the basis of the numbers will always be arbitrary and will sometimes be wrong.

I am particularly concerned about publicizing those individuals with the worst scores. Those scores, in themselves, do not provide sufficient documentation to justify the public labeling of specific individuals as the "worst professors." In fact, the numbers alone are not sufficiently to challenge the conclusion that those are "Rice's ten least popular professors." The majority of those ten professors had other courses, in that same semester, in which their numbers were much better. In some cases, the courses with the better scores were those with larger numbers of students. I'm sure that the omission of these contrary data was not deliberate on your part, but it does indicate the hazard of drawing conclusions on the basis of superficial data.

The student evaluations are very important to the university. They provide information that is used in deciding on faculty promotions and salary increases and thus may be possible to reward individuals for being particularly good teachers. However, if the information from the evaluations is used without careful scrutiny, the reputation of the whole system will suffer, and the weight given to student evaluations will be diminished.

You are to be commended for giving recognition to excellent teachers. I encourage you to continue this, but with more extensive research.

Charles Stewart
Professor of Biology

CPR seminar may help to save lives

To the editor:

As a volunteer instructor with the American Red Cross, I wish to take it upon myself to inform the Rice community of a special upcoming event.

On October 6, 1985, the recently formed CPR Task Force (supported by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, Baylor College of Medicine, City of Houston, and the UT Health Science Center) will be holding a mass CPR training session at the Astrodome. The goal for that Sunday is to train a minimum of 3,000 Houstonians in the basics of cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Cardiopulmonary disease is one of the leading causes of death in the United States, killing over a million people in this country every year. If you were to suffer a major heart attack in the city of Houston, your chances of survival would be just five percent — disgustingly low, considering the current state of medical facilities. Since brain death can begin as soon as four minutes after heart failure, immediate treatment is paramount.

Adequate training in CPR could increase your chances enormously, however. In Seattle, where mass CPR training sessions have been held in past years, volunteers who were trained for heart attack victims jumped from 20 percent to 87 percent. The same thing could be done here in Houston.

Don't think that just because you've seen CPR done in reality or on TV, you too can do it. CPR is a skill that involves someone's life, and it's important that you know how to do it correctly. Wrong CPR procedures not only do not help the victim: incorrect procedures can injure, even kill a person (we're talking here about chest compressions, not mouth-to-mouth, and no heart action). And it won't even mention the fact that the deadline for court action against an untrained rescuer.

So, it's important for people to be trained in CPR, and on October 6 many people will have the opportunity to learn it. The training is free; all it costs is about three hours of time. I urge everyone in the Rice community to consider investing a little bit of time in the lives of others. This free training (even Astrodome parking is free). To enroll in the session, call 523-4CPR. Enroll, and maybe you'll save a life.

David W. Ball
CPR Instructor
American Red Cross
Grad Student,
Department of Chemistry

Deadline for free add/drop today

Today is the deadline for adding and dropping courses without paying a fee. The cost for adding or dropping a course after 5 p.m. today is $10 per add/drop form. The deadline for adding courses to your schedule and for designating pass/fail is two weeks from today, September 19, at 5 p.m.

REPAIRING THE HEDGES/By AL DERBES

A Building and Grounds Representative meets most headaches of his college at the beginning of each year. Unfortunately, they often skip introduce because their air conditioner floods the room when turned on, or because their toilet does not work, or because some other urgent problem needs repair.

By Berke Breathed

The Rice Thresher, September 6, 1985, page 4
More aggressive recruiting tactics needed

continued from page 1

Spanish-surnamed students are groups to gather information on minority concerns. Director of Admissions Ron Moss feels that things are changing for minority recruiting. He said, “We don’t have a new plan in place, but we’re finally at the legitimate branch of the stage. In the past it was just swept under the carpet.”

The Office of Admissions has been distributing a survey to members of minority student groups to gather information on minority concerns.

Apathy defeats RSIO

The Rice Student Interest Organization, formerly known as TexPIRG, appears to be fading from the Rice student organization scene. The RSIO has until the sixth week of classes to submit a list of officers. But so far no one has expressed an interest in the organization’s continuation. “I was just sitting to see if they were going to reorganize this fall,” Director of Student Activities Patricia Martin said.

TexPIRG was established in the early seventies primarily as a consumer interest group. The original organization disbanded after the Rice Young Republicans threatened to sue the group for allegedly using student blanked tax funds to promote partisan causes.

The Student Association Senate reorganized TexPIRG into what it hoped would be a “non-partisan” student interest group, RSIO.

Recently, consumer issues have been handled by other organizations, and the RSIO has evolved into an organization with only limited student support, Martin said.

While it is estimated that the RSIO still has approximately $3000 in its treasury, the Student

Also, to aid in recruitment, Assistant Director of Admissions Catherine Clark has prepared a list of inner-city schools that produce well-qualified graduates. Financial incentives have made many minority students choose schools other than Rice, Moss said. “Past policy has been that there was not going to be any special minority scholarships,” he said.

Because many colleges now offer such financial aid, Rice is also considering setting up minority scholarship funds, Moss said.

Chisolm and Sanchez feel that changes must also be made outside admissions. Only one Mexican-American and two blacks are members of the Rice faculty, they note. There are no minorities in the university administration.

“Black students are attracted to schools where blacks are in some places of authority,” Chisolm said. Nor does Rice have many courses in minority issues, Sanchez said. “There is an Afro-American literature course and it has high enrollment,” she said. “So why don’t they have courses in black American history, on the black family? It’s obvious that the Hispanic influence in the Southwest is significant, but it’s easy to forget that, since Rice doesn’t offer any courses in the culture.”

There are few places to which the minority student can turn for help. According to Clark, “In terms of support systems, they have none. They have each other, and that’s it.”

Chisolm said, “Many schools have a part-time, if not a full-time, minority advisor. The Black Student Union has to serve as a support group because for all intents and purposes there is none.”

Most people are hopeful that change is near. Moss noted that in a speech, President Rupp alluded to diversity “within the whole Rice community.”

“The admissions office could wipe out before we are blue in the face but only now are we getting the support of the university,” Clark said.

“The only problem,” said Sanchez, “has been the administration, and I think they’re changing. I have faith in the people at Rice.”
Financial concerns override political considerations

continued from page 1

one has been found the organization's account will be moved. However, he said the move is no longer a high priority of theirs.

"We're gearing up for the new school year and planning our activities," explained Baker. April's controversy, he said, "made Texas Commerce Medical Bank consider who their clientele actually is. I think it has already served its purpose in that Texas Commerce Bank realizes it made a mistake."

Baker also indicated that, while the Gay Lesbian Support Group endorses "the ideas behind" David Phillips' action, it was done without the organization's knowledge.

An official protest by the RG LSG would have been "more conservative" than that voiced by Phillips, Baker said.

"In a way it was an attention getter. We're not as adamant about following up on it as he (Phillips) was," he said.

Most student leaders have said they do not intend to withdraw the accounts of their organizations from the bank.

Some of them maintain that it would be unwise for them to take political considerations into account when they make financial decisions for their groups.

"I don't think we should move on political grounds but on the basis of the services that the bank can provide students," said Student Association External Vice-President Terry Hildebrandt.

"At this point Texas Commerce Bank has served the students quite well."

Thresher Business Manager Crystal Davis agreed. "We're considering moving it (the Thresher business account), but not because of political reasons. I think it's more important that we get the bank with the best service."

Student Association Internal Vice-President Cati Moses did not think placing financial considerations above political ones reflected badly on the student body in this case.

"I don't think it should [be a consideration] since the political views of the bank are not necessarily the views of the people who have accounts there," she said.

Other student leaders said they have not considered the issue important enough to seriously ponder. "I don't have time to think about it right now," said Campus Editor Susan Buchanan. "Plus, I have a business manager who is still green, and she needs to get used to the job before we think about moving the money."

Door locks installed

by Paul Havlak

New locks on entrances to the old wings of Baker, Hanszen and Will Rice will improve security in these colleges, said Food and Housing Director Marion Hicks.

"It is in the best interest of residents of both the new and old wings of each college can open these doors using their room keys," Hicks said. However, persons without room keys for that college will be unable to enter on their own.

Stebbings said a number of related events led him to recommend the locks. "I received a letter [from a student's parents] about the time I was examining some documents pertaining to the university's responsibilities. "Soon after that there were some incidents involving intruders in one of the old wings, he said.

"The university has a responsibility to provide the capability for the colleges to prevent unwanted intruders from entering."

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Athletes

continued from page 1

this year.

Effective September 1, 1985, no sport will be allowed exceptions to admissions standards.

Scheid said all athletes whose academic records are considered "marginal" are also submitted to additional testing given by Athletic Academic Coordinator Lyn Phillips to evaluate their study and academic skills, he said.

It is in the best interest of coaches to recruit athletes that can compete academically, she said.

"The smarter athlete is the better athlete, all other things being equal," he said.

From drafting supplies to attachés... from writing paper to ballpoint pens... you'll find everything for school here at our newest, nearest store! We've cut prices (up to 40%) on a slew of items just to make it worth your while to come in to see us.

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The Rice Thresher, September 6, 1985, page 6
Cimino's Dragon features fine direction, weak script

Year of the Dragon directed by Michael Cimino

In 1978, writer-director Michael Cimino reached the peak of his professional career. The Deer Hunter, won five Oscars including Best Picture and Best Director. When many critics hailed it as a promising career, it crashed hard in 1980 with the release of Cimino's multi-million dollar flop, Heaven's Gate. Never in the history of modern film had there been such a monstrous disaster. Wisely, Cimino remained inactive for several years. Now he is attempting some cinematic redemption with Year of the Dragon. Already dubbed Dragon's Gate by many critics, the film's more appropriate title might well be The Godfather vs. The French Connection.

The action takes place in the Chinatown section of New York amid the rapidly growing corruption and decedence following the stabbing death of the "unofficial Mayor of Chinatown." The hero assigned to come in and clean up Chinatown is N.Y. Most Decorated Cop, Stanley White. Mickey Rourke (Rumble Fish, The Pope of Greenwich Village) portrays White, whose sole obsession in life is to purify and Americanize the city, regardless of the consequences. His quest places him in direct confrontation with an up-and-coming Chinese mafia kingpin, Joe Tai Tai. Played exceptionally well by John Lone, manages to become the Godfather of the city by promoting radical new changes as well as killing the "Mayor." Each lead character is compelled to accomplish his own goals, yet both are equally blinded by their own delusions of grandeur. Ultimately, the film regresses until the audience could care less which man will self-destruct first.

Mickey Rourke, despite a faithful performance as White, has one big problem with his character. Screenplay writers Oliver Stone and Cimino have made Stanley White such an unlikeable person that everyone in the film (and the audience) hates him. There doesn't seem to be anything to like about White. He is obsessed with running the city, regardless of the consequences. His quest places him in direct confrontation with an up-and-coming Chinese mafia kingpin. Joe Tai Tai. Played exceptionally well by John Lone, manages to become the Godfather of the city by promoting radical new changes as well as killing the "Mayor." Each lead character is compelled to accomplish his own goals, yet both are equally blinded by their own delusions of grandeur. Ultimately, the film regresses until the audience could care less which man will self-destruct first.

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Ensemble's Amen Corner provides powerful message

The Amen Corner
The Ensemble through September 8

Discovering that a person you idolize is not perfect is not always difficult; it can bring two people closer together. James Baldwin analyses the other side of such a discovery in The Amen Corner, playing at the Ensemble through the weekend.

Set in Harlem in 1963, the play focuses on the life of Sister Margaret, the dynamic, independent preacher of a small, run-down church. Portrayed by Elaine Taylor, the character is completely real and believable. A native Houstonian, Taylor has numerous productions to her credit, including the portrayal of Odessa in a past production of The Amen Corner.

The audience follows Sister Margaret through a weekend in which she relives her traumatic past and learns the truth about her son's lifestyle. Her congregation, jealous of her abilities, uses her family to condemn Margaret and drive her from the church.

One person stands by her throughout the ordeal. Sister Odessa, played by J.K. Kalmadin, realizes that Margaret's past is not a reflection on Margaret. Kalmadin is superb as the loyal, understanding friend. Fannie Belle is outstanding as the congregation's gossip. She brought her character to life with an incredible amount of enthusiasm. Her bubbiness is balanced perfectly by Edna Oliver Auguillard's performance as Sister Moore, the puritanical woman who wants to replace Margaret as leader of the Church.

Though he appears very little in the show, Wayne De Hart is embroiling as Luke Alexander, Margaret's husband who returns ten years after she had left him. He is the catalyst for Margaret's downfall, as his return causes speculation and delving into Margaret's past life. Travis Willis is somewhat awkward as David Alexander, Margaret's son. In his mother's eyes, he is only a boy, and forced to appear perfect because of her public position. This public image is discovered by the congregation to be false, and later his mother also discovers the truth. Though she forgives him and understands, he fails to be there when she needs him to give her strength in the Church again.

The play makes wonderful use of gospel music to create an entire cultural effect. It is totally captivating, especially because of its staging at the Ensemble. The closeness to the stages makes the audience feel like clapping along with the songs.

A play with a serious and timeless message, it is not one to be missed.

—Jacqueline Mercaile and Namita Gupta

Miss Ima's collection at the MFA

A Decade of Collecting at Bayou Bend
Museum of Fine Arts through October 13

In 1920, Houston heiress Miss Ima Hogg, the only daughter of late Texas governor James S. Hogg, purchased her first American antique. During the next several decades she continued collecting, until in 1957, she gave her collection and her historic mansion, Bayou Bend, to the MFA. She expressed her hope that her collection and her historic mansion would serve as a nucleus for further acquisitions in the decorative arts.

Today, this collection is considered one of America's finest collections of decorative arts. Consisting of 24 rooms and settings, the collection is permanently housed in Bayou Bend, located on the banks of Buffalo Bayou. It includes superb example of American paintings, furniture, ceramics, works on paper, metal, glass, and textiles, spanning 200 years, from the pilgram era of the early 17th century to the early Victorian period of the mid-19th century.

This exhibition of Bayou Bend acquisitions since 1975 represents, as Miss Hogg had hoped for, the growth of The Bayou Bend Collection from the nucleus of objects which she had assembled herself. The diversity of acquisitions included in this special exhibition extends to every area of American art, including furniture, paintings, ceramics, silver, prints, textiles, jewelry and books.

Significant works featured in the exhibition include: a still life of vegetables by James Peale, portraits by Rembrandt Peale and Thomas Sully, rococo revival furniture by John Henry Belter, and Paul Revere's well-known engraving of The Bloody Massacre Perpetrated in King Street, Boston on March 5 1770 by a Party of the 29th Regiment.

Located in the Andrews Gallery, In Pursuit of Our Past: A Decade of Collecting at Bayou Bend is free to the public. Free gallery tours are available on Wednesday at noon and Sunday at 2 p.m.

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Toothbrush book deals with the vital roommate issues

What Color is Your Toothbrush?

by Kate Kelly, Richard David, and Jeff Stone

Pocket Books

One of the most significant things about going to college is that you are free of your parents and have a room of your own. Almost. The second thing to remember is that you have to share. This is a new situation even for people who used to room with a sibling. However, help is on the way. Kate Kelly, Richard David, and Jeff Stone have written this slim, helpful volume regarding roommates and their various forms. The basic rules are still the same though; the only really satisfying ways of handling conflict with a roommate are:

1. Destroy his favorite possessions
2. Kill him.

Sounds simple enough, but that wouldn't fill up 122 pages. So the authors have the various stages and types of roommates one is likely to have. They start with brothers and sisters and then move on to college roommates. They also deal with life in the real world, when you discover that your real salary will not cover the rent on that wonderful apartment.

Roommates of all sorts: would you, should you, consider living with these people?

• Has he been left alone?
• Have you finally decided to enroll in the culinary institute?
• Am I having a nightmare?
• Are you and Roger fighting?
• Have I upset you in any way?

The authors trace the various stages and forms. The basic rules are still the same, though; the only really satisfying ways of handling conflict with a roommate are:

1. Destroy his favorite possessions
2. Kill him.

Cimino's Chinatown

continued from page 7

has the audacity to proclaim, "when I quit trying (to clean up Chinatown), the whole city will quit trying." How the hell did this guy become the Most Decorated Cop?

On the positive side, there is Cimino's masterful camerawork. The final confrontation between White and Tai is definitely one of the most memorable in recent action pictures. In fact, almost all the action sequences are done with style, albeit a lot of blood. Cimino the director almost manages to save Cimino the writer from making a bad film, but he doesn't succeed. Also worthy of praise are the set designs by Wolf Kroeger and the music score by David Mansfield.

Year of the Dragon's ultimate purpose is to defend White's (and Cimino's) noble belief that Chinatown needs to be changed. Despite the best of intentions to redeem his former greatness, Cimino fails to improve much upon Heaven's Gate. Indeed, when all is said and done, Chinatown would have been better off if it had been left alone.

—David Nathan

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The Rice Thresher, September 6, 1985, page 9
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Coach Watson Brown chooses speed over size

by Tony Saltoro

Okay, Boris Becker's out of the U.S. Open, it looks like another blah Yousef Sharaf (that's a World Series and the Oilers are having trouble winning games and signing players.

So let's turn our attentions to the Southwest Conference football season. Specifically, the Rice Owls. Our heroes in the Cowboy-style uniforms. (Never mind that the result of our new duds was to make Dallas play like Rice rather than the other way around.)

Last year, the Owls' offense soared under the direction of rookie coach Watson Brown and freshman quarterback Mark Comalander. The problem was defense, or the lack of it. So Rice limped out of 1984 with a second successive 1-10 record. And, as of this year, no undergraduate at Rice has seen his football team win a conference game.

The poor finish notwithstanding, the Owls enjoyed a super recruiting year. Forty of the top 65 players are freshmen or sophomores. Despite a rough schedule in which Rice faces seven bowl teams (with the bowls' players are freshmen or sophomores is junior Kerry Brinkley nursing a pulled muscle, so the Owls look a lot stronger this year than they did in 1984.

The offense, which ranked fourth in conference play last year, will be even more potent this year. The front four for center, Comalander, now has a year's experience under his belt and no artificial turf to bound him anymore. (Furtive, which plagued him in '84, is a lot nastier than it sounds.) Chipped Brown, "Our quarterbacks are excellent. If Comalander stays healthy, he could be all-conference." Directly behind the sophomores is junior Kerry Overton, he of the wonderful touchdown passes and interceptions. He filled in admirably with Comalander down, but putting up 40 points on the board against Baylor. (So we allowed 46. Who cares?) Strong-armed Texas Williams, a junior transfer from Caldwell, is the number-three signal-caller. Freshman Quentiis Roper and sophomore Sean Sterle round out the QB's.

With starting fullback Antonio Brinkley nursing a pulled muscle, DeWayne Burnett, a "great blocker," will step into the breach. Todd Jones will flip-flop between tailback, his primary position, and fullback. Backing him up is Eddie Burgoyne, a junior. The wide receivers figure to see quite a lot of action with Brown's pass-oriented offense. The Owls have quite a bit of depth at this position, with Keith Lewis, Derrick Wells and Marc Scott all

With all this impressive offensive talent, Brown has reason to be bubbly. Exclaimed the coach, "I think our team could beat last year's team by 14 points. We're a young team, but we have some experience. Dwight Turner is our win 11 games." Nothing like putting a little pressure on a young team.

Brown does point out, "I could talk about our offense all day, but if we don't play defense, we're in trouble." Right you are, Watson. But the defense does look markedly improved from last year's siege.

Speed is the defense's biggest asset. "We've only got one starter over 240 (lef tackle Ted Humphreys), but we are fast, we're getting tougher and we're hitting better," said Brown. Realistically, he added, "We have to create aggressiveness. We're going to have to score some points to win.

The biggest plus in the defense is the return of punter-free safety Steve Kidd, sidelined almost all last year with a bum ankle. He anchors a secondary that also features strong safety Ernest Evans (another all-SWC prospect, according to Brown), left corner Donnell Jones, and right cornerback Doug Adams. Several new faces dot the defensive corps. Danny Burgess and Joe Heikkenen are both starters in the middle linebacker position. At the rover spot, freshman Ed Freeny is challenging sophomore Mike Lee. Either way, the position will feature the requisite speed. Bert Adams will start in the strongside linebacker spot, though freshman Will Hollas will start in the nickel position when the occasion demands it.

Brown deploys a multiple 4-3 defense, so that the defensive ends (Jeff Thomas on the left, Steve Tomkins on the right) will wind up in a lot of tackles. "Thomas and James Brown are our best pass rushers," noted Brown. "We'll play five defensive backs after first year's view.

Freshman Tim Hum knocked incumbent Dwain Turner out of his starting right tackle job, but Brown says he'll "get his job back." Ted Humphreys will start at left tackle. "We're very young in the line," admitted Brown, "but we can compete with these kids."

So the Owls plunge into 1985 and the Miami Hurricanes with a fairly set offense and gaping question marks in the defense. Against a team like Miami, bad defense can result in disaster, but the team should mature enough to maybe take a conference game or two. Right you are, Watson. Last year was a humbling experience, but this year we think we can win. You've daddies right you can do it with good students. They can win in this conference."

Let's hope you're right, Mr. Brown. Anyway, with the club 0-0 and the season opener still a week away, we can fantasize all we want.

How much did you say a plane ticket to Dallas on New Year's Day was worth?

Owls fans, unite for your Owls

by Jim Humes

When the talented foot of the Mighty Owl's place kicker sends the opening kickoff into orbit next Saturday, the majority of this fine university's student body will not be on the field. In fact, in every varsity outing of every sport, the average Joe football fan will be sorely underrepresented. But let's face facts: not all of us can wrestle small farm animals or has a 40 in vertical leap, Myopia, study-guts (the layer of fat below gravity pulls down to your waist after sitting for long periods of time), or just the desire to do things other than stay in shape keep the masses off the field and in the stands. Compromise, "How passive," you say, is you stuff the rest of the twinkies in your mouth, but you are dead wrong. The Russkies would like us to continue with our unenlightened views about spectator sports, but the time for brevity is now.

The major problem with the sports program at Rice is that the fan is merely an untaughted, vicariously living out last few years which go beyond differentiating equations. He does see Watch page 12.
Young Rice volleyball team impressive early on

by Mark Matteson

The Rice Thresher, September 6, 1985, page 12

The freshmen who were healthy last weekend with a 4-15 result. United States Southwest Texas State, another three-gamer, this one a 10-15, 15-4, 4-15 result. United States International provided the next competition and squeaked by with a 15-12, 15-10 win. In the final match of the day (yes, all four matches were played on Saturday), the spikers spiked it out with Lamar, one that the Lamartettes eked out 17-15, 13-15, 15-7. It was another grueling day on the court, an outing that appeared to be unproductive on paper. The real story, of course, was not on paper, but on the courts. The freshmen who were healthy performed quite admirably. Lori Saling, left side back, added, "a lot of fire and enthusiasm" to the team cause and turned in a fine outing against Lamar with an eleven-dig, sixteen-kill outing. Another fresh, Kri Koenck, also did well. "She was extremely agile and made some fine digs," Sokol noted. Of the upperclassmen, "Dana Schunk is the most improved returner," said Sokol. "Her overall hitting has improved 100 percent." Sokol was also impressed with Jeanne Blancy, "Jeanne was very important to us — she was a key at mid-back. Blancy ended the tourney with an average of six kills per match.

Although they won no games, Rice was still very much in the game. "We had excellent defense and good passing," Sokol said. "We were in every game and we weren't stove on once, I thought we looked fabulous."

As the team will look ahead to upcoming opponents, although the short-term goal is to get as many wins as possible, but the team still has a long way to go. "I’ve put a lot of plans on hold," said Sokol. "A lot depends upon the return of the setter (Laura Epperson)." Sokol is quite pleased with the team’s performance, however. "They’ve been very supportive of the changes (in the setter position)."

Despite the team’s youth, Sokol feels that the ’83 Owls have the potential of one of the best teams she has coached. They are keeping the ball in play more than ever — they seem to mesh well.

OWLOOK/by Jim Humes

Watch out for time outs

(continued from page 11)

not realize his immense power. For example, basketball games are practically decided by the second half. When the fans finally show up, they are filled with school spirit, the kind that comes in aluminum cans. Watson Brown’s exciting, one-strike pitch keeps them on the edges of their seats, but when the score of the opposing team finally becomes insurmountable, the crowd rumbles with questions of why so much money is being spent on the gridiron gladiators.

Basketball games provide a better scenario for spectator participation. With the opposing point guard dribbling just three feet away, verbal contact is easy to establish. With more school spirit, and a program, the raucous fan has an easy time matching the face of the guy who just missed the lay-up with his name. Screams of "Good shot, Joe" echoed through Autry Field in last year’s final home game during which Joe Klein missed all but one of his first ten shots from the floor. Even with tears in his eyes, Joe got no mercy from the unsubtle Rice fans who would kick a blind power forward when he is down.

At baseball games, the school spirit is flowing. Coolers and poli- sci professors fill the stands, while the baseball furies minus their warpaint wage battle. The one problem with baseball games are they last too long. By the ninth inning, the average fan is so full of school spirit that he can see the diamond, much less anything else. But at this time, the belligerence and crowd chaos are at an all-time low. We’re going to the visiting team which invokes the wrath of a chem E who likes to make bathtub explosives.

During the progression of the year, the spectator plays an increasingly active role. But it is not enough. This nation, a constitutional democracy, was founded upon the concept that the majority would determine the course of action. And while the Constitution includes checks and balances to insure against the tyranny of the majority, no sport ever has. A good spectator is one who realizes that he is in the majority. The home team should never lose by more virtue of having more supporters. So next Saturday, if Miami should lose sight of the fact that football is just a game and begin to run the score up, it is up to us to do something. Surely two thousand fans can put their starting lineup out of the game. If not that, then storming the announcer’s booth and taking control of the scoreboard is an option. Better yet, unashamedly planting a few fans of our own in the black and white striped referee’s uniforms could upset Miami when every time they make a break, one of those nasty yellow flags fly up. These are just a few ideas, and at this diverse and articulate university, many more are waiting to be conceived. So when the Owls get down, lend them a helping hand or shotgun, whatever you prefer. As a spectator, it is your duty.

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The Rice Thresher, September 6, 1985, page 12
Kidd overcomes setback to garner starting jobs

Everyone associated with the Rice University football program was disappointed with last year's 2-25 season-opening loss at Minnesota, making four solo tackles and averaging 44.8 yards on four punts. During practice the next week, however, Kidd severely injured his left ankle in a non-contact pass coverage drill.

"It was really frustrating to get injured, after staying in Houston during the summer to lift weights and run every day. I was really looking forward to playing for coach (Watson) Brown in his first season. Then I got hurt, and I was history," Kidd said.

"The injury was a big setback that I had to endure. It was really disappointing on game day to know I couldn't go out and play, but I had to overcome it and keep my head up. I kept telling myself that I had two more years. I had to keep a positive attitude because if I didn't, the next two years would be meaningless."

Surgery was required to repair Kidd's ankle, and everyone assumed he would be lost for the year. But the gutsy competitor from Richland High School returned to action six weeks later in time for Rice's final four games.

For the remainder of the season, Kidd shared punting duties with Dewayne Burnett and played in a reserve role in the secondary. He finished the season with a 36.8 yard average.

"I developed some bad habits last year because of the tenderness of my ankle," Kidd explained. "I was really disappointed with myself because that was the worst I've punted since I was a freshman in high school."

As Rice prepares for its Sept. 14 season opener with Miami, Kidd once again finds himself atop the depth chart at free safety and punter. Despite last year's injury, defensive coordinator Dick Hopkins said there has been no debate among the coaches about the wisdom of playing Kidd in the secondary.

"Our defense was a disappointment last year," Hopkins noted. "In order to improve, we must get the best eleven players on the field, and Steve is one of the best eleven. We got caught in poor pass coverage too often last year, and I think part of that was due to Steve's absence. I'm confident he would have gotten us into better coverage because of his intelligence."

"As a coach, you're always looking for a stabilizing factor in the secondary, and Steve provides us with that. He's not going to make any wrong decisions with secondary checks and will have the other backs lined up properly. "We're looking for outstanding things from Steve this season. He's a very important element of this football team. He's already an outstanding punter and has the potential to be one of the better defensive backs in the conference."

Kidd, who will be the first punter to start at another position in the Southwest Conference since SMU running back Craig James did so in 1982, is pleased to learn there has been no talk among the coaches of keeping him off the defense because of his value as a punter.

"I like to be known as a defensive back, but I take punting seriously also. I want to be the best I can be at that, too," said Kidd, who was a high school linebacker and an all-state punter.

"I'll do whatever is best for the team," he added. "At the beginning of last year, coach Brown didn't want me to play defense because he was afraid I would get hurt. If that had been what he wanted, I guess that's what I would have done. "But I enjoy playing defense. I like the contact, the competition and the sense of working with others toward a goal. The kicking game is really important, but sometimes you don't get those same feelings when you're punting if you do when you're playing defensive back."

Kidd's most prevalent football-related feelings to date have been those of frustration and disappointment, but he is optimistic about the future of the Rice program.

"We were in a lot of games in the fourth quarter last year, although we didn't win them. Guys on the team know that and the other teams in the league know that," he said. "Before last year, a lot of games were decided in the first half. I think that's progress."  

— Charles Smith
Security improved
continued from page 5
Having access," Stubbings said.
Before the new locks were
installed, it was not possible to
secure the old wings of the Baker,
Will Rice, and Hansen against
trespassers Hicks noted.
Several male intruders have
been discovered late at night in
communal women's showers in
recent years.
Hicks said he does not know
who will be in charge of locking
and unlocking the doors each day.
"Probably the B & G (Buildings
and Grounds) rep or someone in
the college government will be in
charge. The Campus Police cannot
do it," he said.
"We will try to get the college
governments to establish a time to
lock the entrance at night and
open them in the morning. They
will probably not be locked during
the day," Hicks said.
So visitors can call college
residents to open doors for them.
residential colleges manager Frank
Petra ordered phones from Rice's
telephone contractors for
installation outside each old wing.
Asked why the locks couldn't be
configured so that any on-campus
student could have access to any
college, Hicks said, "I don't think
the students or masters or anyone
in the university would like that
type of set-up." Such a set-up,
Hicks said, would pose much
larger security problems.

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**NOT MISCLASS**

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**MISSCLASS**

The dynamics of interaction in dialogue among adherents of different religious perspectives presuppose that even though understanding and consequent appreciation are not absent, evaluations are not normally positive without qualification.

- p. 19

*Beyond Existentialism and Zen: Religion in a Pluralistic World*

George Rupp

What? ***

—h.m.hpe

Carnac predicts college football:

A) Eight plane crashes
B) What would it take for Rice to win the SWC?

Brilliance is sterile without commitment.

—H. Hendricks

To the crashers

How would you feel if Kosowski insisted on giving a differential geometry lecture in the middle of your party?

—Trivial men don't earn quiches.

***

rhet-o-erete (re tät), v.i.

1. the art or science of using excess verbage to convey an idea.
2. the art of circumlocution as used in prose as opposed to verse. a superfluity of irrelevant words and ideas, with the intent of diverting the reader. Commonly known by such terms as “piling it high,” “shovelling it,” “B.S.,” etc.

“Rhetorating is something up with which I will not put.”

—James Joyce

(concerning exponential population growth)

“...and, if there are too many people to move, it becomes hard to have any more children, right?”

Math 211, 10:30, 8:30 85

In memory of the students of Rice who have brought honor to the Institute through their contributions to the welfare of mankind and of those who have given their lives in the service of our country.

—MCMVII

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FRIDAY
- Rice Radio Reggae, 4-1pm; The S & M Show, 7-10pm.
- Museum of Fine Arts: screening of Clouds, 8pm.
- Media Center Presents The Gardiner Stories, 7:30 and 10pm.
- Concert in the Faculty Artists Series: John Perry, piano, 8pm.
- Brown: Sid Rich jazz TG.
- RFC from Back Party.
- Will Rock
- Houston Museum Party at the 40's, 50's and 60's stairwells. Admission is $1.50.

SATURDAY
- Classics on the Radio, 7-11pm; No One Expects, 1pm.
- Museum of Fine Arts: screening of Gaslight, 8:30pm.
- Will Rock: Ordinary People.
- Baker BAADS Party.
- Lovett 6th Floor Party

SUNDAY
- Rice Sonline, 10am; Jazznoon.
- River Oaks: Notaurous at 1:00, 5:30, and 9:30, and Spellbound at 3:00 and 7:15.
- Museum of Fine Arts: screening of The Whole Family Rides, 5pm.
- Everyone with Cars.
- Media Center Film: Kind Hearts and Coronets, 7:30pm.

MONDAY
- Women's Music, 4pm; Feature Album, 10pm.
- River Oaks: Das Boot at 9:00 and Soldier of Orange at 6:00.
- The Roof of the World: East Tibet as Seen from Westphol presented by Elizabeth Dorjee, 7pm.
- River Oaks Bank, 5p.

TUESDAY
- Treasures of the Sixties, 8:30pm.
- River Oaks: You Can't Take It With You at 5:30 and 9:45.
- River Oaks: Tea of General Tso at 9:00.

WEDNESDAY
- Art Rock night, Chicken Skin Music, 7-10pm.
- Mutant Hardcore, midnight.
- Egyptology and Geophysics Seminar, 4pm, 106 Geology Physics Colloquium, 4pm, 210 Physics.
- Media Center Film: Woodstock, 7:30pm.
- Concert in the Faculty Artists Series: Moscow Trio, 8pm.
- Hamman Hall.
- Lecture: Fumihiko Maki, one of Japan's foremost architects, sponsored by the Rice Design Alliance, Farish Gallery, 7pm.
- River Oaks: Glen or Glenda at 5:45, Attack of the Killer Tomatoes at 7:15, and Orsillos at the Dead of 9:00.

THURSDAY
- To the Point, 7pm; Feature Album, 10pm.
- RFC Film.
- River Oaks: Cities of Women at 8:30 and Swept Away at 9:15.

FRIDAY
- Rice Radio Reggae, 1-4pm; The S & M Show, 7-10pm.
- Rice Career Fair, 9:30am.
- Sid Rich RFC Reggae TG.
- Baker Brown Film: Witness.
- Lovett: Will Rice Malibu Beach Party.
- Media Center Film: Choose Me, 7:30 and 10pm, $3.
- River Oaks: Friday and Saturday: Repo Man at 5:30 and 9:45 (Saturday matinee at 1:15) and Liquid Sky at 7:30 and Saturday matinee at 1:15.
- Museum of Fine Arts: When a Woman Ascends the Stairs at 8:00.

SATURDAY
- Rice Sonline, 10am; Jazznoon.
- Concert: Americana, Shepherd School, Milford House.
- Football: Rice vs. Miami, 12pm.
- Football: Rice vs. Miami, 12pm.
- Magazine: Media Center: Smithereens, 7:30pm.
- Hanzen Film.
- Brown Quad Party.

SUNDAY
- Rice Sonline, 10am; Jazznoon.
- Concert: Americana, Shepherd School, Milford House.
- Football: Rice vs. Miami, 12pm.
- Magazine: Media Center: Smithereens, 7:30pm.
- Hanzen Film.
- Brown Quad Party.

MONDAY
- Rice Sonline, 10am; Jazznoon.
- Concert: Americana, Shepherd School, Milford House.
- Football: Rice vs. Miami, 12pm.
- Magazine: Media Center: Smithereens, 7:30pm.
- Hanzen Film.
- Brown Quad Party.
- River Oaks: A Fistful of Dollars at 8:30 and The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly at 8:30.