Students at 75th Matriculation exceptionally calm

by Michele Wucker

Rice’s 75th Matriculation Tuesday night marked the formal enrollment of the class of 1991. The eight residential colleges, in response to administration requests for a more formal matriculation ceremony, toned down their traditional rowdy chants and cheers.

Before Orientation Week began, Vice President for Student Affairs Ronald Stiebings had sent a memo to the college masters and presidents, reminding them that there were to be no cheers at Matriculation. He met Tuesday with Orientation Week coordinators to discuss alternatives to banning cheers and agreed to allow the colleges to cheer.

The coordinators in return agreed to reduce the duration of the cheers and remove obscene and derogatory references to other colleges.

Stiebings said the students’ behavior at Matriculation was very satisfactory. "We wanted to achieve an effective compromise that addressed concerns that may not necessarily be
what the students want, but are very real. At the same time, we wanted to provide students with the opportunity to exercise some freedom in shaping the ceremony," he said. "I feel that we went a long way towards accomplishing that."

Baker College chose to express college spirit through a moment of silence in memory of Professor of History Charles Garrod, a Baker associate and longtime faculty member who passed away this June. Garrod had recently written a letter urging efforts to tone down or remove the rowdy chants, which he felt detracted from the occasion.

Will Rice College also opted for a silent cheer. Members wore masks and three Mardi Gras beads in the air.

The other five colleges all cheered out loud, repeating college names and singing songs.

Rupp urges regard for truth, community goals

President George Rupp delivered the matriculation address to the class of 1991 on August 18 in the Grand Hall of the Rice Memorial Center. Excorted here are his remarks.

Tonight we celebrate the formal beginning of your education in this place. The celebration of your matriculation is the more festive because this year also marks another milestone, a milestone for the university, the 75th anniversary of the opening of this institution and the matriculation of the first class in 1912.

I don’t like to spoil a celebration, a party, but I will take that double risk. The two risks are doing to you what none of us likes having done to us. None of us likes to be told what we are like—what we think or feel. None of us likes to be made into an instance or a general description.

Yes, I’ll take both risks in telling you what you are like. So know that you are all exceptions to my generalisations. I will take a few minutes to tell you, if not what you are actually like, then at least my projections about you—both my fears and my hopes.

My fears are projections based on my own experiencing of the pervasive influence of our consumer society and mass culture. The fears are that not only you but all of us are becoming prisoners of that consumer society and mass culture. We are all
consumers in the global shopping center, with endless options for entertainment. We may come from quite different backgrounds, but our consumer society and mass culture somehow homogenizes us. Instead of participating in distinctive communities, we too often become indistinguishable and passive receptors of signals sent to us. In a word, you and we are in danger of being reduced to a TV— a video— generation. Our attention spans are measured in seconds. Our gratification must be immediate. Participation is more as a spectator than as an actor. Our preferences on options ranging from products to politics result from the manipulation of images. Acceptance of what is offered or imposed replaces critical engagement. These are my fears for you—and for all of us.

I also have hopes, even expectations, for you—and for all of us. The hopes are the counterparts to my fears. I will point to these hopes with the help of two Greek words. The first is the word for truth: Aletheia. Aletheia literally means "not forgetting." Truth demands that we not forget. If we do not remember where we come from, where we stand, then we are more prone to be passive, observers or objects of manipulation.

It is therefore critical to our hopes for you in this place that you enlist in the active pursuit of truth. This pursuit will free you from uncritical imprisonment in the conventional wisdom of the present. It will do that, not simply by setting you as isolated individuals over

See Rupp, page 4

1987 incoming class a bit larger

by David Silvers

The 561-member class of 1991 is slightly larger than the norm for the past few years, according to Dean of Admissions Ron Moss.

Of the entering students, 68% were in the top five percent of their graduating class, up from 62% last year; 30% were ranked first or second in their class, 26% were in the top 25% in 1986; the average SAT score for the class is 1335, compared to last year’s 1321, and the 33rd for the year before.

The percentage of women in the class is 43%, up from 42% last year. Approximately 47% of the class is from Texas, and only three students are from outside the United States (South Korea, the U.K., and Trinidad), down from 12 last year.

Moss said the slightly larger class size was a response to last year’s large senior class. "In an attempt to keep undergraduate enrollment in the 2550-2600 range in any given year, we may have to increase or decrease the size of a class a little bit."

This year’s entering class was chosen from 4118 applicants, significantly larger than last year’s record 3835. Moss attributes this to an increase in the number of total applications sent out by high school seniors. "We’ve discovered that the average number of applications (sent out by high school seniors to colleges) was in the four to five range. We were aware that this has jumped to between six and eight applications. There are fewer applying seniors, but they are submitting more applications.

High school seniors are also waiting longer to decide where they will attend school. The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that many seniors are sending in deposits to several colleges, postponing their decision until late summer. Thus, many schools are uncertain as to exactly how many freshman will matriculate, as many students may not show up.

"Some schools are adversely affected by multiple deposits. We are not affected as much. Overall, there is a slightly lower yield, but it is not a major problem," said Moss. Rice received deposits from 578 applicants, of whom 3% did not matriculate. Moss expressed his satisfaction with the Class of 1991, and said that he was glad that Rice had been insulated from the deposit problems other universities have had.

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The sometimes-students

In the new book General Announcements 1987-88, university officials trumpet Rice jocks as "true student-athletes," continuing the recurring message that at Rice, unlike other universities, athletes are fully integrated into the student body and administrators treat them as such. But other official actions at Rice sprinkle the salt of reality upon this sweet rhetoric.

The image of Rice athletes is much different than that of athletes at other schools; the university boasts of athletes who live among and are treated like any other students. We have many reasons to be proud of our standards for student-athletes at Rice. Athletes here have an unusually high graduation rate, for instance, and their academic programs are first-rate. The Rice administration, however, also provides ample evidence that they don't consider athletes quite like other students.

One way Rice undermines its rhetoric about "true student-athletes" is in the reporting of average student S.A.T. scores. The admissions office recently released the average S.A.T. among this year's freshman class: 1335. The office shamelessly releases similar averages each year, which are quoted in numerous college guides and books, without mentioning that--over 10 percent of the student body--are excluded from that figure.

If the university does not average athlete's scores into those of the general student body, then what are we to think of the university attitude toward athletes?

Another administrative action last week shed some light upon that question. The admissions office reported 561 students entered this year as part of the class of 1991. President Rupp, however, told The Thresher that figure was incorrect; the freshman number 600, he said--when athletes are counted.

Rupp proceeded to denounce as "invidious" the practice of not considering athletes to be students. If that is true, then surely the admissions office, in reporting the number of Rice students but not including athletes among them, is acting invidiously.

Futhermore, it is fair to surmise that other Rice-released statistics--such as the percentage of students who are National Merit Scholars, or the percentage of students from Texas--are based on this total student body that excludes athletes.

The "student body except athletes" mindset contradicts Rice's "true student-athlete" rhetoric. Holding that athletes are fully students while simultaneously excluding them from the most basic counts of the student body is something expected from an Orwellian institution, but something quite unexpected from Rice University.

Meal plan improved

Until this semester, no Rice student ate every campus meal, but all on-campus students had to pay even for meals missed. Thus, the Reduced Balance Board Plan, which charges students as they purchase individual meals, ought to serve as a long-awaited solution to a long-neglected problem.

The new board plan itself is a fair response to overwhelming student demand for such a plan. The plan is also huge improvement over a preliminary draft by the Department last spring. In that proposal, students needed to pay a substantial base cost beyond any amount they spent on meals. To replace that revenue, the Department increased the price of the meals. Even with that increase, students will be paying far less per meal under substantial base cost beyond any amount they spent on meals. To the new plan, when the base costs of the proposal are considered.

Reduced Balance Board Plan, which charges students as they purchase individual meals, ought to serve as a long-awaited solution to a long-

SPANNING THE HEDGES
by Michèle Wucker

U.S. Gulf leadership destructive

The escalating tension in the Persian Gulf undermines a continuing diplomatic tug-of-war between the United States and her European allies. The U.S. request has left their ships vulnerable to the spreading danger of mines. Neither France nor Great Britain wants to escalate tension in the Gulf, they feel that creating an international minesweeping force will add to the discontent. Minersweepers, short of pulling out altogether, seem to be the least aggressive move they can take to counteract the growing danger to their interests in the Gulf.

British Defense Minister George Younger has emphasized that the four British minesweepers and the accompanying ship would neither accommodate U.S.-protected ships nor attempt to clear the Gulf. France, who has broken off diplomatic relations with Iran, claims it is sending two minesweepers to the Persian Gulf solely for the purpose of protecting French oil tankers there. The escalating tension in the Persian Gulf undermines a continuing diplomatic tug-of-war between the United States and her European allies. The United States finds herself pulled deeper and deeper into a role of protecting oil tankers passing through the Gulf.
Some private colleges will charge nearly $18,000 for 1987-88

The most expensive college in the country this year is Bennington College in Vermont; tuition, room, and board cost $17,000. According to the College Board's annual survey of college costs, tuition and other fees this year will rise eight percent at private institutions and six percent at public institutions. The average cost at private universities is $7,110 and $1,320 at public universities.

The American Council on Education, in a survey on college costs, found several reasons for such increases. At private institutions, money needed for new curricula, increases in faculty salaries, and higher costs for student aid prompted increases. At public universities, the survey found rising faculty salaries, and providing funds to replace lost state and local appropriations to cause price hikes.

College costs rising at a faster rate than inflation has now occurred for seven straight years. William J. Bennett, secretary of education, has stated his opinion with this statement: "There they go again—and again, and again. When will they ever stop?"

Dropping the S.A.T.

High school students who don't want to take the SAT might want to apply to Middlebury, Bowdoin, Bates, and Union Colleges—these Eastern colleges have dropped the SAT as a requirement for admission.

According to some administrators at these

Public Researcher gives evidence

continued from page 2

Robert M. Gaes, a high ranking military/intelligence officer, denied for this position? Strategic Defense Initiative and semiconductor research have been identified as priority "national security" interests. It seems likely that both HARC and MCC are part of a national program to funnel contentious military programs onto local university campuses.

Public Search is a non-profit public interest group which conducts independent research on military, environmental, and foreign policy issues.

Greg Le Roy, Director
Public Search

Doonesbury

HURR... MUST HAVE DOZED OFF... OH

B.D.T... DID... THREE GUESSES

AND, AND AM I AM I MY DIVINE SELF OR STILL BOOPSY? I FEEL LIKE...

YOU'RE STILL BOOPSY!

Boopsy, I tried to tell you somewhere in the world people may be getting it on with their divine sparks...

... AND NOT IN PALM SPRINGS!...

I CAN'T UNBRIDLE IT... ITS ON THE LIST OF SACRED ZIP CODES!

by Berke Breathed
Rupp tells freshman class about pursuit of truth

by Claire Closmann

A major renovation of the interior of Fondren Library will begin this fall, continuing until July 1988. According to Vice President for Administration William Akers, the renovation, estimated at $3 million, includes overall improvements to library efficiency and appearance, fire code compliance, and asbestos removal. According to Professor of History John Boles, chairman of the Sub-committee for Long-range Planning for the Library, the changes will be made in order to make the library a more enjoyable place to study, and also to comply with new fire codes. Included will be an upgrading of the air conditioning and heating systems, new furniture and lighting, more efficient security, and a new entrance which will require going through a vestibule and foyer.

Boles' committee, consisting of three professors and a member of the library staff, interviewed students and teachers and sent out questionnaires to see how users felt the library could be improved. Working with Ray Bailey Architects, through Rice architect Lee Center, they acted on the responses they received. Among other changes, the leaders on the committee decided that library patrons will have to pass through a 3M security system to get to parts of the library. They will no longer have to go around the main part of the library, including the entry area, will begin on January 1. Renovations are projected to be completed by July 1, 1988.

Joe Hafield, Director of the Division of Access Services, added that the new foyer will be a pivotal point in the library, through which everyone must go to get to the circulation desk and any stairwells and elevators. Highly used periodicals and the Reserve Room will be on the first floor, to the left of the front entrance. Library patrons will have to pass through a vestibule and foyer.

Boles' committee saw this revival of the library as a community. The work already begun in the basement of the library, including the entry area, will begin on January 1. Renovations are projected to be completed by July 1, 1988. This project is only the first phase of a longer-term renovation which will involve other parts of the library. Boles and the others involved in the planning of the renovation are optimistic about the changes to be done to make the library a more pleasant and cheerful place.

In fact, the word idiotes does not mean people of low intelligence. It means, rather, people who understand only the personal and the private—those who do not engage in the public life of the community. This participation in community is integral to the pursuit of truth: not to forget is to remember, to remember is to participate in a corporate story larger than our individual biographies. Here at Rice you will have many opportunities to participate in such public communities: through your studies, through your shred life in the colleges, through activities like RSVP, the Rice Student Volunteer Program. In and through all such opportunities, you will gain a longer and deeper perspective on where you have come from and where you are going. Make the most of these opportunities so that you are not simply prisoners of our consumer society and mass culture.

Rupp tells freshman class about pursuit of truth

Doonesbury

In the case of the word for truth, aletheia, we may associate the word with not forgetting. But the connection is provocative precisely because it is not immediately evident. With the word idiotes, the situation is reversed. We immediately recognize the Greek derivative and assume we know the meaning of the Greek. Consequently, what is instructive is the jarring of our perception of what seems self-evident.

In the Greek, we may associate the word for truth as idiotes. It means, rather, people who do not enter into the public life of the community. That is not what we mean by the term you are not simply prisoners of our consumer society and mass culture.

Fondren finally gets first-floor facelift this fall

by Mary Elliott

The installation of controlled access systems for seven buildings on campus will begin soon and should be finished by October, according to Campus Police Chief Mary Voswinkel. Buildings to receive the systems include Raynor Hall, Sewall Hall, Mechanical Engineering Building, Ryon Engineering Laboratory, Abercrombie Labs, Allen Center, and the Ley Student Center.

Doors with a controlled access system have magnetic locks which are opened from the outside by passing the magnetic strip on the back of an approved Rice identification card through a card reader beside the door. In the buildings with the systems will be a list of approved access personnel to the Campus Police before the systems will be put into use. With the systems you gain a longer and deeper perspective on where you have come from and where you are going.
Reduced balance plan to bring change to meals

by Mike Raphael

The new Reduced Balance Food Plan begins Monday and will bring some changes to dining at Rice's eight residential colleges, according to Director of Food and Housing Marion Hicks.

"We're going to have to be more hard-nosed in our management this year," said Hicks, explaining that since the plan allows students to be credited with money for meals they don't eat, his office will need to keep tight accounting in order to stay on their budget.

To this end, each college will have an assistant headwaiter to help the headwaiter monitor the food line. "We anticipate people will not carry out food [from the commons] like they used to, and we especially want to keep dishes and silverware in," he said. Hicks said that students will still be allowed to go through the food line more than once.

Headwaiters will now be equipped with a machine that will check students' IDs for validity and report to a central computer that the student is purchasing the meal.

Resident students have a choice of two meal plans for the fall semester—one for total board and one for partial board. For each plan, the student begins with a prepaid dollar amount which is reduced for each meal purchased.

Full board costs $800 and provides the student with every meal served throughout the semester, even if the total of the student's individual meals adds up to more than $800, Hicks said.

The partial board plan costs $575, and would cover about 70 percent of the meals served in the semester. When a student with partial board comes within $50 of spending his $575 prepayment, the Department of Food and Housing will probably notify him that he is near the end of his allotment, Hicks said.

Charges for meals will be: breakfast, $2.25; lunch, $3.50; dinner, $3.30; brunch, $3.50; and continental breakfast, $1.50.

If a student does not spend the amount of his or her plan, the extra money will be credited to the student's account the following semester, with the cost of the meal plan that semester reduced to reflect that amount, Hicks said.

Students will receive a check for any money left only at the end of their final semester. "We will only issue a check to a particular student once," said Hicks. "We don't wish to be in a situation where we are issuing thousands of checks each semester."

If an ID card is lost or stolen, Hicks said, the student should notify the Department of Food and Housing immediately.

"The day the card is lost, we will lock it out of the system. No one can use it from that point," he said.

Off-campus students may choose to use two meal plans, not purchase any plan. One plan costs $200 and is reduced by $4.50 for every meal eaten, while the other costs $350 and is reduced by the standard amounts for resident students. The $350 plan, however, includes a non-refundable $75 base cost to cover overhead.

ID cards need to be validated to be used by the new machines. The Department will be validating them between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. today and Monday through Friday of next week.

by Berke Breathed
Dydie Diapers and Gerber Babies revisited in 1980s

The faculty address to freshmen this year was delivered by Stephen Klineberg of the Department of Sociology. His address, printed in part here, was entitled, "The Challenge of Our Times: A Rice Education for the 1990s."

It seems to me that you deserve to be congratulated on at least three counts for your exquisite sense of timing. First, you had the wonderful foresight to get yourselves born into the "Baby Bust" generation. Second, you are entering into adulthood at a time of unusual change and challenge — in what may be one of the most extraordinary periods in human history. And third, you have chosen to come to Rice — and you will be with us during a particularly dynamic and interesting time in the life of the University. I'll explain why that's the case in a moment, but first: some thoughts about generations and the nature of our times.

The postwar quarter-century, from 1945 to 1970, was a phenomenal period in American history, a time of unparalleled affluence and optimism. Through the application of ever more wondrous technological inventions combined with ever cheaper energy, family incomes literally doubled between 1950 and 1970. It was in those years that the "marital and procreative" dominated American psyche, and we celebrated the stay-at-home housewife-mother in suburbia; when families had on average 3.5 children, and the "Baby Boom" was launched upon the land.

More than 73 million Americans were born in the 19 years between 1946 and 1964 (the people aged 23 to 41 today). They created a permanent bulge, moving through the age-graded sequences of society. Demographers describe the phenomenon as something like a pig being swallowed by a python — a phenomenon that is not likely to be very healthy either for the pig or the python. By the sheer force of their numbers, the members of that generation set the nation's tone at every stage of their lives. In the 1950's, they turned America into a child-oriented society and created a boom for the Dydie Diaper Service and Gerber Baby Foods.

The growth of inflation in the mid-1960's and family 's mounting costs in trying to educate, clothe, and feed their growing brood brought a sudden end to the explosion of babies. As opportunities for women in the labor force increased along with the need for their wages, their average fertility plummeted. The American school-aged population dropped by 6.5 million during the decade of the 1970's, and 9,000 elementary schools across the nation were either closed or consolidated.

But by the 1980's, the older baby boomers were settling into their own child-bearing years and generating a new increase in annual births, the phenomenon affectionately known as the "Baby Boom II." Thus you find yourselves, nestled gently in between a "boom" in front and an "echo" in the rear, members of the privileged generation of the "baby bust."

You should have an easier time than those who are only four or five years ahead of you. To an extent that has not been true for many years, you will have the opportunity to choose what it is that you want to do with your life and then to go after it with reasonable chances of success. No matter what the economic winds of the 1990s may blow your way, you will be better able to weather the storms than those of the same era and generation.

And what about those winds? As they look back on this century, historians of the 2000s will probably identify the decade of the 1970s as the true "watershed period" that defined the ending of one great historical era and the difficult beginnings of the next. Let me remind you of some of the events of those extraordinary years:

• The Arab oil embargo in 1973 marked the close of the period of ever cheaper energy, bringing about a 15-fold increase in the price of oil over the ensuing decade.
• The recession that began in that year was marked by the country's first peacetime double-digit inflation, along with the highest unemployment rates since the Great Depression.
• The 1970s also witnessed the American school system surrendering the rise to economic equality of Germany and especially Japan, marking the end of American world domination.
• Meanwhile, the rise to full nuclear parity of the Soviet Union stimulated renewal fears of nuclear proliferation. The American school-aged population dropped by 6.5 million during the decade of the 1970's, and 9,000 elementary schools across the nation were either closed or consolidated.

The American economy has begun to make the fundamental adjustments required in a world of ever cheaper energy and raw materials, now combined with the sudden emergence of extraordinary new technological possibilities transforming our manufacturing process.

We are in transition from the "resource economy" of the Industrial Age to the "knowledge economy" of the Information Age, and we are witnessing the emergence, for the first time ever, of a global civilization. If the First Industrial Revolution was an extension of human muscle power through the harnessing of the greatest energy, the Second Industrial Revolution will extend human mental capacity in ways that we can hardly envision today.

The promise of the Information Revolution is real, but its dangers are not less tangible. Biotechnologies could wind up creating new environmental hazards rather than eliminating old ones. Computerized databases may increase government and corporate control over the public, rather than expanding individual access to knowledge and power. The transition is already causing major disruptions that are depleting the social-class divisions in American society. There have been unmistakable signs in the 1980's that the gap between rich and poor is growing, and no one knows yet how to bring American society into this new age in a way that does not widen that gap still further.

What do these revolutionary changes imply for the kind of education you should be seeking to shape for yourself here at Rice University?

Rice is an unusual place. The Rice College System, to which you are being vigorously introduced this week, is celebrating its thirteenth anniversary by becoming truly coeducational at last. You have also come to Rice when faculty and students are working to develop imaginative alternatives to the limitations of narrow specialization. You will hear more in the weeks and months ahead about the ongoing efforts at Rice to encourage more effective learning across the great divide of the sciences and the humanities. Each academic discipline by itself is an artificial, incomplete and compartmentalized division of knowledge. It will be up to you to sample wisely, to seek ways, eg you fashion your own education, to make the interconnectedness of knowledge correspond with the unity of life.

What this means to you is that, whether you would have chosen to or not, you have embarked upon a lifetime of continual learning. The only skills really worth developing at Rice are the skills of learning and the love of learning. What you need is the need to sharpen the intellectual skills that will enable you to teach yourself, to become an effective agent in your own development, to fashion and maintain a coherent sense of yourself, of your gifts and your limitations, as you move on through a succession of changing roles and unforeseen challenges. And you need to develop the breadth of learning and the firm sense of values that will enable you to participate fully in the process of envisioning and shaping the world of the 21st century.

Sociology Professor Stephen Klineberg, whose spring Sociology classes conducted Houston-area surveys, addressed the class of 1991 — the "baby-bust" generation.

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WE WRAP IT
WE PACK IT
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Attention: College Board Students, Discounts Available.
Some scholarships now taxable under new income laws

NEWS BRIEFS
compiled by Michèle Wucker

Wide program of public observing through telescopes, astronomical displays, and other activities. The event will begin at 1 p.m., Saturday, August 29, in the Space Science building.

The Board of Governors has named J. Evans Aswell, managing partner of the Houston law firm Vinson & Elkins, as a trustee of the university. Aswell, a 1953 Rice graduate, had been serving as a board member.

The catalog will only be useful for one year. The 1988-89 version will reflect curriculum revisions brought on by the coherent minor. According to Director of University Relations Bill Noblit, the catalog was originally intended to be finished July 24, but the departments found many errors and inaccuracies in the processing. The new format, says Driskill, improves the grading process and makes it less likely that a student will receive an unfair grade. "Under this system, it's much easier to feel confident about the scores we're giving," said Driskill.

The catalog after a staff member typed it. "We discovered a lot of errors late in the game. Because we keyboarded it ourselves in our office, we had to check and double-check," said Noblit. A member of the University Relations staff was responsible for typing the document, which was then sent to a professional typewriter.

By Michele Wucker

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Astronomy at Rice

Students must wait for new catalogs

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By Michele Wucker

Of the 664 students taking the English Composition Examination, 61 students received grades of "unsatisfactory," 393 received grades of "low pass," and 210 received grades of "satisfactory." Students who entered Rice last spring took the test with students entering the fall, so the total number of students who took the test was greater than this year's entering class. According to English Professor Linda Driskill, Composition Examination Director, this year's examinations are somewhat different from earlier tests. Instead of a three-hour essay examination, students complete a one-hour writing and reading test and a two-hour essay examination. Students are given fewer choices than in past years on the essay examination.

The new grading system, says Driskill, improves the grading process and makes it less likely that a student will receive an unfair grade. "Under this system, it's much easier to feel confident about the scores we're giving," said Driskill.

She said a group of approximately 25 graders from the English, economics, and history departments worked in pairs to review the exams. After training using sample tests and reading through several real tests, each pair of graders evaluated essays on only one topic. A student's essay is graded on the basis of the structure of its argument, the intellectual maturity of its ideas, the adequacy and appropriateness of its evidence, and the clarity and grammatical correctness of its sentences. A letter of advice is sent to each student and to faculty advisors on the day following the examination.

A student receiving a grade of unsatisfactory is required to take English 103, which emphasizes writing mechanics, database searching, the writing of argument structure and writing preferences of various academic disciplines, and development of individuals' writing abilities.

Some scholarships now taxable under new income laws

Revised federal laws now require taxpayers to be paid on some part of scholarship awards. Under the new provisions, only money used to pay for "qualified tuition and related expenses" is tax exempt.

Thus, funds covering tuition, books, fees, supplies, and equipment will not be tax exempt under the new law. Specifically taxable, however, is scholarship money used for room, board, and other personal living expenses.

The new rules apply to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1987, except for scholarships or fellowships granted before August 17, 1986.

The rules also place the burden of determining what is and is not taxable on the students' shoulders. In cases where full scholarships cover living expenses as well as tuition, books, and fees, students must assess the value of these services to determine the amount of tax owed.

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A student receiving a grade of unsatisfactory is required to take English 103, which emphasizes writing mechanics, database searching, the writing of argument structure and writing preferences of various academic disciplines, and development of individuals' writing abilities.
WELCOME BACK
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Houston, Texas: Just the facts, ma'am

S

o you're new in

Houston—or maybe you just haven't paid much attention

to the Space City. You know

about the humidity, and you

know about the traffic, but you're wondering what else is

here.

A quick look at the city

outside Rice's hedges won't hurt.

Once upon a time...

Houston owes its name to

Sam Houston, a 19th-century

congressman and governor of

Tennessee. Instead of heading

for a retirement ranch in the

Texas wilderness after his ca-

reer as a statesman, he led

troops from the Volunteer

State to a decisive victory over

Mexico's General Santa Anna

in the Battle of San Jacinto.

In honor of that 1836 vic-

tory—the beginning of Texas' march toward independence

—traders named a tiny out-

post north of bustling Gal-

veston after the general.

That flat, treeless place has

since blossomed into a met-

ropolis of nearly four million; has become the capital of the

American oil industry and the

American space program; has

changed to an all-classical for-

mat spiced with National

Public Radio news programs.

KLEF (92.1 and 104.9), a com-

mercial station, is also all-clas-

cial.

Professional sports

Oilers. Their recent threat to

leave Houston prompted an

expensive round of city-spon-

sored repairs to the Astro-

dome, even though the city is

financially strapped and the

Oilers aren't exactly Super

Bowl material. The team's

owners seemed to believe that

spectators were staying home

because they couldn't find seats.

Rockets. The Twin Towers

have been having subsidence

problems, it seems... After a

heartbreaking, heartbreaking

season (they lost to the Celtics in the finals), the Rock-

ets never got the magic back

this year.

Astros. Like the Rockets, the

Stros were winners last year,

but as for this one...just wait

till next year.

The difference between

Houston and Dallas

was probably best de-

cribed by Texas Monthly sta-

tist Alison Cook in a 1984 Van-

ity Fair survey of local opinion.

Said Cook, "Dallas has no

funk, no soul. In Houston,

when I drive around, nobody

looks like me. In Dallas, every-

body looks like me, only bet-

ter.''

Things you won't find

here

Bedrock. You probably learned in Sunday school that

wise men build their houses on

rock, foals on sand. If so, all

Houston's builders are fools: the city sits atop the nation's

third-largest aquifer (a water-

bearing layer of permeable

rock, sand or gravel). The

buildings here float on top—

literally.

This can cause problems.

For instance, as artesian wells

remove the aquifer's water,

Houston sinks the ground

around the San Jacinto monu-

ment dropped six feet between 1930 and 1946.

Such sinking is called sub-

sidence, and although artesian

wells have been augmented by

Lake Livingston and Lake

Houston, subsidence continues
to cause problems for homeowners (doors that stop

fitting their frames, floors and

walls that crack as a house

tilts) and Houston architects

and engineers, who must ac-

modate the shifting ground.

Next time you park in Green-

way Plaza, check out the rub-

ber joints in the parking gar-

nage.

Cowboys. John Travolta
doesn't count and neither do

the kind of Cowboys who

regularly come down here to

trash the Oilers. The real ar-

ticle is rare here, possibly

extinct — especially since the

cancellation of the

Huntsville Prison Rodeo. The

best bet for Cowboy-hunters

is the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, but be

warned that the show is still

livestock first, rodeo second.

Hills. The highest point of

land in the Rice area is easy

the hill at Miller Outdoor

Theater in Hermann Park.

That hill was made from

dirt excavated to build the Rice

stadium.

Last but not least

Houston is a breathtaking

place. It booms and busts,

brags and bleeds. It's a city in

adolescence, still a little brash,

almost convinced that its latest

break (the oil downturn) will

never heal. Treat it with

respect but not aloofness and

you'll find it well worth your

living here.

And if not, Houston will go

on without you.

—by Lisa Gray
Miro lithographs and Louisiana bluegrass music

Friday, August 21

Rockefeller's (3620 Washington Ave) offers pure nostalgia for those who are still Flower Children at heart. Donovan, the folksinging icon of the sixties, will be appearing for one night only. For tickets, call 861-9365.

Chris Thomas and Tomi Lee Bradley will be appearing at Fitzgerald's (2706 White Oak Drive). For tickets and show time, call 862-3838.

The A.D. Players will present the hit musical Godspell tonight at the Cullen Theater in the Wortham Center. This performance will be a gala benefit for the Players, so tickets are $50 and $100. The show starts at 8 p.m. Call 526-2721 for tickets.

The Council for Visual and Performing Arts is sponsoring a Jazz Concert tonight at the Sammons Auditorium in the Jesse H. Jones Library Building. The festival features jazz vocalist Kim Shaw and Marion Cowings, backed by the SumArts Jazz Ensemble. This event is free. For more information, call 792-4923.

Saturday, August 22

The Red Lion Restaurant and Pub (3115 South Main) is featuring Jerry Lightfoot and the Essential Blond Band tonight. This place also offers Blue Light Specials every Saturday. Call 795-5000 for information.

Dr. John and Coupe de Ville will perform tonight at Rockefeller's. This "funky" doctor specializes in bizarre Louisiana funk. Call 861-9365 for information.

The A.D. Players again present Godspell the Cullen Theater of the Wortham Center. This time, the tickets range from $12 to $18. The show starts at 8:00 p.m. Call 526-2721 for tickets.

Fitzgerald's features Rick Vito and Tony Dukes. Call 862-3838. Rick Vito will be appearing that afternoon at Rockin' Robin Guitars (3619 S. Westheimer). Call 529-5442 for details.

Again, a three-hour bluegrass music concert will be held at Miller Outdoor Theatre. The show is free and starts at 8 p.m.

Sunday, August 23

The Houston Lutheran Chorale is presenting Ovid Young, a pianist and keyboardist, tonight at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 1515 Hillen- dahl. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, call 468-2623.

Monday, August 24

Joe Reyes and the Cadillacs will be performing tonight at Fitzgerald's. For tickets or information, call 862-3838.

Wednesday, August 26

The O'Kane Gallery (1 Main Street) is showing the watercolor works of three women artists: Marge Baron, Ursula Brinkerhoff, and Linda Haag Carter. The gallery is open weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Quest for Eternity: Chinese Ceramic Sculptures from the People's Republic of China is still on display at The Museum of Fine Arts (1001 Bissonnet). The exhibit will continue through September 6. Admission is free on Thursdays. With a Rice ID, it's only $1 on other days.

Main Street Theater (2540 Times Blvd.) in the Village is presenting "The Trust," the play by a Rice alum about the murder of William Marsh Rice and his attorney's quest to save the university. The show plays Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. For tickets, call 524-3622.

The "True Wit" exhibit continues at the Cullen Center (1600 Smith) through October 8. The exhibit displays the humorous works of several Texas artists.

The Gerhard Warzer Gallery (5085 Westheimer) is sponsoring an exhibit by Joan Miro entitled "L'enfance du Ubu." The exhibit consists of twenty color lithographs.

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Future law enforcement portrayed in violent RoboCop

Directed by Paul Verhoeven

From the moment this film begins you know it means business. There are no opening credits — the film simply thrusts you into the future. By the time the movie is over, one may be inclined to say, "I have seen the future of law enforcement, and the future is RoboCop."

Name your criteria for a great film and RoboCop has it. You want a story of a brave hero doing battle with the forces of evil? You get it, but there's a slight catch. Our do-gooder is Peter Weller, who plays Officer Murphy, a Detroit cop in the near future who is literally blown away in the line of duty by a gang of unannamed bad-dies. But an aspiring young scientist (Daniel O'Herlihy) makes the most of his opportunity to introduce "the future of law enforcement" by taking what's left of Murphy and creating a cyborg of immense powers. Basically he creates the Terminator with indestructable armor and considerably more firepower.

Next, you'll probably want a sinister villain to threaten our hero. No problem, Kurtwood Smith, as the leader of the gang that murders Murphy, is nothing but pure evil. He and his motley crew are the greatest assembly of absolute nastiness in any recent movie history. Even Ronny Cox, who looks like he's having much more fun here as a corporate big-wig than as Inspector Vögensill in the Beverly Hills Cop movies, is an equally nasty opposition to Robo.

Do you want lots and lots of action and special effects? German director Paul Verhoeven put so much action and violence into the film that the editor (Frank J. Urioste) had to make some cuts or else the MPAA was going to give RoboCop an X rating for excessive violence. This shouldn't bother many people, but do be warned — the future portrayed in RoboCop is not always pretty and the ways people meet with their deaths is equally gruesome at times. Special merit should be given to RoboCop designer Rob Bottin and the entire special effects crew that constructed him as well as the ED-209, which is Robo's main competition in the crime prevention industry.

Interested in good-looking, slender-bodied women parading about? Too bad. RoboCop doesn't provide much female anatomy, unless you count the bony Nancy Allen who plays Murphy's ex-partner.

The film does contain some sharp-witted jabs at the future of the United States. Some humor is injected through the use of television news-channels and commercials which are interspersed throughout the film. One example is a crazed ex-City Councilman from California who demands, in addition to being given his old job back, "a big car — one with really shifty gas mileage." The policeman handling the situation agrees to give him the new line of glutony, the SUX-6000.

Basically, RoboCop provided the most fun I've had at any movie this summer. The Unstitchables, Fall Metal Jacket, and The Lost Boys were the only other great films I've seen so far in this season of summertime fun films, but for all-out action and entertainment, RoboCop delivers the most.

—David Nathan

Rice's mysterious murder focus of play

The Trust

Directed by Neil Havens

Doug Killgore ('69) knew, like most Rice students, that the founder of this illusory university was murdered in an evil plot (the butcher did not eat the million dollars that William Marsh Rice had intended for his dream school, Rice Institute. The more Killgore learned about the details of Rice's death, the more intrigued he became. He was so interested in the story that he wrote a play about it entitled "The Trust."

Main Street Theatre in the Village is currently showing "The Trust" Thursdays through Saturdays through September 13. Neil Havens, a Rice drama professor as well as an alumnus, directs the play.

The play employs some interesting devices to enhance the story. The play begins with a short film that mixes actual footage from 1927 with a staged reenactment of Baker's speech to the class of '31. In the film clip, J.D. Thompson, a retired Rice professor, plays Capt. Baker, who discusses the murder and produced a fake will. Maurice Tuttle plays the butler, Charlie Jones, and Michael Macy is the young Capt. Baker. Macy acts as narrator for the story, leading the audience through the action.

The title of the play refers to the trust that William Marsh Rice placed in his attorney Capt. Baker, appointing him head of the original Board of Trustees and leaving him responsible for establishing the Institute. The action of "The Trust" begins with the murder of William Marsh Rice and follows Baker's attempt to prove that Rice was murdered, concluding with the trial of Albert Patrick and Charlie Jones.

Performances start at 8 p.m. and student discounts are available. The Main Street Theatre box office can be reached at 534-3622.
So, little indoctrinated freshmen, as you approach the first weekend of your so far undistinguished college careers, I'm sure there's one question that's been coursing its way across your synapses: where the hell are you going to eat on Saturday and Sunday night?

With your best interests at heart, the Thresher has compiled a list of places for you to go. Hang on to this list because it will be helpful next time you're asked:

**FAST FOOD (Bad)**

The Rice area is cursed with many of the same foods that the above restaurants serve except that these are better and more expensive.

**FAST FOOD (Good)**

This is a rather arbitrary category, but then this is a rather arbitrary article, so it fits. These restaurants serve the world's best sub and hamburgers and the usual things to go with them. They usually have some sort of coupon in the Thresher and you'll get a 10% discount by using it. Flashing your college ID will get you a 10% discount, so don't be afraid to try it. Wendy's on Holcombe gives this discount every day.

Miller's Cafe (6305 Main St) is similar to Zimmerman's, except it's a little more expensive and tends to caters to Medical Center people.

If you have a car, Fuddrucker's (Chimney Rock off of Highway 59) serves the best hamburgers in the country, even if they do display the carcasses.

If you like submarine sandwiches, Bighthouse's (Holcombe and Gessner) is pretty reasonable although their sandwiches tend to be a little bland. They often have two for one coupons which makes them a really good deal.

Burger's (2946 Shepherd and Holcombe) which I don't recommend, and the others.

**CHINESE FOOD**

There are a number of Chinese restaurants near Rice, some good and some not so good. Here are some of the good ones.

Chinese Cafe (9525 C Bellaire) is about thirteen miles away if you take 59 and 610, but it's worth the drive. They serve great food at very reasonable prices and because it's in Chinatown, the non-Orantals you'll find will probably be Rice students. A good place to go in groups. Try the shrimp fried rice. Avoid the squid.

Across Dido Square from Chinese Cafe is Genghis Khan. At Genghis, you select all the food you can eat and then cook it yourself on the grill in the center of each table. We're talking authentic Chinese barbecue.

Swan Den (2534 Ahenerst) in the Village is an exceptional restaurant, but they serve fried rice and all of the people who work there are Vietnamese. They also have excellent Vietnamese food and are willing to try very low prices. The building is a converted Dairy Queen that has been painted orange. Don't look for it in Miami Vice.

DESSERT

The following can also substitute as dinner if you're tired of dieting or you want to annoy a roommate who is dieting.

The Marble Slab Creamery (3112 Kirby) is a major Rice hangout last year, there working on a project, there's a very bad candy machine and two double drive-thru when you get a chance. Check the amazing double drive-thru when you get a chance. Check the amazing double drive-thru when you get a chance. Check the amazing double drive-thru when you get a chance.

Two Fives (Kirby at 59) serves Mexican food, some good, some not. It was a major Rice hang-out last year, but I don't think that will continue for too long, especially if something else comes along. Check the amazing double drive-thru when you get a chance.

One's a Meal (2019 West Gray), next door to the River Oaks Theater is a good alternative to the House of Guys.

Sugary S. Mudd (ICSA on the Rice campus) is the place that you would take a date, but if you're stuck working on a project, there's a very good candy machine and two Coke machines. Either or that you could starve.

There are many more restaurants nearby, but this is a pretty good starter list. The Village is well-stocked with trendy places that cater to the yuppies who are taking over the area. If you like that sort of thing, you don't need to go anywhere else. Shepherd, Holcombe, and Westheimer also have lots of good places.

—Paul D. Angles
Dreyfuss saves otherwise run-of-the-mill cop movie

Stakeout

Directed by John Badham

The other morning, I got up on the wrong side of the bed. This seemed to me to be very strange, so strange that I just had to consult the morning newspaper for an explanation. Do you know what I found out? It was because of the Harmonic Convergence. You see, every 24,000 years, all the harmonics in the solar system converge on Memphis, Tennessee to celebrate the death of Elvis Presley. To put things right, I decided to go down by shifting locales to Seattle, the home of the moss people, where we find Chris Lowe and Bill Reimers (played by Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez), hard at the job, or rather, spending their time arresting scary-looking people down at the docks.

In comedic form, a routine day at the docks does not go well for our two heroes, and while Chris gets a behind-the-scenes peek at a fish packing plant, Bill submarines a forklift into Puget Sound. The two fail to get their man, and a big stink is raised back at headquarters, much to the amusement of a rival pair of detectives. The fun starts when Chris's "better half," whose family supports, and not even that much of a rivalattrope, attempts to rescue him, he takes them all on a field trip to a waterfront lumber mill, where Chris and Stick fight for the woman they love with the better actor winning. Most of this climactic scene has an obligatory air to it but is nevertheless suspenseful and well directed.

Dreyfuss steals much of the show, looking pretty sharp after selling his soul to Touchstone. Word has it that his career has taken off now that he is healthy. Now if only he could play a harmonica...

—Harold Bunniemeister

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Berndt brags about bodacious ballplayers

by Joel Sendek

While the Southwest Conference suffers through a blow to its collective integrity, Rice football has the potential to shine in 1987 at the expense of those teams who were not behaving themselves.

The 1987 recruiting year has been deemed the best in years, with several freshmen choosing Rice over USC, Stanford, LSU, Texas, and Air Force, among other top schools. A notable exception is O.J. Brigance, a division 5-A All-State center from Sugarland. Brigance will play line-backer at Rice. “O. J. picked up the system very well and has been very impressive at line-backer,” said Coach Jerry Berndt. Berndt is in his second year as head football coach at Rice.

The list of outstanding prospects goes on. “Richard Segina, a center from Clute, TX, is one who has really impressed us,” said Coach Berndt. Segina has won All-County and All-State honors, as well as being named MVP of his high school squad.

Other players who particularly impressed Coach Berndt include Eric Henley, a running back, who was named to the LA Times’ All-Southern California squad, and Otha Latin, an All-District, 5-A player from Lamar High School.

While Rice’s dearth of recruiting violations has certainly increased Rice’s attractiveness to high school players, the Owls’ strong finish last fall must also be considered. “From the Texas game on, people thought, ‘Hey, these guys are for real!’,” said Coach Berndt. Berndt noted. Another major change this year is the appointment of new Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator Ron Chismar. A Kent State graduate, Chismar has served as Head Coach at Wichita State for the past three years. With only four returning starters on defense, Chismar has his work cut out for him.

Coach Berndt has great deal of confidence in his new assistant. “Ron Chismar will add a great deal of experience, knowledge and maturity to our program,” said Berndt.

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Because time and money matter.
Spikers to swat SWC opponents
by Claire Closmann
With nine returning players from last year, the Rice Women’s volleyball team is a proven favorite to win the Southwest Conference.

"We finished third in the Southwest Conference last year, but the teams that finished ahead of us (Texas and Texas A&M) both lost five starters," said head coach Debbie Sokol. In her seventh year at Rice, Sokol was named Southwest Conference Coach of the Year for 1986. "We are probably one of the most experienced teams in the Conference this year," she said.

The Owls’ impressive turnaround was quite a surprise to the Conference. The squad won only six games in 1985, but wound up with a 21-14 record last year.

"Our outlook is very good because of our experience. We have an excellent chance of a repeat performance, or even better," said Coach Sokol. Returning from the 1986 squad are five starters. Setter Lara Epperson, first-team all-SWC, will be one to watch, as will inside hitter Anna Epperson, an outside hitter, who was named to the all-SWC second team.

Other returning starters will be middle blockers Dana Schunk and Suzanne Zatorski and outside hitter Diane Kuhman. Kuhman tied for the Southwest Conference lead in terms of height and athleticism last year. "She was the only letterman from last year’s team that is not returning," she said confidently.

One impressive new team member is Tricia Bowan, a 6’4”, 170 lb. middle blocker from Arlington, Texas. "A dominating player at the net, Tricia will add a tremendous boost to our offense and defense," said coach Sokol. A member of the South Squad at the 1987 U.S. Olympic Festival, Bowan should be, as Sokol says, "an impact player" in the Southwest Conference.

"Our team, overall, is probably the biggest team Rice has ever put on the floor in terms of height and athleticism," she noted. "This will help our defense. We will be taking leads and holding them, or coming back in our matches instead of playing side-out volleyball," she said confidently.

So, this is one Rice Owl’s team that enters the 1987 season with an unusual degree of confidence. Their campaign will open with a match at Prairie View A&M on August 29. The first chance to see them at Autry Court will be at the Gene Hackerman Showcase on Sept. 4-5. There will be 5 home conference matches this fall with associated promotional activities. Everyone who was at big showdowns like the showdown with A&M last year has a great time, so expect more of the same. Like the coach said, "The season looks real bright."
CRUZ LOVES EDEN BUT SHE CAN'T WALK MISCLASS

Astronomy day will be held Saturday, August 29 at the Rice U. Space Science building. There will be exhibits and activities from 1 p.m. until dusk. Activities then shift to a nearby field and will include viewing the planets. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Starlite 661-6180 or Barbara Wilson 933-1289, evening.

Schedule correction: Acco 409 Corporate Financial Reporting, Professor Phillip Bell, Tuesday and Thursday 9-25-10:40 a.m., Room 115 Honning Hall. Please sign preregistration list in Honning Hall 250 and contact Duane Windsor at x4869 with any questions.

Religion 303 Monotheistic Religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam will be taught by Dr. Hans King of the University of Tubingen in West Germany. The course is open to all undergraduates, and the first lecture will be August 31. The course will meet Mondays 7-10 p.m. in Sewall 309.

Epoch Matching Funds: A scholarship for students working to pay for college is available to undergraduates and international students. The fund matches student earnings up to 50% of the cost of tuition, fees, and books. Documentation required. Not need based. Implied obligation to repay. Applications due to Mike Mcalenery at 868-5852.

The Great Books Council of Houston will meet to discuss power and checks and balances as a key concept of the Constitution. They will meet at the Heights Library, 1302 Heights Blvd. at 13th street on Saturday, September 26 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. For more info contact Mike Mcalenery at 868-5852.

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