by Lorie List

A new name and new staff members transformed Rice Psychiatric Services into the Rice Counseling Center this summer. By July, psychologist Lindley Doran became the director of the new center. Doran spent the previous ten years at Southern Methodist University as Associate Director of the Counseling Center.

Doran said the whole concept of the center has changed. Instead of utilizing one on one therapy like Psychiatric Services, the staff will now prepare programs to work within the residential colleges.

The Counseling Center added psychologists to the staff to increase the diversity of possible therapy. Psychologist Deborah Story has been hired as a full-time assistant director to serve the Residential Colleges.

Doran said the center's emphasis will shift from dealing mainly with crisis problems to taking an active part in teaching how to deal with college students' typical developmental problems before the problems get out of control.

"We want to see people use us as consultants to the whole academic environment," Doran said.

Another new staff member is Danielle McWilliams, a recent graduate of Teachers College, Columbia University, who was hired as a full-time assistant director to serve the Rice Counseling Center and has worked extensively with The Radcliffe Center for Fellows in Community Work to develop its own life program.

McWilliams said she has no psychologist, but is working on a new one which will be utilized as a link between students and the counseling center. Through community wide programming, McWilliams hopes to address needs and concerns before problems happen, rather than react to problems after they arise.

The Counseling Center is also working on an organization to help students actively engage in what is needed to realize their needs and concerns. Students will attend five group counseling sessions in the fall, and 12 during the year.

Rice switches to 80% Houston water by Louis Evan Spiegler

Rice University began buying water from the City of Houston to mix with its own well water earlier this summer in response to a strong recommendation by The Harris County Subsidence District. Before the July 1 changeover, Rice used its own water exclusively, but the University now uses a 26%-34% mixture of Houston and Rice water sources.

The changeover was approved by The Board of Directors and cost $240,000.

According to Bill Mack, Director of Facilities and Engineering, the university had no choice but to use the water.

"The subsidence district board said you've got to stop using your own water for application purposes," Mack said.

Rice Community will receive 244 million gallons of water per year, as much of a quarter of which is used for the colleges. In the past the cost was negligible, but it now costs $5.94 per 1,000 gallons. Part of this will be reflected in next year's student housing costs, an increase of a few dollars per month for students.

Food and Housing is aware of the increases and is putting some water conservation measures into effect. There will be tighter control over the current cooling tower, and a new control panel will be added to help with conservation efforts.

"We want to create a course in which anybody that tried hard could pass it," Michel said.

Michel intended to alter the course's presentation in other ways as well. "The spirit of the course is to introduce students to concepts," he said.

University restructures NSCI courses by Peter Howley

Natural Science (NSCI) 101 and 102 have been restructured for the fourth time, said F. Curtis Michel of the Department of Space Physics and Astronomy. Michel supervised the restructuring of the classes. These foundation courses (or exemption exams) are a part of all non-science/engineering majors.

The new NSCI courses will include two large lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays and a recitation on Fridays.

Roughly one hundred students will attend each lecture. Michel will teach both sections.

This marks a major change from last year's courses, which were broken down into seven small sections taught by seven different professors from various natural science departments.

"I know that this is not the ideal teaching situation," said Michel. "We would have liked to have smaller classes, but we couldn't afford a scalable text."

James Kinsey, Dean of Natural Sciences, said, "I'm concerned about going back to the big lecture format because I thought last year was an improvement over the previous large lecture format.

"We wanted to create a course in which anybody that tried hard could pass it," Michel said.

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"We want to create a course in which anybody that tried hard could pass it," Michel said. "That's the new cool tower is more efficient," said Michel. "It has one-half the water losses of the old tower.

Student Association President Mitra Miller said she is aware of the changes, but said, "If Rice doesn't have a choice, Rice doesn't have a choice." She also mentioned the need for a larger conservation effort. "The S.A. is organizing a campus wide conservation effort that will involve not only water use, but electricity," she said.

Director of Student Activities Sarah Nelson Crawford said that it is important for students to "preserve what we have."

Student activities director shows showers heads that use less water. Crawford said that she hopes would be making an effort to promote conservation, a sion also supported by Miller and the Physical Plant.

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The recitation leaders will be professors from the departments of Computer Science, Geology, Mathematics, and Electrical Engineering.

The content of the course, which has included introductory calculus, physics and chemistry, has been previously unsatisfactory.

This is the first year that the Department of Space Physics and Astronomy will teach the course. Previously, Stephen Bader of the Physics department organized it.

Michel volunteered to redesign the course when the Physics department finished its third year of running NSCI.

Rice University restructures NSCI courses by Peter Howley

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Don't wait for '95 panic

A valuable asset at any college, but particularly at Rice, is "never let your academics get in the way of your education." Certainly, we are here to learn from our academic classes, but there is much more to what should be perceived as a Rice education than that. There is what is summed up in the perpetual catch-phrase, "The Rice Experience.

Every spring, at the last possible chance (usually April 25), an annual event takes number in Club 13. They are the seniors who, after spending almost four years of their lives here, finally had their day in the sun (or so they could say they did it.

The sad thing about this is that for these people, there will never be a second chance. There is no April 31. There is only so much you can do in your last semester of your senior year. And obviously, there's more to Rice than Club 13, though many may try to deny it.

So start now. There are over a hundred organizations on campus; you can always use more interested people. Come some October, we may wish we had run 13, or gone to a Rally Club rally, or worked for the Thresher (hint, hint), or even started that bumper-jumper club that currently lies in the back of our minds. Now is as good a time as you get, whether you are a new freshman or an old hand at Rice.

Of course, academics have their place—but surviving here can seem overwhelming. Between homework and classes, there often doesn't seem to be enough time. But all work and no play, as they say, makes Sammy a dull owl. Some people find a regular, extra-curricular activity just the thing to lend structure to their lives, beyond just their class schedule.

It's been a long week, I know, but do make a point of going to the activities fair this afternoon, and avoid the Spring '95 panic.

See you in April. I hope to be one of them with the obvious tan line.

Hartow Howe, Editor in Chief

Ballenger produces excellent meet sheet

We at the Thresher commend Todd Ballenger, the Student Association Vice President, for the job he has done on this year's Newcomer's guide (a.k.a. "The Meet Sheet").

This is the first year almost anyone can remember the Meet Sheet coming out so early—a month before classes. It is well-designed and respected, several friends and I found it has improved in purpose—people know who the freshmen are as soon as, if not before, they get here. It is a substantial improvement over last year's troubled book and should be a second chance. There is only so much you can do in your last semester of your senior year. And obviously, there is what is summed up in the perpetual catch-phrase, "The Rice Experience.

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Get to know the Student Association

The Thresher serves a small yet diverse audience by providing objective campus and local news as well as an open forum. Letters to the editor will be accepted subject to the provisions below:

• Letters must be signed and should include the writer's college and major.
• The Thresher will not edit for content or ideas. However, we will not edit for clarity, grammar, and length. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, grammar, and length. We reserve the right to edit for the benefit of the reader.
• The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to publication.
• Address submissions to: Editor, The Rice Thresher, 2202 Lovett, Houston, TX 77251.

Letters to the Editor

The other day, I was talking to a group of upperclassmen about my participation in Orientation Week activities as a Student Association representative. I explained that I would spend most of my time discussing what it is that the S.A. does, as the campus-wide governing body. The members of the group, most of whom I have now known for three years, looked seriously at me and asked "Just what is it that the S.A. does? We've been here for years and still don't know..."

I was shocked. Surely, people thought I was well-informed about the role of the Student Association as a representative of the students, the governing body in the students' interests. Over the years we have also developed into a service organization, providing such items as the Student Association Cards (S.A. card), the University Directory, and the Off-Campus Housing guide to the spring. The Student Association is the name for the entire student body at Rice. The group of elected officials is known as the Student Senate and serves the governing body in the students' interests. Over the years we have also developed into a service organization, providing such items as the Student Association Cards (S.A. card), the University Directory, and the Off-Campus Housing guide to the spring. The Student Association is the name for the entire student body at Rice. The group of elected officials is known as the Student Senate and serves the governing body in the students' interests.

For the benefit of those of you who are not as familiar with the role of the Student Association as I, here is a brief explanation of the function of the S.A. Senate. It may not be for clarifying copy, but at least you will know more than most of the upperclassmen.

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YOU WANT ME TO MOVE OUT AND TAKE CARE OF THE KIDS? I CAN'T AFFORD YOU ANYMORE.

YOU'RE NOT PAYING ME ANYTHING! ZONK, YOU EAT LIKE A HORSE, IT'S LIKE I'M FEEDING A FAMILY OF NINE! I JUST CAN'T STRETCH MY UNEMPLOYMENT CHECK TO PAY YOU ANYMORE.

I PON'T BELIEVE THAT! AFTER ALL I'VE DONE FOR YOUR CHILD!

ZONK, I'M AFRAID WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LET YOU GO. WE CAN'T AFFORD YOU ANYMORE.

ZONK, I'M SORRY ABOUT YOU AND BOOPSIE, BUT WE JUST CAN'T STAY HERE NOW.

B.P., I'M SORRY ABOUT YOU AND BOOPSIE, BUT WE CAN'T HELP YOU OUT.

B.D., I'M SORRY, BUDDY. HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING ANYTHING.

B.P., IT'S NOT A GOOD TIME FOR A VISIT. YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST ME ON THIS...

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO KEEP THIS PLACE. WE'LL BE BURNING IT DOWN THIS FALL.

I'M SORRY, BUDDY, BUT I JUST CAN'T PUT YOU UP NOW.

B.D., IT'S NOT A GOOD TIME FOR A VISIT. YOU JUST WANT TO CRASH IN YOUR LIVING ROOM FOR A WHILE. NICE COUCHES, BY THE WAY...

YOU AND BOOPSIE WENT TO COLLEGE? AREN'T YOU SORRY WE JOINTED THE ALMA MATER?

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DOONESBURY
BY G.B. TRUDEAU

WHERE'S BOOPSIE?

BOOPSIE? IT'S ME. YOU CAN COME OUT NOW. MEG'S GONE...

BOOPSIE, TALK TO ME. I KNOW WE CAN WORK THIS OUT...

YOU KNEW HER, BUT NOT THAT WELL. WE Weren't DOING ANTHING, NOT MUCH ANYWAY. I MEAN, NOTHING THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR US AT LEAST, IT SHOULDN'T BE!

I HAD A GUN.

HAHAHA!

I ALWAYS COULD MAKE YOU LAUGH, COULDN'T I, BABE?

HEE, HEE...

I STOPPED BY GUCCI'S ON MY WAY HOME.

IT'S A LOVELY SCARF?

I MEAN, I CAN EITHER PACK UP MY THINGS, OR I CAN TRY TO SAVE THE BEST THING EITHER OF US HAS EVER KNOWN. IT'S YOUR CHOICE.

HEY, BABE, DON'T LOOK THE OTHER WAY...

HEE, HEE, HEE!

I CAN'T WORK ANTHING OUT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO HERE...

NOT...HA, HA!

NOT LIKE THIS!

HA, HA, HA, HA, HA!

HEE, HEE, HEE...

DON'T CALL ME, OKAY?

I'M TRYING TO MAKE JENNIFER HAPPY! WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A SCARF!

NEVER MIND, I JUST SHOVED THE MOTOR FORWARD...

DO YOU THINK I'M AN OFFICER?

IT'S A SCARF!

I'LL PAY YOU BACK. I'M TRYING TO MAKE JENNIFER HAPPY!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO HERE...

WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP THE MOTOR REARWARD!
Wood wins poetry award
by Eric Hahn
Rice English professor and Lovett College master Susan Wood was recently awarded the LaMont Prize by the Academy of American Poets for her book of poetry entitled Campo Santo. The prize is given for the best American poet; this year's competition included 23 other manuscripts.

"I knew I had been nominated, and that my publisher had sent a copy of the manuscript in to be judged, but it was still a great feeling to win. It's especially good to win the LaMont Prize in my situation, too. My first book, Besane, was published in 1981. It's a good feeling to be able to publish another book ten years later and have it win the LaMont Prize. It's an indication that I've still got it," said Wood.

"It all depends on the way the judges felt," said Wood. "The judges could be having a bad day or a good day. Even what they had for breakfast could affect their mood and their judging. If you win, you may not have been the best. If you lose, it may not be because your manuscript wasn't good enough."

The victory is indeed hers, though, and that makes the future look good. "There's a cash prize of $1,000, but there's more," said Wood. "Now that I've won, my book will get reviewed more, and reviewed more thoroughly. There will be more exposure, so more copies will be bought, which means more people will read it. I'll also probably be asked to do more readings than I would have if I hadn't won."

"The perks don't stop there, though. The Academy of American Poets has a policy of purchasing 2,000 copies of the winning book every year to distribute to Academy members. "Originally, my publisher wasn't planning to print many more than 2,000 copies. Now because of the award, they've already got that many sold."

"Another advantage for Wood comes from the time at which she won the award. "My publishers were holding my book to see if I won or not. Now that I have, when my book goes to press I can put something on the cover about it winning the LaMont Prize."

"This decision is another indication of the favorable relationship between Wood and her publisher, LSU Press. They're great," said Wood. "They've been very supportive. I've never met them, but I've talked to them on the phone and they're all very nice. LSU is very good with publishing poetry."

Ask yourself an important question:

Is it safe?

With an escalating violent crime rate in our city, are dimly lit, out-of-the-way automatic teller machines really all that safe?

Unattended teller machines present excellent opportunities for criminals to hide, confident in the knowledge that anyone using an ATM is almost certainly going to leave it with cash. Often lots of cash.

Many people don't realize that there is a safe, convenient ATM right here in the middle of the Rice campus. It is located in the Rice Memorial Center, right between the Rice Campus Store and Sammy's, and it accepts all major credit and bank cards.

So there's no need to be unsafe when getting money.

College Days Sale

New Shipment Arrived
With More Futon Packages at Special Prices!

$393.
Reg. $785
Queen $399
Available in limited supply in Black, Pueblo Blue and Gray.
Frame only.

$155.
Twin
BASIC SLEEPER
Double $175
Queen $199
Sofa • Bed • Lounger
Includes Futon & Frame.
Futon Available In Solid Colors.

FREE LAUNDRY BAG
W/Package Purchase & Student I.D.

SPECIAL $10 SHIPPING FEE
1 Futon & Frame Package
For All In-State Students

Futonia
Forensics team to build on successful year

The George R. Brown Forensic Society, Rice's speech and debate team, completed its most successful year yet during the 1990-91 season. The squad improved on its previous year's national ranking among 700 other universities, moving from 58th to eleventh this year. In the small school category (500-999 students with 5000 students or less), Rice improved from eighth to second.

Rice increased its national exposure by placing fifth against 140 colleges and universities at the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament in Tacoma, Washington, breaking into the top twenty for the first time. Rice also successfully defended its title as the Texas state champion in speech and debate, winning both the Fall and Spring Championships held at St. Mary's University and West Texas State University.

Last year, the speech and debate team attended twenty-two tournaments across the nation, traveling to places including Los Angeles, Phoenix, Colorado Springs, Birmingham, Chicago, and Baton Rouge. The team placed at all of the sweepstakes tournaments and won eight of them. The team also held public debates against Green's Inn of London, an association of London's top lawyers who debated at Oxford and Cambridge, and American University.

Last year's team consisted of over thirty-five members, and was comprised mostly of newcomers. Regular meetings are every Monday night at 9:15 in Rayser 318 (the English graduate lounge). Everyone interested is encouraged to attend. There will also be a reception for all interested new members on August 28 at 8 p.m. in the Muner Lounge of the RMC. For further information, come by Rayser 227 or call ext. 3216.

—Ali Atkinson, co-president

Glass named Dean of Graduate Studies

Graham Glass accepted the newly created position of Dean of Graduate Studies this July. The position was created in response to changing needs in the department since Glass was temporarily appointed as Director two years ago.

In the last two years, Graduate Studies has taken over the Class III student program from the Office of Continuing Studies. In addition, according to Glass, the financing of graduate students has changed, from primarily Rice scholarships to more and more external funding sources. "This led to a whole new need for administrative organization," said Glass.

The creation of the new position was "more of a change of title...I think to stabilize the position," he said.

Mudd offers new computer orientation classes

Information Systems offers computer training all year. During the first three weeks of Fall semester, these computer training courses are designated only for students. From August 26 to September 12, computer training courses will be available on a walk-in basis. The Special Student Short Course Calendar, posted in the college offices and in Mudd, lists 47 introductory level computer training courses on the Macintosh, IBM, Unix systems and minitrones.

These student courses are fast paced and usually only two hours long. No enrollment is necessary—just go to the designated tutorial room at the time indicated.

Some new courses of interest to engineering and computer science students are Introduction to Unix and Introduction to the X Windows System. Other courses are offered in DOS, the Macintosh, and word processing. On the mainframe, there are courses in CMS, SAB and Electronic mail. If you don't have much time but want to learn enough to write and print out a paper, take the class called Student Mac and Word.

From September 16 through November 25, regular short courses are available to everyone in the Rice Community. Calendars for these courses will be available in Mudd on August 30. The topics cover spreadsheets, databases, graphics, and word processing. Students must enroll for regular computer training courses in person at the Information Desk (Mudd 103).

—Christina Poehls

Martin promoted to RSVP director

Lucy Martin has recently been promoted to director of the Rice Student Volunteer Program. She replaced Paul Winkler, who left July 1 to attend the University of Chicago. Martin, a 1990 Rice graduate, has worked as RSVP's projects coordinator for the last year. As director, she expects to continue many of the same programs developed under Winkler's leadership.

"RSVP is no longer a new program on campus," she said. "I hope to be able to give the program new depth and to develop new facets of RSVP, but much will be maintenance of what has already been started."

One of her goals is to make information available about the different volunteering opportunities in Houston and facilitate discussion about volunteer groups. She wants to encourage students to question their interests and the goals of RSVP, then consider them in the context of the community's needs.

As the staff leader of the largest student organization on campus, Martin expects the growth of RSVP membership to continue as students become more aware of societal needs. "The problems are so big that no one can ignore them," Martin said. "They are presented on television and are talked about in politics. Students realize that the world they are inheriting is burdened with serious social and ecological problems."

Beckra Yorke, a 1989 Rice graduate, recently joined the organization as projects coordinator. She is responsible for the adult literacy program and volunteer internship opportunities.

—Ross Goldberg

Reprinted from Rice News

Notice:
This year, the cashier's office is mailing meal plan and athletic events validation stickers to the colleges.

In order to be included in the 1991 University Directory,
please submit your personal information report to the Registrar by Friday, September 6

You can't be in the Directory if we don't have your new address and phone number!

Thank you,
Erik Leidal
SA External Vice President
Susan (Alison Cohen) slaps David (Cannon Lewis) in one scenario from Health Education's production of *Mixed Signals*. This is the second year Health Education has put on the play, which they are selling to other universities.

New Resident Associates move into SRC, Jones

by Erica Oilman

They fell in love with Jones amidst bales of hay and George Strait. Enrique and Maribel Barrera, new resident associates this fall, were introduced to the college at its kicker party last year. "We really love to dance and we had a great time," said Dr. Barrera. Dr. Barrera is a professor of Materials Science, and his wife is the Employee Relations Coordinator in the personnel department. In fact, the two met while he was filling out paperwork in her department. They were married just a few weeks ago.

The Barreras hope to share their interests with the students of Jones and are planning trips to dance halls throughout the year. Hispanic, country, Fifties, and pop dancing are all on the agenda. In addition, the couple intends to celebrate their Mexican-American heritage with margarita and mariachi parties.

Dr. and Mrs. Barrera look forward to the residential experience. "It'll be a challenge to juggle our responsibilities to Jones, our departments, and other commitments, but we think we can combine and integrate them while having a good time."

Another new resident associate at Jones is Emmy Alvarez, Associate Director of Admissions. She brings a unique perspective and understanding to the position, as she was a member of Hanszen College from 1981 to 1985. After four years in Dallas, Alvarez said that she missed the enthusiasm and idealism of college students. She is excited to be back at Rice and looks forward to working with the students.

"Jones is so warm and welcoming," she said. She hopes to return the goodwill by entertaining and having students over to cook dinner together. Look for her rollerblading around campus.

Sid Richardson also welcomes a new resident associate, Danielle McWilliams. As Residential Life Counselor, McWilliams will coordinate and integrate programs for the students of Rice. Living inside a college offers instant feedback and an insider's view. "I can tell it's going to be a push-me-pull-me kind of year. The position is a new one, and the challenge intrigues," she commented.

Her experience at Rice so far has been extremely positive. She is especially impressed with Orientation Week. "The advisors are fantastic," she said. "Dedicated... Thoughtful... They give so much time and energy and ask nothing in return." McWilliams has already made many close friendships; many students at Sid could not speak more highly of her. She will, however, spend a great deal of time at all the colleges, and encourages all students to drop by and visit.

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The Barreras hope to share their interests with the students of Jones and are planning trips to dance halls throughout the year. Hispanic, country, Fifties, and pop dancing are all on the agenda. In addition, the couple intends to celebrate their Mexican-American heritage with margarita and mariachi parties.

Dr. and Mrs. Barrera look forward to the residential experience. "It'll be a challenge to juggle our responsibilities to Jones, our departments, and other commitments, but we think we can combine and integrate them while having a good time."

Another new resident associate at Jones is Emmy Alvarez, Associate Director of Admissions. She brings a unique perspective and understanding to the position, as she was a member of Hanszen College from 1981 to 1985. After four years in Dallas, Alvarez said that she missed the enthusiasm and idealism of college students. She is excited to be back at Rice and looks forward to working with the students.

"Jones is so warm and welcoming," she said. She hopes to return the goodwill by entertaining and having students over to cook dinner together. Look for her rollerblading around campus.

Sid Richardson also welcomes a new resident associate, Danielle McWilliams. As Residential Life Counselor, McWilliams will coordinate and integrate programs for the students of Rice. Living inside a college offers instant feedback and an insider's view. "I can tell it's going to be a push-me-pull-me kind of year. The position is a new one, and the challenge intrigues," she commented.

Her experience at Rice so far has been extremely positive. She is especially impressed with Orientation Week. "The advisors are fantastic," she said. "Dedicated... Thoughtful... They give so much time and energy and ask nothing in return." McWilliams has already made many close friendships; many students at Sid could not speak more highly of her. She will, however, spend a great deal of time at all the colleges, and encourages all students to drop by and visit.
Freshmen enjoyed a more scenic Matriculation than in previous years, as the ceremony was moved outside to Founder's Court this year. Student Association President Mitra Miller spoke about Student Involvement and the freshman five. President Rupp's speech about individualism from a consumer society, however, was upstaged at one point as one of three bananas ran through the ceremony. Two bananas got away, but the other was caught by the campus police. No charges were filed.

photos by Eric Hahn
Goes bananas
The most reusable piece of plastic on campus.

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SLACKER
DIRECTED BY RICHIE LINKLATER

If you are sick of the mindless fare coming out of Hollywood this summer there is good news. From Texas, a new film called Slacker has recently arrived at the River Oaks 3 and it is one of the freshest pieces of celluloid to emerge on the film scene since Sex, Lies, and Videotape and Do The Right Thing.

The film really doesn't have a plot. Director Linklater's camera follows people, listens to their conversations and then moves on to the next person and so on. 

Slacker is one of the freshest pieces of celluloid to emerge on the film scene since Sex, Lies, and Videotape and Do The Right Thing.

The people chronicled in this film are slackers, people of college age who hang around Austin reading, going to movies, developing Kenzo tattoo designs, selling t-shirts and pap smears. What the film has is time; the only common age is common. They are the generation after the surfers and they have opposite driving forces.

Their minds are hard at work, but that's where their ambitions end. This is a movie where a guy drives over his own mother and then waits for the cops to come and pick him up. At the same time a yuppie in a black suit notices the body and tries to pick up a singer who also appears at the scene of the crime. This is followed by a woman who is upset that he was unable to witness the famous U.T. Bell Tower shooting: "This city's thing," he affectately refers to it.

It's a movie where a video backpacker says, "A video image is much more powerful than a still image." This might help explain Ronald Reagan's popularity. There's also the street corner rasta dude who talks about nuclear armageddon. The man who is upset that he was unable to witness the famous U.T. Bell Tower shooting: "This city's thing," he affectionately refers to it.

It's a film about people being people. It's also one of the few films where you'll find yourself saying, "Hey, I know someone in that movie." It's the only film that hipsters have embraced and also gets a thank-you-in-the-credits. Chances are you'll be watching a slackers and that is what makes this film so special. It's a film about people being people. It's also one of the few films where you'll find yourself saying, "Hey, I know someone in that movie." It's the only film that hipsters have embraced and also gets a thank-you-in-the-credits. Chances are you'll be watching a slackers.

A woman markets her bottle of genuine Madonna Pop Smear in Richard Linklater's Slacker, now showing at the River Oaks.

Hey, get some decent tunes

PARIS: rare insight into a subculture

BY ROSS GRADY

Paris is Burning
DIRECTED BY JENNIE LIVINGSTON

In theory, it should be simple to describe the film Paris is Burning. It's just another one of those documentaries about Black and Hispanic drag queens and the balls which they attend. At Harlem, where this whole "Voguing" thing got started, way back before Madonna and Ciccone ever heard of it.

Paris is an often-depressing look at a world of men whose lives are so awful, they believe that becoming women, sometimes really scary-looking women, is preferable to remaining who they are.

But life's not that simple, because most of us here at Rice (or at least those of you who are fortunate enough to live in the Montrose haven't had a lot of experience with drag queens, Black women, or any of the complexities of life).

So we've gone to see this new film with an open mind, and don't care anyway.

And that's the problem, because its very name, Paris is Burning, suggests we should care, and we shouldn't just sit here, snorting from the MTV slopping into the screen while the camera lingers on that drive-in in Montrose, and did our shopping at 3 a.m., then all we'd know what drag Queen look alike

Now that we've all properly charigned, the time is ripe for us to conveniently redeem ourselves, and what could be more conventional than a quick trip to the River Oaks Theatre to Paris is Burning a real life documenta

The film is a subculture that's a bit too big and ugly to be explained in this week's column, here are a few pointers for the McCain charitable, a sort of temporary road map to assist those of you who are unwilling to trade your former foibles for the mantle of Rice Greekdom.

First and foremost, any band from England sucks, except Ice-T. For those of you who were wondering who that-looking bearded guy was in New Jack City, this record might provide some clues. Ice-T is the only hardcore gangsta rapper currently taking part in J.J. Johnson's hip-hop showcase festival, and judging from what I've heard from around the country, the man's stealing the show. But then, how often does a band get to produce this sucker. What do you have to do out and blow fifteen bucks on that C&C Music Factory album?

What you should spend your time on instead, assuming that you can get somebody to tell you where the decent record stores are, is one or more of the following records.

Forbidden Places, by the Meat Puppets. Three boys from Arizona get together and try to drive the demons out of their heads by driving big aluminum spikes into their ears and yelling really loud. Actually, this is the Meat Puppets' major-label debut, and is in fact the first label in which they let the morons who run the label hire Pops Anderson, the man behind the amazing success of my own personal faves Dwight Yoakam and Michelle Shocked, to produce their sussick, What do the Meat Puppets do with the extra money and prestige of a major record label? They make a damned good ZZ Top album, one that's still head-and-shoulders above the Cream of What's Left chummed out by most of the hands around the

De La Soul is Dead, by De La Soul. Sure, this has been out since June, but have you bought it yet? It's not nearly as big in the world, MTV would voluntarily leave the airwaves to prevent the network over to De La Soul, because in addition to the instant boost in hipness that they could provide, their record collection is already a bit richer than MTV's. Someday Ill sit down and try to explain to people who don't find a good rap record, when I have the time. The best I can say is that you should be looking to for answers.

G. C. Original Gangster, by Ice-T. For those of you who were wondering who that-looking bearded guy was in New Jack City, this record might provide some clues. Ice-T is the only hardcore gangsta rapper currently taking part in J.J. Johnson's hip-hop showcase festival, and judging from what I've heard from around the country, the man's stealing the show. But then, how often does a band get to produce this sucker.
Hot Shots! cruise on in and laugh, flyboy

By Eric Mahn

Hot Shots
Directed by Jim Abrahams

My decision to go and see Hot Shots was one heavily laden with nervous trepidation. This movie had such potential; I was unsure if it would leave me teary-eyed with laughter and gasping for mercy in the aisles, or if it would have the same mildly amusing appeal that the T.V. series Police Squad! had just before it was cancelled, or if it would be an intelligence-insulting two-hour audience endurance test.

I so desperately wanted it to be good that I almost didn't go in case it wasn't. As it turns out, my fears were soon blown from the sky. If you go to see Hot Shots expecting a glorious intellectual experience that makes you laugh with both sides of your brain and your soul, go see some dubbed film at the River Oaks 3 instead. If, however, you want to laugh with most of your diaphragm muscles until they're sore and yet not give your grey matter too great a workout, then Hot Shots is your film.

Charles Sheen plays a heroic renegade pilot, "Topper" Hartey in Jim Abrahams' Hotshots, a parody of Tom Cruise's vehicle for testosterone gratification. Hot Shots is not the only film subjected to air attack, though. Not by a long shot.

I was able to pick up on references and sendups of G.I. Joe, Top Gun, The Right Stuff, and pretty much every flying movie ever made. I'm sure I missed a lot of the other references, too.

Even without all the blatant parody, though, this film would still make a 3-point landing. There is an abundance of slapstick and sight gags, but an equal amount of original creative humor and good comic writing.

The film openes with a slow and wind-swept flight deck bustling with activity, much like the opening scene of the aforementioned Cruise flick. (The flight deck used for the movie was specially constructed for just that purpose. It used 1003 sheets of 4x8 plywood, 10 tons of nails and was weighed over 36,000 square feet.)

Soon afterward, we are introduced to the main character, Sean "Topper" Harley (Charlie Sheen), as Tom Cruise "Top Gun" hero. You can get without staring in Cocktail.

Paris

Time-honored censure verite documentary form I've seen in many moons. It's short enough to stay exciting, it's well-paced and edited, and, most importantly, it lets its subjects tell their own stories, through both actions and words.

The film is an exploration of the world of the gay "balls" of Harlem, all-night extravaganzas of cross-dressing and voguing in which rival gay Black street gangs, called "Houses," settle their scores on the dance floor. It's an often-depressing look at a world of men whose lives are so awful that they've cocooned themselves that becoming women, sometimes really scary-looking women, is preferable to retaining what they are.

It's a look at a world in which winning a trophy at a ball for voguing, or for "Best Banger Girl Realness" (the exacting simulation of the teenage Black girls who hang with drug dealers in the street) could well be the highest form of success these girls (boys) will ever attain. It's a world where you can watch a woman on the screen whom you know is really a man as she enters a "Supermodel of the World" contest at her local Bloomingdale's, and instead of wondering if they'll know she's a man, you're wondering if maybe she doesn't have a chance at winning the Big Prize, because she wants it that badly.

It's a look at a world of intense loyalty, a world where kids are thrown out of their houses at fifteen for being gay, for wanting to dress like women, and they live on the street, hustling, until they're taken into a House, mothered, given a new family of people a lot like themselves.

It's a world where a woman can frolic on the beach in an atrocious bathing suit and not even care that she looks a bit atrocious and has a voice like Harvey Fierstein's, because she's just become a man, just had the final vestigial male organs removed, and at last can feel beautiful.

Because that, finally, is what Paris Is Burning is all about: feeling beautiful in a world where nobody wants to let you feel beautiful. And as you're leaving the theater, just think to yourself, don't these people deserve at least that much?
Don't make Date the focus of yours

BY LOUIS EVAN SPIEGLER

MYSTERY DATE
DIRECTED BY JONATHAN WACKS

It was a Saturday night. My friend Darryl and I had finished off an awesome dinner of Cajun sea trout, corn on the cob and Blue Bell ice cream. The fish was dipped in butter and spices and fried in an iron skillet for 3 minutes, the corn was microwaved for live, and the Blue Bell was frozen. A totally satisfying meal.

But something was missing. We needed entertainment in our lives, something to distract us from the fact that the universe is expanding and we're all going to die someday and suicide is always going up and the campuses have nothing better to do than bust running bananas. So we went to the movies. All we wanted to do was see Mystery Date, a film that had some interesting TV ads and no Julia Roberts (did anyone see Dying Young?).

Problem: we lost on our way to the theater. In that film, a character goes on a date and has great difficulty trying to get home. In Mystery Date the main character, played by Ethan Hawke (the hoofin’ of the kid who caps himself in Dead Poets Society), simply wants to have a romantic evening with the girl next door. His swift and sleazy older brother gets him the right clothes for the occasion. He also lets him charge the entire evening on his credit cards. Sound confusing?

Mystery Date is about mistaken identity, valuable pottery, Chinese proverbs, and sea trout, corn on the cob and Blue Bell ice cream. It's nothing brilliant, it's even a bit stupid and totally preposterous but that's what makes it so much fun. Especially if you get lost on your way to the theater.

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COFFEE HOUSE

Hotshots

FROM PAGE 12

Harley is a complex loner of a renegade hotshot pilot complete with leather jacket, motorcycle, and sexual involvement with the female lead.

As the film progresses, Harley is inadvertently drawn into a devious plot to undermine certain parts of the American military industrial complex.

He is assigned to a squadron of pilots recently brought together for “Operation Sleepy Weasel,” a seemingly legitimate military operation with a hidden purpose.

The crack group of flyboys he’s thrown in with includes: another Top Gun stereotype, the blond, blue-eyed Val Kilmer; Perfect Pilot, played by Cary Elwes; Wesley from The Princess Bride; Jon Cryer as the eager, all-American pilot with a serious eye disorder, and William O’Leary as the wholesome but doomed family man, to name a few.

The whole group is led by the well-meaning but confused Lloyd Bridges as Admiral “Tug” Benson, a veteran of many wars whose body was replaced piece by piece during his many military campaigns.

Bridges’ performance is one of the funnier parts of the movie, and is a bit reminiscent of some of his work in the Airplane! movies.

One of the best things about the movie is trying to catch all of the gags.

In addition to laughing at all of the broad and simple slapstick, I found myself on the edge of my seat watching closely trying to get all of the often subtle spoofs of other films and many of the equally subtle sight gags and hidden jokes.

To sum it up, I found Hot Shots to be unpretentiously funny, unpredictably witty, well written, and quite enjoyable. It didn’t change my life, but I laughed my butt off.

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**good for one hour of direct-dialed, coast-to-coast, night and weekend calling, based on prices effective 2/16/91. Offer limited to one $8.25 AT&T Long Distance Customer Credit per student. Offer valid through June 30, 1992. ©1991 AT&T
Three columns in honor of all those freshmen who will be enjoying a dry O-week while we party down Misclass

Top fifteen least successful flavors of Tropicana Twisters:
1. Tuna Cheesecake
2. One got arrested; he should have split sooner.
3. Co-advisor
4. Quite an appealing prank.
5. The bananas: comedy in its most pure form.
6. Chocolate Ham
7. Coord 1
8. 6 & G rep
9. Raspberry Dirt
10. Freshman
11. Coordinator
12. Hot Chocolate Hollandaise
13. Spanish Vinyl
15. Tuna Cheesecake

What did the Buddhist say to the hot dog vendor?

Overheard in the Rice Thresher office:

1: "Now mount!
2: "I don't even know you!"

No, you weren't supposed to go to Health Services to take your CLEP test last week classified Ads

Top ten least successful flavors of 16 FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 1991 THE RICE THRESHER

The person/person who emasculated SID should be forced to live here.

Top Ten Bullshite Excuses for Staying Out During O-Week:

1. Ten inches. That's long!
2. This is God. Get back to work!
3. The Rally Club VP has the tolerance of an eight-year-old girl.

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We are looking for a responsible, caring student to care for two children (ages 5 and 10) after-school activities and care for them at home. Experience required. Call 661-5471.

Blind Mice

by M. Wasz

Bring a pillow to Chem

Lee Notes & Notices

- 9-day anniversary of Banana Incident
- First Pub Night! Campus-wide scamfest; back to the Bock's.
- Susan Wood's poetry class (ENGL 314) meet at 2 in ENGL dept.
- Freshmen go on beach trip; advisor scamfest.
- "Sooners" move in.
- Faux Casino Party at Lovett.
- "The Federal Communications Commission has given Rice university radio station, KTRU, approval to increase its effective radiated power from 340 watts to 650 watts September 1."

THE

What do you mean we have to take classes?

I thought it was always O-week.

Friday, August 24
1. Freshmen move in.
2. Freshman Viral Level
3. Activities Fair in RMC Cleat.
4. Freshmen ask for the day off. 1 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, August 25
1. Freshmen given to be swept up, off campus, pizza.
2. Freshmen given to say they are willing to come down.
3. Confirm upperclassmen know me.
4. SAC takes student meetings with people who called, wards, and rounded houndsey to spend their parents' money coming to events.

Monday, August 27
1. Classes begin. Freshmen attend.
2. "Now mount!"
3. 7/14 meet in ENG, dept

Thursday, August 30
1. First Pub Night Campus-wide scamfest; back to the Bock's.
2. -6 day anniversary of Banana incident.

Best of the week

We'll just have to play it by ear since the dreaded RPEC calendar isn't quite yet (as of now)

- All freshmen sat at Chinese Cafe on Bellaire. Ask advisors.
- All freshmen sat at Chinese Cafe on Bellaire. Ask advisors.
- Good time out at Rice. (But for all that's still the new doctor too.

- Business deal.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rice Medical Student needs clean, quiet, non-smoking female roommate to share full equipped 200 sq. feet approximately 1 mile from campus. All amenities, fully furnished with NEW furniture, sitting, phone, etc. $300/month plus utilities. Call 798-3911.

Save a tree, Rice Recycling is looking for volunteers for this school year available for work study students. Contact Larry at the RSV office for more info.

Rice Sep 23, 1990

A 13-step recovery program for people addicted with computer addiction. For those who need support in order to recover. For more information contact 521-4113.

Save a tree, Rice Recycling is looking for volunteers for this school year available for work study students. Contact Larry at the RSV office for more info.

August 26-30
Daily Shelly orientation for graduates students, will be held in Fondren Library. Times: 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. with a break from 4-5 p.m. The orientation will be held in the Career Services Center Conference Room.

- Resume Workshop will be held on September 6th in the Rice Memorial Center. Registration forms available from Career Services or call 654-3556.

August 26-30
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From The Thresher Files...

"Health inspectors cite Sammy's for 23 violations."

"The Rally Club treasurer is being emasculated. The person/person who emasculated SID should be forced to live here."

Sensational Anonymity: A 13-step recovery program for people addicted with computer addiction. For those who need support in order to recover. For more information contact 521-4113.

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