

THE THRESHER

A fortnightly periodical published by the students of the Rice Institute at Houston, Texas.

Entered as second-class matter October 17, 1916, at the postoffice at Houston, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Per copy 10c
Per Academic Year..... 75c

Business Office, Room 104 Administration Building.

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EDITORIAL

For almost three years now the war has been going on in Europe. At first it was the all-absorbing topic of conversation—the iniquity of the German, the woes of Belgium, and the heroism of the French. But after a while other things came up nearer home—the athletic games, social events, and academic work, gradually supplanted the tales of blood and slaughter in the talk and prattle of the campus.

Recent events, however, have wrought a great change. The entrance of the United States into the conflict has brought the war home to us. When we know that soon our friends and acquaintances may be on those blood-soaked plains of France, and that their names may be on the casualty lists, then the dread reality of the tragedy is brought home.

And how many of our schoolmates are leaving the Institute to go into training over at Leon Springs. They go as volunteers answering the first call of their country. From the quiet seclusion of the cloister and class room, from the friendly rivalry of campus and athletic field, and from the serene atmosphere of college these men will step in a moment into the turmoil and the bustle incident to the great training camp.

Practically all upperclassmen who are eligible are responding to the call of their country. Credits in all courses in which the students have a satisfactory class standing have been freely given. The Seniors will receive their diplomas just as though they had completed the entire work for the year.

This is the first year since the opening of the Rice Institute. We have no precedents to follow, as have the older schools in the East, where the names of the students who served in the Civil and Spanish wars are proudly preserved. But the present college generation will create traditions and make precedents to which the succeeding class can point with pride.

We are all hoping and praying that there may be no dead heroes to mourn, but if American troops ever reach the battlefields of France, we know that the Rice men who are among them will give Rice just cause for being proud of them.

FOUR PAGES AGAIN.

On account of the disturbed condition of all things at the Institute, the discontinuance of athletics, the loss of so many men from The Thresher staff, and the desirability of making certain economies, for the first time this year The Thresher has gone back to four pages. We believe the circumstances justify this. The size of the following editions this year will also be governed by circumstances, though it is certain the final edition will be of extra rather than reduced size.

SLACKERS.

Of the words which have come into existence during the war, one of the most striking and meaningful is the word slacker. And it has probably come into the language to stay.

A person who does not exert every energy and make every sacrifice to answer the call of his country in the time of need is scornfully termed a slacker. Just what does this mean for the man who cannot go to the front on account

of circumstances over which he has no control? On what grounds can a man be called a slacker when he is forced to remain at home in the more or less ordinary pursuits of life while his friends follow the colors to the battle line where they can fight for the principles of right and justice? In other words, what meaning has the word slacker for you and me, who, in the midst of the hubbub and turmoil, must continue to fill our places in the unexciting walks of school life.

Would not the term be fairly applied to those of us who allow our disappointment in not being able to take an active part keep us from doing our best in the occupation at hand? Our best, however, unimportant it may seem in our own eyes, is of value to America because the nation which is characterized by men and women of strong will power, who are doing with all their might the tasks of every day life, is bound to be a strong nation morally, and moral support is necessary to a brave, courageous army, fighting for a principle.

Then, too, the day will come when America will have need of men and women with trained minds, men and women who know the things that college students of today are learning right now.

If we allow the unrest that pervades the atmosphere to weaken our self control and hinder us from performing our daily tasks as best we can—we are slackers. If we fail to seize our present opportunities of mastering the things that our nation will later call on us for—we are slackers. If we take advantage of the confusion of the moment to let our lessons slide, if we use the patriotism of our fellows to hide our mental laziness behind—we are the worst of slackers.

Are you a slacker?

Here's the Perfect Girl.

The following are the attributes of the perfect girl, as seen through Harvard eyes, some fifty bachelor graduates having, recently, and after considerable discussion, agreed on them for the "girl that's worth while."

She is attractive, graceful and healthful, but not necessarily pretty.

She can dress tastefully and entertain anyone and make him feel at ease.

She can make bread as well as fudge and cake as well as a "rabbit."

Her dancing is not necessarily the latest, her tennis is not necessarily up to the standard, but she is appreciative of the dance and of the sports.

She is broad minded, sympathetic, tactful, unselfish, optimistic, thrifty, of good disposition and moderate in all things.

She can stand reverses without worry.

She is gentle to children and kind to other people, especially to her parents.

She has a broad education, but not necessarily a college one.

She is modest and true and home loving.

She has a good social standing, is of a religious nature, and is not "too proud to pray."—From the Baltimore Sun.

We agree with the editor of "The Texan," "There ain't no such animal." If there is, she's got a pretty efficient "bushel" to hide her light under.

Our advice to the young ladies after the training camp begins is, first to ask the would-be suitor if he is past the 20 years and 9 months' mark, and if he is, then place him on the "black list" when he asks for dates. Only those who are prevented by age and physical inability should receive the respect of our University girls. The pacifist should not be recognized. That is our opinion—some may differ.—Daily Texan.

The co-eds gave a splendid party in the woman's building Wednesday night in honor of the Texas men of the "first 500,000" to enlist in the service of their country.—Texas University.

Dr. Blanchard and Dr. Hitch were talking to S., a bright student.

Dr. Hitch: "Yes, Miss S., it has been found that human bodies contain much sulphur."

Miss S.: "How much sulphur is there in a girl?"

Dr. H.: "Oh! the amount varies according to the girl."

"Oh," said Miss S. "That's why some of us make better matches than others, then?"

This started Dr. Blanchard talking about the way words could be interpreted, and finally Miss S. claimed that the word "man" meant mankind as a whole, while "men" always meant the masculine gender.

Dr. Blanchard quoting, to prove that there were exceptions, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels."

"But that won't do," said Miss S., "for both genders are mentioned there."—Fan.

Stay in There, Jimmie!

Dr. Caldwell (in Economics 700): "Mr. Waters, what would be another good way of redeeming bonds?"

Jimmie Waters: I don't remember, Dr. Caldwell.

Dr. C.: That wouldn't be a very good way.

STUDENTS WIN IN SINGLES FROM PROFS

Ilfrey and Munz Win From Profs. Miller and Graustein.

On Friday afternoon, the 27th, the student tennis team, which is to go to Ft. Worth for the Texas Interscholastic Tournament on May 2, met the professors' team and came out with individual honors. In the doubles Ilfrey and Munz lost to Professors Ward and Miller, but in the singles, both of the students won their matches. Despite the hard wind all the games were fast, and the students seemed to have the best of the professors in endurance, which more than made up for their deficiency in weight.

In the singles Munz beat Graustein in two straight sets, 6-4 and 6-2; and Ilfrey beat Miller two out of three hard and fast sets. Ilfrey's handicap in weight was increased by the hard wind, but his endurance helped him nose over in the end and win 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

The doubles match was probably the most interesting. After losing the first set, Ilfrey and Munz came back and won the second set, and in the last set had Ward and Miller 4-1 and 40-15 on the next game, but the professors rallied here and won out 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

In the final championship match among the girls the Junior representative, Camille Wagaman, won over the Sophomore representative, Tillie Hirsh, in two straight sets, 6-1, 7-5.

FINAL BALL WILL BE HELD JUNE 11

All Rumors Going Around to the Contrary Are Denied.

One hears an extraordinary number of conflicting rumors concerning the final ball. Let us hope this little literary gem will correct them. The author will discuss the question point by point (just like Mr. Tsanoff.)

Yes, there is really going to be a final ball. It is to occur on the evening of June the eleventh, Mr. Lovett said so. No, it isn't to be given at the Rice Hotel. We are going to have it right out here at the Institute—in the commons, of course. We shan't tell you what the decorations will be like—we want you to be surprised—but you'll like them. As it will probably be quite warm in June, the punch will be served out in the open court, which will be festooned with electric lights—lots of them—so the "office" won't object.

OWL LITERARY SOCIETY.

On account of the Junior Prom, there was no meeting of the Owl Literary Society April 20th.

On the night of April 27, the society had a very interesting meeting, though many of the members were absent. The first number on the program was a reading entitled, "The Marine's Hymn," by J. E. Fruit. T. J. Burnett then made a short but eloquent speech along patriotic lines. He spoke in particular of those who remain at home during war. The last number was a debate: "Resolved, that the United States Congress should immediately adopt the selective conscription bill." The affirmative side was upheld by P. F. Bobb and J. R. Peterson; the negative side was defended by W. S. Skiles and E. A. Cain.

The society as a whole voted in favor of the affirmative as winner, while the honor of being best speaker was given to Mr. Skiles.

As the next meeting may be the last this year, every member is urgently requested to be present Friday night, May 5.

Y. M. C. A.

The Y. M. C. A. held one of the best meetings of the year Monday evening, April 30. After transacting some important business the members engaged in a general discussion of the plans of the Y. M. C. A. for next year, and preparations were made to get the work started immediately at the beginning of the school year. Each member present made a few remarks upon different phases of Y. M. C. A. work and upon the relation of the Y. M. C. A. to the present war situation. After the meeting was dismissed refreshments of ice cream and cakes, which were both delicious and plentiful, were served.

Y. W. C. A.

The meeting on April 19 was very informal. Miss Helen Holly gave several readings, both comical and serious, which were very much appreciated. The meeting was closed by the Lord's prayer.

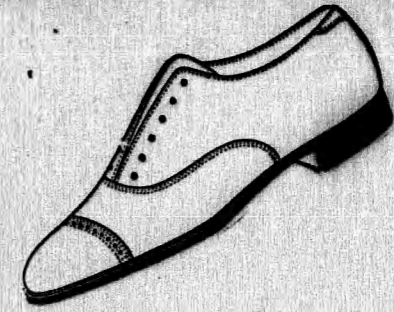
The following meeting, on April 26, was devoted to social service. Miss Busse, chairman of the Social Service bureau in town, told of the need of workers in Houston, and how we Rice girls could assist. After a short talk by Miss Lubbock and one by Miss South, the meeting was closed by prayer, to meet again Thursday, May 3.

WELL KNOWN PAPERS ON LIBRARY RACKS

The latest copy of each of the 20 following newspapers may be found on the rack in the library:

The Washington Post.
The New York Times.
The Globe (Toronto).
Le Temps (Paris).
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RICE BEATS S. U. IN TWO GAMES

Games Were Featured by a Number of Spectacular Plays.

Southwestern University went down in defeat before Rice Institute in baseball Friday afternoon by a score of 7 to 6. Both teams got an equal number of hits, but the visitors made a number of costly errors that lost the game.

Atkinson worked for Rice, and pitched steadily and consistently, although at times he could not locate the plate. He passed six men. The Pirates got to him for five safe hits, two of which were home runs. Edens, mound artist for the visitors, went to pieces in a pinch and forced in a score.

The game was featured by a number of spectacular plays. In the eighth inning York was on third and attempted to steal home. He used his head admirably and would have been safe had not Chandler, the Rice catcher, interfered with the batter. This gave the latter his base and put the runner back to third.

Another disputed decision came up during the latter part of the game. Under a ruling agreed upon by both captains before the game, a ball knocked over into the stands past a designated point would count for a home run. Baker connected for a tremendous wallop and the ball went soaring over past the east end of the stands. Jackson, outfield speed king, went after it, and by a quick relay caught the runner at the plate. The visiting coach protested, and the protest was allowed.

Southwestern opened up in the second inning with their heavy artillery. By clean hitting, heady base running and good team play they forced two runners across the plate. Rice came back strong during their half of the next inning. Edens was wild, and his support wobbled dolefully behind him. Before the panic could be stayed five jubilant Owls had trotted gleefully across the plate.

Not to be outdone, the Pirates evened things up the next inning. Bunched hits were responsible for three runs. Up to this time not a Rice player had made a bobble, and only one was made during the whole game—a dropped ball by Hodges.

In the seventh the Owls started the rally that won the game. They were materially assisted by the work of the Pirate shortstop, who made five errors. Two runs were netted, giving Rice a 2-point lead. This was the end of the scoring, with the exception of the home run knocked by Baker.

The line-up:

Rice	Ab	H	Po	A
O. Heywood, lf	3	0	3	0
Bell, rf	3	0	0	0
Jackson, cf	5	3	1	0
Chandler, c	3	0	7	1
Bradley, ss	4	0	2	4
Hodges, lb	3	1	11	0
Vance, 2b	4	0	0	3
Bonner, 3b	3	0	2	3
Atkinson, p	4	0	1	0
*W. Heywood, rf	1	0	0	0
Totals	34	5	27	11

Southwestern	Ab	H	Po	A
Lyons, cf	1	1	3	0
Brewer, c	2	0	4	1
Farrington, 2b	3	1	1	3
Walker, lf	3	2	0	0
Betts, rf	3	0	0	0
McDaniel, lb	3	0	14	0
Baker, ss	4	1	2	1
York, 3b	4	1	0	1
Edens, p	2	0	0	7
**Harris	1	0	0	0
Totals	29	5	24	13

*Batted for Bell in the eighth.
**Batted for Edens in the ninth.
Score by innings: R E
Southwestern . . . 023 000 001—6 8
Rice . . . 050 000 20—7 1
Summary—Runs: Betts, McDaniel, Hodges 2 Vance, Bonner, Atkinson, Heywood, Brewer, Walker, Farrington, Bradley, Baker. Errors: Baker 5, York 2, Hodges, Farrington. Home runs: Walker, Baker. Stolen bases: Walker, Betts, Jackson, Farrington. Struck out: By Atkinson 5, by Edens 4. Bases on balls: Off Atkinson 4, off Edens 5. Hit batter: Farrington by Atkinson. Passed balls: By Brewer 2, by Chandler 2.

Rice again defeated Southwestern the morning of the 21st. The features of the game was the hard and consistent hitting of the Owls, although Butler was in constant danger of losing his game. Watson, who started the game, was knocked out in the fifth, his place being taken by Chapman, who was hit with more or less consistency throughout the remainder of the game.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY TO ORGANIZE HERE

Efforts of Rice Faculty Result in Forming S. E. Texas Branch.

Through the efforts of the Rice faculty a branch of the American Chemical Society is soon to be formed here. The territory of this section will embrace all of Southeast Texas, but the Institute will be the scene of most of the activities of the branch.

The organization of this section is in keeping with the plans of the national body of the American Chemical Society in mobilizing the resources of the country as regards chemicals and chemists. In this England, in the first days of the present war, furnished a terrible lesson. That country, stricken unprepared as she was, made the mistake of allowing many of her best chemists to enter the trenches, thus losing the services of some of the most valuable men in the kingdom. The American Chemical Society, by organization and tabulation of the chemical resources of the nation—both men and materials—proposes that this country shall not make the same mistake.

The southeastern section is the fiftieth section to organize in the United States, but it is the first to be formed in Texas. The national society has about nine thousand members, who meet in a general convention each year, the 1917 convention having just met in Kansas City last month. At this meeting the organization of the Southeast Texas section was formally sanctioned.

About sixteen members of the American Chemical Society reside in Houston, and there are several members in Port Arthur. No official meetings of the local branch have as yet been held, but there will probably be a meeting in the near future at Port Arthur. Credit should be given the Rice faculty, and to Mr. G. L. Wendt, of the Chemistry Department, in particular, for the securing of this branch. The organization of this section is given unusual significance owing to the present crisis confronting the nation.

The following are already members of this society: Professors G. L. Wendt, A. R. Hitch, H. B. Weiser, S. D. Wilson, and the students now holding membership are E. B. Heisig, E. S. Rothrock, H. M. Bullbrook, M. Stratford, P. Zuber, E. E. Porter and V. E. Meharg.

PERSONALS.

R. L. Bunting, Senior and school teacher, delivered the graduating address at the Deer Park commencement exercises Wednesday night.

G. W. N. Eggers, assistant in the Biology Department, and expert in birds, went to town yesterday to do a little field work on Main Street.

Charlie Rudd departs for war, hence Thresher personals failed to come in this week. One more valuable reporter is gone.

S. R. Brooks, former managing editor of The Thresher, was in Houston recently attending the State convention of the Y. M. B. L.'s, as a delegate from Beaumont.

The Business Manager's Song.

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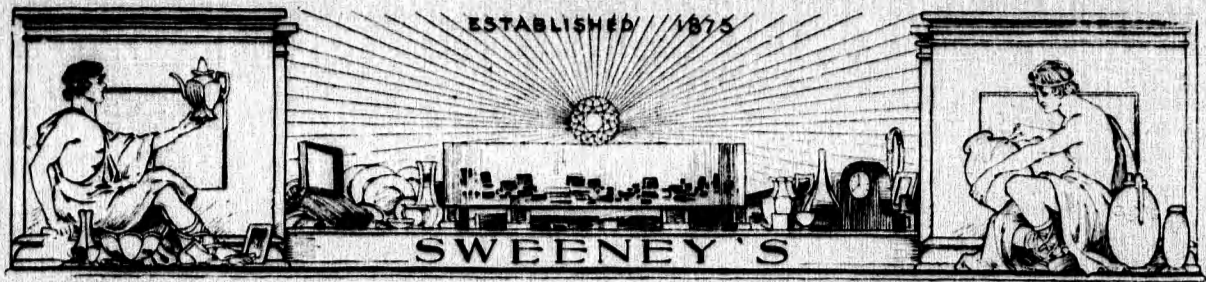
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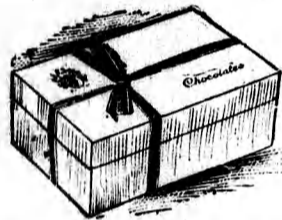
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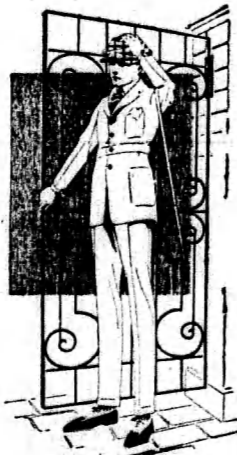
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