

Pakenham Replaces Rice's Evans

By **RON GREEN**

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It's interesting to look at Rice through different lenses. If the lens is legitimately different and not just distorted, it can produce a clearer image of the real than any local lens made in Houston — Texas — USA) can give.

Mike Pakenham, the exchange student to Rice from Cambridge this year, is about as different a lens as you might choose. A native of Longford, Ireland, Pakenham is living in Hansen College for the year, replacing Cambridge-bound Mike Evans.

Came To Observe

Classified as a graduate student in Philosophy, Pakenham is taking a heavy mix of undergraduate history courses, since the Abraham people require nothing in the way of curriculum.

The Cambridge student came to the United States to observe its people and its things in addition to studying at Rice. Already he has a number of observations to offer:

Of New York Mike says, "It was hot. There were very few people about." With only four days in that city he did not visit the World's Fair, terming it "artificial."

Few things in Houston strike him as beautiful "except maybe the Humble Building, Tennessee Gas Building, Memorial Park, and the freeway complexes. Beauty is sacrificed to speed and power." He plans to buy a car so that he can visit New Orleans, the Bahamas, and Mexico.

He finds that students study harder here. "Even the jocks study more than the average

student at Cambridge. If one studies over five hours a day there, he is considered the highest of intellectuals." In spite of this he finds Riceites friendlier and the freshmen treated better.

The exchange student finds it strange to see students nineteen and twenty years old who have not yet begun to specialize. He had directed his studies toward economics at the age of fourteen in preparation for law. This is the result of pressure on college hopefuls in England, with only two good schools to consider. The students are expected to "round out" their ed-

ucation outside the curriculum.

Faculty Classified

The Rice faculty Mike divides into two classifications. On the one hand there are the "nice intellectual" people, who know their fields well and are among the more mature members of the staff. The younger set, the "whiz kids" he finds vibrant and exciting.

The living quarters are different too. "The rooms are nice and comfortable, but you can't entertain a date. One must go elsewhere, and the commons is too stark to be a real gathering place. It's like a men's dormitory."