

Rice Chaff

By GRIFFIN SMITH

Thresher Editor

One aspect of The Thresher's role on campus is that of an "Open Forum" where readers can express their views on any and all problems, from campus events to international affairs. We at The Thresher encourage, urge, even beseech your letters; there are only a few ground rules we wish you would follow in writing them.

WE WILL ATTEMPT to print any letter which is clean, decent, factually accurate, and legible. All letters must be signed, unless the author wishes to use a pseudonym, in which case he must make his identity known confidentially to the editor. No anonymous letters can be used.

Letters of more than 250 words are subject to editing to meet the demands of space.

NO LETTER will be withheld from print because it disagrees with the editorial policy of this paper or criticises any member of the staff (or, for that matter, because it criticises anyone.)

The Letters Column can be used for much more than just Criticism—praise can be given to various organizations or individuals for their campus work, suggestions can be offered, and controversial political issues can be "threshed out."

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A NEW FEATURE of the '62-'63 Thresher is this "editor's corner" column, last used by editor Bill Hobby in 1951. We hope to make it a sort of pot-pourri of campus commentary, generally serious, occasionally not-so-serious. The next few articles will deal with the National Student Association, of which Rice is a freshman member, and with its National Student Congress, held last month in Columbus, Ohio.

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AS YOU may have gathered

by now, The Thresher will be published on Wednesdays this year instead of Fridays. The change-over was made late last May, for several reasons. With Wednesday publication we can give increased coverage to the speakers and other special events—there can be more publicity for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday night programs which in the past have had poor treatment.

We can give vastly improved coverage to the Colleges, particularly to the Cabinets which meet on Monday nights.

PROBABLY MOST important is the shortening of the "gap" between news story deadlines and publications. For many years, this gap has meant a three-day delay in coverage (deadline Tuesday, paper out Friday); this year the delay will be only two days, with the result that news will be a good deal fresher—the new schedule is as good as any weekly paper in the United States can offer.

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VICE-PRESIDENT Lyndon Johnson's popularity—or lack of it—in this part of the country was strikingly evident at the Presidential speech. Compared to Kennedy's reception, Johnson received only perfunctory applause, and there were a good many abstainers.

NEWSPAPERS reported that the police were extremely worried about the fact that both the President and Vice-President were to be seated on the same platform—such a concentration of the national leadership, they felt, presented many dangers. But one freshman's remark along those lines has been making the rounds at Rice ever since. "I hear," he said, "that if anything happens to President Kennedy, the Secret Service men have instructions to shoot Lyndon Johnson."