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# Landowners want Houston Sludge

Concerned about public knowledge of his company's operation in Colorado County, the president of Sprint Waste Materials company spent more than 90 minutes last Thursday explaining both the solid waste and sludge disposal methods here.

Speaking candidly with the owners of the county's three newspapers, Joe Swinbank carefully explained the history of the operations here, and its relationship with the Texas Department of Health.

His major point, however, was that there are more landowners in the county requesting his company treat their properties with Houston sewer plant sludge than there is sludge to spread.

Swinbank was prompted to meet with the media because of articles in each newspaper, written as a result of coverage of the county commissioners, and of The Headlight's coverage of Rice school district's board of trustees.

In each of those meetings, landfill and sludge operations were attacked, without Sprint having the opportunity to defend itself.

Swinbank said he made the decision to stop treating land on the Texzula Ranch near Rice High School. It was "in the best interest of the county and Sprint to go to another farm," he said. However, the four owners of the ranch who live in Houston were "begging" the company to continue, because of the sludge's beneficial effect on the grass being seeded on the property.

The school district asked an attorney to look into the legal aspects of that operation, as they are responsible for the school property nearby. The attorney, from Victoria, met with Jim Candler of Rosenberg who is a Texas Department of Health field inspector in the area. The two of them toured the sludge operation on Texzula, along with Rice High School principal Fred Grahmann.

Shortly thereafter, Candler told Sprint about the meeting, and Sprint moved its operation.

Historically, Sprint came into the county about three years ago when it purchased the dump on U. S. 71 between Altair and Columbus from B. R. Taylor. Swinbank said he felt there is probably more strip mining in Colorado County than anywhere else in Texas, and that his operation was helping reclaim that land that otherwise looks like a scarred wasteland. In fact, the area the group met in was reclaimed land.

"We are performing a service to reclaim land here," he said.

The pits created to dump the solid waste — garbage from Columbus and Eagle Lake — are done according to state standards, and inspected during and after dumping — both by sight, and by boring into the area for scientific tests.

Both cities use the dump for a fee, but according to Swinbank, could not do so on their own for the same expense. 'A new bulldozer costs about $300,000 and a new dragline about $750,000," he said.

Weimar and Schulenberg: only seven miles apart, have their own dump, because of the relative distance they have to travel, rather than Weimar hauling trash all the way south of Columbus.

Swinbank was asked to explain just how their sludge operations work, and the media was told that it is a lot more than just "dumping" the material on the ground and driving away.

Basically, the 40 trucks that bring the sludge out here each day spread the material on the ground, and a heavy tractor with 36-inch discs cuts it into the soil. As an alternate method, the sludge is dumped in a lagoon when fields are too wet. It is then later pumped out of that pit and "injected" into soils by another machine called an Terra-Gator.

The amount applied per acre follows state and Federal guidelines, and Sprint has an agronimist on its staff to help monitor the program. The company has the material coming out of Houston tested in private laboratories at its own expense (although it is not required to do so), and follows through on testing after the soil is plowed.

Swinbank estimated that the fertilizer value of the sludge is about $550,000 per year, and the material adds humus the farmer could not purchase. It is true that 40 truck loads of the material are trucked into the county each day, which is about 1,000 tons, and Swinbank estimated that at least 25,000 tons of sand and gravel are hauled daily out of the county through the strip mining operations.

Sprint treats about 1,500 acres here annually.

It is an economical operation for Sprint, since another company under the same ownership hauls the sand and gravel to Houston, then picks up the sludge rather than coming back empty. The company neither charges farmers for applying the sludge, nor does it pay for the privilege of using the farmland.

Swinbank also addressed other questions, including complaints about truck courtesy on the highways, and problems with sludge or gravel leaking from a truck.

The company uses only drivers that own their own tractors, because it feels that person will take better care of the equipment and for that reason, drive better. The president did say he felt the Texas Department of Public Safety has an obligation to police the highways for some other problems.

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Of all the weight-loss programs in the world, none has been more successful than the Weight Watchers program.

## Pearl Meitzen receives award

In an impressive candlelight ceremony, Pearl Meitzen was presented with a 10-year KOPS award at the TOPS meeting Wednesday, November 3. The TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) group honored Pearl with a social after the presentation.

Pearl joined TOPS in September of 1971 and began her steady weight loss to goal. She became a KOPS (Keep OfL Pounds Sensibly) and has maintained this goal within a three pound leeway for ten years. During this time she achieved such honors as weekly chapter queen, has won many attendance contests and weight loss contests, and never exceeded her goal limit or lost any enthusiasm.

"I always plan to keep TOPS as an important part of my life. This fellowship and weekly weigh-in group therapy is something I never want to be without," stated Pearl.

## Quail season opens

The quail season will open in Colorado and surrounding counties on Saturday, November 13th and remain open through February 13th, 1983.

The Parks and Wildlife Department has set the daily bag limit in Colorado, Lavaca, Austin, Wharton and Fort Bend Counties at 12 birds per day with a possession limit of three days' kill or 36.

The limit on quail in this and surrounding counties last year was 16 per day with a possession limit of 48.

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# Raider Review

The RAIDER REVIEW is published by the journalism department of Rice High School, and the opinions reflected are of the students and not the administration, or the Eagle Lake Headlight, unless so stated.

FFA sweetheart jackets

FFA President, Stephen Mahalite, right, presents FFA Sweethearts, Beverly Rucka, left, and Becky Benge, middle, with FFA Sweetheart jackets. RHS Photo.

## If it stands in their way, they'll tackle the problem

By Cathy Lanyon

Last week, the Raider Review dedicated a column to two varsity Raider football players. And, like the previous week, the Raider Review is dedicating the column to the seniors. The "daring duet" to be recognized is Alex Ramirez and Vincent Dancy.

Alex, a tackler on defense, has an easy going charm that has won him a lot of friends. He often engages in humor, always lifting the spirits of those in contact with him.

When he was asked if there were any special moments he'd like to relive from the past four years of football, he said that he'd "like to relive the winning season they had their freshman year."

Because the senior year seems to go by "in a flash", Alex has been planning and thinking over some collegiate sports in which he'd like to participate.

"I plan to enter a junior college and play baseball," Already, he has been thinking of the upcoming baseball season.

Because of unfortunate circumstances, Alex will not be able to participate in the final game.

Vincent Dancy a real character that always throws some constructive criticism to his fellow team members, is presently thinking about off-season. The indulgence of "weight-lifting and keeping in shape" has built the strong, square frame to a measily two hundred fifty-seven pounds. Not only will this defensive guard tackle anything that looks in his direction, but he will also leave it in tiny bits and pieces.

When Vincent was asked if he would enter any collegiate sports, he replied nonchalantly "not at the moment, but I may change my mind."

What will become of these energetic athletes? Will they continue to excel in other fields of athletics? Stay tuned and watch the Raider athletes contribute to other winning seasons.

## Band attends contests

By Julia Rosprim

On Saturday, October 30, the Raider Band attended the Blinn Marching Festival at Blinn College. The band performed Saturday morning before a panel of three judges. The purpose of this contest was to obtain criticism of the band's U.I.L. contest show. The show consisted of three tunes: Espiritu Del Alamo, Mirada, and Swing March, and the band exited the field with the traditional fancy right. The judges had quite a few good comments about the drill, but still placed the band in the Division II category.

The band attended the U.I.L. Marching Contest in Victoria on Tuesday, November 2. The band performed at 11:47 a.m. The drill came off smoothly, but a few spots lacked precision and tuning. The band can receive ratings from Division I, which is the highest, to Division V, which is the lowest. Judging is done by three band directors from out of this region. Two of the three judges gave the band a Division II rating and the third one rated the band Division III. All the judges gave the band suggestions on how to improve itself and wished the band good luck for the rest of the year.

## Student council meets

By Laurie Bubela

The Rice High School Student Council met during fifth period in the meeting room on Wednesday, November 3. The first item discussed was the Powder Puff Football game. The game will be held on Tuesday, November 16, at the Raider Stadium. A Powder Puff King, and three Powder Puff cheerleaders from each class will be voted on during lunch by the girls who play football.

It was decided that the Council would sell Raider mugs, as a money making project for this year. The mugs will go on sale when Rice students come back to school after the Thanksgiving holidays.

The next item on the agenda was the Christmas Banquet. It will be held on December 13. Committees were assigned to find a speaker, the caterers, and to decorate. A committee was also assigned to find and decorate a Christmas tree for the Commons. The meeting was then adjourned.

## Contestants prepare for U.I.L. events

By Roxanne Ripper

On October 26, contestants for Number Sense, Calculator, and Science U.I.L. events met in the meeting room at 8:10. They discussed coming events to help prepare for U.I.L.

Contestants participating in the following events include: Number Sense; Melissa Wilcox, Vicki Darden, Julia Rosprim, Shawn Spanihel, Libbey Osburn, and Stralecia White; Calculator: Shawn Spanihel, Libbey Osburn, and Stralecia White; and Science: Steven Simcik, Anthony Williams, and Shawn Spanihel.

On Saturday, October 30, Anthony Williams, Steven Simcik, Stralecia White, and Libbey Osburn attended a U.I.L. Activities Conference at the University of Houston.

The Raider Review would like to wish these people good luck in their respective events.

## Business club bake sale November 13

By Karen Schnieder
Business Club Reporter

The Rice High School Business Club will hold their bake sale on Saturday, November 13. The bake sale will start at 9 o'clock in the communities of Eagle Lake, in front of Rice Drug Store; and Garwood, in front of F & W Food Store.

## Juniors order rings

By Lisa Corman

On November 2, 1982, the Junior Class met in the commons to hear the L.G. Balfour Company salesman speak. This company comes yearly to Rice to introduce the selection and various styles of class rings to the Juniors. The stones presented were made of different textures and cuts, including the Dimonique, the finest simulated diamond. Other stones presented were rubies, birthstones, diamonds, opals, black onyx, mother-of-pearl, plus others. The choice of different bands included 10K white gold, 10K yellow gold, silver, and many others.

This year the ring prices ranged from $79.25 to $523.00.

The Juniors are looking forward to the exciting day when their rings come in.

## Fields chosen for FTA honor

Eight outstanding FTA members vied for the honor of being selected the October Future Teacher of the Month. Overall, 48 members contributed their efforts to making the club's first project a success.

Patricia Fields, a senior FTA member, was chosen as the October Future Teacher of the Month. She raised $5 in the fund-raiser, donated sweets for Sweet Shop at Garwood Lions' Fair, worked one hour in the FTA booth, placed the lettering on the ticket box, chaired the ballot table for selections of district candidates and nametags, and colored nametags for the district convention.

The other 7 outstanding members were Laura Appelt, Becky Benge, Kevin Brisco, Leslie Harrison, Deborah Kretschmer, Jacalyn Parker, and Kim Wunderlich. Each of these members sold at least $5 worth of tickets, donated sweets, and worked one hour or more in the FTA booth at the Garwood Lions' Fair.

## DAR honors Kallina

By Becky Benge

The John Everett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Columbus, Texas has honored Mary Lynn Kallina with the DAR Good Citizen Award.

The Good Citizen Award was selected on a merit basis. The seniors were asked to nominate one senior having the qualifications of leadership, dependability, service, and patriotism to an outstanding degree. The three nominees selected were Becky Benge, Karen Rucka, and Mary Lynn Kallina. From the three, the faculty chose Mary Lynn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald F. Kallina, to be Rice High School's DAR Good Citizen. She will compete for higher DAR Awards.

Congratulations Mary Lynn!

## Pupils students attend Oil and Gas Exposition

By Patricia Fields

On Friday, October 29, the Trig and Physics classes attended the South Texas Oil and Gas Exposition in Victoria, accompanied by Coach David White.

The students toured a building which consisted of several exhibits that related to oil and gas. Also, a few items were awarded, such as gasoline and guns.

Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the trip.

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## School Menu

Thursday, November 11: Fried Chicken, Rice/Gravy, Buttered Spinach, Mixed Fruit, Hot Rolls.

Friday, November 12: Chili and Beans, Combination Salad, Fruit Kolaches, Crackers.

Monday, November 15: In-Service, C.P.R. Eagle Lake.

Tuesday, November 16: Fish Squares, Macaroni and Cheese, Hot Schnitzel Green Beans, Apple Crisp, Hot Rolls.

Wednesday, November 17: Hamburgers, French Fries, Catsup, Burger Salad, Strawberry Jello, Oatmeal Cookie.

Thursday, November 18: Pigs-in-the-Blanket, Pinto Beans, Sauerkraut, Brownies.

Friday, November 19: Burritoes with Chili, Buttered Corn, Stuffed Celery, Coconut Cake.

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