Pitzer Discusses His College Plans, Will Continue Experimental Policy

By TOM GIESEN

In a recent interview with President Pitzer, the Thresher sought a response to the memorandum (see page two) sent him by Dr. J. S. Fulton earlier this summer.

Pitzer was, of course, interested in the memorandum as a description of the organization of some of the activities of the colleges and houses at Yale and Harvard, but there were a few features of the report which gained his particular attention. The first of these was the discussion of the libraries maintained at all the houses and colleges Dr. Fulton visited.

PITZER HAS requested an immediate recommendation from Fulton's Committee on Residential Colleges concerning libraries in the Rice colleges, so that proper provisions can be incorporated into the projected Margaret Root Brown College for women. Pitzer is especially interested in combination study-library facilities, in view of both the memorandum and the recent activities of some of the Rice colleges in developing such areas for themselves.

Pitzer finds an appropriation of University funds for college libraries "unlikely," as all such available funds must go toward new acquisitions in the main library. Highly impressed with Hanszen and Will Rice efforts to provide themselves with adequate study areas, he is anxious to see such projects go forward and to include space for library growth. He recognized the tendency for library facilities to be more extensively used when located adjacent to student living and study areas.

DR. PITZER added that additions, except the one slated for undersized Wiess College, are not being planned for the colleges at Rice. Any additional facilities that the colleges desire must at present be developed independently.

When asked about air conditioning, he said that a study was now underway, and that a decision would have to be reached before a new men's college is built. A fifth men's college is planned as soon as the funds are available, he added.

THE MEMORANDUM was extensively concerned with guidance and counseling and Pitzer commented that he was making an effort to commit more faculty time to the colleges for the pur-

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poses of advising and counseling. The president, however, did not mention any formal program such as Harvard's "fifth" policy as being in prospect for Rice.

He emphasized that the development of the colleges at Rice has been rather experimental, and that additional faculty commitment to the colleges would be made in the same spirit.

WITH REGARD to counseling, Pitzer stated that Rice is going through a transition from a time of relative unconcern about student drop-out and failure to an era when the administration will increasingly wonder when a student does not make it. This, he indicated, was a result of the colleges' influence and changes in the University program, but primarily to the increasing abilities of the incoming freshmen.

As to career guidance and psychiatric help, Pitzer stated that Rice will continue to refer students to the local community's facilities for such matters.

WHEN ASKED about the vast difference in the procedures used by Rice and the duo of Yale and Harvard, where students seem to distrust house and college governments, Pitzer affirmed his support of student government, with the reservation that the burden of such government should be spread as widely as possible so as to prevent interference with academic work.

He mentioned in this connection that the sense of responsibility within the student body is the result of acceptence of responsibility in many areas, and that the combination of the honor system and the broad student self-government complement each other and make such government effective.

President Pitzer expressed the hope that the colleges will fill an integrating role in the academic life of the student: "One of the advantages of a select student body," he said, "is that each student can relax formal assignments and the like, compensating for this loss with the provision of a rich intellectual climate where the student can develop in more freedom."