In Solving Problems

TISA Meeting Offers Rice Aid

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This past weekend on March 11-12 the Texas Inter-collegiate Student Association held its annual state convention in Dallas. Guests of Southern Methodist University were 37 schools representing the entire state.

Representatives Present

Representing Rice at the meeting were Wayne Hanson, Mary Anne Boone, Buddy Herz, Mike Bennett, Glenn Jarvis, Syd Nathans, and Norman Reynolds. The Rice delegation for the most part maintained headquarters in the Statler Hilton.

The students meeting in the SMU student center were organized into "Buzz Groups" for the purpose of thrashing out problems common to all Texas schools. The groups embraced such problems as campus leadership, weaknesses in student government, student politics, orientation, management of student newspapers and student centers, relations between students-faculty-and administration, American vs. European educational thinking, and college yearbooks.

Purpose of TISA

The purpose of the entire TISA program is to provide a chance for representatives to get together and compare notes concerning problems common to all and to come up with probable solutions. In line with this objective, each buzz-group first outlined its area of discussion, and then presented to the assembly as a whole resolution for adoption of the representatives.

The chief value evident to most Rice delegates is simply the experience and knowledge gained in talking to other students about what problems are important to them and in helping to solve these problems.

"Student" Centers

It was learned in one of the buzz-groups that many other schools run their Student Centers on a different basis with seemingly satisfactory results. In many cases other Texas schools have unions that are more student run than Rice's with a full-time, specially trained men whose job it is to constantly plan and organize student activities in and around the center.

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Most other schools in the area experience more censorship where their publications are concerned than does Rice. At one school represented every single article to be printed in the newspaper must be read by the president. Also, generally speaking, the editor is a position filled by appointment by the publication boards of other schools.

Featured Speakers

Featured as speakers at the TISA state convention were Waggoner Carr, Speaker of the House of the State Legislature, Senator Phillip A. Hart of the State Senate, and David Cohn, one of the South's foremost writers.

The Rice delegates returned Sunday evening with a wealth of information regarding other people's problems to add to their own. The consensus was that it is pretty consoling to know that Rice isn't the only school with problems.