New President To Hold Destiny Of University

By JOEL HOCHMAN

As classically evidenced in the history of the University of Chicago, there is only one source for the direction of a University. Leadership, direction, and even mood, come from the office of the President.

It is undeniable that it is the philosophy of the controlling personality that shapes the undergraduate years, and this philosophy often maintains its influence for decades (for example, the 34 years under the leadership of Edgar Odell Lovett).

At Chicago the university blossomed into international prominence and nurtured literary and scientific personalities who led their fields. Chicago reflected the controversial policies and personalities of her presidents, and gained for it. Her campus was the fertile, flowing source of academic genius that her leaders sought and cultivated.

NOW, HOWEVER, the picture has changed, and that same campus no longer leads, but follows. That university still reflects the wishes of her leaders, but her leaders are not the visionaries of a previous era.

Such is always the case in any university, just as it was at Chicago; institutions do not parthenogenize, they must be cultured by their leaders.

From this it should be clear that Rice must have another president who is capable of leading forward—a man with the visions of a future and the boldness to go there. It is not sufficient to be content with past achievements and methods, rather it is time to force new achievements from earth that has been tilled for only 48 years.

RICE MUST gather even more inspiration in the ranks of her staff, she must search across the nation for the material from which brilliance and genius are shaped. This campus must reflect ambition, competition, opinion, controversy, activity; it must become the matrix of forces that pushes men to achievement, that generates the ethos of creativity.

The University is a hollow shell without her men, and the leader of those men has the present and future within his strength.

Rice, and her men, need such a man, not an editor of life and its processes but an author of these things. A man of enough stature and position to decide and oppose as his convictions dictate, without fear of traditional hesitancies and reservations.

THE PRESIDENT of Rice must have emphaticism, not editorships. He must hold prominence through personal brilliance, not the grinding processes of seniority. He must think young—and for his followers, not for his predecessors or selectors. His concern must be for the total of university efforts, not the single aims of solitary fields.

The men selecting the future of the next fifteen or twenty years know the weaknesses and (Continued on Page 3)
faults in this endowed world of Rice University. They know the fledglings from the mature, and they must surely know that now is the time for brilliant and total structures, not cherished foundations and sacrosanct traditions.

Neither man nor Universities just grow, and they know it—we can only hope that they succeed in choosing the right horizons in our world of myriad directions.