Proposed
By BILL LIEBLICH

The Rice Student Senate voted down a proposal to ratify the constitution of the embryonic Southwest Conference Student Association in a meeting March 7.

Reed Martin, Student Association President, issued this statement concerning the SWCSA this week:

"SWCSA was organized to provide the benefits which accrue to one school from association with others. Rice has great interest in the Southwest Conference and recognizes it has problems in common with the other schools.

"WE WOULD be in favor of a plan that would help all SWC schools solve their common problems and enable us to enlist support in handling our peculiar problems.

"As an active member of the SWC, Rice should work on a conference project from the beginning.

"One way to 'work on it' is to point out why we don't feel it will succeed or indicate better ways for it to work.

"This is what we intended by defeating the motion to ratify the proposed constitution of the SWCSA.

"I WAS INFORMED that one school passed the constitution 'with amendments.' I did not feel this was constitutional because amendments may be proposed only at a general convention, and I did not think it would serve a very useful purpose. Ratifying this constitution, as was pointed out in our Senate, implies that we fully agree with it.

"What we actually felt, and wanted to show, was that we saw definite problems that must be negotiated before we could ratify the constitution.

"The motion to ratify failed for these general reasons:

"1) The Senate was reluctant to appropriate dues for this organization that offers no tangible benefits and the Senate with a tight budget, is wary of paying dues to a new organization that may also provide no real benefits.

"Appropriation of dues is required before the first meeting and refusal to ratify was linked with reluctance to appropriate dues.

"2) The SWCSA, as proposed, seems linked to the SWC Sportsmanship Committee. This committee seems to perform little useful business. The Sportsmanship Committee attempts communication and it fails consistently. Linking the SCWSC and the SCWSA together could lead to confusion and duplication or nullification of effort.

"A LARGE PROBLEM with the Sportsmanship Committee is two meetings per year. Two meetings do not provide enough opportunity for exchange of ideas but somehow undermine communication during the rest of the year. We would like to see the SWCSA more on its own.

"Our Senate admits a need (Continued on Page 5)
SENATE--
(Continued from Page 1)
and a desire to improve communication with the other members of the Southwest Conference. We would be highly receptive to some method to implement an exchange of ideas but wonder if this formalized structure is the way.

"Several Senators pointed out the advantage and success of Student body presidents' communicating. This kind of communication seems most practicable and can exist without the constitution-alized structure.

"IF THE SWCSA is ratified (six of eight schools must be in favor) we will request permission to send 'delegates' to explain our differences, and if these differences can be negotiated we will very probably join.

"If this proposal for a SWCSA fails, we will probably suggest another meeting to discuss differences, draft another proposal, and try it again.

"We are definitely in favor of the idea of a SWCSA and want to work out these problems to make sure the Association is a success."