Rice social situation in need of development

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People come to Rice not only to gain book knowledge, but to round out their personalities. Unfortunately, the maturing process at Rice is greatly hindered by the underdeveloped social program. During my many years here, I have observed the situation with no little dismay. Now, in my last weeks here, I wish to offer a few random suggestions and observations about the general condition of Rice’s social life.

In the first place, the SA must take a more active role in Rice’s social life and coordinate efforts to change the liquor rules to allow certain school parties on campus (see Baker Proposal of 1966-67). The SA this year hid its head in the ground and did not attempt to aid Baker’s efforts.

Furthermore, the SA must take a more mature attitude concerning the conduct at the parties. It has become quite obvious in the last two years that Rice students are having increasing difficulty in finding places for Rice parties. The Rally Club party this year, for example, had to be held in another county where the police were not as understanding about students and beer. Though I hear that the party was profitable. Maybe the Rally Club could have had a partial refund after the beer was gone?

The reason for the difficulty is that Rice students tend to destroy the dance halls. The SA should (because they do authorize the existence of the classes, clubs, etc.) take action against the organizations that run parties at which there is damage. The students need to understand that they can’t destroy every place in town.

A second area in which the social situation is particularly stilted is that of the girls who do not have dates on Saturday night. I am told that dateless girls hole up in their rooms, too ashamed to show their faces. This situation is both ridiculous and unhealthy. The girls should follow the example of the boys who have not asked them out—get together and do something on their own. Furthermore, the social chairmen of the girls’ colleges should study this problem and really try to get the girls out of their rooms.

Finally, the colleges need to concentrate their efforts on centering more social activities around the physical facilities of a college. Obviously, the Hanszen coffee house is a step in the right direction.

Another possibility would be for the other colleges to clear out part of their commons, set up a record player and a coke bar, (maybe beer someday), and let couples come to the commons and dance and talk, if they do not want to go to the excessively expensive off-campus parties.

Baker last Sunday experimented with a record player at a high school girls mixer. The idea can be expanded to Saturday nights.

The Baker Sunday night picnics could also easily be expanded. (50 cents for all the hot dogs you dare eat). In the last two years, the picnics have regularly attracted at least 90 or so people and have been easy to run.

These are only a few problems that I feel can be solved fairly easily. There are other problems such as the high charge for parties and the inaccessibility of the parties that may only be solved when liquor parties are allowed on campus. In the meantime the social chairmen should try to initiate and test as many new ideas as possible.