WILL RICE PRESIDENT

Focus: The Individual

By GARY THOM

I prefer to think, and speak, of our possibilities as a college, and of making ourselves aware of them, rather than of any "distinctiveness" or "personality" Will Rice College may have acquired in its first six years. I would like to think that, once this college got going, it was for the individual, rather than the other way, and that the object in all our efforts has been and will be the service of the individual student—the provision of opportunities for the full development of his capacities.

FULL REALIZATION and acceptance of such a purpose dictates that we entertain a much wider conception of the role the college can and should play in the educational process at Rice than has yet been seen—that we exchange ignorance for concern on such questions as general education vs. specialized education, disciplines vs. the professions, undergraduate vs. graduate education, and so on and on, with a view toward exercising a real and significant influence upon academic affairs in this university.

Ours is the conviction that it is through and within the colleges that the solutions to problems posed by fundamental shortcomings of the Rice education (which bigger and better speaker programs, for instance, can ameliorate but never really solve) will be found. That is, the efforts of the college should not be confined to supplementation of the individual's education. If the college looks to its function, this is the answer it will provide to the confused queries of "where do we go from here?", the "holy cause" the various "Committee(s) on College Goals" have sought and failed to find.

As to our college's personality: let it always have 231 distinct facets, and let us refrain from trying to characterize the colleges, lest (Heaven help us!) they become as we describe them, fitting into the mold some would have us make for them.

As to our significant achievements: let them always be measured in terms of better service to the individual student, and let us realize that this logically and inevitably entails an active concern for the sort of education he receives at Rice.