creating individual traditions

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As the College System begins to close out its first decade of existence, we pause to survey what has been promised and what has indeed been accomplished. Although the future under evolving administrative attitudes looks promising and is a challenge to the creative energy of the Colleges today, something is appearing, not strong enough to demand our full attention, yet substantial enough to affect the way we think.

That something is a tradition, and if it is one of excellence and responsibility, a tradition is the one most important asset that the Colleges can possess.

During the germinal years of the Colleges' existence, they were confronted with an administration which was basically afraid to give the Colleges full responsibility for the conduct of the lives of their members.

In a way this fear was natural for no tradition underlay the promises of these first governments to conduct the life of the College responsibly.

When trouble occurred, for instance concerning the almost unlimited open house policy years ago, it was natural for the administration to assume that the flagrant violations of open house rules were proof that the members of the Colleges were not sufficiently mature to conduct themselves according to any set of rules that might often or even occasionally inconvenience them.

The years of so-called college monasticism since then have purchased something. In any system or rules there will be violations. This statement is in fact redundant. In the Honor System which is correctly Rice University's most prized possession, there are violations.

What the eight years of fledgling tradition have purchased us is the right to look at our mistakes and say that they do not demonstrate the inherent weakness of our system of government but rather are the result of the few who try to exempt themselves from any rules.

Our College Court has proved itself capable of dealing with those who maliciously abuse the rights that have been given to them.

Various persons have speculated on the difference between what we call Colleges and what Cambridge calls Colleges. It is an interesting discussion, but it proves no more than discussing the difference between two people.

Conceived differently, brought up in a different environment, it is only natural that they be different. What we try to offer
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potential of the College System. As for Will Rice's part in this scheme, I have a postcard from Tom Schunior, the President of Will Rice in '64-'65, with the following concluding remark: "We built Will Rice's position on breadth of vision (or tried). Don't let your interests narrow."

As a continuing goal, I can think of none better than this.