Lack of unity ails discount service

By JERRY HAFTER
SA President

The Houston Council of Colleges has so far attempted only one major project—the city-wide student discount service—and has failed utterly to achieve it.

The discount service was unanimously accepted last May as a beneficial project and plans were made for activating the service for all areas of Houston, with each school covering the merchants in the district around its campus.

After a summer's work by Charles Jastre of Rice, the overall chairman, the service lists a substantial number of merchants in the Rice district. Achievement at other schools, however, has been minimal.

In fact, the University of Houston has been unable to sign a single merchant to a service contract.

Cards Printed

So that Rice students can receive the benefits of the work done by the Rice delegates on the discount committee, the Rice Students Senate will print and sell cards listing the merchants already signed for the service in this area. The cards will go on sale at Rice within two weeks.

These cards will, of course, be available for sale by other student associations and if they bring more merchants into the service in the future new lists of merchants will be printed.

The attempt to set up the discount service on a city-wide basis has indicated the tremendous difficulty in getting Houston college students to cooperate even in an activity as straight-forward and totally beneficial as a discount service.

Services Not Goal

Perhaps we at Rice do not appreciate the sophistication in providing student services which the various student governing bodies on our campus have achieved. Services should not be the main goal of student government, but if a student association can not provide them, it is doubtful that it can deal with more important matters of university life and academic policy.

What the experience of the discount service means for the success of the Houston Council of Colleges is undetermined. Perhaps in the field of interchange of information about events on campuses, intramural sports playoffs, and social activities more can be accomplished.

More Co-ordination

Larger goals of co-ordinated social work projects, joint speaker programs, and inter-university courses will have to be posponed until an attitude of cooperation and experience in dealing with intercollege matters can be inculcated among the Council members.

At present the most important aspects of meeting appears to be simply bringing together student officers and their mutual education in the practical differences between the colleges of Houston.