By DENIS ASHTON

Although the final figures will not be out for another eight to ten days, preliminary figures indicate that this year’s freshmen were selected from one of the largest fields of applicants in Rice’s history—2475—of the brainiest stock—22 Merit Scholars and 3 General Motors winners—but the Ratio remains depressingly near the traditional Rice “norm”—100 girls to 328 boys.

IN ADDITION this year’s freshmen are unusually diverse in background, for despite the predominance of science-engineers who make up half the class, 75% are from outside metropolitan Houston, 20% are from outside the state, and several are from Latin America and Europe.

However, the class is more than statistics. It is an agglomeration of individuals, unique in many ways, but uniform in the hope that college will provide them with more than a degree, despite the fashionable cynicism of the more “knowledgable.”

TO MANY, attendance at Rice is the fulfillment of family tradition. Others were attracted by Rice’s lack of tuition or the prestige of a Rice Hanszen freshman from Kansas City put it: “Back home Rice just has a tremendous reputation.”

But most refreshing was the hope, the expectation of a truly fulfilling experience. One Will Rice freshman, Jim New, a Milby (Houston) graduate, put it this way: “I was offered a decided to come to Rice. I don’t know. I guess I just like the atmosphere here at Rice better.”