JONES PRESIDENT

On Culture Vs. Knitting

By BETTY SUE HAMNER

Jones College, having the largest number of academic majors on campus, should be the central point of cultural activities involving music, art, and speakers in the academic fields. Yet there appears to me to be no direct proportion between the majors which ninety per cent of the women have chosen and the interest in any extracurricular academic activities.

For example, the chairman of our cultural committee sold fifty symphony tickets this year. But this is no real indication of interest in the symphony; the real interest is shown when these fifty tickets are used. And I would estimate that most of the tickets have been used one or two times mainly for the opening symphony.

APPARENTLY THE interest is not there, because too many excuses such as "I can't find a ride," or "It's raining tonight" keep most of the women in the college on their backs knitting.

One of the main projects of Jones this year is our speaker program each week. I realize that none of these speakers has been of national fame, but all of them are well-known in the Houston area.

They have been well-publicized — on various bulletin boards, throughout newsletter, and at dinner. We have had a variety of speakers in the fields of education, law, newspaper work, and entertainment. Yet there has been small attendance — mainly the college officers and their roommates.

THE POINT OF low attendance is that the women do not respond on their own initiative; if they are personally invited or encouraged by a college officer or other persuasive person, then they will attend willingly and usually leave with the feeling of having gained something. They do not regret having laid aside their knitting or letter writing for thirty minutes to hear the speaker.

Now I don't mean that Rice students have nothing to do but write letters and knit; I realize that everyone can not attend every lecture held on campus. But each member should have a taste of each activity sponsored by the College. Almost all members have had more than a taste of the social and entertainment activities of the College; what

(Continued on Page 6)
BETTY SUE HAMNER--

(Continued from Page 3)

about the educational activities? THIS PROBLEM does not exist solely in Jones College. It is present in other areas of the campus—the men’s colleges, the Film Guild, the Autry House speaker program and in various departments’ semicentennial speaker programs. What has happened to the overflowing audiences of the Academic Festival?

The answer to the problem is an individual one. Each student must decide for himself what he wants to receive from and contribute to his college years. I think that juniors and seniors should be willing and able to assume leadership and responsibility in directing the underclassmen toward becoming aware and conscious persons.

THIS MEANS MORE than just advising freshmen what subject to take next year or what dress to wear to the college formal. It means attending lectures and other academic and cultural events which we feel are worthwhile, and thereby “shaping up” the underclassmen with our influence.

There is no excuse for a student to leave Rice with only knowledge gained from books; there are too many other educational activities present on campus. We should take advantage of these opportunities and induce our friends to take advantage of them.