No Archi'-Arts Next Year; Reasons: Chaperones, Funds

By JAN B. GORDON

The torments of evil, the theme of this year’s Archi-Arts Pageant, became quite a bit more real earlier this week when it was announced that the Rice Architectural Society has been prohibited from holding social functions of any description for the school year of 1961-1962.

THE REASONS given for this action lie in the failure of the Society to report patron bid lists and chaperones for the ball and in the occurrence of a “well publicized incident during the dance which offended good taste.” In an official statement from the office of the Advisor to Men, the arrangements for the Archi-Arts Ball on February 18 violated university rules in the following manner:

1. Chaperones for this event were not reported to the Office of the Advisor to Men prior to the time the function was held.
2. Funds were solicited from off-campus individuals and firms without approval from the Office of Advisor to Men as to form of solicitation and list of individuals contacted.

THESE MINOR omissions in the planning of the dance did not come to light, however, until the storm of controversy over the awarding of first prize in the contest of costumes most in keeping with the theme of “evil” to a pair dressed respectively as a pregnant nun and priest. From February 18 when the dance was held until March 2 when an article appeared in one of the Houston papers, there was no mention of the situation in any publication except the Rice Thresher in which a letter to the editor by a Rice student condemned the decision by three judges; the Rev. Lane Denson, representative of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas on the Rice campus; Mrs. E. R. De Zurko, wife of a Fine Arts faculty member; and Alsey Newton, practicing Houston architect and 1950 Rice graduate.

At the time of this printing, several of the parties concerned were preparing statements concerning the incident and mulling over a “fall” that offers Satan some competition.