Inter-College Court termed ‘a disappointing success’

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Chairman, Intercollege Court

Since its inception in the fall of 1962, the Inter-College Court has proved to be at most a disappointing success, or perhaps to its initiators, a successful disappointment.

This none-too-startling fact can be easily discerned if you happen to have a copy of the Thresher which announces the overwhelming student approval of the SA amendment creating the Court. That issue of the paper is filled with optimistic and laudatory comments from all quarters of the University.

Unfortunately, these people did not seem to foresee the difficulties that accompany any such body instituted at Rice—difficulties which have frozen the Court’s power to function.

**ICC Impotency**

After almost three years of impotency, however, the ICC has begun to realize that its continued survival as a useful, functioning body depends solely upon its ability to surmount those obstacles: its yearly overhaul of membership, lack of definite power, student ignorance, indifference of the justices, the near absence of inter-college cooperation.

Last year the Court tackled rather successfully the problem of its ambiguous authority through an amendment to its constitution granting jurisdiction over individual students under very specifically defined conditions (an important amendment which 82 per cent of the voters approved, and which only a handful remember).

**Orientation**

Likewise, the Court made a strike against student ignorance by requiring future courts to conduct a brief orientation for freshmen. This duty was fulfilled this year in every college, except Will Rice, with overwhelming success.

Some of the freshmen, before the arrival of upperclassmen—appeals on traffic tickets.

The students will have the power to void or validate such tickets. If the plan is successful, the Board will continue to function—a definite step toward increased student responsibility.

Thus this is the Inter-College Court as it stands today, a Court still fluid, with problems, but with a future. Like a fabled phoenix it is emerging from the fire with a renewed vigor. But whether it makes it out of the ash heap will depend largely on the success of the changes described above.