‘Janus’: Everyone Likes Idea, But No One Willing To Stick Neck Out

By DENIS ASHTON

Last Tuesday evening the future of Janus, Rice’s brilliant literary rathole, was discussed in a meeting of undergraduate literati, representatives of two literary societies — PALS and CRLS — and members of the Student Senate and the Forum Committee. SA President Harry Lynch presided.

At stake was Janus’ publication future, and granted an eventual second issue, its character.

HIGH ON THE list of blocks to publication was the ever-present problem of finances. A Rice literary magazine, it was pointed out, is poor advertising to begin with, and in addition is in competition with other Rice publications for institutional advertising funds.

Second, the Student Senate, after having lost close to one thousand dollars on the first issue is understandably reluctant to back the second. Accordingly the Senate is considering adoption of a resolution requiring certification of future editions’ solvency before going to press.

Nevertheless, financial support on campus, particularly from the literary societies, seems probable, for although neither of the literary representatives could make a definite commitment for their organizations, they both expressed interest in making patron bids of about fifty dollars.

BEST AS IT IS with difficulties, it is no wonder that Janus not only lacks an editor and an associate editor — essentially a business manager — but all prospects of finding them. Most of the Janus staff from last year is now unavailable for filling these positions.

There was considerable discussion of the first issue’s subject matter, for despite its critical acclaim, some of those present felt that it was nevertheless of little interest to Rice undergraduates. Janus’ publication rate and promotional policies were also discussed.

THE MEETING DID not attempt a searching inquiry of the problem of literary magazine publication, acceptance, and support on the university campus — Rice’s particularly — and concluded with the cheery note that a large number of students would like to see another issue of Janus, but no one wants the job of doing it. As one student put it, “I’d feel like I was putting my neck on the chopping-block.”

The Forum will present a symposium on campus literary magazines toward the middle of December.