NOT ENOUGH MEMBERS

PALS Disband; To Join Other Lits

By SUE McNAIR
Thresher Reporter

The Pallas Athene Literary Society has formally dissolved and the members are joining the other three lits.

In a statement issued Wednesday, February 23, president Cynthia Johnson stated that since PALS was unable to continue its activities because of its small size the members decided to support the other lits.

Expressing strong support for the Literary Society system, Miss Johnson attacked those who criticize the lits without knowing enough about them. "Few who have condemned literary societies have ever stopped to investigate their true nature. They blindly condemn something which does not appeal to them, and, as a result, do great harm to an institution which does have an appeal to others."

"One wonders sometimes whether we are really a democracy when the desires of others are so greatly affected in this way. Many girls may want to join a literary society but feel that they cannot for fear of public censure. To me it is senseless and cruel to deprive others of this harmless enjoyment."

Countering the attack that Literary Societies are useless, Miss Johnson cited the many worthwhile activities of the organizations, including the directory, activities calendar, goalpost decorations at home games, theatrical productions, and most importantly, scholarships.

Constructive Recreation
"The societies also provide for contact and friendship among Brown, Jones, and town girls and provide enjoyment and constructive recreation."

Stating that the selective or snobbish label does not apply to the lits, Miss Johnson pointed

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(Continued from Page 1) out that every Rice girl is guaranteed a bid and, more often than not, will receive one from the list of her choice.

Miss Johnson said of those who attack literary societies, “These leaders of University life, these free-thinkers, are actually doing precisely what they accuse the societies of doing. They are the ones who coerce others into accepting their opinions . . . The literary societies . . . welcome all girls who wish to join, but pressure none.”

Apparently these attacks have had some effect, as Miss Johnson noted the dissolution last year of the Sarah Lane Literary Society. PALS hopes, Miss Johnson said, that by giving its support to EBLS, CRLS, and OWLS, the Literary Society system can be strengthened and continue to exist.