SA PRESIDENT

On The Senate's Role

By BOB CLARKE

The events of the past week should have made it perfectly clear that Rice University enjoys the respect and support not only of the residents of Houston, but of the academic world.

TIME AND again attention was called to the position of leadership in academic achievement which Rice has assumed—a leadership which will continue to extend itself beyond the immediate Southwest area.

Just as the University constantly strives to lead and excel in the areas of academic excellence, student government should endeavors to do the same. It is not enough merely to rest on our laurels and quietly observe that student government is effective at Rice or that our student government is better than someone else's.

WORKING through the college system student government at Rice has decided advantage since it is able to bring its activities closer to the constituency.

I regret that so much mistrust seems to exist among the colleges in determining what the relationship of the Senate and colleges should be.

The Senate does not question that those matters involving the student body or activities of the college or the activities of that college should be left in the hands of the student government; those problems which concern several colleges or the student body as a whole should be the consideration of the Senate.

If more important than this distinction, however, is the uncertainty as to what exactly the Senate does and its area of operation. Initially the Senate must represent the students of Rice and its purpose seems to be the association to the faculty the administration, other universities, the Rice President.

IT MUST ALSO represent the interests and general welfare of the student body and work actively to see that these interests and desires are satisfied.

A recent article in the editor, a senator remarked that "dynamism in student government" and "leadership of purpose" is in the colleges, and that the colleges should be the "cornerstone" of student government. It is not really important where the cornerstone of student government is; but it is significant that the dynamism and purpose is said to be in the colleges.

THE ANSWER is fairly simple. It is there because the members of the college government recognize opportunity and potential and are willing to work for the development of their colleges. If all the members of the Senate who have chosen to work on the all-school level of government would tackle their assignments with the same enthusiasm and imagination as do the colleges, the Senate could endure to play an important and purposeful role.

It is quite clear after only a few investigations that student government at Rice is more respected than that at many other schools in this region, yet is Rice exerting any real leadership? Do other schools look to Rice student government for ideas and direction?

Perhaps they do in some cases, but there is much work yet to be done. There are further areas for legitimate student involvement in the various college polity formations which have not been explored. There is an expressed desire on the part of at least one member of the Board of Governors that students have more direct control over that group.

The current concern over finances and the general direction of the University are but problems of definite interest to the students, and responsible thought and suggestions as to their solutions will be welcomed by the University administrators.

Finally, then, it is this: It is time that student leaders put away worries of "button down college" and "quick political" and seriously consider the problems at hand.

I challenge the Senate and the student body to recognize the opportunity before them to accept the responsibilities that will make Rice student government much more effective than it already is, and will cause it to carry on a position of positive leadership among universities.