Senate Committee Will Investigate Control Over Student Publications

By FOLLY-HINDS
Thresher Reporter

Jeff Norris, Ralph Parks, John Hamilton, and Sandy Corner will serve on a Senate committee to reformulate Senate policies toward student publications. The committee, set up at the October 26 meeting of the Senate, was instructed to come up with specific proposals to solve the Senate dilemma about the status of the Publications Board.

Dean of Students Paul E. Pfeiffer feels that there is "probably some need for monitoring publications." He stated that while he thinks the student newspaper should have a large degree of freedom, the Campanile is an entirely different type of instrument.

'Not Provocative'

"The role that the yearbook plays is in presenting Rice as it was when you were here. It's not necessarily provocative," he told the Senate. "I doubt if the Campanile really conveys the Rice that was last year."

Dean Pfeiffer felt that because of the representative function of the yearbook, the administration would feel that a connection between faculty members and the Campanile staff was needed. "You simply have to recognize," he said "that the yearbook is more than the private affair of a group of students. It serves to provide an image — to use a nasty word here — of the University."

Board Limited

John Hamilton, chairman of the now-suspended Publications Board, said that the board is limited in the number of things it can do. He stated that there is a difficulty of exchange between the board and publications because the power of the Board is a veto power.

"Frankly," he said, "the board has never taken any action that would merit the attention of the Senate."

Jerry Hafter suggested that instead of having faculty members on a Senate committee whose function was one of censorship, it might be more constructive to have a faculty advisor working with the staff.

Ralph Parks feels that "things should be shaped along the way rather than broken off at the end."

Jeff Corbin, editor of the Campanile, told the Senate that he plans to seek out the opinions and advice of a large part of the student body.