Colleges Grapple With Room Shortages; Remedies Vary

By R. A. F. LOWEY-BALL

The Rice colleges, which only two years ago had dozens of beds left vacant, are faced this month with an excess of nearly a hundred applicants for residence.

Each college has devised its own procedure for meeting the shortage, but all have one thing in common: somebody has to go.

Jones College has arranged for additional housing at the TWU dorms. However, the Residence Committee has also adopted a special policy of "doubling up."

THIS MEANS that one additional girl is allowed into a normal double room. The requirements for this avant garde policy are that at least two of the three girls considering doubling must already have a room at Jones. Houston girls are not eligible. Because of subsequent cramped closet space and "breathing space," girls considering this move were advised to consider the matter very seriously.

Behind all of this lies the Jones drawing. A proportional number from each class was designated to move to TWU. This raised a hue and cry from many of those drawn.

One girl's first reaction was disappointment, but her second thoughts discerned a silver lining in the gloom: "The food is much better, and the hours are reasonable."

SHE NOTED that the major problems would be transportation, a dearth of telephones, and dating.

She also stated that everybody was generally disgusted with what has happened, but that the college handled it the only way they could.

Hanszen College committed its residence policy to a merit system calling for close scrutiny of the individual's college contributions. Each student desiring a room was asked to fill out a form dealing with obligations for residence, contributions to the college, and additional relevant information. This information was reviewed by a committee of six outgoing seniors. All seniors were eligible for the committee whose responsibility it was to determine who is approved for residence.

STUDENTS WERE allowed to appear before this committee to discuss additional information. The entire procedure was approved by an open college meeting.

Wiess found it unnecessary to review individual cases and stipulated only that Houston students who are not seniors cannot have a room next year. A sufficient number of students have decided to room off campus to make this possible. The room

(Continued on Page 5)
rooms—

(Continued from Page 1)

assignments are based on seniority. Wiess set aside certain nights during which the various classifications make their room choices. Seniors were given top priority, preference coming in descending order according to classification. Off campus seniors were eligible for rooms.

DAVID HEAD, head of the Baker Room Assignment Committee, stated that the shortage of rooms necessitated the removal of some students-decided by a drawing. The system is basically a merit program with points assigned in descending order according to classification. The College Court has the power to determine the undesirability of any student. Baker excepted college officers from the exodus.

Will Rice College will continue, basically, last year’s method of point assignment determined by years of attendance at Rice and classification of transferees determined by the registrar. Anyone is eligible under this system, but if a shortage arises, Houston students will be the first to go.

DR. J. S. FULTON, Master of Will Rice, made it clear that no value judgments will be made concerning desirability of the student. A system of bonus points has been devised whereby students remaining together will receive additional points. Bonus points will also be awarded to those desiring singles.

Nancy Stooksberry expressed hope that no more than ten girls will have to leave Jones for TWU. Derald Glidden, head of the Will Rice committee estimated that roughly 40 students will have to leave next year. Hanszen expects a shortage of 22 spaces.