brown: a college in a test tube

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From maids to dishboys to associates to envious men’s college freshmen—everyone is agog over the marvelous facilities of Margaret Root Brown College.

Basking in the light of this admiration, we, the members of Brown College, must not forget how lucky we are and how grateful we are to certain people and institutions which have made the birth of a new college possible.

Therefore, we begin our career at Rice on a note of gratitude—to the Browns and the other members of the Board of Governors for their generosity and their empathy with the college system, and to the other colleges for their invaluable experience which gives us a head start on the way to realizing the full potential of college living.

Distinguishing Spirit
As a new college, Brown has yet to develop its own philosophy of college government. However, from the first college meeting last spring, there has been apparent a certain spirit which distinguishes Brown from the other colleges on campus.

Chiefly, this is the excitement that usually accompanies something new and beautiful; but it is something more.

It is the spirit of experimentation.

Two examples of experimental ideas we are trying out are our one-page provisional constitution and our provisional residence rules, which are a much-simplified and thoroughly revised version of the Jones model.

Aid Participation
By eliminating unnecessary restrictions and inhibitions, we think we can make possible fuller development and greater participation in the college.

Instead of making a rule or inserting a clause to cover every situation that might arise, as many colleges attempt to do, we prefer to leave our rules and constitution flexible, trusting the officers to handle each new test of the college’s ability to govern itself, on an individual basis.

Another experimental venture which we share with our sister college Jones is the installation of two graduate students in the college to assist with counseling and orientation.

Counseling Improved
Counseling is an area in which the colleges have been weak despite the sincere efforts of masters, deans, associates, residence supervisors and college officers. It is hoped that with two young graduate students in (Continued on Page 10)
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residence, the missing link in the counseling system has been found.

We are all very pleased with Brown's assistants, Lou Bertch and Christa Schwing and look forward to reaping the benefits from their presence in the college.

As far as programs and parties, Brown is vying with the other colleges to see who can offer the most varied activities. Again, a spirit of experimentation may be noted as you will see when Brown happenings are announced in pages of the Thresher.

College Nights Go

The cabinet feels that to require attendance at a program is to kill interest so we have done away with college nights as such. Instead we plan to offer programs and activities which may appeal only to small interest groups, but which will allow the expression of individual interests.

From this sketchy outline of plans for Brown's first year I hope you can see that through the spirit of experimentation which characterizes our venture, emerges a focus on the individual. Our primary aim is to support the individual rather than to add our weight to the many factors which suppress him.