RICE STUDENTS' AIR VIEWS ON LIT. SOCIETY RUSH

By GINGER PURINGTON

...abolish lit societies and end all the petty rivalries that go with them...

...a freshman needs to be long, psychologically, socially from the beginning of her career at Rice.

What do Rice girls think of literary society rush? Should first semi-rush be abolished? Should grades enter into eligibility requirements? What about "dirty rush?" The Committee on Literary Societies recently sent out a questionnaire on the subject to all women students—fraternity members, upperclassmen, lit members, independents, and in active lit members. Freshmen, who are once more in the process of revision, and, as usual, opinions are sharply divided.

The administration, with its grudging view of second-semester rush, seems to want a continuation of second-semester rush, while 47 girls favored first-semester rush, and 27 wanted second-semester rush. The breakdown of opinions from the questionnaires went as follows:

First Second Semester Semester
Independents 2 11
Licentiates 15 11

Breaking the answers down into classes, we find:

First Second Semester Semester
Freshmen 16 4
Sophomores 25 6
Juniors 11 4
Seniors 7 2

What does this prove? Evidently the lit members—a majority of all freshmen—are against first-semester rush, while the freshmen favor rush during the second semester. Just why this is so may be seen in part from some of the answers given on the questionnaires.

FRESHMAN LIT MEMBER: "First semester. There would be much less "illegal rushing."

FRESHMAN LIT MEMBER: "If they are really before the freshmen a chance to become acquainted and find which girls they can be most congenial with. First semester rush would just mean a mere hectic, confused whirl for the frsh girls."

SOPHOMORE LIT MEMBER: "I prefer first semester rush. Second semester rush causes too much hard college work and a strain on classmen, and is also a strain on freshmen, since rush actually goes on all of first semester. There is a much greater tendency to violate rules both in spirit and in fact. I do think a shorter period for rush is better—at most two weeks."

SOPHOMORE INDEPENDENT: "Second semester rush—it gives all the girls more time to get acquainted and the freshmen have more time to see what the rush is really like before deciding whether or not to go through it. (It also gives more time for dirty rush—as seen in abundance this year.)"

JUNIOR LIT MEMBER: "I prefer second semester. Second semester rush in actuality is FIRST semester rush, as much as we don't like to admit it. The tension and pressure is too great with second semester rush and the pleasure of meeting freshman girls as friends is not there."

SENIOR LIT MEMBER: "Second semester. It gives the freshmen longer time to see just what the lists represent. (We notice how many expressed their disgust this year, weren't there 72 independents?) It also gives the lit members enough time to make up their minds about whom they want."

SENIOR LIT MEMBER: "Second semester. By that time the freshmen will have realized they can get along without the lists!"

SOPHOMORE LIT MEMBER: "Why must rush? Please have the second semester so as to give freshmen a chance to see and know the girls and place them and their type in the lists. There is so much obvious insincerity, after one semester the freshmen who aren't the gushy, insincere, lit-type ought to see through rush and if they don't, they deserve to get in a lit. Actually lists are a superfluous function on the Rice campus. I resent their being called "literary" societies—they are more on the order of social clubs. Those girls who must belong to something or a group already have their own cliques. If they want an organization to throw parties, Jones College does a pretty good job and would probably throw more if they aren't agitated. Let's out lists!"

This comment came from an interested and sincere Baker College member, who might also abolish Lit Societies and all the petty rivalries that go with them. Then solidify Jones College to complement the College System.

The questionnaires also posed the problem of grades as qualifications for going through rush. 49 girls were definitely against abolishing lit societies altogether, while 29 thought grades should carry some weight. A FRESHMAN lit member said, "I really dislike the idea of only a school like just grades. People should be given opportunity to participate, regardless of grades."

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A SOPHOMORE independent said: "Of course! Scholarship is the main reason for our being here and if freshmen can't keep up their grades before rush they certainly can't when they're in a lit."

A SENIOR lit member had this to say: "No. I think if a freshman really wants to be a lit member, she should not be held back. If a girl is homely or personalityless, she is guaranteed being put in a lit if she wants it. Why not the girl who is brainless? Besides, if she flunks out, it's her own fault, not the lit's or the administration's."

And so it goes. The Committee on Literary Societies is rewriting the rules for next year, and the final results will be presented to the administration for approval. The outcome will be announced at a later date.