A FRESHMAN SAYS

Slime Parade Seen As Epitome Of Spirit

By REED MARTIN

For the past 35 years, the freshmen of Rice Institute, after enduring various and sometimes nonsensical attempts at guidance, have been banded together for one big effort, the Slime Parade. The main purpose of guidance has not been, as many ex-Freshmen may still believe, the satisfaction of sadistic Sophomore impulses. Its main function has been the quite successful one of instilling school spirit in those Freshmen who choose to participate.

Opposition

Almost every year the Slime Parade has been opposed by some group but has withstood opposition and proceeded on schedule. There is undoubtedly a reason for this, and I think it is obvious. The Parade has a benefit greater than its disadvantages. This benefit is evidenced by the way in which the Parade is described by upperclassmen to any inquisitive Freshman as more than just a lot of fun.

Now the College System can, and in most cases does, offer more effective guidance; but it divides the freshmen in their activities, and there is still a desire on the part of most freshmen to have their class participate as a unit in some endeavor.

Frosh Follies

One possible unit function that has been suggested other than the Parade is a presentation similar to the well-established Senior Follies. The utilization of freshman talent in a Follies produced and directed by freshmen would probably be less effective than if this talent were added to the Senior Follies under the directorial staff already assembled. There is a lot of freshman talent, but possible waste of this talent due to little time and management on the part of freshmen speaks against the subtraction of this talent from the older Follies simply to satisfy the desire for a freshman unit function.

The Epitome

The Senior Follies may be seen by most students but participation is low in proportion to the student body. Thus a Freshman Follies would not qualify very well as a unit function, while the Slime Parade, usually employing all available Freshmen, seems the epitome of guidance efforts and the ideal Freshman unit function.