Wiess President: Phi Beta Kappa, Rhodes Scholar, Debater and Actor

By DOUG HARLAN

“I’ve been happy at Rice, and I’ve enjoyed it!” With these thoughts Jim Bob Doty, Wiess College President, reminisced on his days as a Rice student—soon to close.

Jim Bob, a native Houstonian and a graduate of Reagan High School, has achieved enough awards and honors at Rice to fill a basket. He has been a member of the debate team, Agora (in the days when Agora met out of “smoke-filled obscurity”), Rice Players (in which he claims to have been an “obscure soul”), and a member of Phi Beta Kappa (although he made a 2 in Math 100!).

LAST YEAR Jim Bob was the stalwart of the debate team and made the “dream trip” to the East Coast and Mid-West.

Recently named a Rhodes Scholar, Jim Bob plans to begin his studies next year at Merton College, Oxford, as a student of modern history. He will study for two years at Oxford and return to the states to take a Ph. D. at Harvard.

ALSO FOUND in the basket are one copy of the Doty-backed integration resolution (complete with a gold star for smashing success), one slightly torn and tattered copy of the Doty-authored resolution calling for abolition of class governments, and three unpaid bills from Hanszen College (for broken windows incurred by Wiess in water fights).

During past summers Jim Bob has received interesting experiences as a worker on a gas crew. Last summer, however, he spent an “intellectual” summer by studying at Harvard and traveling in Canada. For pure recreation, Jim Bob finds tennis relaxing and enjoyable and spends as much time as possible on the courts.

JIM BOB, in recalling interesting occasions of past years, relates how vividly he recalls his first year and a half when he lived off campus—and made the long, dreary walk from the stadium parking lot—through wind, rain, sleet, snow, and hot Texas sun. He also tells of the disappointment that he still feels over the last minute loss Rice suffered to Army at homecoming his freshman year.

The problem of Rice girls has been a particular concern of Jim Bob’s. He believes that Rice girls suffer under the heavy pressures of Rice student life and do not have enough opportunity for realistic planning ahead. He believes the girls need more of what may be truly defined as a “liberal education.”

STUDENT APATHY also has been of most concern to Jim Bob. He believes that this apathy is a result of various ignorances among Rice students: social, political, and literary. This problem is an individual problem, however; it prevents proper social intercourse and informed and alert associations. This is a problem of “quick and able people minding their own business;”

(Continued on Page 10)
they do not know what they want the colleges or the university to give them—and too often do not search for it themselves. Also involved in this problem, he points out, is the refusal of seniors to guide freshmen, making them full partners in obtaining an education.

THERE IS HOPE for improvement of individual responsibility in this matter, Jim Bob feels, and improvement is necessary for the existence of the colleges. He believes that the Freshman Class (Class of '65) is "smarter" than other classes and one of the best informed classes he has ever seen at Rice.

In the past the concern shown on campus for these problems has been misdirected, according to Jim Bob. Rice students have been too worried about methods of teaching — their interest in courses has been doctrinaire — and too frequently they have attempted to make the courses interesting instead of making themselves interested. It is necessary to be primarily concerned with the substance of a course, says Jim Bob, and secondarily concerned with the techniques.

JIM BOB COMMENTS that campus groups such as the Political Union were good temporarily, but their success was limited by the information of students. After a while such groups turned into meetings of the same people hashing out the same problems from the same point of view.

The colleges are better than ever before, Doty believes. They have achieved things to be proud of; however, he sees a need for students to recognize the colleges as an extension of academic work—and to use the colleges along these lines. Gestures along these lines have been too feeble.

Questioned on achievements as Wiess President, of which he is most proud, Jim Bob stated that the things that stand out in his mind are the Freshman Orientation and the fostering of the "academic atmosphere" in the college by establishing a college library.