Rice To Keep On Creating Alumni

By Ed Summers

More graduate students, more buildings and equipment, more and higher-paid faculty members—and, reassuringly, more alumni—these are some of the changes which some members of the Administration to whom we have talked during the past week feel may come to Rice during the next twenty-five years. We spoke to these persons on an informal and unofficial basis to get their impressions and feelings about the future of the Rice Institute; therefore, all this information is speculative.

The Right Direction

There was a general feeling that Rice is at present headed in the proper direction educationally, and is achieving its intended objective of giving the best possible education to the best possible students. Therefore, there will be no great alterations in either the idea or the methods of the Rice Institute. This does not rule out "educational experiments," such as the Philosophy 100 course that was taught freshman engineers on a selective basis.

Move Difficult

The entrance requirements to Rice will become more and more difficult to meet—not because of any conscious effort to make them so, but because applicants will, as the fame of Rice is spread, be competing with a group whose average intelligence increases from year to year. However, the first-rate faculty will demand as the Administration and the Admissions Committee become more skilful at spotting the top applicants.

For Grad Students

Graduate facilities will doubtless be expanded as the number of graduate students, especially the number of postdoctorate fellows, increases. There is a possibility that separate on-campus housing will be provided for them. Good guesses as to additional research equipment might include a bigger Van de Graaf machine, a chemical engineering building, a classroom building, and various improvements in the library.

Fringe Parking

There are different theories on parking. Assuming that people still use cars in 1984, there will probably be "fringe" parking space around the major buildings. At least one Administration official would like to use full and adequate parking facilities made available everywhere on campus, another is in favor of a walking campus. Take your choice!

Name In Sports

Rice's relative position in sports is unlikely to change in the future. We will in 1984 still be in the Southwest Conference, and the University of Houston will still be out of it, and Jack Neely will still be coaching football. No new expenditures on athletic plant are contemplated.

Colleges Will Be Here

The Administration has no fixed impressions on the college system after two years of operation, except that it is better than the "rabbit hutch" the Institute operated before the changeover. No new undergraduate living facilities are planned, but the Administration would like to find some way of extending college system benefits to town students. On the whole, the colleges are to be free to find their own place on the campus.

More Alumni

So long as the Institute has students, it will add to its alumni. By 1984 there will be about 27,000 active alumni, compared with 10,000 now. Against a certain percentage of these the complaint that is as old as Rice will certainly be lodged: they do fine work, but they are so smoky they don't get along with their co-workers!