

Durham supports editorial inviolability of Thresher

To the editor:

To your reply to Miss McGill's letter in the Oct. 27 edition, I can only say "Amen."

It might be added that the Thresher's slogan, "An All-Student Newspaper," is more a reflection of student control of the Thresher than of the Thresher's efforts to please all the students at Rice.

The student press at Rice has operated for its entire history with a volunteer staff and without negative sanction or prior censorship from the University administration. Of this the Thresher and the University can be justly proud.

No newspaper, from the New York Times to the Houston Post, consistently pleases all its readers. And if it did, I would be suspicious that the newspaper's audience tended to a dull and frightening homogeneity.

The student press in America, in spite of all its types, its chronic staff shortages, its dependence on university press releases, its stereotyped championings of the downtrodden student against the fiendish administration, is still a vibrant, dynamic, vigorous journalistic force.

Where else in the country is a group of newspapers so consistently speaking out against the system within which it

operates? Where else, with the occasional sad exception of a state school, is a press so free from institutional control which breeds a paralyzing consensus?

The Thresher shares the faults and the virtues of most

student presses. It is none the less a vital part of the University process. And its editor is still chosen by a student body vote.

JOHN DURHAM
Wiess '66