

Forum Causes Frustration; Visit To Alums Is Proposed

Ed. Note: The views expressed in Threshing It Out are those of the signed authors of the letters and in no way reflect the views of the Thresher staff. To the Editor:

It was very interesting to observe the performance of the Forum chairman Monday night as he gracefully dodged anything smacking of outright controversy, particularly the matter brought up by Mr. Crutcher of what precisely one can do in the face of an apparent omnipotent and unending administration.

I had come to the Forum with some ideas on what precisely could be done, but the chairman seemed more interested in what the appropriate place is in which to moan, and the speaker who was supposed to discuss means of protest seemed more interested in Chinese parables. Therefore, I'd like to see if these ideas get any further in The Thresher.

Knock on Bigger Doors

Dr. Houston stated in an explanation of the actions of the administration that they are responsible to the trustees and the alumni for the reputation of the Institute. There is an important lesson here, for we find what motivates the administration: the trustees and the alumni. Perhaps then we can appeal to Higher Up.

Contrary to popular belief, most of the trustees do not live on Mount Olympus. In fact a large majority of them live right here in Houston.

Visit to Trustees

If the students really want to do something, why not send a group representing the student body to talk to the various trustees and explain to them how intolerable censorship of student publications, etc., are to the students of the Institute. It might be interesting to also find out if

the trustees really want the Institute to have a reputation for iron rule.

The alumni are not so easily accessible, but since a protest from them is alleged to have caused this situation in the first place it might be very informative to find out how many of them actually favor censorship and iron rule.

Or Via the Sallyport

The Alumni Association publishes a monthly paper, The Sallyport, and it is not inconceivable that they would accept a guest editorial from the editor of The Thresher soliciting alumni opinion on the matter. Since Alumni sentiment seems to exert such a strong force on the administration, this might be especially effective.

These are things that can be done immediately. Now let's see if anyone wants to do anything more than gripe.

—JOHN CRAMER

Ed. Note: It might be well to recall that the authors of these letters concerning the Forum are writing from their own interpretations and are not as informed on the subject as they might believe. We suggest, from experience, that you know all the facts behind an issue before you attempt to rectify it.

Forum 'A Farce'

To the Editor:

What is the REAL reason for the proposed censorship of student publications? We are told that the alumni and trustees have complained that the Campanile must be "cleaned up."

How does the objectionable 1959 Campanile differ from its predecessors? The '54 edition has been cited for its crudity. The '57 and '58 editions are no less crude. This tradition of crudity was strong even in the Campaniles of

the 1920's.

Alumni Set Crude Precedent

If the alumni now object to crudity, why didn't they object to it when they were students? I is they who set the precedent.

There is one real difference between the 1959 Campanile and those which I read from other years. The difference is on the cover of the 1959 Campanile.

The administration is openly satirized.

The symbolism of Hitler, the swastika, and the sacrifice of students to the ends of the Institute strikes too close to the truth for the comfort of the administration.

Mephistophelian Institute

We students of The Rice Institute have sold our souls for \$2000 a year; therefore we no longer have the right to do anything but study. Over a period of years the administration has broken down student organizations and replaced them with organizations which it can use for its own purposes.

Slowly but surely the administration is working toward the creation of the superior race which will be well schooled in social conventions and acceptable knowledge but which is not handicapped by the irritation of individual thinking.

Offensive Cover?

It may also be noted that the hardback cover of the '59 Campanile might be offensive to certain architecturally inclined alumni.

The discussion of the Rice Student Protest by the Forum was indeed a farce. The administration has a staunch ally in the mealy-mouthed chairman of the Forum, who cleverly "rephrased" the question "What can we do when the administration says No?" to read "Is the forum the best place to discuss student protest?"

—PAULINE RUTH BOND

Ed. Note: The words mealy mouth are but the personal view of the writer of this letter. The Thresher believes Mr. Anderson conducted the Forum with proper dignity and if the Forum failed to incite a riot, but only brought about proper discussion of the topic at hand, then the Thresher feels it has accomplished its purpose.