

Tale Of Two Jani

If governing bodies need some sort of super-human guidance, as it often appears they do, the Rice Student Senate needs Janus.

This old Roman god who looked backward and forward at the same time had been virtually forgotten by both the immediate past and the present Student Senate until he was rather shamefully resurrected Wednesday night.

The unfortunate but necessary procedure concerned the fate of his namesake, a poorly-managed but surprisingly successful attempt to publish a literary magazine for the Rice campus. In particular, it concerned the fate of the publication's editor and the Student Association's finances.

As a result of the 1959-60 Senate's unconditionally sponsoring a rather nebulous project, and the subsequent negligence of both the Senate and the editor to see that a bookkeeper was procured from the onset, the Rice Student Association lost nearly one thousand dollars (almost one-half its finances for this year) and the editor lost the opportunity—and responsibility—of holding any campus office.

Since last year's Senate cannot be reassembled and publicly stoned, the brunt of the fiasco fell on the editor and instigator of the project. Wednesday night's investigation in effect turned out to be a trial of the editor's hamartia in assuming the finances of Janus, since neither he nor last year's Senate took the trouble to see that the finances were constitutionally controlled by a bookkeeper. Both parties were obviously guilty of negligence as the Senate closed the dramatic proceedings with the hope that both parties had learned forever an expensive lesson.

Janus, Vol. 1 No. 1, has at last been brought under effective control, although some 1400 copies of the magazine issue are floating around the country, piled up on campus, or in the editor's garage.

And Janus the god, whom we hope the Senate will seriously consider for its "patron saint," has undoubtedly been enjoying a backward glance at a Thresher editorial of September 21, 1951:

"The RI is dead. Little tattered bodies of last year's three issues grace a few shelves. Several hundred copies of an unused cover fill last year's editor's garage, but only these remain . . . a memory . . . of Rice's struggling literary magazine . . ."

" . . . Student Council President Hal De Moss said that since last year's RI had ended the year \$150 in debt, which was assumed by the Student Council, that group would want to be assured of a 'live-wire' team to manage any attempt to revive the literary magazine. 'I would like to see some kind of magazine on this campus,' said De Moss . . ."

Our history lesson done, The 1960 Thresher joins the old cry for another Rice campus literary magazine. As well as a well-organized and-supervised "live-wire" team, may we first suggest that sufficient advertising and patron contracts to cover the cost of the magazine and reward the staff's efforts be solicited first. Written endorsement of the magazine by the Student Senate and a representative of the Rice administration should gain the prospective advertisers' trust, with the stipulation that all contracts will be voided if the amount needed to finance the publication is not procured.

Furthermore, we want to see published the creative endeavors of Rice students, along with the works of the impressive list of contributors who have already submitted material for the next issue of the magazine.

We want to see more of both Jani around here in the future.