

# The Rice <sup>daily</sup> Thresher

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TODAY'S OPINION BALLOT ON THE CONTROVERSY OVER DR. WILLIAM MASTERSON'S SELECTION AS RICE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT HAS TWO PARTS, AND THE CRITERIA FOR DECIDING HOW TO VOTE ON THE SECOND WAS THE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AS THE SEVEN COLLEGES MET IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMONS LAST NIGHT AT 10.

ABOUT 1400 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE VARIOUS MEETINGS, INCLUDING NEAR-PERFECT ATTENDANCE BY COLLEGE ASSOCIATES, A LARGE NUMBER OF PROFESSORS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH A COLLEGE, AND MANY GRAD STUDENTS.

In Baker, some 250 people, including about 35 faculty members, many of whom no associates of any college, discussed the events of the past few days. Mike Berman, president of Baker, called the college together last night at the request of SA president, Warren Skaaren.

After Berman elaborated on the events of meetings between the college presidents, SA officers, and student members of the advisory committee and Masterson Saturday, the discussion centered around the criteria for voting on the second part of the poll today.

## 'Not fit'

"Any man in this day and age who before accepting the job fails to establish the fact that he has the support of the faculty and students is not fit to be the president of a great university," Dr. Donald Baker of the Geology Department flatly stated.

Dr. Ferdinand Levy of the Economics Department, expressed a similar opinion. "Any man chosen to be president who can't even consult with the faculty and students isn't fit even to be president of the University of Chattanooga," he said.

Dr. Riki Kobayashi of the Chemical Engineering Department, who is not a Baker associate, said, "I have always considered Bill Masterson a personal friend. However, I take the stand that I do because I see so many outstanding individuals so disturbed and willing to put their heads on the chopping block in the present crisis. This is extremely serious for the advancement of the University. As Arnold Toynbee said, 'Decadence in an institution occurs when leaders cannot lead by grace.' I see so many graceful people disturbed and I do not think that Dr. Masterson can operate in such an atmosphere. As Dr. Masterson said himself, 'Let us proceed from our strength.'"

The overwhelming sentiment at the meeting was one emphasizing the importance of a large disapproving majority at the poll today.

Asked about the feeling of the Trustees toward the events so far, Dean William Gordon, Chief Executive Officer of the University and a Baker associate, said, "The Board of Trustees were more impressed by the appearance of the students and their good behavior as they came along toward Cohen House Saturday. This was the first crack in their felling that they had performed what was only their legal right."

"The Board realized that they had made a mistake," Gordon continued, "and they indicated they wouldn't repeat their mistake. They felt the whole reaction they could measure was one simply of procedure. Now, the question that must be answered is what it is beyond procedure that matters, and how much does it matter," said Gordon.

"We need to get a real measure of concern and we can get that tomorrow."

Speaker after speaker emphasized the importance of today's ballot. The point was raised that there does exist a basis on which to judge the Board's nominee.

The point of discussion proved to be that there could be no qualifications for this particular man which could erase the hard feelings generated, and that it would be impossible for Masterson ever to be an effective president of Rice, given the events of the weekend.

Berman outlined the events of the five-hour meeting of Masterson with the college presidents, SA officers, and student members of the faculty-student Presidential Selection Committee on Saturday. He quoted Skaaren as having described the confusion of the meeting as a "trip."

The Saturday meeting began, accord-  
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