Policy and Punishment

Several issues ago we emphasized the need for a "middle ground" in Dean's office disciplinary procedures. Some measures beside the two now in vogue, ineffective probation and all too powerful expulsion, must be developed to handle such situations. This is particularly true in light of very minor offenses and extremely serious ones.

Another point pertinent to the revamping of disciplinary procedures is: How should these cases be handled? In the past, the decision has been an administratively arbitrary one; presumably Dean Rule has passed judgment on most of the offenders.

Let us clarify that we are talking of only one type of case: that which is most easily defined as lying outside the jurisdiction of student judicial groups. The line of authority is from the Dean's office and the student is subject to the Dean's office, and it is at best very hazy. Actions of students within a dormitory (attending a party thrown by a fraternity, for example) is the responsibility of the dormitory committee; the offense is not punishable it can be expunged from the dormitory. There is a jurisdiction in each of the dorms, a jurisdiction for the fraternity, and a jurisdiction for the Institute as a whole. Everywhere you look there is a jurisdiction, and their boundaries of authority are well defined in only a few cases. Some need for clarification and consolidation certainly exists here.

However, our main concern is with the case serious enough to necessitate punishment. We realize that the decisions must ultimately rest with the Dean's office; however, we believe they also merit student participation.

In the past few years, offenses were "win" before the Institute Committee Judicial group. This group made at least one recommendation to the Dean's office for reprimand and the recommendation was accepted. Consideration by this group of students was highly successful and natural. Judgment by one's peers is, in our opinion, far preferable to, or at least, more acceptable to, the offender than most acceptable. Students know the general attitudes; more important, usually feel them. They are in a better position than the Dean's office to understand the motivations which may prompt a serious misdemeanor, and to recommission adequate punishments. As we said, their decision are likely to be accepted more readily by the offender, an important point, since such decisions are necessary for the "good of the individual".

We suggest that in the future Dean's office disciplinary cases be handled by a combined student-administrative committee. We feel that such a heterogeneous group will be able to make the right decision more consistently than would either side separately.

Some consistency must be added to the present helter-skelter method of making these decisions, particularly to those directly involved. A new area of punitive measures, besides the two now in vogue, ineffective probation and all too powerful expulsion, must be developed to handle such situations. This is particularly true in light of very minor offenses and extremely serious ones.

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Although a car is a necessity for driving at Tufts, many Techmen prefer Jackson to the other local schools. The idea of driving its annual Interdormitory Mixer at Car michael Hall on the Tufts campus this Saturday evening from eight until midnight, and all Techmen are welcome. Price of admission for fellows is one dollar; fellows are not invited. Since Tufts is coed, one does have to contend with the competition from the male students also. Have you better luck than I did last weekend at Wellesley. I bid you Good Hunting.

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