Vanocur analyzes ‘72 campaign

Burton ‘garden’ dispelled

By Paul Schnidder

A potentially dangerous situation involving a student in Burton House and his “garden” in the closet was defused Friday night by Burton House officers.

Ed Dorchak, ’73 president, who was joined by Larry Eisenberg, ’74, a former Burton president, and Richard Sternberg, ’74 of Burton Judson, were house officers involved in what Dorchak characterized as “a small thing, which closed up quietly and with no sense of impending trouble.”

The student, according to reliable sources, was growing a “mushrooming” plants in wastebaskets in his closet, using artificial light. Joseph P. Lynch, manager of Burton and MacGregor Houses, learned of the plants, and reported them to his boss Eugene Brammer, head of housing and dining.

Lynch explained to The Tech that his call was a personal decision. “In my opinion, it was not a good idea for this to be going on in Burton. We have outside inspectors coming in at the time, and some of them are officials. It could easily have been a radiation or gas thing. It was up in the closet. I thought it could be ended quickly and quietly.”

He added, “It was a small action taken in a quiet way to dispel the rumor that really wasn’t a rumor.”

Brammer told The Tech that he felt that what could be called “standard procedure” in calling Richard Sorenson, associate dean for student affairs. Sorenson got the call about 9:15 on Friday morning, and spent much of the day trying to get Dorchak on the phone. By mid-afternoon, having failed to reach Dorchak, he called Larry Eisenberg, former house president.

Sorenson told The Tech that he “preferred to let house government handle such matters,” and asked if they would be willing to do so in this case. They were, and no other campus organization took any major part in the removal of the plants from Burton. By 8 p.m. Friday night, one of the officers was able to report that the matter had been taken care of.

There is some dispute as to the number of plants involved. The person responsible stated that they were “strictly for personal use,” although other information made the case sound much closer to the line between commercial and personal. Apparently everyone in the suite involved knew about the plants, but thought it was a small affair.

Dorchak characterized it as an “isolated incident” stating that he knew of no other cases in the dorm. He added that there was “no widespread fear” at the time of the removal in spite of false rumors that the Cambridge police were involved or that “a bust of Burton was imminent.”

Authoritative sources pointed out that possession of such plants is a crime, and that their immediate removal was necessary; but that no time was taken by the Cambridge police called in.

All persons involved called it “a very small incident,” and stressed that it had been handled quietly.

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The Finance Board of the Undergraduate Association will hold a Special Board Meeting on Monday, Nov. 27 at 8:30 p.m. in room 7-103. For further information, contact any Board member (see The Tech, Nov. 10, for names) or call 3-3630.

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TANGLED PATH 6:30 - 8:30 Wknd Mat 9:45 Wknd Mat 1:00 PM

SATURDAY, NOV. 25

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