To the Editor:

In an article entitled "The week-long rape" appearing in your Dec. 9 issue, Michael McNamara asserts that the Faculty Rules and Regulations governing final examinations and student work loads in the last week of classes are being extensively and flagrantly violated. These charges are of concern to the Committee on Academic Policy, which has become the faculty agency dealing with undergraduate student complaints of this nature. In all such instances called to its attention, the Committee has in fact acted promptly to resolve the issues, but not always effectively because it is often too late to achieve other that a compromise solution.

Final examinations shall be held during the final examination period following each term. For each subject in which a final examination is given during the prescribed period, no class exercises shall be held during the period beginning two days, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, before the examination period and ending at the examination period. Any single examination shall be limited to not over three hours.

The Dean for Student Affairs in the case of an undergraduate student, or the Dean of the Graduate School in the case of a graduate student, may excuse a student, or the Dean of the undergraduate period beginning two days, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, before the examination period and ending at the examination period. Any single examination shall be limited to not over three hours.

The Dean for Student Affairs in the case of an undergraduate student, or the Dean of the Graduate School in the case of a graduate student, may excuse a student from a scheduled final examination for reasons of illness or significant personal problems. For each subject in which a final examination is given during the prescribed period, no written examinations shall be given during the seven days preceding the examination period. For each subject in which no final examination is given during the prescribed period, no more than one written examination of not more than one hour (one class period in the case of laboratory or design subjects) shall be given during the seven days preceding the examination period.

No assignment, term paper, or oral presentation for any subject shall fall due after the last day of class exercises for that subject.

The purposes of this letter are (i) to tell your readers what the rules are and (ii) to indicate that the CAP is prepared to investigate the circumstances underlying any apparent departures therefore. Information as to deviations practices this term may well provide motivation for departmental efforts to eliminate such problems in subsequent terms. The CAP office is in Room 10-191 and the telephone extension is 3-4164.

The rule in question appears as follows on page 12 of the September 1975 revision of "Rules and Regulations of the Faculty." (See excerpt below).

Thomas M. Hill
Chairman, CAP