

# The Tech

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Monday, March 12, 1906.

It is with regret and shame that we find it necessary to speak of such childish actions as have been brought to our notice in regard to Disrespect, the defacement of the

Kommers' notices, which are posted in Rogers Building. Such an institution as the Kommers has to look to the undergraduates for its support, and those who share in such unpremeditated pranks—for we are sure no one would willfully endeavor to make sport of this purely Technology custom—deserve the censure of their fellow classmates as well as of those whose work they ridicule by their actions. It is not the enthusiastic supporter of undergraduate activities that lowers himself to this level, but some individual or collection of individuals, who by their own choice have taken no part in promoting good fellowship in any of its phases, and who have made themselves unworthy to share in any undertaking of the students, by their evident lack of interest in the past, and by the continual lack of seriousness and respect in their treatment of our several commendable institutions or customs, of which the Kommers is but an example. With such affairs is associated a certain amount of sentiment because they are memorials of the work of those to whom every man at the Institute owes respect, namely, of our President, and of former presidents. When this is considered it seems but deserved, that those who lay themselves liable by such actions should receive the censure of men who have the welfare of the Institute at heart. THE TECH hopes that there will be no cause to refer to such ungentlemanly actions in the future.

In regard to the communication published in another column THE TECH thinks that the radical action

in dealing out censure to those connected with our athletic teams is surely undeserved. The undergraduate opinion, as well as that of a number of individuals, seems to endorse the action of the Fencing Team without reserve.

We have been unsuccessful in our endeavors to ascertain in what particular line the Fencing Team has incurred the displeasure of the Council, hence the only inference to be drawn from this reserved silence is that the cancelling of the quadrangular meet of March 17 is the cause. As to this, it seems only natural—aside from other motives—to credit the manager or members of any team with a desire to have their team win, or at least to see that if success cannot be attained, that the failure is because of the superiority of their opponents. When this is the opinion, all parties concerned are satisfied, for a defeat by a more able team is by no means a disgrace.

An undergraduate manager is elected to perform the duties of the team of his respective association, because athletics and athletic teams are undergraduate affairs, and it is the students who have their welfare most at heart. When the Council endorses the election of any one as manager it thereby shows its confidence in him; and when his schedule is accepted, this is a further mark of approval.

The circumstances are usually such that a manager must act first and then have his action approved, otherwise opportunities pass, and while we would not uphold the management in usurping all the authority, still it appears only just that they be supported although a mistake might have been made.

The natural course would seem to be to have the matter talked over carefully and seriously by all officials concerned, so that an amicable agreement could be reached, and in this way insure against mistakes in the future. In the course pursued, the censure falls partly on the Council itself, in that they feel it necessary to instruct the managers approved by them in rules which are supposed to have been understood when they accepted the manager's election.

The present situation is no doubt the result of a deplorable general misunderstanding. It appears that both sides, in their zeal to place Technology in the front rank, have let narrow enthusiasm lead them into a false step; the team in being too ready, if such is possible, to uphold its rights and the Council too quick to deal out reprimands without considering the matter from the other point of view—that of the team and students generally.

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