



Who is this? Possibly a Professor?

Student Comments

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have seen what democracy is all about. This issue is no different from other campus issues like smoking, drinking, parking, curfew, and chapel policies. Or on a national level, issues like the speed limit, drinking age, abortion, drugs, or taxes, etc.. One should always stand up for what they believe is right, but as with many of the above issues, too many don't believe that their opinion will make a difference, but you can make a difference, only you must begin by letting yourself and ideas known.

With the Howerton thing; I believe that it was

basically wrong, and that basic rights were violated, for I have never heard of a case in the United States, where because of a crime committed by one, few, or many. That the militia was called in at 2am - forcing innocent citizens into the cold streets in their underwear until a guilty party was found. It sounds suspiciously like Nazi Germany to me. And I cannot believe that Howerton leadership; people who are our communities equivalent of publicly elected officials, thought that the measures taken would actually improve internal affairs, I know they could not have gained any respect for what they did, and I know that it could have done nothing to help bring the Howerton community together as a whole.

I personally believe in a Laisse Faire form of administration and leadership, because I believe that having strict rules and countless laws are basically no more than a written moral conviction of those who make the rules or laws and do not always reflect the public's opinion. Too many times these rules and laws cannot be enforced, no matter at what expense in time and enforcement. Our country is the most law-bound in the world, I can see this carrying over even into this schools policies, where it is thought that by simply handing down an edict to the masses, that the problem will magically be solved. Anyone who has taken an entry-level psychology class can see the fault in this style leadership. Unless a rule or

law can without a single doubt be enforced to the letter, then it should not exist. Because capricious enforcement undermines the very spirit of the rule or law, and in my opinion, only compounds the

problem.

For example; with the fireworks, by bringing a small matter to the attention of the many and in effect making a "mountain of a molehill", it can all too often tempt others to follow in mischievous behavior. Another example might serve as the national speed limit- one of the most hypocritical laws of our time. It is a law which (1) is irrelevant to fuel consumption or loss of life and (2) it has been well proven that it cannot be enforced; only one in 22,000 interstate speeders can be caught (a 1985 CHP report) and by mass law-breaking of a small, unimportant law, can lead to a wider de-sensitization and respect for law and order. Creating problems 100 times greater than the original issue!

And while I'm on my soapbox, I will say that learning is an active process, it cannot be passive. And part of college is to train people how to conduct themselves in the real world, and that means that as free citizens we should be able to make mistakes both small and large because that IS the learning process, laws and rules can never be used as a substitute for learning.

So I close by urging you to think and act on what goes on in the ever-changing world around you. As humans, Americans and Christians, we should always look around us and look for ways to expand, grow, and to help others expand and grow. We should feel it our privilege and duty.

With concern, Scott M. Keels

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