

Mather On The R.J.B.

Dear Students:

The Residence Judicial Board is pleased to see the concern in the problems which we have been faced with, by the dorm students. We would like to answer as many of your questions about the board, as possible. First, an explanation of the Residence Judicial Board and its functions is in order. The Residence Judicial Board, by constitution, is responsible for recommending revisions in the residence rules to the Committee on Resident Living, and the Chancellor, as well as taking judicial action in cases of serious infraction of resident rules. The board is not responsible for enforcement of dorm rules. It cannot take any judicial action until charges are brought to it by any two dorm students, a counselor, or an administrator. No administrator can take action against a student found violating a dorm regulation without taking the matter to the Residence Judicial Board. This board is where the recommendations are made in such cases. The board's judicial decisions may be overruled by the Committee on Resident Living and the Chancellor. Their decision may also be appealed to the board set up for that purpose, the University Judicial Board, made up of two faculty members and two students.

A student brought up on trial is allowed to have anyone speak in his behalf, and has the choice to an open or closed trial, as long as order is preserved. All cases are kept confidential by the board, unless otherwise requested by the person involved.

Members of the board are elected by the following procedure. Suite representatives are elected about the third to fourth week of the first semester. This period was left open in the hopes that the suite members would have a good opportunity to get to know one another. These representatives, once elected, then hold an election amongst themselves, for a representative to the Residence Judicial Board elections. These representatives, inclusive of off campus as well as on campus dorms, elect, amongst themselves, the members of the Residence Judicial Board. At the present time that membership is nine in number.

It would be impossible to state all the rule changes made by the board in a single letter. For such a comparison one need only look at a rule book from two years ago. Here, however are a few of the accomplishments of the Residence Judicial Board, for the improvement of dorm life. (1) One year ago, last September, the rules for women's curfews were: Sunday through Thursday at 11:00 p.m., and 1:00 a.m. for Freshmen and 2:00 a.m. for upperclassmen on Friday and Saturday. The present curfews are: 12:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and unlimited on weekends for upperclassmen. Freshmen have 1:00 a.m. curfews first semester, and 3:00 a.m. second semester on Friday and Saturday evenings. (2) Parietal hours have changed from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. to 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Parietal hours, in themselves were brought about by the Residence Judicial Board. (3) Sign-in on weekdays and desk duty for women have been abolished on a trial period. (4) Beyond those extensions of both parietals and curfews, are the extensions of both rules during exams and special events, by the board. (5) Parking stickers were a problem which the board tackled early last semester. The board felt that the fees for such a privilege were far in excess of the service rendered. Because of the Board's action in this matter, those fees have been cut by half. (6) Many of the students in complexes C and D communicated to us a desire to have intercoms in those areas as a matter of convenience. Mr. Dwight approved those intercoms in November, they should have been installed before the start of second semester. We will continue to work until those intercoms are installed. We are now involved in the protection of the dorm students due to the changes in fee and room occupancy, proposed by the administration. The Residence Judicial Board has and always will work towards these ends. These accomplishments were all made possible by the nine members on the board working diligently for them.

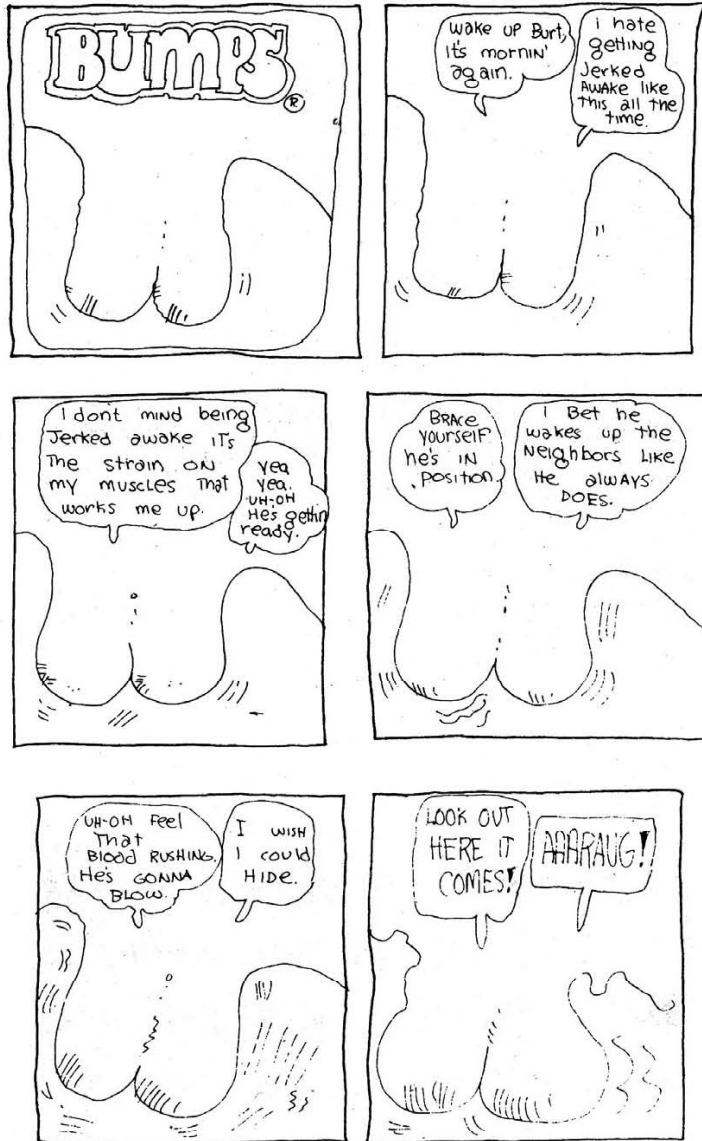
Because of its small number, the board has been able to make decisions efficiently, in a reasonably short period of time. Nine members, to this time, has seemed sufficient to the board, however, with the intended rise in dorm student numbers, it makes sense to consider an increase in Board membership. The question, of how much of an increase is needed to maintain a fair and efficient board, is open to discussion. Any suggestions pertaining to this matter would be welcome. The dorm students are randomly selected for their room assignments, unless they ask for a specific room and roommate. The dorm situation, therefore, is not a case of separate schools. It is a case of a group of students in the same type of room with many of the same problems.

The board realizes that in these rapidly changing times a constant review of dorm regulations is a necessity. We have a committee for just that purpose, which meets during the week. The board as a whole considers this committee's recommendations each week. We are also planning an open meeting for listening to student suggestions on the rules. It will be held on Tuesday March 17, 1970. Any suggestions in writing would be greatly appreciated as well. In this way, we can move ahead to make dorm regulations continue to move in the direction of progress.

As in the past, the Residence Judicial Board would like to hear any suggestions or problems, personal or general, involving student's dorm life and their situation. Please feel free to contact any of the board members at any time.

Theodore M. Hather Jr.
Chairman,
Residence Judicial Board

The Residence Judicial Board is holding an open meeting for suggestions concerning dormitory regulations revisions on Tuesday, March 17, 1970, at 8:30 p.m. in the Gym.
Anyone who cannot attend may mail suggestions to:
Residence Judicial Board
University of Hartford



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