Higginbotham Rules Out Beer Parties In Public

By GRIFFIN SMITH

Reaction was varied in the men's colleges following a ruling by Dr. S. W. Higginbotham, Dean of Students, to outlaw student-sponsored beer parties in public places.

Hanszen College moved its scheduled "listening party" for the Georgia Tech game from city-owned Hermann Park to a private neighborhood park with the permission of property owners. Other colleges had not arranged for any listening parties last Saturday.

A spokesman for Baker College said that the Dean's decision did not affect their program since Baker had no plans for listening parties.

WILL RICE College plans to have listening parties in the future, Tim Giesen, president, said, but they will be held on private property. (A special referendum October 4, not connected with Dean Higginbotham's action, narrowly approved the continued purchase of alcoholic beverages by the college.)

Jim Bob Doty, president of Wiess College, told The Thresher that Wiess had planned no beer parties in public places this year. He said that any college-sponsored parties where alcoholic beverages are served will be held "within four walls."

"WE ARE IN 100% agreement with the Dean's decision," he added.

Dean Higginbotham explained that a very public place for having a party (such as Hermann Park) was not desirable anyway.

"In a public park you are always subject to the interference of undesirable outside elements, who might cause trouble. And there is too much possibility of offense to the general public."

AN AUTO ACCIDENT involving a student trying to drive away from a listening party last year "called attention to the problem," Dr. Higginbothem said.

"The decision was not aimed at any particular college, though. It was just a feeling that this practice could cause difficulty, especially in Hermann Park."

He denied that pressure from off-campus organizations and religious groups had any part in the new ruling. "This decision is solely my own," he said. "We have had no interference from outside groups, nor did I check it out with other administration officials. Any criticism of it should be directed toward me and not toward them."

QUESTIONED ON the subject of beach parties, Dean Higginbotham said that they definitely fall in another category. "Of course, one on the seawall would not be a good idea, but it is perfectly all right to hold one farther away on Galveston beach, or at Freeport."