Proctor Wants Friends

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The position of the proctor is the most widely known on campus, yet very few students know the man who occupies it, M. H. Foley. Although he has paid special attention to many of us, few people have ever stopped to engage this slow-talking southern gentleman from Tallahassee in conversation.

Refreshing Philosophy

Stopping him recently, we found a man, for many years a salesman, who is now giving things away free; a man with a philosophy that is refreshing.

at Rice—to accept the responsibility of his duty but always to perform it subjectively to the best of his ability.

Rather than allow each student to be just another seat number (or in this case a license number) Mr. Foley wants his contacts to be people. As he pauses to remember his son's years in college, he reveals that he wants to know more of these people in his favorite period of life, and wants to meet them outside of the line of his duty.

Friendly Manner

This desire to restrict himself not to just the faces behind ticketed windshields is obvious in his friendly manner and readiness to stop and talk with any student.

Unfortunately this is a paradox. A man who wants to be friendly has accepted a job which inevitably incurs the anger of most students. The reason he took it? Somebody would have to do the job and he believes he can do it as fairly as anyone.

With Sensitive Understanding

Here is a truly unique person—one who knows the rules but administers his type of law with a sensitive understanding. One knows from his personal experience that only repeated or flagrant violations will bring the type of action that a violator may term as unfair. When this treatment is meted out, it is for a definite reason.

The proctor's job is to supervise traffic on campus and promote its smoothness. When a car is left blocking a road, it must be moved. The immediate solution is a ticket as a weighty reminder not to commit a similar offense again.

Cry Out!

But we can hear the rumblings of the crowd; tickets are also given in the spacious Hamman lot, right? The basic reason, disregarding the obvious violations, is the rule motivated by the Administration's desire to allow only as few cars as necessary on campus.

This is Mr. Foley's problem: as a responsible person he must perform his stipulated duties, but his duty is often an extension of Administrative policies that we sometimes find odious on other battlefields.

Our Tire Boots

As an example, take the tire boot. These are ordered by Lovett Hall for specific cars in an effort to make the driver pay his tickets (something with which the Proctor has nothing to do.) The tire boot is never a personal decision of the Proctor.

We might interject a note of information. Tire boots are ordered for a car after 4 tickets in a short period of time. At first these devices were removed quite readily, but no longer. In its policy to give its students only the best, the Administration designed a bigger and better boot which will stay on an average sized car until it is burned off—at which time the burner will be burned an extra $60.

No Preference To Faculty

In most cases the Proctor is on our side. No preference is shown faculty. "I believe a professor should be a teacher in more than one thing," says Mr. Foley as he explains why he is harsh when a faculty member.

As to the Administration's policy of few cars on campus, Mr. Foley replies that if a lot were built west of the Student Center (such a lot has been proposed) he could put every car that is driven daily on this campus in it. This proposal may never be realized because of present policies so he will have to keep giving tickets. There are many more questions as to why the Proctor acts.

If you have one, ask Mr. Foley. The next time you see that white Chevrolet, wave—you'll get one of the friendliest greetings on this campus.

(Escape clause) — the insurgent views underlying this article are those viewed through the reddened haze of the author and do not represent Mr. Foley's or the Thresher's — and certainly not the Administration's.