

Mild Rebuke Likely For B.C. Editors

By WILLIAM J. FRIPP

Staff Reporter

Four Boston College newspaper editors ordered to appear before a faculty group Thursday for violating a college rule by providing a forum for a militant birth control law critic, apparently will escape serious disciplinary action.

Following a two-hour closed hearing behind locked doors in a McElroy Commons room, the students and faculty members who heard their case emerged confident that the quartet would be treated leniently.

The tip-off came when the man who censured the editors—Rev. George P. Drury—asked his faculty peers at the hearing to “choose to be lenient, not severe.”

He had worked closely with the four, and “sincerely hoped their scholarships would not be revoked,” Fr. Drury, director of Student Personnel Services, said.

EDITORS Page 9

B.C. Conference Pleases Many

★ EDITORS

Continued from Page 1

Three of the four editors who provided controversial birth law critic William Baird a platform are on scholarship. Two are honor students.

Following the meeting, Rev. F. X. Shea, professor of English, said he thought the editors "will be let off lightly."

Speaking for the editors, Michael Rahill, editor-in-chief of The Heights, said he was "surprised and pleased with the results."

"There was little tension, the dialogue was cordial, and everyone is hopeful that needed changes in the college

speaking rules will result from the incident," Rahill added.

A final decision on disciplinary action will be made by B.C.'s Educational Policy Committee May 8.

The incident was another in a series of local campus furors, sparked by the appearance of Baird, a self-styled birth control martyr from New York.

Baird is free on bail pending a court appearance May 8 on a charge of exhibiting and distributing birth control devices at Boston University Apr. 7.

The editors of The Heights had invited Baird to speak before the student body Apr.

17. Their request was denied by Fr. Drury, who condemned Baird's "irresponsible actions at Boston University."

But he did grant permission for Baird to discuss his birth control views with editors in their office.

The editors, however, conducted in their office an open meeting which drew some 300 students.

At Thursday's meeting, James McIntyre, assistant to Fr. Drury, stressed that Baird had not been denied a forum because of his views, but because the editors had "violated rules involving speakers."

Speaking in defense of the editor's action, Rahill said

they were attempting to "adhere to the ideal rather than the rule."

The concept of breaking a procedural rule when a matter of principle was at stake, he added, had been "endorsed by the American Association of University Professors, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Boston College President, Very Rev. Michael P. Walsh."

Several faculty members at the meeting said they hoped the incident would result in more liberalized procedural rules for speakers.

Invited to the meeting were members of the five-man University Conduct Committee, observers from the B.C. branch of the American Association of University Professors, several student leaders, and the editors.

A throng of some 200 students clogged the halls outside the hearing room.

In defiance of locked doors on the hearing room, the students sang "Mickey Mouse," complained loudly about censorship and locked the two doors from the outside.

A priest unlocked them with a master key before the meeting ended.

In addition to Rahill, the editors were Gerry Shea, managing editor, Michael Barton, news editor, and Thomas Gilchrist, associate editor.