
Guns A Danger

Black students this week expressed alarm and deep concern over the fact that, even though last week Dean Lowell Kafer issued a memorandum to all students stating that possession of firearms in the living quarters of the residence halls is in violation of a University regulation, they are fearful that a large number of firearms are still present in the dorm rooms and that they feel the presence of such weapons constitutes a potential danger.

Frankly, we agree.

There are students on this campus who have shown themselves to be immature in their general actions and some who have even shown immaturity in their use of firearms. To give these students the opportunity and the freedom to handle a firearm on campus at their discretion presents a potential and real powder keg that could blow some day with someone being killed.

However, we cannot agree with the black students in their request that because of the potential threat to the security of the campus in the current situation that all guns be banned from the campus. One of the primary reasons students bring guns to Northern's campus is because of the variety of hunting available in the Upper Peninsula. To ban all guns from the campus and to establish a supervised storage area off-campus would place an undue and needless hardship on the majority of students who use firearms sensibly for the purpose of hunting.

An acceptable alternative to banning guns completely from the campus is to establish the proposed weapon storage area on campus under the direct supervision of the Security Department. In our mind if an adequate vault-type storage area were established on campus this would readily solve the current problem in the same way that an off-campus facility, with the only difference being that students would not be inconvenienced by traveling to some off-campus location every time they wished to check out their gun.

While we agree that the current situation is of the gravest in magnitude, we must be careful not to over-react in trying to alleviate it.