



## TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Office of the Secretary of the Faculties

RESOLUTION ON THE RETIREMENT OF  
ALVIN RAYMOND SCHMIDT, JR.  
ADOPTED BY THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF  
TUFTS UNIVERSITY  
APRIL 30, 1984

There are two Alvin Schmidts who must be commented on this afternoon. There is the Alvin Schmidt who for the past twelve years has been a trusted and protective member of the Counselling Center, a caring and frankly fatherly gentleman who has aided and comforted hundreds of our students who increasingly seek help when faced with the strains of a society which is a great deal more threatening than it was when we went to college, or at least when many of us went to college. For those of our colleagues on the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, you may or may not recognize the tall, slightly stooped, white-haired courtly man with a ready smile and gentle way.

Then, he might step into that telephone booth which is also a time machine, and out would come another Al Schmidt, quite possibly draped in blue body tights with a big red S on the front, and a cape of flowing color. This giant of a man was the Dean of Students at Tufts in Arts & Sciences; actually Dean of Men from 1962 to 1968, and then Dean of Everybody from 1968 to 1972, when the world turned. This is the Al Schmidt we choose to remember, this man who was a class act of civility, judgement, courage, fairness, trust and confidence at a time when such characteristics were in short supply. Al Schmidt was the pivotal Dean on the Medford campus at a moment in history when we had a crisis of confidence in decency. It was the time of confrontation, of Vietnam, of assassination, of union integration, of cohabitation, the sexual revolution, and amidst the often white heat of commitment we sometimes lost our perspective and even our ability to deal with one another. At times, a spirit of dehumanization and polarization pitted student against student, faculty against faculty.

And in the midst of all of this stood Al Schmidt, often all alone in Ballou Hall. Al was the Lord Chamberlain and Protector of the Helpless -- the helpless being, at that time, the office workers and employees who on more than one occasion had seen their offices ransacked, staplers, blotters, and coat racks taken. Sometimes he would lock the help in, sometimes he would lock the office staff out, but it was Al's ballgame, and there are a good number of fifteen year veterans of Ballou Hall who still look at Al Schmidt as the special figure who stood among the hostile faces, asking not for law and order, but for civility, for a touch of understanding, for a little compassion. But, let it be said: Al Schmidt had authority, he had power, but it was an authority used with humanity.

Al stepped down from the Deanship in 1972, bent but not broken in health. He had paid the price of his office, of his concern for the students, of the faculty he knew so well and who considered him one of their number, always. The last twelve years have been important for Al and for Tufts, but there will never be anything like the times when the campus shook, and few were the equal of Al Schmidt in bringing reason to this community.

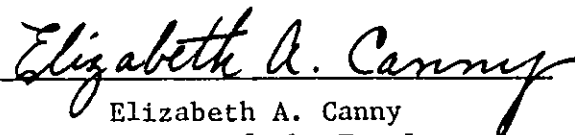
Today we say good-bye to an epoch of Tufts. Al bridges this University as few can. He received his B.A. from Tufts College in 1948, and this year represents an unbroken dedication of thirty-six years in the service of his alma mater. He and Trudy can look forward to good times on Cranberry Island and on the coast of Maine. They can also look back on times spent living on campus, in 20 Professors Row and on Talbot Avenue, in years of intellectual commitment as chairman of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter of Tufts, to a family act, which was one of the best husband/wife shows in Tufts history. Trudy has been one of the strong supporters of the Tufts Women's Club. Together, they have been a rare team.

Al Schmidt, we shall look for you in every telephone booth whenever a crisis appears. You will always be part of this University, and you will be missed.

For the Faculty,

COMMITTEE

Sol Gittleman  
Audrey Hale  
Lucille Palubinskas  
Charles Stearns

  
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Secretary of the Faculty