

South dance disrupted

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Restricting ticket sales to South High students only may be the solution to having a dance at the school without the fracas that broke out last Friday night.

Police reported that eight additional officers were sent to the school on Brandeis Road, Newton Centre, at about 10 p.m. to assist in breaking up the dance that had been disrupted by two fights inside the cafeteria.

A total of four windows in the school were broken, Slater said Tuesday another window was broken in by a South student who has promised to make restitution, but he does not know who broke the two window panels of an inside door.

One of the two fights inside the dance hall involved a trio of girls that attend South and had not been getting along well lately.

Slater said these girls "had not been on speaking terms with each other," and said the fight had nothing to do with the dance itself.

The second fight which caused the dance to be called off was started by at least 10 nonSouth youths who had paid the \$2 admission at the door.

According to Slater, the youths started pushing and picking a fight with South students.

The housemaster said there was no other disturbance inside the hall that he knew of, and when the place was empty at 10:20 p.m., the only debris inside was a few paper cups and two beer cans.

There were only two people among the 325 at the dance that did not pay before entering the event that had three policemen and more than 15 teachers present from when the doors opened at 7:30 p.m.

Housemaster Slater, who was not directly involved in the decision to close the hall, said the decision prevented a possible larger fight that may have sent people to the hospital.

He feels it will be possible to have dances in the future at South if the sale of tickets is restricted to Newton South High students.

Administrative Assistant Robert G. Franke at South said he sees signs that

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the "kids are turning the corner" and becoming less violent than he has seen them in past years here and in other communities.

Franke also took the opportunity to say that the three police hired for the dance "were wonderful" and "couldn't have helped more."

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