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The New Age

The sixteen hour occupation of Wilson House stands as a declaration of students’ inalienable rights to determine for themselves the character of the institution that will govern their lives at this University. It comes as a response to a long history of faculty and student paternalism. Initially, its philosophy extended well beyond the bounds of President Tarr’s drug policy and all but three of the LPPC proposed drug policy. It defines a power base to which students may take recourse when confronted with inadequacies of the decision-making process. As a projection of a dedication to a principle of and the determination to transform that principle into a reality — the occupation is a success without parallel in Lawrence’s historic personality.

There were moments of wisdom on all sides of the issue, and there were mistakes. The apparent ineptness of Tarr’s replies to student questioning about the vetoes is regrettable. His decision seems to have been taken without adequate foreknowledge of the other wide-ranging effects. The wisdom of this policy speaks for itself. If it is possible to put the confrontation into perspective so soon after its occurrence, perhaps the most accurate evaluation would be to speak of the incident as an “educational experience.” Most of the students who participated in the occupation learned not only of the mechanisms of university administration, but also learned first-hand of some of the possible consequences of such a demonstration. In addition, much of the discussion that took place within the house could prove valuable both to the students involved as well as to the formulation of future university policy.

Hopefully the faculty, administration and trustees also received some degree of “education” from the occupation. There should now be little doubt of the commitment of a significant number of students to the principle of determining for themselves their social codes. Secondly, the occupation of Wilson House represents the dawn of a new philosophy. The elimination of occupational student activism as a phenomenon alien to the Lawrence campus cannot be so easily overcome. The question of questioning the administration’s use of power is past. The day of challenging its right to possess that power is at hand.

Institute Opens Competition For Fulbright Study Grants

On May 1, the Institute of International Education officially opened its competition for Fulbright Study Grants for graduate study or research abroad, and for professional training in the creative and performing arts during the academic year 1969-70.

Fulbright grants are offered annually to 200 students and artists to study or perform abroad, with the exception of those who have completed more than one year of graduate study or have held prior opportunity for extended study or residence abroad. In the exceptional case, students are eligible if they have served in the armed forces.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for an award on the basis of academic and/or professional record, the feasibility of the applicant’s proposed study plan, the quality and scope of the study plan, and the potential for maximum performance of the program. Preference is given to applicants between the ages of 20 and 30 and candidates who have not had prior opportunity for extended study or residence abroad. The deadline for application is October 30, 1969.

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Faculty Meeting Ends Without Incident

Students Vacate Without Conflict

Called to emergency session by Lawrence’s twelfth President Curtis W. Tarr yesterday, the University faculty voted by a substantial majority to invoke the recently adopted LPPC demonstration policy against any student who would not leave occupied Wilson House upon the return to the building of the University’s administrators.

The decision brought an abrupt but orderly end to the student takeover of the building that normally houses the President’s office as well as the Office of Administration.

None of the occupying students were charged with a violation of the policy.

Tarr Votes Out

On Wednesday, May 28, when Sam Itay, LUCC president, released the information that Tarr had asked to leave, he became the second of all three of the LPPC’s open positions.

The faculty, student dissidents planned an informed demonstration at Park Avenue house at 5 p.m. that evening.

At this confrontation, Tarr answered student questions for more than an hour on the porch of his house. According to most observers, the circuitous nature of some “non-answers” was a major factor in triggering the questions that moved to occupy Wilson House.

Richard Martin, 21, one of the leaders of the spontaneous move to occupy Wilson House, said that Tarr gave us straight answers, the action to take on Wilson House would probably never have begun. His answers were circuitous as an attempt to avert several questions, calling them “not in order.”

To Wilson House

At approximately 11:40 p.m., the group in front of Tarr’s house began to move on Wilson House and the building was entered through the rear door.

During the next two hours, various organizational and policy decisions were made within the house. Two petitions were circulated: one pleading students to remain until 9:45 a.m., the other, simply a “statement of position.”

At a basement meeting, the group decided that the two days who had arrived at Wilson House earlier were the leaders of the group. We were sworn in as the leaders of the open dorms at Lawrence. We held a one-year history of LPPC. We were then sworn in as the leaders of the open dorm. At 4:46 the administration announced that the Wilson House occupation is a success without parallel in Lawrence’s history.

In the course of the early morning, the leadership of the occupiers focused around a small group headed by James Nible, a junior philosophy major. The students evolved a set of demands including the elimination of university policy and the reasons for their occupations.

Numbers dwindle

After the meeting, however, support for these demands began to erode, as the number of students in the building dwindled. By noon there were only about 30 left.

Meanwhile, Tarr had called a 7:30 a.m. meeting of all LUCC administrators at his home. The administrative group decided to schedule a 1 p.m. faculty meeting and witheld any action until after the faculty had met.

As Tarr left, the group decided that the two deans who have occupied Wilson House have been in violation of LPPC legislation concerning demonstration policy and the faculty understands that appropriate action be taken by the administration.

The second motion, introduced by William S. Boardman, assistant professor of philosophy, passed with the least support. His motion changed the “have been” of Gudgel’s motion, to “will be.”

The faculty then passed a motion that the faculty resolve that the occupation of Wilson House is in the best interest of the students and that appropriate action be taken by the administration.

Compromise

Shortly before Stanley and Nible met with the two deans, Tarr answered the two deans’ questions for more than an hour on the porch of his house. He refused to instruct LUCC President Itay to vacate the building if the administration would vacate the building.

At Wilson House, the occupiers were kept pest of the events in a hallway by Stanley and Moody. After lunch, Edward J. Moody, acting Secretary of the Institute of International Education, was able to present a compromise plan. The compromise plan included the elimination of loco patria from all aspects of University affairs at Grand Valley State College in Allendale, Michigan. The compromise plan was the last motion before adjournment.

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