

# The LAWRENTIAN

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## Faculty Meeting Ends Wilson House Seizure

### Students Vacate Without Incident

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 LUCU demonstration policy against any students 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 take-over of the building that normally houses the President's offices as well as the Office of Admission.

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

#### Tarr Vetoes

Controversy began Tuesday when Sam Ray, LUCU president released the information that Tarr had vetoed the drug policy as well as all but three of the LUCU's open dorms proposals. As a result, student dissidents planned an informal demonstration at Tarr's Park Avenue home at 11 pm. that evening.

At this confrontation, Tarr answered student questions for more than half an hour on the porch of his home. According to most observers, the circuitous nature of these "non-answers" was a major factor in triggering the spontaneous move to occupy Wilson House.

Richard Martin, '69, one of the leaders of the movement, noted, "Had Tarr given us straight answers, the action to take over Wilson House would probably never have begun. His answers were circular, and he refused to answer several questions, calling them 'stupid.'"

#### 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 pledging students to remain until Friday at noon, the other simply a "sympathy petition."

At a basement meeting, the group decided that the two deans who had arrived at Wilson House shortly after the seizure. (Thomas E. Wenzlau, associate dean of Lawrence and Downer Colleges and President designate at Ohio-Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, and Kenneth R. Venderbush, dean of men and newly appointed Vice President of Student Affairs at Grand Valley State College in Allendale, Michigan), would be asked to leave.

At 3:30 a.m. Wenzlau voluntarily left the building at the urging of occupying students, while Venderbush was carried out on a chair upon which he was seated.

In the course of the early morning hours, leadership of the occupiers focused around a small group headed by James Noble, a junior philosophy major. The students evolved a set of demands including the elimination of loco parentis from all aspects of University policy and amnesty for the occupiers.

#### Numbers Dwindle

Later in the morning, however, support for these demands began to erode, as the number of students in the building dwindled. By noon there were only about 35 left.

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

After lunch, Edward J. Moody, instructor in anthropology, and John M. Stanley, assistant professor of Religion, concerned that faculty action might jeopardize the occupying students' academic careers, came to Wilson House to discuss compromise. Stanley indicated that he hoped to find some students willing to compromise with the faculty, demonstrating that the group's support for Noble was not total.

#### Compromise

Shortly before Stanley and Moody arrived, according to Martin, there was a large influx of students into the house who had not been there during the night. Martin attributed the subsequent erosion of Noble's support and the stronger calls for compromise to these new students who apparently did not understand the authentic goals of the original occupiers.

In any case, a vote was taken which supported the compromise plan—that the group would leave the building if the administration would guarantee that the open dorms proposals would be on the desk of the new president in September.

Noble, learning of the adoption of the compromise plan, returned to the occupied building briefly to express his disgust and sense of betrayal. Meanwhile the occupiers decided to send freshman Tony Schwab, and Dan Shaughnessy, joined by Chris Phillips in Harper Hall, to speak to the faculty meeting in favor of the compromise plan.

#### Open Dorms History

After voting to permit several non-faculty status University staffers to remain in the meeting, the faculty heard Tarr review the history of open dorms at Lawrence including the one-year history of LUCU.

The three freshman were then invited into the meeting where each gave a brief presentation followed by queries from the floor. After the question session the three left the hall.

The faculty then passed a motion introduced by John P. Dreher, associate professor of philosophy, to instruct LUCU President Sam Ray "to call an emergency meeting of the LUCU on or before Monday, June 9."

The faculty then passed three

parallel motions, after long and often intense discussion, concerned with what its recommendations to the administration for dealing with infractions of the demonstration policy should be.

The first motion of the three, introduced by Bertrand A. Goldgar, associate professor of English, and seconded by Vernon W. Roelofs, professor of history, received the most faculty support. It stated: "The faculty resolves that in its opinion those students who have occupied Wilson House have been in violation of LUCU legislation concerning demonstration policy and the faculty urges 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 Goldgar's motion, to "will be."

#### Condemnation

The last motion before adjournment was a long statement to the effect that the faculty condemns the occupation of Wilson House. Introduced by Lecture in Economics Stanley G. Long, the measure passed by a large majority, perhaps two-thirds of the faculty.

At Wilson House, the occupiers were kept posted of the events in Harper Hall by Stanley and Moody. Former Student Senate President David W. Chambers, currently doing graduate work at Yale University School of Drama, was also on hand with the Wilson House occupiers in the afternoon.

At 4:30 p.m., Boardman, Mark L. Dintenfass, assistant professor of English, and Glending R. Olson, instructor in English, followed shortly by Dreher and Stanley, came from the adjourning faculty meeting to Wilson House to inform the occupants of the building of the faculty decision, and to warn them that anyone in the building from that time on could be considered violating the University's demonstration policy.

#### Students Vacate

Most of the students inside gathered their belongings and vacated the premises.

At 4:50 the administration contingent, spearheaded by Director of Admission Richard M. Canterbury, followed by Hulbert, Wenzlau, Venderbush, and Dean of Women, Miss Mary M. Morton, arrived and entered the building unimpeded.

The few students remaining inside filed out voluntarily.

## Venderbush Takes Vice-President Post

Kenneth R. Venderbush, Lawrence dean of men from 1961 through this year, was recently named vice-president of student affairs at Grand Valley State College in Allendale, Michigan.

Grand Valley, a coed school with an enrollment of about 3,500 located near Grand Rapids, was founded in 1963. Venderbush termed it "unique as a select, state-supported liberal arts school."

## 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 social regulations that will govern their lives at this University. It comes as a response to a long history of faculty and administrative paternalism. Initially, its philosophy extended well beyond the bounds of President Tarr's recent veto of both the LUCU-proposed drug policy, and all but three of the open dorms proposals. 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, and of the determination to transform that principle into a reality—the occupation is a success without parallel in Lawrence's history.

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 to request the police to stay off-campus is, on the other hand, commendable.

The factionalism within the demonstrators and their inability to maintain a unified position unquestionably undermined their initial advantage. At the same time, the students' decision to vacate the building peacefully when ordered to do so, did, under the circumstances, avoid what could have been a very costly confrontation.

The administration's equitable interpretation of its charge from the faculty is very encouraging. Asked to take "appropriate action" in charging any students who might remain in Wilson House with a violation of the University's demonstration policy, the deans decided that only those students who might choose to re-enter the building after the doors had been locked would be charged. The wisdom of this policy speaks for itself.

If it is possible to begin to put the demonstration into perspective so soon after its occurrence, perhaps the most accurate evaluation would be to speak of the incident as an "educational experience" in its broadest sense. The students that participated in the occupation learned not only of some of the problems of organizing a successful demonstration, 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 should 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 defining for themselves their social codes. Secondly, the notion of occupational student activism as a phenomenon alien to the Lawrence campus can no longer be entertained.

The occupation of Wilson House represents the dawn of a new age of student activism at Lawrence. The era 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 grants for graduate study or research abroad, and for professional training in the creative and performing arts during the academic year 1970-71.

IIE annually conducts the competition for U.S. Government Awards under the Fulbright-Hays Act and the competition for grants offered by various foreign governments, universities, and private donors.

Candidates who wish to apply for an award must be U.S. citizens at the time of application, have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent before the beginning date of the grant and, in most

cases, be proficient in the language of the host country.

Selections will be made on the basis of academic and/or professional record, the feasibility of the applicant's proposed study plan, language preparation and personal qualifications.

Preference is given to applicants between the ages of 20 and 35 and to candidates who have not had prior opportunity for extended study or residence abroad, with the exception of those who have served in the armed forces.

Application forms and information may be obtained from the Deans Office. The deadline for filing application is October 30, 1969.



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