12-14-1967

The Wooster Voice (Wooster, OH), 1967-12-14

Wooster Voice Editors

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EDITORIALS

With the help of a strict interpretation of the Ohio Revised Code 2002.21 statute, Attorney Elderich’s case was open and shut. Was there a looser interpretation coming from Wooster, it would still have been hard to contest. For when the co-owner of a building is an agent of the building’s federal leaser, and an officer of the local police, no citizen to leave the leaser’s premises and that citizen refuses, the charge of trespass can indeed be said to be inappropriate.

Kent Weeks also had an open-and-shut case, not so much in the defense of his student-clients, but in the indictment he has made of the local draft board and its supervisory power, which is possible for the functioning of 11 other draft boards throughout eighteen states in this state. In a period of this nation’s history where conscription and violent death are easily associated by the Lincoln of Vietnam, it is sad and criminal that a local draft board employee is not within right to declare what justifies the burning in the concept of the involuntary draft. Is this too much to require of a legal functionary? Not if the draft system carries with it the seeds of so many disastrous consequences as it does in this decade.

Looking at this issue in quite another way, like it or not, it has brought us to a high-point in the agitations of the Garrisonian conceptions. The instant relationship drawn by a certain segment of our population between the "good" and the "lousy" and the "finest" is also the kind of relationship drawn by many townspeople. Certainly, quality, the vigil began Tuesday night has been received with an attitude which ranges broadly from indifference to hostility.

There are two ways by which academic people can be progressive nowadays. One is to pursue their ascetic concerns within the framework of the institution to which they are tied; another is to enlarge their perspective and begin to take into their sights the town in which their institution is located. (Thirds and fourths go beyond that, but let’s skip them a moment.) This week, the town and the town have not been getting along with each other (in spite of a city election in which most people are not community has, in the past, kept itself at an arm’s length from the other. Businesses in town simply do not enter to the large market which post graduation brings to their colleagues.

Ironically, the draft board incident, which has aroused such a furor, revolved around the involvement of students in town affairs. The draft board incident is really a manifestation of what is done so little that the only influence that townspeople can make is that of the malaise of the credit crisis that is in the news so often in broad-band-butter publications like The Daily Record. The job of Wooster students should be to acquaint the town with the variety of people in their generation, and to put it frankly, to be required by the in loco parentis facts or pretension of a "residential college.

Review Of Last Week’s Incidents

(Ernest’s Note: Following is a chronologic record of the events leading up to and including the arrest of four students last Thursday and Friday)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

At a full meeting of the Social Action Committee, a decision was made that some students would go down to the local selective service office (in the 345 Building on North Market St.) each day to get information and advice on the Wooster Wooster option.

The staff was also agreed that some elected students would visit the office the following Friday to participate in a demonstration at the Induction Center.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

Two students, Pat Kelly and David Wright talked to the Board of Education at the Local Board No. 14. They stayed about an hour and a half before leaving for the night. Among the topics discussed was the discrepancy in the status of Correspondent Officers.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Kevin Gray and Ellie Rogers were with arithmetic teacher Mr. Woodruff and the Field Clerk Supervisor, Mrs. Rex McSwaney. She was reported to have been a surprise.

FACULTY TENURE

On Nov. 28 the Faculty Committee on Teaching Staff and Tenure, consisting of F. W. Critchfield, R. H. Critchfield, J. C. H. Cooper, C. L. Swain, E. L. Woodruff, C. N. Logan and Charles L. Smelser, met with the Board of Trustees, which met last weekend. The final decisions, according to Copp, will be announced tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

John Dinwiddie, assistant professor of History (Continued Back)
MORE ON

Last Week

(Continued from Front)

James Wilson of the Wooster Police Dept., who arrived immediately upon the scene, Wilson told the students that if they would not leave, they would be violating a state statute on trespassing. Miss Horn and Barrie indicated that they understood the statute and agreed to leave. Wilson then asked them to leave. The students refused.

As they were being arrested, Barrie claimed, Shank screamed, "This is a headline about a Viet Cong village burning, this is a headline about friends dying!" Shank has said that, disturbed and confused as he was, he was unable to remember what he had said at that point. Barrie further has contended that the police "loudly suggested that the students should be flushed down the toilet instead of being arrested" (to which Shank has replied no comment).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

At arriving at the building at 3:25 p.m. on Friday were Philip Pink and Allen Easley. Upon entering the office on the second floor, Myrtle Smith, an office clerk, requested they fill out a standard "Request of Ordinal Information" form, stating their name, present address, and the number, what they wanted. A VOICE reporter was also required to fill out the same form.

The two students then asked to see Field Office Clerk Supervisor, Mrs. McSweeney. They proceeded to ask her questions about the "why's" of the draft and the Selective Service Act. Mrs. McSweeney told them she was there only to draft on draft situations and to assist registrants in interpreting the law. After further questioning by the two students, the clerk admitted that they had no copy of the U.S. Constitution in the office. After more questioning by Easley and Pink, she referred them to"MORE ON"their earlier statement that you will get no personal comments from me - "We are a free country, however, if you persist in this line of questioning, I will have to ask you to leave. You are interfering with local board operations. There is nothing we can do for you. You are not asking about the law or the Selective Service." Pink then went into some questions about the inequity of the Selective Service Act. He asked about the student deferment, and the rationing aspects of the "whys." McSweeney replied that it was in the national interest that students, working towards a degree, be removed from the service. Having been granted this privilege, the gentleperson please leave. I have nothing further to say."

At about 3:30 p.m., the police entered the office and was told by the clerk that "I have asked them to leave. This is an interference with clerical operations." Shank then asked them to leave which they again refused to do. As building officer, McSweeney said, "I have told them he has no alternative to ask the police to arrest them. Easley said at this time he was not satisfied with the answers he had gotten from the person there. Mrs. McSweeney asked if he would like to leave. Pink replied, "You are construing my gentleman leave or not?" Pink told Mr. and Mrs. McSweeney, "We cannot do so," and explained to McSweeney the reason for not leaving. "I sympathize with you, but I am responsible for my tenants," Shank replied. Mrs. McSweeney added, "You don't make the law, you know." She then said that the office space and salaries were paid for by taxpayers, and that Pink and others have no right to dictate the operations through their Congressmen.

At 3:40 she announced, "If you do not leave now, you will be in violation of the trespass law (see 2909.21, Rev. Ohio Code.)." Pink replied, "I will not leave. That is my decision. McSweeney's reply was, "Do you think your decision is usually correct?" At this point three Wooster Police, including Wooster student Bob Lavery, entered the office, by then filled with reporters, students, clerical staff, and policemen, and explained to the two that they were in violation of the trespass law. Fully aware of their actions, Pink and Easley submitted to the Policemen and were driven the 100 yards to Police Headquarters. As he was ushered out, Pink said, "as a citizen it is my duty to do as I believe." At the station, formal charges were made. The two were escorted to the interrogation rooms where they were explained their rights. The police then called Ralph A. Young, Dean of Men, who agreed to come down and post $50 bond for each of them. On arrival, Easley and Pink each gave the judge a check for $50, in return for cash, which they turned over to the police.

Pink and Easley said afterward that the police were extremely courteous throughout their entire time with them.

A spokesman for the Dean's office said Friday that the students would not interfere with students unless requested by the students or in the interests of them. There is no school requirement which specifically covers this type of activity at this time.

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