

SFP Booth Mobbed

Near-Riot Invokes Large Wave Of Student Opinion

The Kilcawley lobby was the scene of a near riot Wednesday as students who support the war destroyed the literature and upset the table at the Students and Faculty for Peace booth. SFP members who had originally planned on spending the afternoon distributing literature and discussing the war with fellow students found themselves being insulted and threatened bodily.

"It is certainly unfortunate that at an institution where the emphasis is placed on education and intellectual interests, the students are willing to get so completely out of hand to the point where they voluntarily destroy the property of others."

This was the reaction of the SFP members to the events that transpired in the lobby of Kilcawley on the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 14th.

to some of the peace literature and threw it in the direction of the table. The paper did strike the Rev. Burton N. Cantrell, but fortunately did not burn him seriously.

At various times students threw balls of paper at the table, and later simply destroyed the literature the organization had on display.

After the table was overturned, the main crowd dispersed; and the 20 or 30, out of nearly 250, interested students adjourned to an orderly



Large crowds of students press against the SFP booth in Kilcawley lobby.

Calm Communication Fails

The organization made an effort to calmly communicate a message of peace to all interested students. After several hours of heated discussion, the war-supporting students of YSU closed the proceedings by overturning the peace table and destroying the anti-war literature.

Throughout the discussion the Students and Faculty for Peace were referred to as 'Communists, Fascists, and the like.' At times one could almost see himself at a football game rather than a peaceful discussion, because of the near riotous yelling and screaming that took place.

Hits Cantrell

At one point one student set fire

discussion group in room 109 of Kilcawley. Such was the original intention of the SFP.

Reactions Mixed

The reactions of the students at the discussion were mixed. Ron Mamula, a freshman in Liberal Arts, wanted all "Students and Faculty for Peace members thrown off campus."

Elizabeth Sterenberg, Associate Professor of Political Science, stated that, "American students have much to learn. They have been brain-washed by the American educational system and the American press."

Some were upset that no Security men were available to protect the property of the SFP. Chief Cress of the Security Police was asked why no security men were there.



Among the demonstrators, Dr. Chaplain Morrison, with hands outstretched, attempts to restore order.

Saw No Trouble

Cress answered, "There were 17 Security men on campus at the time and they were all busy. I saw no trouble, and no reason to call the officers."

It was learned, in fact, that the 17 men were assembled in Strouss Auditorium being sworn in as Security officers.

Cress, who had been at the scene a few moments before was not in

the building when the SFP table was overturned. A student reported a member of the administration as saying, "Chief Cress doesn't want anything to do with this mess."

The Rev. Cantrell made a reappearance shortly after the SFP table was overturned. He comments on the action at this time, "I was glad to see that the afternoon ended in a good, serious dialogue."

"There was one brief period when people were milling around in disorganized discussions, but the point is that we got settled down in a classroom and had an excellent confrontation. That sort of thing is good for the intellectual ferment of our campus."

Rev. Cantrell was referring to the discussion in room 109 of Kilcawley.

Students Pleased

Many students were pleased that at least an air of interest in some-

thing was created.

Gordon Campbell, a senior in Music, says, "I think it is good to see the students of YSU interested in taking sides instead of the general apathy that typifies the YSU student."

George Basto, a senior in Education, says, "Whether you disagree or agree with the issue, students are finally showing some enthusiasm about a cause. The discussion should be held in a larger area such as Strouss Auditorium."

Dr. Claudia Morrison of the English Dept., and a member of the SFP made reference to the mob as exhibiting "barbarous behavior." Mrs. Morrison was accused of being a communist as were many other members of the SFP.

Many students did recognize the right of the SFP to air their opini-

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ons on the war.

"Must Stop Communism"

Chaz Jones, a freshman in Business, said, "They are a minority, but they have the right to voice their opinion. We must stop communism."

Paula Selanik, a freshman in Music, said, "They should have the right to be against Viet Nam. There should be a united effort to support the war."

John Scott, a sophomore in English, said, "They have the right to talk, but that doern't make them right. We must start somewhere in Asia, and Viet Nam is where we are now."

"Long-Haired Crumbs"

Throughout the discussion such assorted cries were heard: "Your mother stinks." "You must be a Commie." "You long haired crumb." "Go take a bath." "They're disgracing the government . . . they ought

to be thrown out of here."

Jeff Altschul and Steven Anderson, members of the SFP, summed up their feelings of the day's activities as follows:

"We feel that if men and women have the privilege to attend an institution of higher learning, they should conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. By denying free intellectual intercourse these people are defeating the purpose of a college education. If this group of students is representative of the majority of the student body, we can truly say that we are ashamed to be identified with the University."

The day started out calmly, then got quite heated, then as most things—ended peacefully. Perhaps this is an indication that next Wednesday when the SFP attempts again to set up a literature table, the entire day will be peaceful.