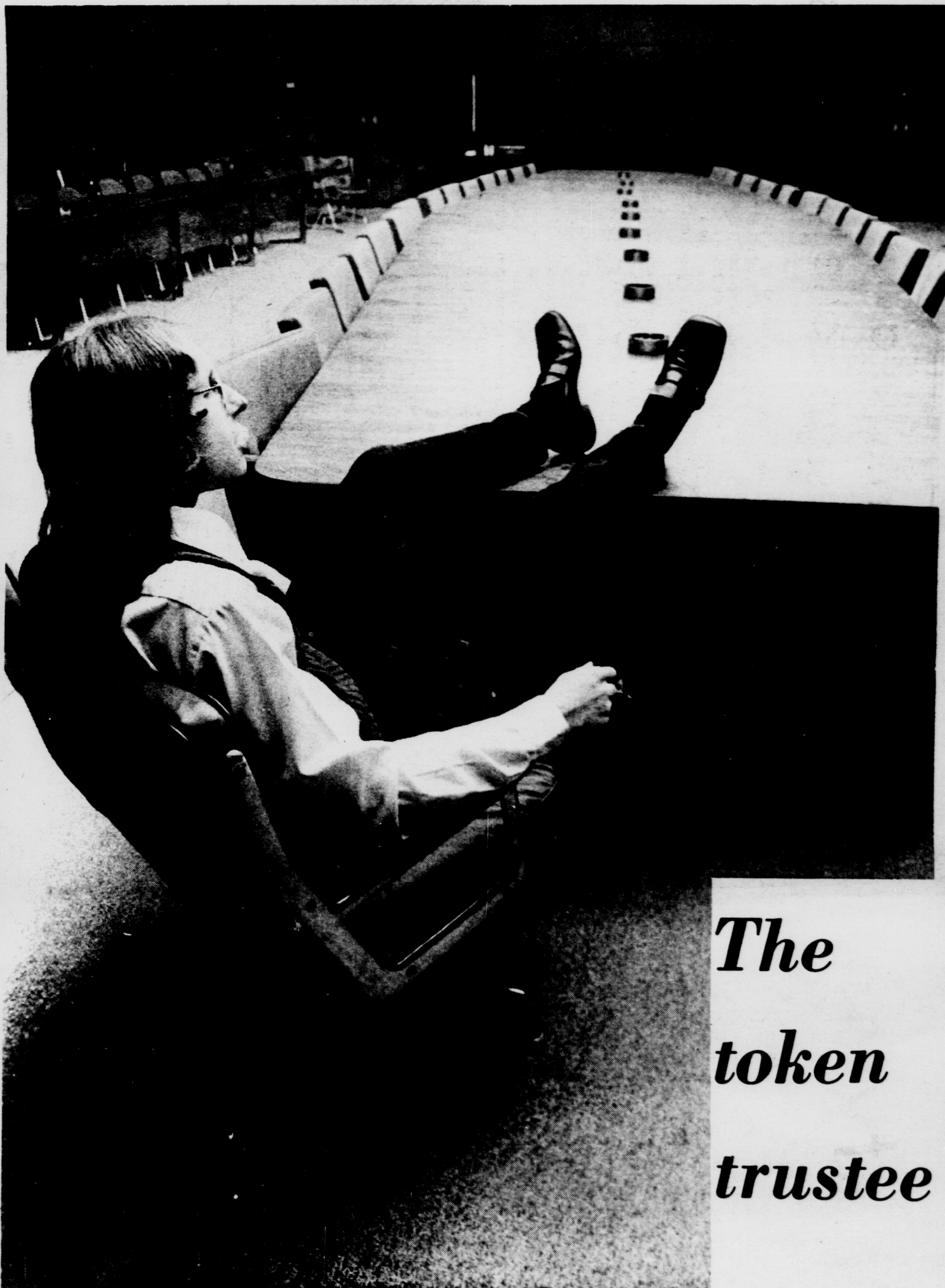


# trustee day

Photo by Don Gerstner



## *The token trustee*

By Morton A. Rauth

The announcement that Princeton University would add a graduated senior to its board of trustees gave fresh impetus to the idea that students should serve on governing boards. This concept is not only meager in its potential to meet current demands for "student power" but actually may further erode the principle of lay trusteeship, which even without student membership shows signs of being washed away.

Pressed by campus unrest and public resentment, boards of trustees are being increasingly tempted into actions they are not qualified to take. When the regents of the University of California reversed a faculty appointment, made under academic due process, they assuredly earned some sort of prize for the most inappropriate action of the year. Trustees' continued involvement in this kind of

management function can only compound already confused college governance and erode what little is left of accepted and understood authority.

Because the student's overriding interest is in the hottest issue of the moment, his presence on the board would almost certainly inject the board precisely into the middle of problems it should avoid.

Even if this classical pitfall could be avoided, it is hard to foresee anything but frustration arising from the figment that any one or two or three students can represent the range of views held by all students. Every troubled campus knows that the focus of student leadership is shifting and difficult to identify.

(Continued on back page)

Weekly Supplement  
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February 2, 1971



I

I cry easily and suddenly now,  
Now that I have joined the  
ranks of us brave young girls  
who've had our beings  
penetrated by far more than  
mere manhood.

Funny, then, that I feel so alone.

II

In the waning of twilight,  
(but really all my waking hours)  
just after the sun-slips-away-goodbye,  
I think of how you said "Goodbye"  
but with no ray-promise of return.

Not at all like the sun.

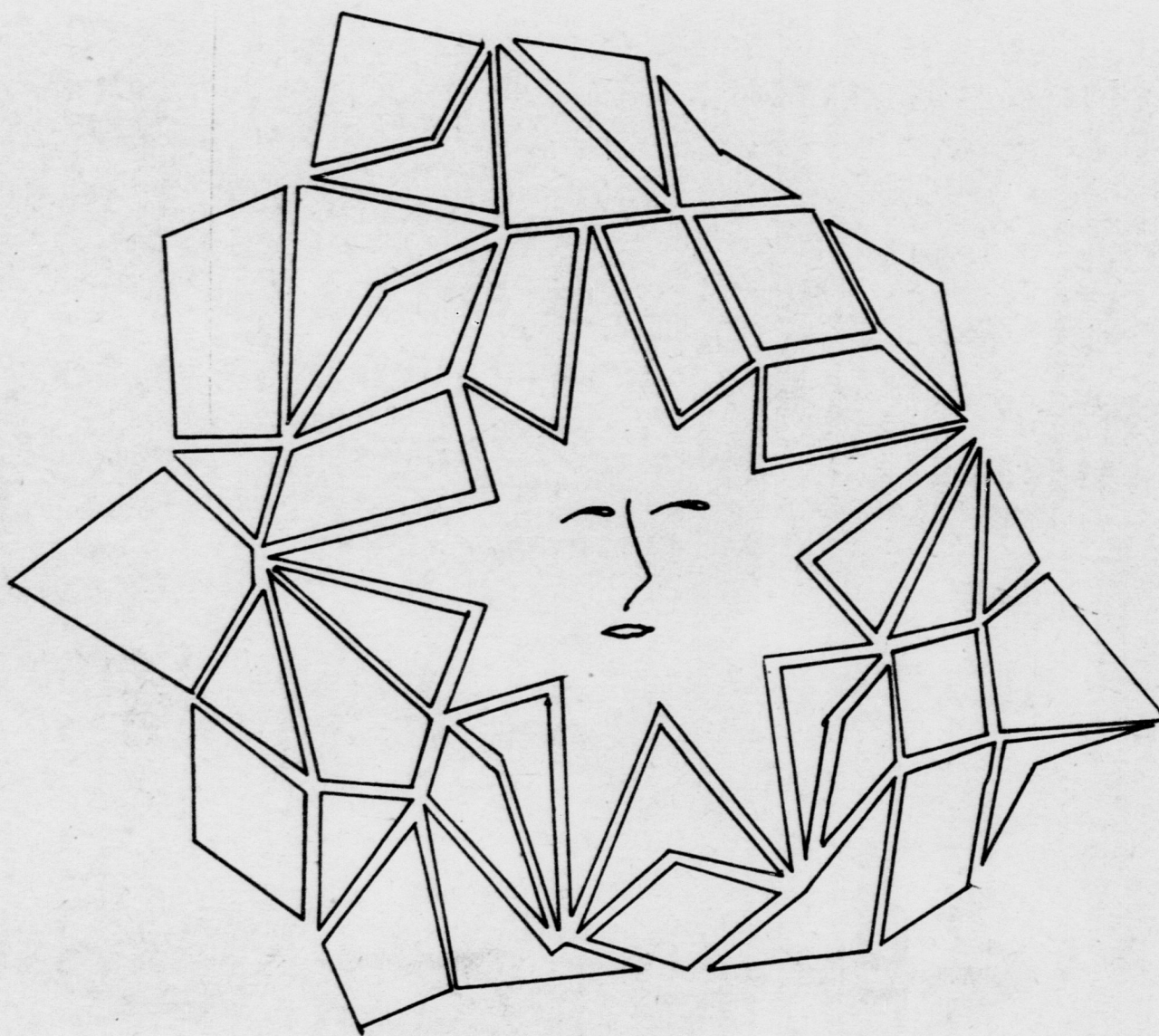
III

I had a mind once however  
it left me (that, too) by way of  
nose and corners of my eyes;  
I remain shell - shocked - empty  
and in danger of functioning  
only on what's left below the belt  
(with anyone).

IV (for others)

I could talk to you of things  
and try to let you know  
I feel whatever I mean.  
But I'd rather have you  
mouth words and perhaps  
by chance you'll let slip a sigh  
And I can end our laboured chat with  
"Yeah."

CAROL DOOCY



Sometimes I look  
at glass windows  
and see other people  
other things.

Sometimes I look  
at clouds  
that spot the blue sky  
and think  
of depth  
But you purpose  
ah yes, YOU and meaning  
you look at mirrors.

MIKE MCGRATH

For Paul Lambers (1942 - 1970)

Talking about death, in living rooms:  
How one mother says novenas  
How my mother, graceful lady,  
Will someday be cremated.

Rose died a week ago.  
Slowly, part by part,  
Full knowledge of the horror  
A spectator herself.

Paul died in churning water  
Walking along the breakfront  
The lake swept up and claimed him,  
His best friend watching - helpless.

Talking about death, in living rooms:  
All of us speculating  
Looking in bibles for buffers,  
Looking in eyes and waiting.

GITA MARITZER

she has returned  
for the first time with arms  
brushing you awake with her  
long strokes and several years.  
adding the pat of hands to  
your building. back. and for here  
for crayoned poems and kept secrets  
there is no more need for now.  
i have been in both places and have  
tasted both. and my mouth is vacuumed  
by the choke cherry and spent on syrup.  
and the learning has come to  
claim another child.  
press my word under heaviness  
it will lie flat and leave you without  
curling ends.

CAROLYN FORCHE



# Neil T. Jones likes being a barber.

By Jeff Sheler

He likes to talk about the trade he entered in East Lansing 12 years ago when shorter hair was in style and college boys crossed Grand River Avenue at least twice a month for a crew-cut or a Princeton.

"Sure I like barbering. I'd hate to get out of the business," Jones said as he ran a dryer over a customer's freshly cut hair.

When he finished speaking the only sound was the dryer. Four empty barber chairs lined a mirrored wall facing 12 empty waiting chairs that lined the opposite wall.

When he spoke of getting "out of the business," more than a hint of time-tempered perseverance was detectable in his soft voice and in his equally soft eyes.

"Three years ago there were 54 barbers in East Lansing," he said as he carefully combed his customer's medium-length hair. Now it's down to 23."

Jones, 35, candidly admits that the business has been hurt by men's longer hair styles.

"They just don't come in as often as they used to. Naturally this cuts into the money we make," he said.

But he doesn't lay the entire blame for the demise of barbering in East Lansing upon the longer hair styles.

"Business is down all over," he said. "It's the whole economy. The restaurant business is - in fact, my wife knows this waitress at Dines, and she says that tips are even way down."

"Of course, the new hair styles have a lot to do with the

trouble in the barbering business, though," he said.

"Since 1969 we've had five shops close in East Lansing," he said as he wiped his hands on a towel and glanced upward in thought.

"Let's see, there was one on Abbott Road where the White Monkey is now, there was one where the Card Shop is, one where the sandwich shop is, one where the Sportmeister is and one where the bus station is."

"We used to have five barbers in here. Now there's two of us," he said.

He finished brushing off his customer's garments and gratefully accepted a 50-cent tip.

"Gosh, thank's a lot, John," he said.

"You know, I don't think the real long hair will be around much longer," Jones said. "I think medium length hair, like John's, will come back in. It might take a while here, though."

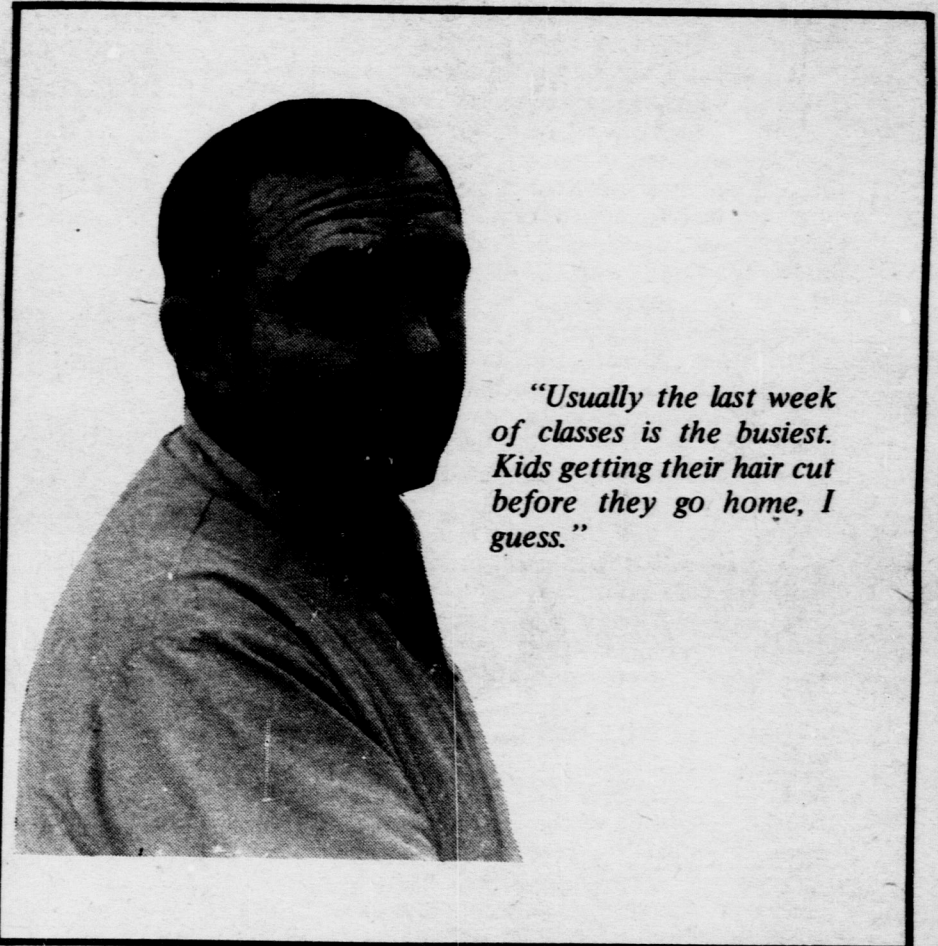
Sitting down in the chair he began to recall his early years as a barber. The shop was now otherwise empty.

"I wouldn't have been a barber if I could have been a bricklayer or a carpenter. But in '59 the jobs were tight - like they are now. And it was pretty easy to get into barber school."

"If I was in construction I'd be making more money," he said. "But I can't complain. I've always made better than average income."

Jones doesn't seem to mind the long hours he sometimes works to make a "better than average" income.

"I usually work about 10 hours a day, five days a week,"



*"Usually the last week of classes is the busiest. Kids getting their hair cut before they go home, I guess."*

he said. "I don't mind the work."

Next to a neatly kept magazine rack stood a six-foot display case filled with hairsprays, key chains, combs, toupees, toupee cases and other merchandise, some related and some unrelated to men's hair care.

"Oh sure, these things bring in a lot of extra money," Jones said. "We sell those wigs all the time. That one on the shelf there costs \$145. And we've got one in the back room that's custom made and costs \$285. That one is sold."

Just then two youths sporting shoulder-length hair walked in.

"Hey Neil, you're not gonna beat me this time," one shouted.

"All right, all right. Come on over here and we'll see," Jones replied as he reached into his pockert and pulled out a coin.

"Heads. Too bad, Neil. I told you I'd beat 'cha," the youth

said as he and his companion went to the back of the shop and each took a Coke from a refrigerator.

"Ah, they're a couple of good kids," Jones said as the two left.

"You know, things aren't really as bad as I may have made it sound," he said. "Last week we were as busy as the devil. This place still gets filled up sometimes. Usually the last week of classes is the busiest. Kids getting their hair cut before they go home, I guess."

"But last week was the first week of classes and we were really busy. I couldn't understand that," he said.

"But you've got to really like barbering if you're going to stick it out. I guess some guys work on the side to make a little extra money, but I personally don't know of any who do that," he said.

"I figure you're either in it or you're not. And I'm in it."

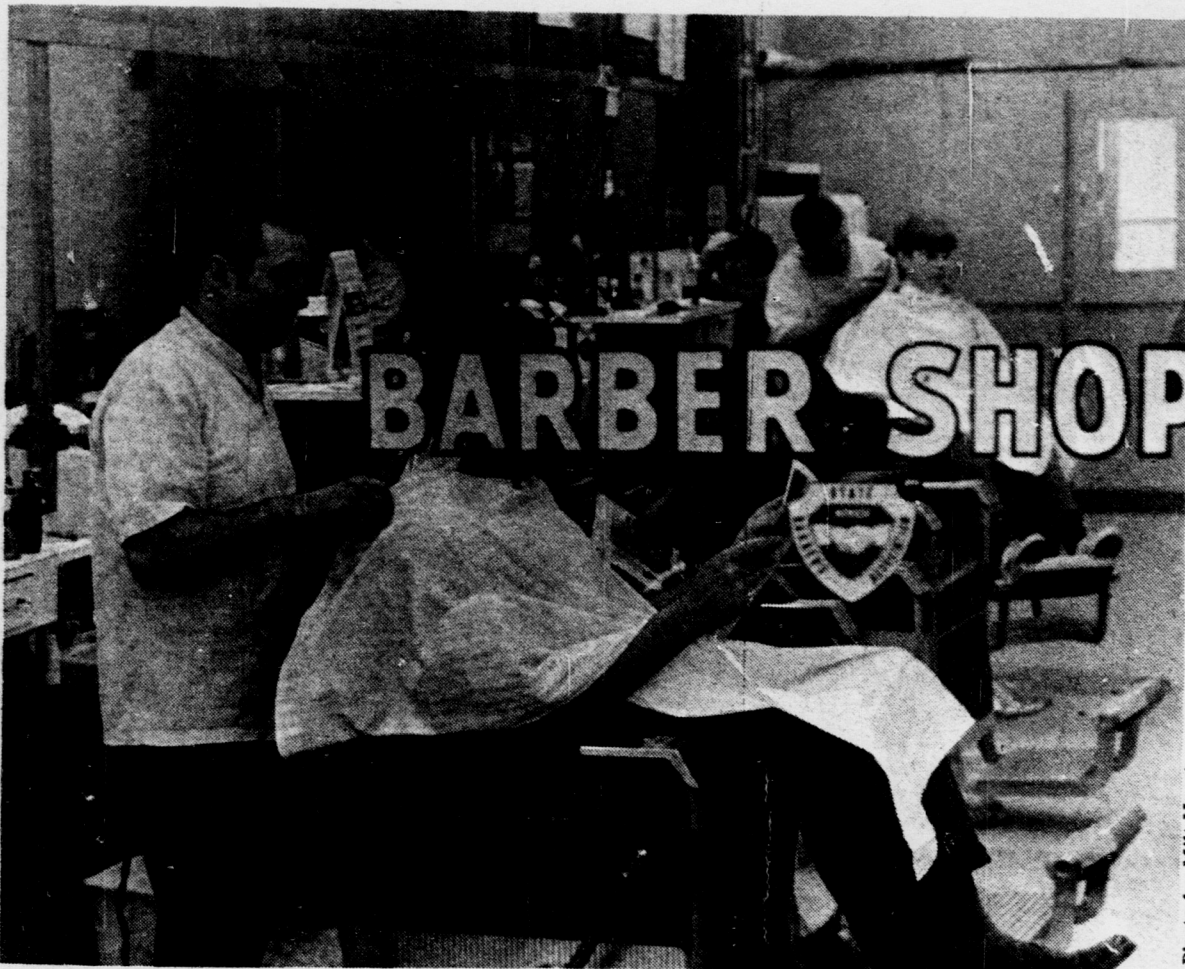


Photo by Milt Horst



# Token trustee

(Continued from front)

The odds are strongly against the possibility that the student trustee could represent the issues of the moment or that if he tried, fellow students would accept his leadership.

Perhaps worst of all, the appointment of students as trustees would fool at least some people into thinking that student aspirations are being met by a move that at best is but a token of good intentions. It is far better to make such intentions evident by more practical moves.

It is clearly within the power of trustees to make such moves. Let me suggest a few of them.

## The means to influence

The academic community has every reason to believe that trustees make or influence decisions that will directly affect them. That most boards make these decisions in isolated privacy is strangely at odds with the essential open quality of a college. Even boards of public universities, which may be required to meet publicly, too often reach decisions in an informal caucus. Except for privileged matters, boards should meet in settings open to the members of the institution, and they should have predetermined ground rules to permit the participation of those attending.

Obviously this practice will create some fermentation, but it is better to ventilate than to bottle up frustrations that will later pop the cork more loudly. Without judging the wisdom of the Harvard Corporation's decision last spring to vote its General Motors shares with the G.M. management, there is no reason why the President and Fellows of Harvard, at the point of reaching that decision, should have been shielded from the strong dissenting views of a large and concerned portion of the Harvard faculty and of Harvard students.

## The right to elect

Although the concept of self-selection of members is well established among boards of all kinds of charitable institutions, it is becoming increasingly suspect in higher education. Many college boards have extended to alumni the right to fill a certain number of seats. This principle need only be extended a bit more to give similar rights to students and faculty members.

One way to do so is to designate existing governing bodies, such as faculty senates, educational councils, or student councils, to choose some number of trustees. For example, a fourth of Antioch College's trustees are elected by its Administrative Council, a body composed of faculty, students, and administrators.

The Council's selections have been consistently enlightened, and because its members have different associations from those of the trustees, these selections have given the board diverse talents and attitudes.

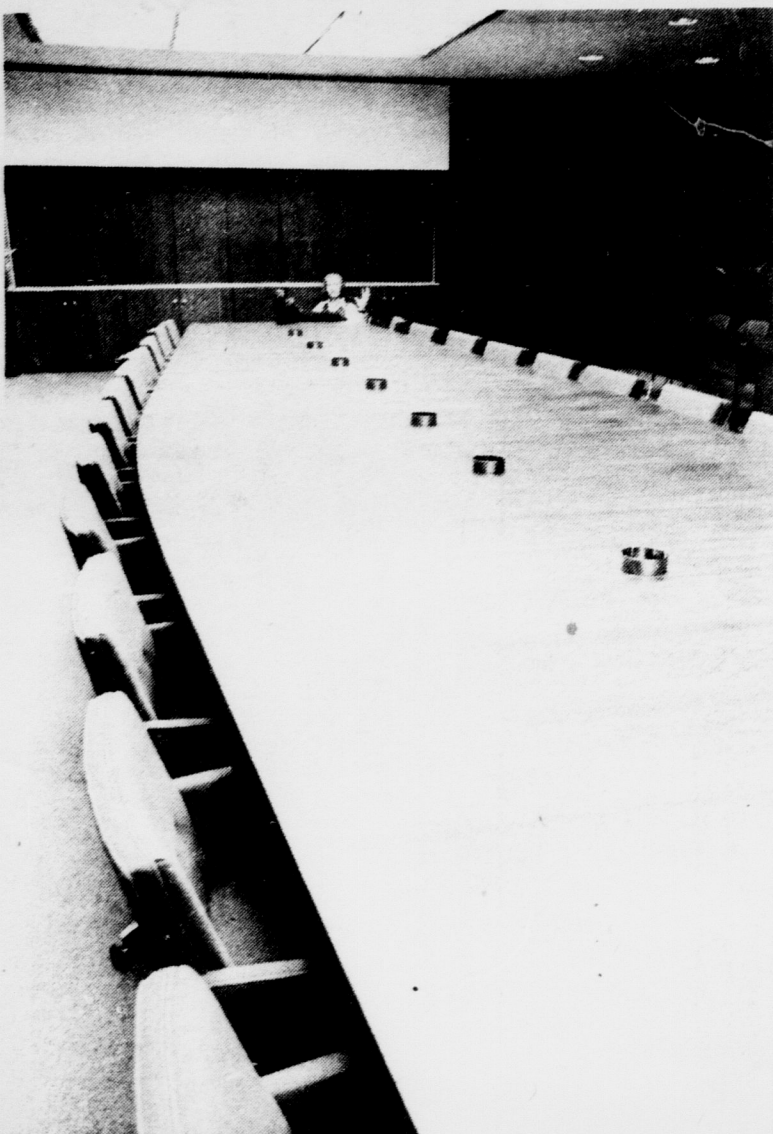


Photo by Don Gerstner



Photo by Doug Bauman

## Determination of agenda

Although newspaper reports may suggest that board meetings are devoted to issues of high controversy, the fact is that most trustee transactions are abysmally dull. They consist largely of pro forma actions that the president has dressed up to look like decisions. When trustees "determine" a budget, they usually confirm a series of personnel appointments made three months before hand. The policy issues that most concern the campus community may never make the trustees' agenda.

For example, the old saw that teachers should teach and students should study doesn't cut any more. Students want to rip into the curriculum. So picture as an agenda item for the board the respective roles of students and the faculty in determining curricular policies. If the trustees are wise enough to keep clear of specific issues of content, the outcomes may be highly constructive indeed.

## Shared activity

The luncheon, social evening, or "seminar," which typically represents trustee-student acquaintance, is a sorry device for communication. At best it is a pleasant occasion; at worst, a surly confrontation. Clearly needed are equal participation in situations that deal with problems of common concern. A group of students, faculty members, administrators, and trustees charged with developing the institution's posture in loco parentis might well come up with both a sensible policy and a better understanding of each other's concerns in the matter.

These proposals are designed to place the student in a position of influence and participation while preserving the board's essential role as legal trustee. They recognize that the demand for student membership on the board of trustees is only a manifestation of a fundamental change in student attitude.

The idea of the student as a privileged transient is still widely held: "Here are the conditions under which you may enjoy the benefits of our college. When you enroll here, you agree to abide by our conditions. If you find that you don't like them, go somewhere else." That is a comfortable and well-ordered doctrine, but it is ten years out of date.

The contemporary student sees college attendance as a right — indeed, a necessity for entrance into the social-economic structures, and from this point of view he is moved to change whatever he finds objectionable — preferably today. Therefore, the student's needs are not to be denied by mere assertion that his elders know best.

It is sheer fantasy to think that a change as superficial as giving the student a token seat on the board of trustees will satisfy his aspirations for influence, participation, and above all, some measure of control over his own education.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Morton A. Rauth is vice president, Emeritus, at Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. The Token Trustee is reprinted from "Antioch Notes," September 1970.