

00:00:00 George E. Wildey

Protests and demonstrations are commonplace today on most campuses in our country.

00:00:08 George E. Wildey

The University of Maine at Orono has had its share.

00:00:12 George E. Wildey

Although, as most Maine citizens realize.

00:00:15 George E. Wildey

The University of Maine is quiet and sedate with no violence at all.

00:00:20 George E. Wildey

When you compare our situation to the rest of the country.

00:00:25 George E. Wildey

This week an event took place on the Orono campus.

00:00:29 George E. Wildey

That certainly must point up this fact.

00:00:34 George E. Wildey

That students here.

00:00:36 George E. Wildey

Want to do more than just protest?

00:00:40 George E. Wildey

They want to do it constructively.

00:00:44 George E. Wildey

They wanted to save lives.

00:00:47 George E. Wildey

And they went about it.

00:00:49 George E. Wildey

In a rather unique way.

00:00:52 George E. Wildey

So called demonstrators as well as non-political students, athletes, fraternity men, sorority women.

00:00:59 George E. Wildey

And just a general cross section of students from the university at Orono.

00:01:05 George E. Wildey

Voluntarily signed up to donate.

00:01:08 George E. Wildey

Pints of blood for our men in Vietnam.

00:01:14 George E. Wildey

2500 signed up.

00:01:17 George E. Wildey

And with the aid of manpower from Loring Air Force Base, doctors, medics, and medical technicians.

00:01:24 George E. Wildey

They were brought to the University Student Health Center.

00:01:27 George E. Wildey

Here in Orono.

00:01:30 George E. Wildey

Other medical personnel were flown in from Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee, Massachusetts, to lend a hand.

00:01:39 George E. Wildey

Many were skeptical but not the students.

00:01:43 George E. Wildey

They were here to do a job and be for something.

00:01:49 George E. Wildey

How did it all begin?

00:01:52 George E. Wildey

During the day of the drive.

00:01:54 George E. Wildey

I talked to Debi Young, a 21-year-old senior majoring in mechanical engineering.

00:02:01 George E. Wildey

Who was responsible?

00:02:04 George E. Wildey

for the whole thing.

00:02:06 Debi Young

Well it all started Thursday.

00:02:08 Debi Young

Afternoon the General Student Senate called a Emergency meeting to decide whether or not they're going to strike.

00:02:14 Debi Young

I would try to think of something or alternative to striking and I came up with a blood doning idea that the idea of the strike was to show people that we wanted the war in Vietnam.

00:02:25 Debi Young

And that we wanted to save lives over there.

00:02:28 Debi Young

If we could and it to me.

00:02:30 Debi Young

It seemed very logical that.

00:02:32 Debi Young

If we could get.

00:02:34 Debi Young

The people to give blood.

00:02:36 Debi Young

This would be a way of saving lives and so this is more or less the basic logic behind the whole thing.

00:02:43 Debi Young

I set it up with Colonel Little and.

00:02:46 Debi Young

We talked with.

00:02:48 Debi Young

I first tried to go through the Red Cross and Eastern Maine General and this didn't work.

00:02:52 Debi Young

There was a hassle because of many different Interstate blood regulations and this type of thing and we finally talked to the Air Force and they said they could do it.

00:03:02 Debi Young

And you know this was really great and I presented it in the form of a resolution to the General Student Senate.

00:03:05

Right here.

00:03:06 Debi Young

And they passed it by acclamation.

00:03:10 Debi Young

And I've just got a fantastic turn out here today.

00:03:12 George E. Wildey

How many did you expect originally?

00:03:14 Debi Young

Well, I was optimistic. I said 2 to 300 and somebody wanted to figure this is what I guessed.

00:03:21 Debi Young

I talked to Student Senate past President Stan Cohen. He said you may get as many as 1000, so I said, OK, I will promise 2 to 300. We may get as many as 1000 so far.

00:03:33 Debi Young

People have been coming from passing out numbers to them.

00:03:36 Debi Young

And we've passed out about 1100 numbers. This is 1100 students have come over and said I want to give blood and we said look could you come back in an hour, 2 hours, 3 hours? We'll probably be here till about 11:00 o'clock tonight.

00:03:49 George E. Wildey

So even you were amazed.

00:03:51 George E. Wildey

At the turn out.

00:03:51 Debi Young

Very amazed and very grateful the students.

00:03:54 George E. Wildey

What kind of students have you seen coming out as the whole campus community?

00:03:59 Debi Young

I think we've got a really good cross section.

00:04:01 Debi Young

I think maybe we we have a few more of the typical campus protesters.

00:04:06 Debi Young

The anti-war, not necessarily SDS.

00:04:10 Debi Young

'cause SDS is very weak on this campus at this time, but long haired what most of the people say is you know those damn college hippies.

00:04:19 Debi Young

It's been mostly this type of kid that is turned out and really great.

00:04:24 George E. Wildey

Did you have any original anti reaction from the peace demonstrators saying, well, you know we don't want to do this because we're for peace and this would just enhance something that we're against?

00:04:36 Debi Young

I got a call last night at three 3:00 o'clock in the morning.

00:04:40 Debi Young

And I talked to about.

00:04:41 Debi Young

Four guys this morning that were very uptight.

00:04:44 Debi Young

About this, they didn't like the idea that we'd be giving blood and that it would be going to.

00:04:50 Debi Young

These people would get them back on the battlefield and so they could be fighting again, and that they also didn't like the idea that it was just going to the Americans they wanted it to go to the South Vietnamese and to everyone.

00:05:01 Debi Young

So that this is, I've tried to stress this whenever I've been interviewed today, that this, if we could, we'd like to give the blood to anyone over there that needed it, regardless of race, creed, or color.

00:05:12 Debi Young

But this cannot be done, so we're doing the best we can.

00:05:14 George E. Wildey

Are you getting many non-students?

00:05:19 Debi Young

Very few, I'd say maybe all 50 at the very most.

00:05:25 Debi Young

It's very hard sometimes to tell if a person is a student or not.

00:05:29 Debi Young

We've had a few professors and we had.

00:05:32 Debi Young

I think there's some women from Bangor today that you know what can we do to help.

00:05:36 Debi Young

Type of thing. Students have really been great. We must have about 100 to 200 student volunteers preparing the blood packs and packing the ice and preparing the blood pack for shipment.

00:05:48 Debi Young

It's really been fantastic, and it is, you know, what can I do?

00:05:51 Debi Young

Can I help?

00:05:52 Debi Young

Can I help?

00:05:52 Debi Young

It's really great.

00:05:54 George E. Wildey

So you think you've turned this?

00:05:55 George E. Wildey

Possibly this whole thing around?

00:05:58 George E. Wildey

This whole political issue.

00:05:59 Debi Young

I think this is really not a political issue, it's it's something that everybody can get together on.

00:06:05 Debi Young

It's it wasn't started as a political thing, although maybe it's really turned into that that it's a way of possibly saving a few lives and hopefully bringing us sooner conclusion to the war.

00:06:17 George E. Wildey

Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little Hospital administrator from Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, was in direct charge of the events of the day and night.

00:06:28 George E. Wildey

I talked to him also.

00:06:33 George E. Wildey

Colonel, what are your reactions to the events of the day?

00:06:38 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

Well, I think it's almost an unbelievable situation.

00:06:42 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

The success of this thing is far beyond our, uh, original belief that on something like this we got a call from Miss Debi Young.

00:06:55 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

Obviously, we were interested, but we just weren't too sure what the situation on college campus with regard to a blood drive would could really be.

00:07:06 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

We weren't to.

00:07:07 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

I personally didn't doubt her intentions a bit.

00:07:11 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

She seemed to be so sincere, but then when she mentioned that it might go from.

00:07:15 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

250 to 300 up to as much as 1000. I have to admit I was a little skeptical about it and knew that it was going to be a.

00:07:24 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

By far the largest blood drawing task that we've ever handled at the hospital at Loring or anywhere else in the Air Force that I've had anything to do with.

00:07:34 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

But we came on bound prepared to draw what we thought perhaps might be 500 pints. The way it looks now, since we had something like.

00:07:44 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

250 by noon that we're going to get 600, 750, and no doubt, if we'd stay all night they'd still be here and we'd go over 1000.

00:07:57 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

But our physical setup is such that there is a maximum number that we can draw in the given hour and.

00:08:04 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

We have about 25 beds set up. We have four physicians, four nurses, couple of lab officers, several real fine airman technicians, but in a in spite of all that, there's just a maximum number that you can handle in the limited.

00:08:24 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

Facility that we.

00:08:25 George E. Wildey

Have what kind of a crew do you have to administer

00:08:28 George E. Wildey

All of this?

00:08:32 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

Well, the most of the people that are here have had a little bit of experience on military blood drives on the base, which is usually almost 100% men and we get them in and get them right out, but somehow or other when we are involved with a large.

00:08:51 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

Number of girls as we are today fine young ladies why

00:08:55 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

They just don't seem to get away quite as fast.

00:09:00 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

There's a logical reason for that.

00:09:02 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

They're handled a little more delicately, and then two I.

00:09:08 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little



It just takes a little bit longer to draw their blood.

00:09:12 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

But the fine experience these fellows have, why they're taking it in stride, and they don't require too much administration to be truthful.

00:09:21 George E. Wildey

How many people actually does it take?

00:09:25 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

Well, it's according to how many you want to draw at one time we have an assembly line process.

00:09:30 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

Here we're in the.

00:09:31 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

The students themselves are helping us with this.

00:09:34 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

In this respect, they're receiving them as they enter the Infirmary and they're handing them the history card and making a few announcements that we've asked them to make.

00:09:45 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

They're informing them that if they have any questions at all with regard to the medical history, not to hesitate to speak to the physician about it from the medical history room, they go on and we take the tip of a airman station to to take their temperature, and then another airman to take their.

00:10:04 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

Blood pressure and then they pass on and.

00:10:07 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

They're typed and then the physician.

00:10:11 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

Reviews their record from the the temperature of the blood pressure and all the other data and their medical history and passes on them and.

00:10:19 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

That's successful, then they're handed the little container that blood is drawn from and told to pass on to the next room, wherein we have the beds situated.

00:10:30 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

There are usually a large number sitting there waiting their turn to get on the bed and then after they have sufficiently recovered to gain a good steady foot, why they've been invited to stay in partake of Coca Cola.

00:10:47 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

And a few wafers, which I understand have been donated to the student body by the local coke company and one of the bakeries.

00:10:56 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

So in many respects it's a real.

00:11:02 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

Well, well enjoyed occasion by everybody.

00:11:05 George E. Wildey

Where does the blood go from here?

00:11:09 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

We have a plane from Loring that's coming down tomorrow that will take the the blood down to McGuire Air Force Base and then also to take the Doctor Hamilton.

00:11:20 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

Some of his people back to the hospital at Westover that have been here helping us.

00:11:26 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

From McGuire, the blood will be processed and consolidated with other blood that's being drawn this week at other military activities somewhere around Friday or Saturday it will be.

00:11:39 Lieutenant Colonel Herman Little

En route to Vietnam, it'll be in Vietnam before the weeks over.

00:11:43 George E. Wildey

And so.

00:11:45 George E. Wildey

As a matter of fact.

00:11:46 George E. Wildey

Students were brought together by this venture.

00:11:51 George E. Wildey

This was an issue that no one could speak against.

00:11:56 George E. Wildey

Not the students nor the faculty.

00:12:00 George E. Wildey

Nor the administration.

00:12:02 George E. Wildey

Or the taxpayers?

00:12:04 George E. Wildey

This was a first in the country.

00:12:08 George E. Wildey

A precedent had been set.

00:12:11 George E. Wildey

At Orono.

00:12:13 George E. Wildey

Nowhere else.

00:12:14 George E. Wildey

Had students on a college campus banded together in this way.

00:12:19 George E. Wildey

To give their blood.

00:12:23 George E. Wildey

In this way, they might be thinking as Maine goes.

00:12:29 George E. Wildey

So goes the nation.

00:12:32 George E. Wildey

This is George Wildey

00:12:34 George E. Wildey

At the University of Maine.

00:12:36 George E. Wildey

In Orono.