Vigil strong in Orange Hall; plan march for Wednesday

By FAYE UNGER
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Permitted to stay in Bessey Hall over the weekend, students protesting the dismissal of the ATL professors rechristened Bessey as "Orange Hall," and planned a silent, signless march for Wednesday.

"We're asking all concerned students to walk quietly from Bessey to the Administration Building Wednesday when the Board of Trustees meets there to consider the firing of the professors," said Steve Hickson, a member of the steering committee of the United Students.

At least five or six students will keep a vigil for the rest of the year, Hickson said.

The students in Bessey accept the building as their definite headquarters. There was talk of using the building as the headquarters for a free university or for publishing material on questions of academic freedom.

A number of students from the Bessey vigil also picketed and handed out leaflets at Spartan Stadium before the Notre Dame game.

Speakers Friday night said there was no chance the fired ATL instructors, W. Gary Groat, J. Kenneth Lawless and Robert S. Fogarty, would be rehired. They talked of using the controversy over the firings as a springboard to action and discussion on other questions of academic freedom.

The students meeting in Bessey Thursday had put together a three-point program reading:

(1) The fired instructors should be given reasons why they were not rehired. The students do not have to be given the reasons, only the instructors.

(2) If no reasons are given, the students will ask the advisory committee to reverse its decision not to rehire the instructors.

(3) The students support the AAUP statement asking the ATL advisory committee to reexamine its decision to dismiss Groat, Lawless and Fogarty.

"We've asked that the advisory committee discuss the firings with the executive committee of the AAUP. If the AAUP then says there was sufficient reason for not rehiring the men, we will accept their decision," Hickson said.

"We want a chance for these men, and other untenured instructors, to have the right to appeal their firings," he said.

A group of students visited Strandness, Friday, to talk with him and ask him to speak Friday night.

Strandness declined to speak to the students in Bessey, but he invited students to speak with him in small groups in his office.

The students in Bessey discussed and turned down a suggestion of a sit-in in front of Cowles House Saturday night.

"We don't want President Hannah to involve himself in this. We don't want any precedents set for administrative involvement in faculty affairs," Hickson said.