A snowball in the ATL dept.

When one has attended a number of demonstrations, gatherings for a Cause, at MSU, he is struck by one thing. He has seen the same faces time and again. He can make jests about "push-button pickets" which change slogans at will for any particular protest.

A thousand faces

It was cold. But a thousand faces remained for almost three hours, staring up at the speakers on the steps of Bessey Hall. The speakers spoke calmly and well. The thousand faces were not angry, but they were responsive. They wore not the faces of rabbles -- but the concerned faces of a thousand average "apathetic" students. Theirs was a quiet concern.

Je n'accuse pas

Many of those faces, perhaps, belonged to students in the classes of Messrs. Fogarty, Groat and Lawless. The rally was not initiated to denounce the ATL department. But it was har shyly inquisitive:

Why were these three men fired?

The composite picture that emerges of the men and their relation to the ATL Dept. is this:

Good teachers

Fogarty, and especially Groat and Lawless, are rude, disruptive and perhaps immature men to deal with personally. Even their friends admit this. Let us accept as a given that all three are difficult to get along with.

Fogarty, Groat and Lawless are respected by and inspiring to their students.

Letters to the State News and the size and composure of the rally Tuesday attest to this. The ATL Dept. has made absolutely no negative allusions to the professional competence of the three men.

The question that must be raised is: Is MSU running a happiness farm or an institution for teaching students?

At no time, during the entire confusing debate, has the professional competence of the three men been questioned -- only their personalities.

Why were they let go?

On the spot.

A thousand concerned faces, of students calmly gathered, perhaps a first at MSU, asked this question Tuesday.

Prof stands up for ATL Dept.

To the Editor:

As a member of the ATL Advisory Committee I have said many times that more than one cigar at a time is excessive smoking. As an individual, however, I am known to the several thousand students who have suffered in my classes as an old man who has known a great many mature men to deal with. I know those who often called me for slandering at will for any particular protest.

Keep in mind that I fled two colleges in (I'm sure) to do something about it.

After all, my ATL professor (a talented man in comp. skills and very much (I'm sure) prepared me well for the final I guess. After all, I got a "F" for the course and only read three of the required selections. He obviously knew what was important for us to know, and spared no effort in paraphrasing the assigned selection so that we would get all the "meat" out of it. And after all, he often (at least two or three times) complained about the lack of class participation and discussion, and did all that was humanly possible (I'm sure) to do something about it.

Who am I anyway, to criticize the workings of the ATL department, after all, I slept through most of my fascinating classes, and therefore am unable to form a really objective opinion. And just because after only the first term I resolved, regardless of how much drudgery it would cause me during vacation periods, to waive the following two terms, which is exactly what I did.