ATL Protest Rally Attracts 1,100

'Quiet, serious' crowd asks dept. for reasons

By MIKE BROGAN
State News Staff Writer

Controversy in the ATL Dept. boiled over the lawns and sidewalks Tuesday, as 1,100 students marched to Bessey Hall to hear faculty members and student leaders deplore the dismissal of three ATL instructors.

The group, serious, quiet and responsive, both to the speakers' jibes and to their more serious comments, shivered in the cold afternoon air for nearly two and a half hours.

Among the many views presented in the lengthy rally were:
- That the firings of Gary Groat, Ken Lawless and Robert Fogarty were based on reasons almost identical to those used last year against Paul Schiff—Charles P. Larrowe, professor of economics.
- "Should a non-tenured faculty member be treated like a "beaver"—told to get your work done and then get the hell out of here?"—he said.

Larrowe added that the ATL firings may have gone unnoticed except for what happened last year in the Schiff case.

He praised the American Assn. of University Professors (AAUP) at MSU for following this year's incident from the beginning.

Larrowe differed in some respects with ALP president John Graham, who said the firings may have been "a bit too lenient."
Rally of the Orange Horse turns to sit-in, all-night vigil at Bessey

By ANDREW MOLLISON
State News Executive Reporter

When the Rally of the Orange Horse—a large outdoor gathering devoted to poetry reading and speeches about higher education—adjourned shortly after 3 p.m. Tuesday, more than 200 participants tramped up the Bessey Hall stairs to the office of Edward A. Carlin, dean of the University College, and tried to get in. About 40 of them made it. While the other 160 or so sat down in the corridors and discussed the largest MSU rally ever, to be named after a faculty member’s controversial poem, the lucky 40 conducted a student-faculty dialogue.

Carlin, representing the faculty, stood 100 per cent behind previous administrative decisions; the recommendation that the three instructors not be re-hired, and the refusal to make public the reasons, since such information is privileged matter.

“Those are members of the faculty who are not re-appointed,” Carlin told students. “The reasons are never given out.”

Meanwhile, back in the corridor, a group of freshmen chuckled over the moment during the rally when the whole crowd turned to wave a reassuring “Hello, we’re peaceful” to the plainclothesmen who were watching them from an unmarked car parked by the auditorium.

“I was given advice by a democratically selected committee,” Carlin told the students, “and I followed it.”

“Now you want me to pressure the committee to hold a public meeting,” Carlin told the students. “If I did, you’d be telling me I dictated to them.” If he were to do so, he said, his recommendation would be “negative.”

Meanwhile, back in the corridor, ATL advisory committee member Frederic Rees told a reporter, “I think a public meeting of some sort would be most desirable. But any attempt to storm tonight’s meeting of the committee would be most ill-advised.”

Later Tuesday evening the Ad Hoc committee which sponsored Tuesday's rally voted in a meeting at the Union to conduct an all-night vigil, indoors if necessary, at Bessey Hall. Its stated purpose: to publicize a second rally, to be held Thursday.

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However, he strongly suggested that the case was mishandled and singled out Strandess as the one to blame.

“I think the case was mishandled by T. Ben Strandess. I must protest his remaining as head of the department,” Schaffer emphasized. “His whole handling of the case was inexcusable.”

Schaffer told the crowd they should protest “as strongly as possible if you think the three teachers are good ones and should remain at the University.”