

On the campus of Michigan State University the color orange now has meaning far exceeding that usually connected with that color on this the week of the Notre Dame-Michigan State game.

Volume II, number five of The Paper included a poem by Kenneth Lawless titled The Orange Horse. According to Lawless, there exists a joke concerning an orange horse -- a dirty joke, a not-very-funny joke. And now there is another joke, a dirty joke, a not-too-funny joke connected with the orange horse, specifically Lawless's Orange Horse. Hopefully everyone on this campus will soon know it, and above knowing of it, be actively concerned with the circumstances surrounding it.

Mr. Lawless, along with Mr. Robert Fogarty and Mr. Gary Groat, all non-tenured instructors in the Department of American Thought and Language at Michigan State University, are faced with non-renewal of their teaching contracts with the university -- this in the face of their obvious and undisputed academic excellence. The result? -- the rally of November fifteenth, the vigil at Ernst Bessey Hall that is proceeding at this moment.

Do the students at Bessey have a legitimate base for interest in this affair, or in any such faculty happenings? We, the United Students of Michigan State University, feel that the first right of any student of such an institution as Michigan State University pretends to be is the right to competent instruction. We feel the A. T. L. Advisory Committee's decision not to renew the contracts of Mr. Lawless, Mr. Groat, Mr. Fogarty is an explicit denial of that right.

The Advisory Committee and Dean Carlin of the University College have insisted that no more than the academic competence of the three was considered in the decision not to rehire them. Outside of this question, the three have been bludily and irresponsibly labeled "non-cooperative in a cooperative department" by Dean Carlin. Non-cooperative? What is Dean Carlin calling for? What is the status quo in the Department of American Thought and Language that T. Ben Stradose, chairman of the department, is trying so desperately to maintain?

We feel that the first sin involved in this affair is this very attempt to maintain any sort of intellectual status quo in the Department of American Thought and Language and at such a university as M.S.U. pretends to be. The contemporary university should be a center of divisive intellectual opinion. The United Students of M.S.U. feel that the failure to rehire the ATL three is totally inimical to this idea.

Time and again in the past two weeks individuals and groups at this university, both faculty and students, have issued calls either for the rehiring of the three, reconsideration of their case, or publication of the explicit reasons, the sins of commission, which have led to the decision of the advisory committee. The result has been either silence or the



issuance of rather typically vague multiversity proclamations which say nothing and consequently satisfy no one. United Students therefore feels that no such valid reasons for dismissal exist. In the face of this, we call for a reconsideration of the matter by the advisory committee of the Department of American Thought and Language.

Additionally, we support fully the recent statement by the executive committee of the M.S.U. chapter of the American Association of University Professors, a strong proposal that such non-tenured faculty members be given a right to appeal dismissal decisions by their tenured superiors (a proposal, incidentally, which met an outraged and totally unreasoning negative reply from Dean Carlin).

Finally, United Students suggests that the advisory committee meet with the executive committee of the AAUP in a final effort to determine the truth in this affair. United Students pledges to abide by the decision of the executive committee -- should the executive committee assure United Students that proper procedures have been followed, that valid reasons for the dismissals of Lawless, Fogarty and Groat do in fact exist, United Students' protest will end.

At the meeting of Tuesday, November 15, the Student Board of ASMSU approved the following resolution:-

" Be it resolved that the Associated Students of Michigan State University Student Board, on behalf of the students of Michigan State University demand that:

1. Reason be given to substantiate the firing of the three instructors.
2. The three instructors be offered a chance for review and appeal of their case, by the Advisory Committee.
3. That the Associated Students of Michigan State University Student Board give full support to any such responsible action as will promote a just and acceptable settlement of this controversy. "

Dean Carlin's reaction when he heard of the resolution? -- "I don't care." Do you care? It can happen again, you know.

You, the students of Michigan State University, have a legitimate interest here. You have a reason for deep concern. Exercise the power that is yours, the right that is yours. Support United Students. Support the American Association of University Professors. Wear orange for academic freedom.

The Steering Committee and general membership of United Students of Michigan State University