

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.

Over a thousand students stood outside the main entrance to Bessey Hall Tuesday for almost three hours. They carried no placards. They shouted no slogans.

A handful of faces were familiar--they belonged to campus radicals. But only a handful.

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. The speakers spoke calmly and well.

The thousand faces were not angry, but they were responsive. They were not the faces of rabble rousers--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 harshly 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.

The ATL Dept. is in an uncomfortable position. It would be difficult for it to just change its mind and say, "We were wrong. We made a mistake, so we'll fix it."

But neither can the department continue to give unsatisfactory excuses alluding to the personalities and not the competency of Groat, Lawless and Fogarty.

To do this would be to thumb its nose at the AAUP, the American Studies Assn. many faculty members, and a thousand serious faces.

--The Editors



He must be new.