

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

THE READERS' MINDS

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 troubles, most of which never happened. It will amuse those who often called me an Old Lecher to have it verified that I am now an Old Puritan.

Last year my wife got obscene telephone calls after I gave a speech on sex over in Shaw Hall; this year my daughter gets obscene calls at 3 a.m. because my department elected me to its Advisory Committee. I told my wife she should be glad I'm still interested in sex after learning what happened to John Proctor; I tell my daughter to take her phone off the hook at night as I shall until this ill wind blows over.

For all those ex-students who send me lewd cards during the holiday season, I have a few words of advice and explanation. Get your facts first, and then distort them as much as you please. In the ATL case, this process has been reversed. Keep in mind that I fled two colleges in two years before I found the kind of democratic department I preferred here at MSU.

We're so damn democratic in ATL that we have a lot of familiarity which sometimes breeds contempt and children. We're trying to get rid of some of the children,

my timid daughter at three in the morning. Come cuss me now that I can't threaten to drive you through the floor for sleeping in my classroom.

Jerry J. West
Associate Professor

No complaints

To the Editor:

I have no complaints. After all, my ATL professor (a talented man in comp. skills and very much tenured) prepared me well for the final; I guess. After all, I got a "B" 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 humanely 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.

Board violated our representative trust when they made their decision without consideration of whether or not they would be acting in accord with the student body's desires.

I am not suggesting that ASMSU stop thinking or stop taking stands in our interest. However, if Jim Graham (for example) can't make us agree with him through logical dialogue, it is probably he who is wrong. Maybe in the future student leaders will be more prepared to change their minds.

Looks like others agree with me: We want representation, not an "enlightened monarchy."

John Haines
President, Bryan Hall
Salt Lake City, Iowa junior