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Bessey: they call it a vigil

By ANDREW MOLLISON
State News Executive Reporter

At 9 p.m. Tuesday there were 50 students in the lobby and along the main staircase in Bessey Hall.

At 4 a.m. Wednesday there were 181 of them. At 4 p.m. Wednesday there were 31. Last night, as classes ended for the day, the crowd began to swell once again.

They call it a vigil. They aren't even in agreement as to why it happened and why it continues, but at least most agree on the name. It's a vigil, not a sleep-in, not a sit-in.

"Sleep-ins are for radicals," said a petite junior in a black-and-red plain jumper. "We're not radicals."

"Well, I am," emphatically declared an equally petite jeans-clad sophomore. "Students need more power here. It's about time they woke up."

Students started it. Students take part in

it. Students are shaping it, even as you read this article.

How? Who? Why?

Perhaps it began in 1958, when the cry of "Vot, shto letit!" (roughly translated as "Look, Ma. It's a (Sputnik!) convinced Americans that change must be encouraged in the American educational system.

Perhaps it began at Berkeley, when a sizeable minority of the students and faculty decided that Clark Kerr's multi-versity was not just a term in an administrator's best-selling book, but an actuality, and one with serious personal and personnel implications.

Perhaps it began when the national headquarters of Students for a Democratic Society decided two years ago to send organizers out from the Chicago office, to spread the word about the New Left from the Mississippi to the Ohio.

Perhaps it started when a Michigan State graduate student who dropped out of school for a term decided to ignore school rules and pass out some pamphlets in a dormitory.

Perhaps.

But few of those perched on the Bessey Hall staircase are talking about such things.

They mention the two-hour rally, attended by more than 1,000 students and a sprinkling of faculty, they saw in front of Bessey Tuesday afternoon.

They point out the odds against their being selected after the rally as one of the 20 or so whose individual appointments with Edward A. Carlin, dean of the University College, could be squeezed into his chock-full calendar.

They refer again and again to the scene outside the locked door of the ATL Dept., when dozens of them milled around asking each other, "What do we do next?"

They talk about the vote taken at 5:54 p.m. Tuesday, to abandon the idea of a sit-in, after an eloquent speech by a student who maintained they shouldn't sit in until they knew what they were sitting in for.

They mention the meeting in the Union at 7:30 that night, when it was decided to have a vigil, indoors if possible, outdoors if the police asked them to leave Bessey.

They note with gratitude that the police did not do so.

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ASMSU demands reason for ATL Dept. dismissals

By BEV TWITCHELL
State News Staff Writer

The ASMSU Student Board demanded Tuesday night that reason be given for the recent dismissal of Gary Groat, Kenneth Lawless and Robert Fogarty from the ATL Dept.

The board endorsed a resolution demanding that this reason be given to substantiate the dismissals, and that the three instructors be given an opportunity for review and appeal of their case by the ATL Advisory Committee.

They also resolved to give full support to any responsible action taken to promote "a just and acceptable settlement of this controversy."

Copies of this resolution will be sent to President John A. Hannah, Provost Howard Neville, the members of the ATL

Advisory Committee, Dean Carlin of the University College, ATL Dept. Chairman T. Ben Strandness, Groat, Lawless and Fogarty.

The resolution comments on the interest demonstrated by a great number of students, the AAUP executive board recommendation that non-tenured faculty members have the right of review and appeal of the termination of their contracts, and the refusal of Carlin, Strandness and the advisory committee to give reasons for the dismissal or to review or reconsider their decision.

It also states that "a registered student organization, United Students (whose Ad Hoc committee sponsored Tuesday's rally), has undertaken a program of responsible action to demonstrate the student body's desire for orderly and just procedure regarding academically competent, non-tenured instructors, inasmuch as a basic student right is that of competent instruction.

"I think the student board's action Tuesday night is fully representative of the tremendous concern that is presently exhibited by the students of this university over the dismissal of the three ATL professors," Jim Graham, ASMSU chairman, said.

"The student board is not saying that it agrees or disagrees with the action," Graham said, "it is instead stating that we demand information on this question.

C-Go to enroll today

Students whose last names begin with letters C-Go are eligible to enroll for winter term classes today at the Men's tramural Building.

Those participating in early enrollment could report to the IM Building with their completed Student Schedule Card, student and the Winter Term Schedule Book during a free period between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.