

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

321-2300, ext. 2558

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Beyers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STANFORD - About 650 demonstrators, mainly students, overwhelmingly re-affirmed their intention of avoiding property damage and not tampering with classified files during their occupation of the Applied Electronics Laboratory (AEL) Monday night (APRIL 14) at Stanford.

These tactics were adopted before the building was taken late Wednesday night (APRIL 9).

The vote came after Steve Weissman, former Stanford graduate student and leader of last year's sit-in at the Old Student Union, said that he "would not argue that everyone here should go in and take files," but we "shouldn't condemn those who do."

The demonstrators oppose classified and war-related research at the University and Stanford Research Institut

Weissman said he could clearly see the need "to get certain SRI files"--a remark which drew a loud "s-s-s-s-s" from his audience.

"Certain information gotten at in dubious ways is important to the movement," he said, charging that SRI researchers had used similar means while doing counter-insurgency studies in Peru.

"If we are serious about winning, then we have to be serious about saying this material ought to be in the public domain," he declared.

He called information obtained from files thrown out of the Dow Chemical Co.'s Washington, D.C., office by demonstrators "tactically important."

"American universities are going through a period of policing themselves," he said. "When they ask us to police ourselves, we're on their side."

While a lot of people feel the sit-in may end in the next day or two, he added, "A long, hard, tough movement is in prospect. For the first time, we're no longer fighting over attitudes, we're right up against things that are in their own real interest," he said.

"The only way we'll get them to change is to force them to change."

Fred Cohen, one of 29 convicted of disrupting a January trustee meeting, said it is "absolutely impossible to get into anything classified" without doing property damage, indicating he supported the original decision on tactics.

"There have been things looked at," Cohen said. "Papers on peoples' desks...we haven't broken any locks...(we can find) many important things without being at all dishonest."

Later in the evening Provost Richard W. Lyman noted that Stanford had been fortunate so far in avoiding the kinds of violence from which other universities have suffered.

"From this standpoint, the student decision not to escalate tactics is significant," he said. "But the sit-in has imposed very real costs which must be borne by the entire community. It has halted work for 150 AEL employees, affecting those who are doing electrocardiograph research as much as those whose projects the sit-in opposes. Continuing payroll costs of more than \$5,000 a day can be made up only from University general funds. This amount is equivalent to nearly two full-year scholarships a day. Since the students gained entry to the locked building late Wednesday night they have moved into several offices which also were locked, and removed personal correspondence from locked desk drawers," he said.

"Interference with the legitimate rights of others, and general disdain for the values which keep universities open and free--no matter how high the moral imperative in which these are cloaked--do not constitute the answer to any real problems which this community, the nation and the world face."

Earlier in the evening, campus police, unarmed and in plain clothes, checked the laboratory after receiving a call that a bomb was set for midnight in "the science building." One person accused of earlier bombings on the Peninsula has been observed in the building by campus police and demonstrators. Nothing was found. The demonstrators reported that more than 1,200 signatures have been obtained on a solidarity statement which reads "I'm sitting in AEL--wish you were here."

Votes of support have come from 19 campus living units, including six fraternities. An informal poll of engineering students and faculty indicated 3-to-1 opposition to the sit-in. The survey covered 350 of the 1,960 students and 30 of the 150 faculty in engineering. The sit-in rally also considered proposed research guidelines for Stanford. An open hearing on present university policies was held yesterday afternoon by a student-faculty committee. The Senate of the Academic Council will consider research policy at a special meeting called for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday (APRIL 15).
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