

STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE  
321-2300, ext 2558

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Beyers  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD - A radical's claim that the eight-day sit-in at Stanford has begun to shut down "the Pentagon of the West" and a moderate's suggestion that his fellow sit-ins re-examine their views on University ties with Stanford Research Institute highlighted an afternoon rally attended by 800 in White Memorial Plaza.

Meanwhile, staff members at the Applied Electronics Laboratory, which has been occupied by demonstrators since April 9, urged the campus community to see whether the sit-in "is indeed a children's crusade or a scout jamboree or an occupation with full intents not made known or even understood by some groups within the coalition itself."

Edward Ottoboni, a research associate at the laboratory said that "with graduate student dissertation less than a month away and graduation closing in, two theses in various stages of publication have disappeared" from the building.

"Segments of another report, also in process of publication, have been printed and are gone," he added. "Students who have wished to continue work have been harassed."

Engineering Students for a Fair Hearing, a newly organized group of 40, said the use of political force and coercive tactics in deciding what kinds of research are appropriate to a university threatens academic freedom.

"AEL is the lab on the altar, and the knife is poised to strike," they said. "But, the sacrifice of military-sponsored applied research will not satisfy Students for a Democratic Society long. Other lambs will be called for, and you may be one."

Wednesday night the April 3rd Movement, which has conducted the sit-in, said it would establish a research review board which might permit certain kinds of research to resume at the laboratory. The group has demanded an end to classified research on campus and at SRI. It also would bar studies in chemical-biological warfare and counter-insurgency.

The AEL staff, students and faculty, numbering 150, today said they "reject completely the concept of the resumption of any portion of our program within the building while the sit-in continues."

"In view of the personal interferences and indignities to which members of our group have been subjected, to conclude otherwise would be an affront to our self respect and an affront to the dignity of the university beyond that which it has already suffered."

David Pugh, an SDS supporter who is among 29 convicted of disrupting a campus trustee meeting, told the plaza rally "I don't think people around here, including myself, understand how radical our demands are, how threatening our action is."

"We have taken, basically, a lab which was built and paid for by the Defense Department. In essence, what we are beginning to do is shut down the Pentagon of the West." The audience applauded.

"There's a kind of jovial atmosphere, and there's a kind of community forming over there at AEL," he added. "But that can last only so long. As long as the Defense Department has the power it does in this country, we'll have a struggle ahead of us."

John Kramer, an AEL sit-in, urged his fellow students to read the complete student-faculty report on University-SRI ties before pressing their demand that the university bring the institute more closely under its control. He said the objectives of eliminating certain kinds of research at SRI could be achieved even if it was sold by the university. A university is "a community of competence," he said. "Our convictions mean nothing if they are unintelligent."