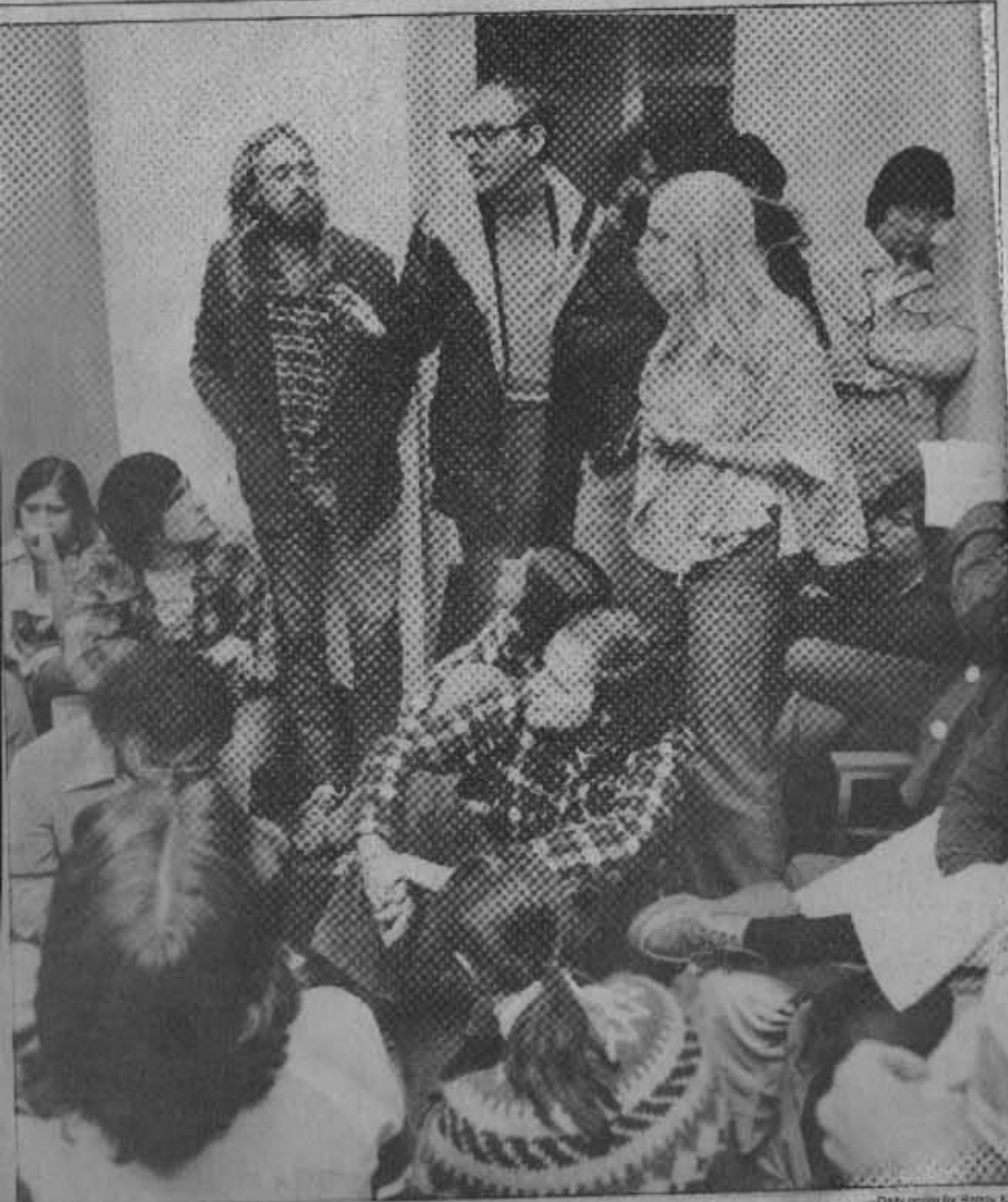


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Stevens protesters occupy Encina office

By Jim Tranquada, Martin Kemberg and Bonny Rodden

Almost 60 students occupied the office waiting room of Robert Augsburger, vice president for business and finance, for more than an hour and a half yesterday evening, leaving only after being threatened with arrest.

The demonstrators voted, 16 to 12, to leave Augsburger's Encina Hall office 15 minutes after Director of Public Safety Marvin Herrington ordered them from the building.

Members and supporters of the Stanford Committee for Justice at J.P. Stevens occupied the waiting room just before 5 p.m.

A supporter of the Committee for Justice and Stanford graduate, Larry Litvak said the immediate provocation for the sit-in was that Augsburger was "irresponsible" in abstaining on the J.P. Stevens disclosure resolution and "irresponsible" in walking out on the Committee for Justice meeting with him.

At 5:45 Herrington told demonstrators they would be allowed to stay until 6 p.m., when Encina officially closes. "But after that point, we'll take action," he said.

Action means arrest

Asked what that action might be, he said, "arrest." He said charges against the demonstrators would be primarily "trespassing and refusing to leave."

Demonstrators then requested a time extension to consider their alternatives. Herrington agreed to let demonstrators stay until 6:10 p.m., saying he would wait to hear from administrators before enforcing the deadline. At 6:10 p.m., Herrington ordered that no one, except office employees, be allowed to enter the building.

Herrington said later that 10 police were on the scene, with 10 en route and 10 on standby.

It was nearly 6 p.m. when Necessulmer, a member of the

Committee for Justice, reached Augsburger by telephone. He told Augsburger of the 6:10 p.m. deadline and the threat of arrest, then asked him to respond to a list of four demands.

Demands

The demonstrators demanded that Stanford revoke its abstention, that an official who could revoke the abstention meet with them, that the University agree to hold a public forum to discuss corporate investment responsibility, and that no demonstrators be prosecuted.

Interviewed later when at home, Augsburger said he did not see any reason to reconsider his vote. He said he had already met with the demonstrators, and he had no say in whether they were prosecuted or not. He said the public forum "seemed like a reasonable request, and probably a desirable one," and he agreed to discuss the matter with the Stevens committee.

Necessulmer told the vice president the protesters decided to occupy the office because "your position and the University's wasn't resolved satisfactorily."

One demonstrator who identified

himself as a law student discussed the legal standing of the group and gave out the telephone number of Jeannie Richner, a legal paraprofessional with Palo Alto's Romines and Eicher law firm.

Contacted later, Richner said three local law firms, and up to a dozen lawyers were available for the defense of the protesters should they be arrested.

As demonstrators continued discussing whether to stay and risk arrest, boxes of fruit, bread, jam and cheese arrived in anticipation of a protracted stay.

Robert Rosenzweig, vice president for public affairs, arrived at the scene at 6:10 p.m., munching an ice cream cone. Asked for a statement, he said he didn't even know anyone was in the waiting room. Rosenzweig later read the University's official Policy on Campus Disruption.

No time extension

Immediately afterward, Herrington announced the time would not be extended. Provost William Miller phoned Herrington and asked him to make the announcement. Stating he was merely performing his duty as a

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Encina protesters

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police officer, he said. "All I'm asking you to do is move out of the building. That's a legal requirement."

Demonstrators then debated for about 15 minutes whether to stay and risk arrest.

Senior Seth Faldy said it was a question of "individual choice" and added violating the law would "amplify our convictions."

Sophomore Steve Henrich urged the group not to leave. "Augsburger has gotten by by completely ignoring us," he said.

Necessulmer said, "We have taken this issue as far as we can. . . I don't

see how anyone's purposes will be served by getting arrested."

Vote

Finally, at 6:30 p.m. Faldy suggested a vote be taken, asking those firmly committed to either leaving or staying to abstain. The remainder of the group, willing to accept the binding decision of the majority, voted 16 to 12 to leave.

The protesters many of whom left clapping arm in arm, were greeted with applause by about 200 students who had gathered outside Encina. Some had been summoned by runners sent by the protesters to dorms and Row houses to solicit additional support.

Following chants of "We will win and 'We will be back!' Necessulmer reviewed events of the afternoon the group gathered on the steps of Encina.

"We will stand out here and proud and continue to fight until justice is obtained," he said. He emphasized a future target of protest to be the University's investment corporations who invest in South Africa.

Herrington noted afterward the decision to leave was "a wise decision. Issues are not decided or aided by kind of action."

Provost Miller, who made the decision to evict the demonstrators had house guests and was not available for comment.

Friendly persuasion

Robert Rosenzweig, vice president of public affairs, tried to persuade about 60 demonstrators to leave the

office of Vice President for Business and Finance Robert Augsburger in Encina Hall. They face arrest.

Only photo by Wendy Krid

Others even-

ually voted 16-12 to

Demonstrators question abstention on Stevens

By Lori Matsukawa

Preceding the evening occupation of Vice President for Business and Finance Robert Augsburger's reception office, approximately 100 rallied in White Plaza at noon and a majority of them marched to Encina Hall where they staged a sit-in in the building's outer lobby.

When Augsburger arrived at 1:30 p.m., they demanded he explain his decision to have the University abstain from voting on a proxy resolution that asked disclosure of J.P. Stevens wage and labor information. Votes will be tallied at a shareholders' meeting today in New York City.

In a tense but acrimonious 50-minute confrontation, the supporters, most of them students, sat on the lobby floor and asked Augsburger why he decided to abstain from voting for the resolution despite the 3-2 vote by the University's own Presidentia Commission on Investment Responsibility (C-IR) to approve it.

The supporters also asked Augsburger to explain how a favorable vote for the resolution would be "detrimental to stockholders' interests," as he had stated in a Feb. 24 letter to Stevens Chairman James D. Finley.

"The proposal would ask that the company provide a lot of information that competitors will want to know," said Augsburger.

Disclosure not detrimental

A sit-in member said the resolution asked only disclosure of information that would not be detrimental to the company.

"Then why vote for it?" Augsburger asked back.

Augsburger said the resolution would provide the company with an "out" to avoid supplying wage and labor information by claiming it would be detrimental to the company.

"Then nothing really happens," said Augsburger.

The sit-in followed a noon rally at White Plaza which attracted approximately 100 persons. After hearing speeches from Anthropology Prof. St. Clair Drake, Political Science Prof. Charles Drake and four others, about 80 supporters marched to Encina Hall.

The group paused briefly on the sidewalk before entering Encina Hall. Marchers clapped their hands and chanted "We want Augsburger" and "People not profits: 'yes' on two."

The University abstained from voting on the second of two resolutions submitted by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, a coalition of churches which own Stevens stock.

One yes vote

The University voted in favor of the first resolution which asked that Stevens disclose its equal employment opportunity and affirmative action policies and practices.

Encina Hall employees conducted their business, threading their way through the aisles left by the protesters who sat on the floor from 1 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. when Augsburger spoke to them.

Committee for Justice member Steve Vettel said Augsburger told him in a phone call yesterday morning that he (Augsburger) would try to be at his Encina office between 1 and 1:30.

Declaring that Augsburger did not satisfactorily answer any questions they had posed to him, approximately 60 of the protesters at about 5 p.m. voted with one abstention to remain in the building. The proposal to remain was made by Committee for Justice member Peter Necarsulmer.

Letter more effective

Pressed by the demonstrators to explain why he abstained from voting on the second resolution and sent a letter to Finley, Augsburger replied, "My judgment is that it's (the letter) much more effective. . . I think you're misrepresenting me. It (letter) says a lot more than the vote," said Augsburger, putting along the aisle in Encina lobby, hands in his pockets.

"The available evidence does suggest that they (Stevens) have broken the law. But all we have seen is the evidence from one side because the company has chosen not to defend itself publicly," said Augsburger.

Stevens has been found guilty of 15 National Labor Relations Act violations, said Necarsulmer, adding that a Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith research report predicted Stevens would sell products at smaller profit margins in order to ensure more advance sales in case a nationwide boycott of Stevens products is successful.

At the noon rally in White Plaza, C-IR member and law student Jill Nelson told the audience, "The C-IR is a powerless showpiece to deflect community pressure from the administrators and allows them to pursue their own investment policies."