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WM 'Stay-In' Ends; Miller Says Rules To Be Enforced

By JAMES STOMMEN
Gazette Staff Writer

Students who seek to "test" the stance of Western Michigan University officials through disregarding university rules or seizing university facilities will find that WMU intends to stand by its rule, President James W. Miller said this morning.

Miller's statement came in reaction to a several-hour-long "stay-in" staged by dissident students in the University Student Center Tuesday night.

The stay-in by an estimated 500 students following the closing of the Student Center at 11 p.m. nearly led to a confrontation between the students and

local law enforcement officials, but the students left before police were called in.

The number of students in the snack bar of the Student Center had dwindled to between 50 and 100 by the time the students left the building about 2:30 a.m. today.

Some 100 Kalamazoo police and Kalamazoo County Sheriff's deputies, plus an undetermined number of State Police troopers had been massed in various parts of the city in anticipation of such a confrontation.

However, the students left of their own volition before the police officers were called in.

Chuck Ream, a member of Students for a Democratic Society and a spokesman for the coalition of groups staging the protest, said:

"We figured we'd better break it up ourselves before we gave police a reason to break it up."

WMU President Miller, who had spoken to the students Tuesday night, ordering them to leave the Student Center, said this morning:

"Students do a great deal of testing. I suspect they wonder what this administration is prepared to do in the event that

any university rules are flagrantly disregarded or any university facilities are seized."

Referring to a policy statement on campus disruptions he made Feb. 13, Miller said:

"Under our stated policy, the appropriate law enforcement authorities were called to deal with the matter (the stay-in at the Student Center). The students left before having this type of confrontation."

Miller's policy statement on student disorders said in part:

"This University stands for freedom of speech, freedom of inquiry, freedom of dissent and freedom to demonstrate in a peaceful manner. In taking this stand, the University points out that there cannot be freedom without some measure of order.

"Should there be at any time demonstrations or seizure of buildings which disrupt the orderly and regular University activities, the leaders and participants will be held responsible and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action under established procedure."

In keeping with that policy,

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Miller said this morning that the events of Tuesday night will be "thoroughly investigated" by vice president for student affairs Paul Griffeth and members of his staff.

"All identifiable leaders who are students will be cited before our disciplinary committees for such action as the committees deem appropriate," Miller said, adding that in instances where the leadership is "clearly recognized" as being from individuals who are not students at WMU, "all appropriate legal redress available to this University will be sought."

Miller indicated that he would discuss with WMU attorney Henry Ford today what form this legal action will take.

The group of students who staged the stay-in Tuesday night remained in the snack bar after its 11 p.m. closing.

Griffeth, then Miller, came to the center to order the students to leave. When the students refused, saying "this is a student center, we'll stay as long as we wish," Miller said that legal steps to remove them would be undertaken.

Before the students left the building, they cleaned up the snack bar, following the urging of campus minister Don Van Hoeyen.

The stay-in was an outgrowth of an earlier student rally and sit-in Tuesday.

A mass student rally on the question of student self-determination was held in the Student Center snack bar starting about 12:30 p.m.

Part-way through that rally, an estimated 1,000 students left the Student Center to stage an orderly 10-minute sit-in in the Administration Building.

The sit-in and the stay-in last night became the most outward demonstration of the student rights storm which has brewed on the campus in the past 10 days.

At issue in the dispute are several demands, each of which fall into the general category of student self-determination of policies in non-academic areas.

Tuesday afternoon's rally, originally planned for in front of the Student Center, was switched to the downstairs snack bar in that building.

A crowd which some university officials estimated at 1,800 filled the snack bar area, though a substantial number of those students on hand apparently were there primarily because that is where they eat lunch.

Various students — and some non-students — addressed the group, each touching on some aspect of the student rights movement.

Tom Hickman, a former Student Association officer, led off by noting that the student rights controversy had its start in two separate general areas.

As outlined by Hickman, a senior from Riverview, Mich., the two areas included the presentation of a list of eight demands to WMU President James W. Miller at a meeting March 24, and a conflict which developed within the Student Association itself and between the SA and the university administration.

Noting that some of the frustration which has been experienced by a number of students involved in the student rights movement is due to "procedural dealings with the administration," Hickman nonetheless told the assembled students:

"In order to make any kind of change which will be respected (by the entire university community), we must have procedure."

Pointing out that students who have negotiated with administrators, faculty members and members of the WMU Board of Trustees have been told that changes are being and will continue to be made to allow a more equitable voice for students, Hickman said:

"We must decide whether to

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work with his procedure or not."

John Forbes, who recently resigned as public relations director of the Student Association, phrased the problem in terms of what he called "The System."

A senior from Drayton Plains, Forbes noted that "they (the university hierarchy) don't know what's happening."

The student leaders, said Forbes, realize that channels have to be gone through to some extent in seeking change, but he emphasized that the students "must speed up the system."

In discussing student rights, said Forbes, "I'm talking about the life you would be leading if you weren't at this university."

He protested what he termed "discrimination against students," referring to various regulations which govern the life of students at WMU.

Forbes touched on another of the demands being made by the unnamed coalition of student leaders, a proposal that the major numerical representation on the advisory board of the student newspaper, the Western Herald, be delegated to students.

"The Herald should be turned over to students," he said, suggesting even that the naming of the editor of the paper become a matter for campus-wide student elections.

Urging that "we can show the trustees and the administration that we don't like things the way they are," Forbes suggested some sort of "token protest."

He and other speakers who followed generally emphasized that they were not advocating takeover of a university building for any lengthy duration.

Sister Dorine Coursen, a Lutheran campus worker, told the students:

"If you're really serious about this protest, you should do something about it."

She urged, for instance, that the students invite state legislators to the campus to sit down and discuss with them just why Western's budget request is severely cut each year.

Ed Jacques Jr., a former Western student who is active in the local Students for a Democratic Society chapter, made the initial specific suggestion that a sit-in in the Administration Building be held.

Chuch Ream, a Three Rivers senior who is an SDS member, put it this way:

"We're not asking for privileges — just rights."

Ream urged a sit-in "to show we have a commitment to student self-determination." He complained that "we're told to

go to the top with our complaints, but when we get to the top, we get sent back to the bottom."

Noting that he does not recognize university regulations over non-academic matters as legitimate power, Ream added, "I don't think they should have this control."

At least one unidentified student took a stance contrary to the general tone of the rally, noting that those students who want a college which has so much freedom should go somewhere else. His statement was greeted by a chorus of boos.

Another student, responding to a previous statement that no real student rights confrontation had ever come up on the WMU campus before, said:

"We haven't had a confrontation here because we haven't done anything."

Shortly thereafter, the suggestion to hold a sit-in in the Administration Building was made again, and several hundred students left the snack bar to proceed across West Michigan Avenue to that building. Students who had been outside of the Student Center swelled the ranks of the sit-in group to perhaps 1,000, with many of them remaining outside the main doors of the Administration Building.

Once inside, most of the students sat on the floor, but at least a semblance of normal pedestrian traffic by persons working inside the building continued unimpeded.

Ream, Forbes and others spoke to the students during the sit-in, noting among other things that "we're all interested in our education . . . we're not here to close the place down for 400 days (as at San Francisco State)."

The students chanted "We want student rights . . . we want OUR rights," and then chanted "We want Miller."

WMU President Miller, however, had left the building much earlier, fulfilling a luncheon engagement which it was indicated had been on his schedule for more than a year.

The attitude of at least some of the students taking part in the sit-in was almost that of an April Fools joke — indeed, someone suggested that all of the students get up after the 10 minute sit-in and cry "April Fool!" — but Forbes spoke for most of the leaders for the movement when he said:

"This is no joke."

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Michigan State Police

COMPLAINT REPORT

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Kalamazoo
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CONFIDENTIAL Code 10-P

County Kalamazoo
Township _____
Village _____
City Kalamazoo

Complaint No. _____
File Class No. _____
Message No. _____

Post, District, Bureau or Division Special Investigation Unit East Lansing (Name) (Number) Date FEBRUARY 21, 1968

If this is an original report, complete this box.

Complainant _____ Telephone No. _____
 Address KIP, E/Lansing Time Rec'd. 8:41 PM AM PM
 Received by _____ Investigated by _____

If this is a supplementary report, complete this box.

Date of original investigation _____
 Investigating Officers _____

If this report concludes complaint, complete this box.

Complaint Unfounded Complaint Closed by Arrest Service Rendered Other Disposition
 Complaint Closed by Arrest (s) involving person (s) under 18

Date of Final Disposition _____ Post of Final Disposition _____ (Number)

NATURE OF COMPLAINT

Investigation of CHARLES DAVID BEAM, w/m of Western Mich. University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

REPORT

SUBJECT:

CHARLES DAVID BEAM, w/m of 127 S. Berkley St., Kalamazoo, Mich. (also uses address of Grand Parents which is w. CARL KNAPP, 506 Mechanic, Three Rivers, Mich., tx 273-5682) Born 11/19/46, 6-4, 160, drk. brown & blue. SS# 375-52-9957, 4th. year at WMU, Student #703254. Subject's Father, WALTER BEAM works for Ford Motor Company, Overseas automotive Operation in Argentina. Vehicle is a 1969 Falcon Sta. Wag., (blue) owned by FoMoCo, of Dearborn, has 1969 Mich. Reg. Plate BP-3819.

BEAM is one of twelve Charter Members of the STUDENTS FOR SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT (SSI) at WMU, and is on the Staff of the Western Activist (an underground paper at WMU)

ARREST RECORD:

Subject was arrested by Kalamazoo PD (Photo available) on their Complaint 29300, on 3/30/68, for Profanity, the charge was dismissed on motion of the prosecutor on 4/1/68.

OPERATORS LICENSE CHECK:

BEAM has valid Mich. Ops., #R-500-115-135-886, exp. 11/19/70, no vision restrictions. Below convictions on subject's driving record/

#1 - 8/20/65, Red Light, Detroit. #2 - 7/28/67 Stop Sign, Kalamazoo.
 #3 - 4/17/68, Fail to Stop, Kazoo. #4 - 7/5/68 Red Light, Kazoo.
 #5 - 12/3/68, Stop Sign, Kalamazoo.

STATUS:

Complaint remains Open. Checks were made in the files of sex, checks & Gun Sections with nil results.

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WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Safety & Security Dept.

99-84-69

September 9, 1968

ORIGINAL OFFENSE REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

Complaint No. S-389

Type of Offense Disturbance

Complainant Naval Lt. Com. Smith (recruiter) Telephone No. _____

Address _____ Time Rec'd. 2:00 p.m.

Received By [REDACTED] Investigated By [REDACTED]

Where Offense Occurred University Student Center Lobby

Is Complainant Student W/U? _____ Yes _____ No

Was case cleared? _____ Yes _____ No

Names and Addresses of Offenders: _____ Witnesses: _____

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

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