Well-armed police rout I-Lab pickets

Night meetings bring lab march, expulsions

Two large meetings of the NAC, beginning Tuesday night and running until early Wednesday morning, resulted in the expulsion of PL-WSA factions from the Coalition and the decision to move on the I-Labs on Wednesday morning.

First meeting

The first meeting, which began at 10pm Tuesday, was marked by an inability to form a consensus about anything of importance. The meeting dragged on for two hours of political discussions in spite of the efforts of Coalition speakers to close debate and brief the meeting on the mechanics of the demonstration.

Second meeting

The second meeting, open to all the members of the Coalition, was able to reach a more unified position. Although the meeting ran all through the night, there was a strong consensus that Wednesday's actions should be at the I-Labs. The first hour of the meeting, which began at about 12:30, was spent in listening to speakers address the issue of whether PL-WSA groups should be allowed to join the Coalition. The speakers were followed by a vote which resulted in the decision to ask the PL-WSA groups to leave, along with anyone else who did not support the Coalition.

MIT caucus

At a caucus of the MIT members of the NAC, prior to a mass meeting at midnight of all NAC members, RLSDS was unable three times to gain a clear vote of support for their calls to take aim.

An attempt to expel the MITSDS from the meeting failed when the group split almost evenly.

In later votes on tactics, RLSDS was unable to get a majority to support a march on the I-Labs.

Voters to curb discussion on politics, all urged by RLSDS, failed also. While the organizers of the meeting wanted to go into a discussion of what to wear and how to actually group together the police were not the one that political discussion was more important.

RLSDS speakers criticized Monday's action as being unproductive. Saying "Today was shit," they decried the lack of action and were disturbed that there had been no confrontation with the Institute.

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I-Lab plans discussed

MITSDS present at the meeting tried to raise the question of the NAC attitude toward I-Lab workers, but the meeting was generally unsympathetic to their speakers.

NAC demonstrators formed in front of the Instrumentation Labs yesterday morning. Originally in three groups, they massed as one before they were busted.

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BULLETIN

NAC is going to hold a mass rally today at noon in Kneige. It is to support NAC's seven demands—and to make a stand.

On Wednesday morning, the I-Lab was disrupted again. As well, though more by the distraction of the pickets and police than by the actual blocking of the entrance. NAC can take satisfaction also in having caused a real if modest increase in the level of support.

One reason that there was no chance for yesterday's activity to spark a Columbia-magnitude situation is that it affected the campus so little. The majority of the NAC people were not affiliated with MIT. In addition, the action took place off campus and at an hour when many people had not yet arrived. Finally, the violence issue, whether substantive or not, had alienated large segments of potential NAC support.

The November Actions do not appear to have materially affected the overall political stance of the faculty, though many people have been forced to stand up for whatever their views might be. The Actions have also resulted in the formation of an informal left-liberal to radical faculty caucus of about fifty members. Included are a number of NUC and UES members, as well as some Moratorium organizers.

Police action

Police actions are never pretty. Considering that the average cop is a working-class war veteran who resents students and considers them a threat to what he holds sacred, it cannot be considered surprising what they enjoy their work.

Things could have been worse, however. Although they used their clubs freely, the police stayed in ranks and did not engage in large-scale brutality. Neither did they use dogs, gas, or guns, all of which were available.

The Boston Tactical Patrol Force, however, was ridiculously rough with press, bystanders, and members of the NAC. Rather than help them up against walls and using clubs against people who were clearly not picketing. Furthermore, they set up a police line and cleared away rivals to prevent spectators from witnessing police actions against demonstrators.

Police EMPLOY MINIMAL FORCE, BUT 8 INJURED

Three hundred policemen armed with clubs routed an obstructive picket line around an entrance to the Instrumentation Lab Wednesday morning.

Police strategies in closed ranks, dispersed about 370 members of the November Action Coalition who were obstructing entrances to IL-5.

There was little violence as the demonstrators were cleared away from the Lab and down Osborne Street. No one was actually injured and some were carrying gas masks. They used clubs to push people away, all incidents of people being injured were to demonstrators who were also brought to the scene.

The picket line had been set up by the NAC shortly before seven o'clock on Wednesday. Long flags from the Student Center, the demonstrators set up five picket lines at possible entrances to the Lab. Walking two or three abreast with axes locked, they circled in front of building and parking lot entrances. NAC demonstrators smashed student student shouted slogans and sang.

Some 1-Lab workers were already in the building in addition to a number of people who had hung around the street in a bus. Guards and other officials were on the roof of the building. In the first hour of the picket several employees attempted to break through the line. Two were able to make it into arrest. Several people just inside the doors were holding cards.

Richard Klins, a student graduate in Chemistry and a YAF member, caused a great scuffle when he attempted to charge through the line. His unsuccessful try drew a large number of FBI photographers. Klins, who was not an I-Lab employee, told the police he was there to get some information from people inside the building.

Many of the employees who were denied entrance stood around the street and watched. Several told reporters that they were afraid the Lab should bring in a crowd to the building. Other employees watched the nearest from the windows of IL-4.

BTLF Captain Joseph P. Conak and three other Cambridge policemen arrived in a cruiser. Conak read a statement which said, "Everyone here must move out immediately. Failure to do so will result in arrest. I cannot guarantee anyone here to help make an arrest. Failure to do so will result in arrest."

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