

300 Witness Protests About IM Information

By DIXIE COWAN
Daily Illini Campus Editor

A crowd of approximately 300 University students gathered at noon Friday to listen to speeches — both planned and unannounced — protesting the way student opinion was consulted on the proposed Intramural building and asking the Board of Trustees to delay their consideration of the issue until their December meeting. Five members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Student Ex-

pression, a group formed Tuesday, spoke in agreement with the need for wider distribution of information about the IM building before the Board meeting, but they disagreed on the need for such a building.

Tony Burba, senior in rhetoric and executive editor of The Daily Illini, spoke in favor of building the IM and co-recreational facilities but blamed both the University administration and the student body for ignoring student opinion.

As Roger Ebert, graduate in English and former editor of The Daily Illini, began to speak, several members of the crowd began jeering, throwing snowballs and blowing stadium horns. He spoke through the noise to ask the students in the crowd if they didn't care that their fees would be used for something they were not allowed to discuss.

Replies of "Will you pay for any

of it?" and "We won't be paying for it" came from the crowd.

The proposal recommends an \$11 per semester increase in student fees when the building goes into operation — probably in 1968.

John Johnson, graduate in physics and chairman of the Conservative Coordinating Council, outlined part of the history of the planning for the IM building and concluded that not enough students were consulted — only a few scattered over the past two years.

Bob Auler, senior in law and Daily Illini columnist, tried to answer the questions and jeers coming from the crowd, but he finally finished his speech by ignoring the comments.

The chairman of the new committee, Dick Childers, freshman in law and former student body president at Southern Illinois University, concluded the planned program with a summary of the committee's views:

"The individual student's rights and responsibilities in the development of University policy is a much too complex matter to allow an adequate review of a particular policy in a short, informal meeting involving several hundred students.

If, at its next meeting, Student Senate again fails to live up to its obligation, individual students through other organizations should by themselves conduct an advisory referendum so that student opinion may be accurately represented."

Shouts of "We want Jenö" began immediately after the committee indicated the end of its meeting. Student Senate President Wendell Jenö went quickly to the front of the crowd and said Student Senate also would support a campus-wide referendum on the issue, but only after information had been widely distributed.

Jenö accused all student leaders — not just Student Senators — of failing to get interested in student opinion until it was too late to do anything.



FACING A THRONG of about 300 interested (and simply curious) students Friday noon at the Auditorium steps, Roger Ebert, former Daily Illini editor, calls upon students to voice their protest at not being consulted in planning an Intramural building. (Daily Illini staff photo)