TO: Faculty and Administration of the Lindenwood Colleges

FROM: Deborah K. Montgomery, Student of Lindenwood College

On the night of May 11, 1970 several classmates and myself were locked out of Young Science Hall, and disallowed to carry on the class which should have met there. I therefore propose that my rights as a student of Lindenwood College were denied. I feel that I have a right to express a different opinion regarding the events of May 11.

First of all, I consider my rights infringed upon because no one asked me whether I wanted class. Simply because a small handful of people decided to carry on a series of "seminars" about some "very important" issues that cannot be solved immediately, I was denied the right, my right, to learn something for which I came to Lindenwood College.

Second, Who asked my opinion about suspending classes? No one. No one asked me whether I thought it was more important for me to be in class learning something which I considered important or to be attending a series of "lectures" which I considered less important.

Third, Did anyone consider that I along with 20 other people just missed the last class available to us before our final examination which happens to be exactly one week away from the night of May 11, or the fact that we were not allowed to hold that class even though all of us knew that we needed to be there very much before we were finally prepared to take our final examination?

Fourth, Did anyone consider that I had worked several weeks planning a research paper for which a full day was spent in testing children at a nearby grade school, in order to write up an experimental paper for this missed class? No. No one considered my rights to meet with my professor to go over the research procedures and statistics needed to
be done before the paper could be written.

Fifth, Did anyone consider my right to the use of the library when they locked it? No they did not. They not only denied me the right to my classroom and professor, they also took away my chance to do research for another paper due within one week. I therefore accomplished nothing in the way of academics on the night of May 11.

I therefore propose the following questions:
1. Why were all the buildings locked? As far as I am concerned there is only one logical reason for this. Undoubtedly the administration was expecting the possibility that violence or disorder could take place and were thus taking preventive measures for this chance. I would say to this that if there was the remotest possibility of any violence whatsoever, the proposition for the suspension of classes should have been denied, rather than denying avid students the chance to attend their classes.

2. Why was I not entitled to voice my opinion not to suspend classes concerning these important "issues?" If someone replied to this that I had the chance and that all I had to do to take advantage of that chance would have been to appear at the meeting, I would then say that I knew nothing of that meeting. The first thing that I heard about it was that classes were suspended Monday, and no one mentioned anything about it to me before that.

In light of all the above questions and my own answers to them, I would suggest that the faculty, administration, and all other people involved in the suspension of classes, should have considered the desires of other students. I feel sure that there were other students of my sentiments, especially continuing education students who drove several miles from St. Louis for nothing, since they had not been notified of this item.

Based on all my above reasons, I propose:

WHEREAS: All the gripes and grievances of the college students today are based on infringement of rights,
WHEREAS: I was not allowed to voice my opinion or even appear at my class on Monday night,
WHEREAS: Majority rights were not tested, but rather not even considered in reference to the suspension of classes,

I assert my rights as a human being and as a student of this college, to be angry with the faculty and administration for being negligent of my above right to attend class and would suggest that in the future, similar proposals consider not only the students who wish to demonstrate, but those who wished to learn when they came here.