

Rozman dismissal prompts 2 - day fast

by BILL SMITHERMAN
Staff Writer

Several students in white masks came to the office of President Joseph Soshnik Monday. They came to start a two-day fast to "reflect what we perceive to be the deficiency in the educational environment at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln."

Soon the protestors met with Soshnik and agreed to move from his office waiting room to chairs outside his door. They also agreed to reduce their number to a symbolic three.

As "symbols of the unhealthy uniformity and lack of diverse values that threaten this institution" the fasters are wearing white masks.

Their action was precipitated by the Board of Regents decision Saturday to fire Stephen L. Rozman, assistant professor of political science, but also was meant to dramatize other grievances.

Those fasting cited displeasure with the Rozman decision as well as the case of Michael Davis, a University of Michigan teaching fellow whose appointment as an instructor in the NU philosophy department was blocked by the Board of Regents last August.

In a prepared statement they said they were protesting "lack of recruitment of low-income and minority students, faculty and administrators, and a lack of open recognition of the value of having people of backgrounds other than white middle-class at all levels of the University."

Finally, the protest is aimed at "intolerance of political values and actions outside of very narrowly recognized 'legitimate' channels" in the University community, according to the statement.

They are planning to stay outside the president's door for two days from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and are not planning to physically disrupt the activities of the office during that time.

The three symbolic protestors said they would consume nothing but liquids during the two days. In the statement they said "by fasting our sincerity is best demonstrated."

The statement continued that the protestors assumed "that our good faith in refraining from breaking state,



White-masked protesters . . . as Soshnik looks on.

city or University regulations shall be reciprocated in a discussion with meaningful conclusions."

Two of the objectors are students. The third is a faculty member, Mike Willey, instructor in English. Willey said he would fast both days, but would leave at time to conduct his regularly-scheduled classes.

"My function is to find out what avenues are open to an untenured faculty member to demonstrate his feelings honestly and non-disruptively," Willey said. "Many faculty members are concerned about the degree of freedom they will have in expressing themselves."

Bill Arfmann, one of the students

involved, said the three protestors should not be considered an elitist group of activists, but a focal point and symbol for student and faculty discontent.

"We realize that the majority of issues we are considering will have to be resolved on a continuing basis," Arfmann said.

Soshnik said he was "completely comfortable with what they ((the demonstrators) are doing."

Soshnik added that Willey would not be in any trouble "based on his actions so far." All three participants have acted in a sincere, non-disruptive manner, he said.

Architect McHarg speaks Tuesday

A noted landscape architect, planner and writer, Ian L. McHarg of the University of Pennsylvania, will speak at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Sheldon Gallery Auditorium.

The program is open to the public.

McHarg, chairman of the department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning at Pennsylvania, will address an Urban Planning Conference in Omaha that morning.

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