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Photo by Dave Bentz

Protestors demonstrating in Lincoln against U.S. intervention in El Salvador march down 14th Street to the State Capitol Saturday.

Rally denounces aid to El Salvador

By Leslie Kendrick

The Reagan administration should not intervene and increase military spending for El Salvador while abandoning necessary social programs at home, speakers and demonstrators said at a Saturday afternoon rally at the State Capitol.

The rally, organized by the University of Nebraska Latin American Solidarity Committee, attracted 300 to 400 demonstrators. The group marched from the Nebraska Union to the steps of the capitol, carrying banners and chanting their disapproval about U.S. involvement in El Salvador.

Father Tom Kozeny of Sacred Heart Church noted the number of demonstrators that turned out for the rally.

"At least we can thank Reagan for taking away our apathy," Kozeny said.

Ann Aldrich, spokesperson for LASCO, said the demonstration was called to protest U.S. support for a regime that is guilty of countless human rights violations — from the killings of Catholic nuns, lay workers and a local archbishop to the slaughter of hundreds of civilians.

Aldrich said LASCO sees the basis of the civil war in the deplorable conditions in which the Salvadorans have been forced to live.

"According to United Nations statistics, El Salvador has the lowest per capita caloric intake of any country in Latin America. Nearly 75 percent of Salvadoran children suffer from malnutrition. The illiteracy rate is 50 percent," Aldrich said.

Population starving

Two percent of the population owns 60 percent of the farm land, Kozeny said. The land is used to grow sugar, coffee, cotton and other cash export crops, instead of being used to feed the starving Salvadoran people, he said.

"There has been continuous military rule for over 50 years in El Salvador, the longest continuous military rule in Latin America, and some people want it to go on! I don't want it to go on, do you?" Kozeny said.

The U.S. government has recently spent \$55 million for aid to El Salvador, Kozeny said. The State Department is seeking \$535 million in additional aid for economic and military reasons, Kozeny said.

Doreen Charles of the ASUN Afrikan People's Union said she had no interest in creating another Vietnam, and that the American people must be wary of U.S. rhetoric.

"Throw a name like Marxist guerrillas on a freedom movement and it becomes an excuse for American intervention," Charles said.

She asked how the American government, which can't afford to feed its hungry, provide jobs, or give money for schooling can spend millions of dollars in military aid to El Salvador.

Forced to join military

"With the loss of jobs, many of us have been forced to join the military for monetary support. What a good

way for the government to get rid of its poor and unwanted — kill them off in a war," she said.

World peace isn't threatened by the spread of Marxism, but by the spread of American imperialism, Charles said.

"We must speak loud and we must speak in a united voice and let the American government know that no more will there be another Vietnam," she said.

"It's time for us to say no: No to the draft, no to the troops, no war in El Salvador," Charles said.

Spokesmen from the Iranian Students Association and the Moslem Students Association expressed their support for the struggles of the Salvadoran people against oppression and American imperialism.

"It is the policy of the U.S. government to protect the interest of American multi-corporation businesses," a spokesman from the ISA said. The ISA requested that the names of their speakers not be used.

"Throughout modern history, the people of the world have been witnessing the imperialist aggressions of the U.S. government against the people of undeveloped countries," the spokesman said.

The ISA sees its struggle against the Khomeini regime as part of an international struggle of oppressed people attempting to liberate themselves, he said.

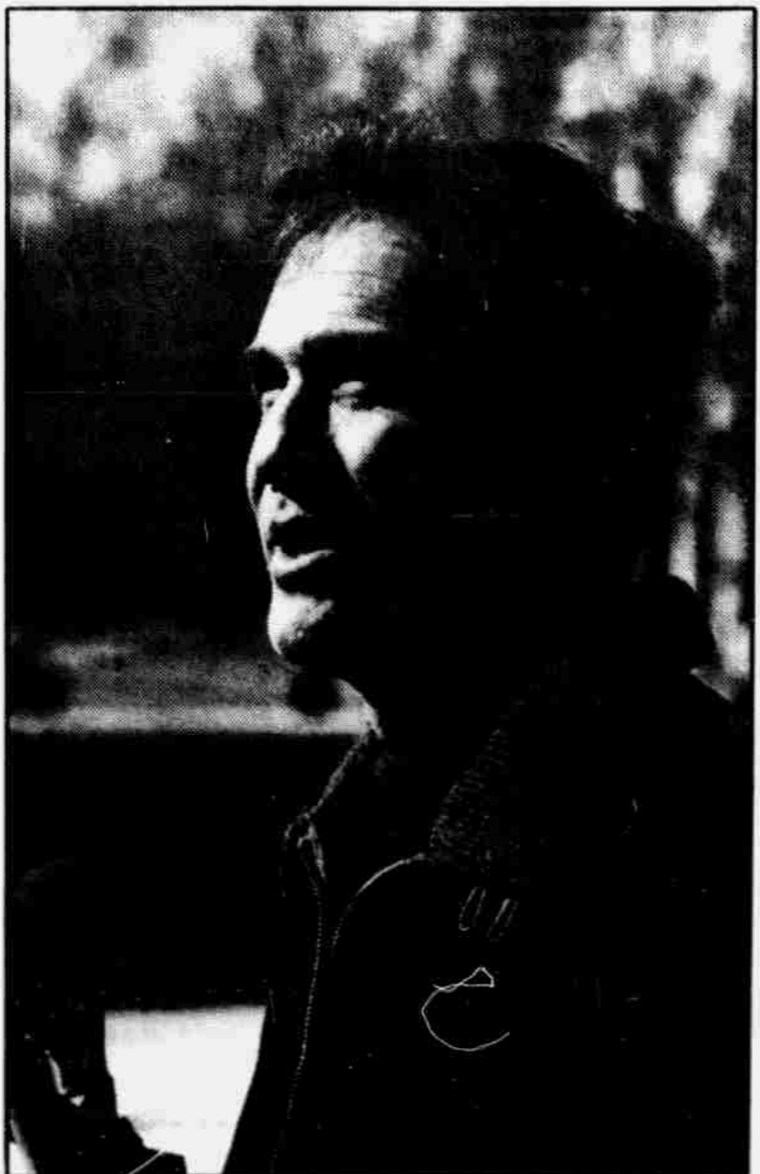


Photo by Dave Bentz

The Rev. Tom Kozeny

STUPID II charges false testimony given at first court hearing

By Betsy Miller

A suit against the ASUN Electoral Commission was filed Friday afternoon by Mike Frost, STUPID II Party presidential candidate, and Kathy Mach.

Joe Nigro, Student Court chief justice, said the court is tentatively planning to hear the suit tonight at 7:30.

The suit calls for a postponement of the March 3 student election because of two actions taken by the commission.

The suit says the commission gave "false testimony" to the UNL Student Court Feb. 18, when the court heard another suit filed by Frost and Mach.

It also charges the commission with telling only one party, the Real Party, that campaign posters could be posted before the Feb. 10 date given in electoral rules. The suit reads that it was "clearly unfair" to give the Real Party two additional weeks publicity by not informing other parties of the poster rule.

Frost said this will be their final suit against the commission.

Feb. 16, they filed a suit with the court against the commission asking that the election be postponed because the commission was guilty of committing five "unfair or ambiguous" practices connected with the running of the election.

The court heard the suit Feb. 18 and dismissed four of the five charges and ordered the commission to have a hearing about the Real Party posting signs before the Feb. 10 date.

At the hearing Tuesday, the commission ruled that the Real Party acted in good faith by following directions given to them by the commission in posting signs. The commission admitted that it told Tim McAllister, a Real Party member, that posters could be displayed before Feb. 10, but there would be no guarantee that janitors wouldn't pull down the signs.

The recent suit filed by Frost and Mach charges that the commission gave false testimony to the court in its answer to the suit that read "at no time prior to this was any candidate or party informed that it was permissible to place posters before Feb. 10."

Frost said he and Mach filed the suit because their original intention was to have the commission's activities reviewed by the court.

Frost said he did not intend to injure the Real Party by instigating the commission hearing on alleged poster violations. However, he said he knew if there was a hearing he and Mach could appeal the commission's decision to the court and then file suit against the commission, which is what they have done.

"Neither of us felt anything was settled in the hearing," he said.

Dan Wedekind, Real Party presidential candidate, said Sunday he had not yet heard about the new suit.

Jennifer Fager, commission director, refused to comment about the charges in Frost and Mach's suit, but said that the suit would not slow the commission's preparation for the elections.

Scholars to benefit from professors' plan

Some UNL Regents professors have come up with a plan they hope will benefit UNL National Merit Scholars.

According to Henry Holtzclaw, dean of graduate studies, the new program involves Merit Scholars visiting Regents professors' homes.

Regents professors at UNL are chosen based upon their teaching, research and service, Holtzclaw said. After a selection process, the professors are approved to receive the award by the NU Board of Regents.

"Scholars will meet with professors in their homes, have refreshments and discuss mutual interests," Holtzclaw said. "It will be an opportunity for professors and scholars to get together."

Holtzclaw said the program starts this semester. The first phase of the program involved a dinner in which some 80 scholars met UNL's 29 Regents professors.

In the second phase of the program, a committee, headed by Holtzclaw and Hazel Fox, chairman of Human Nutrition and Food Service Management, will arrange the visits. Holtzclaw said UNL's 153 Merit Scholars will be divided into groups of five to six students for each faculty member. Holtzclaw said they may also arrange to have 10 or 12 students visit with two professors in one of their homes.

Holtzclaw said students are not obligated to take part in the program.