



ANTI-ROTC DEMONSTRATORS — Students gather to protest mandatory ROTC at the Presidential Review held Tuesday. Demonstrators carried white crosses and signs, and wore black arm bands to illustrate their feelings. (Photo by Mark Lusk)

Protestors carry crosses, signs during anti-ROTC demonstration

By GEORGE GREER

Demonstrators with white crosses and anti-ROTC signs, several plain-clothed policemen, Vice President Ambrose, and numerous spectators were on hand at the ROTC's Presidential Review Tuesday.

While Lieutenant General Harry H. Critz, commanding general of the Fourth United States Army, was inspecting the troops, an estimated 60-70 demonstrators displayed signs protesting against mandatory ROTC. Among the slogans were "Why force our boys to associate with killers?", "Hitler had ROTC too — the youth corps", "Mandatory ROTC is a form of fascism", "I stopped playing soldier boy ten years ago", and "ROTC — does might make right?"

Before the demonstration, demonstrator and SIE publicity chairman Arthur Santa Cruz was asked what the demonstrators were hoping to accomplish. He said that they wanted to show the administration that students are opposed to mandatory

ROTC. "It will be more or less a show of defiance. This way we can back up future petitions. It is also a training ground for future activists." He added, "This is the ideal time for it."

When asked who would be participating in the show of defiance, former SIE president Ray Sandoval said, "SIE is just helping out." He mentioned the Black Student Organization and the Students for Peace in Vietnam as participants. "There are some UTEP and UNM groups too, but I don't know their names."

"I have kept almost completely out of this. I want to see how the other guys do for a change," Santa Cruz said.

Santa Cruz said that he did not want any violence. "I am going to do my damndest to avoid trouble."

The demonstration, planned some two weeks ago by a non-named group, began with nine activists planting white crosses on the drill field as the troops were forming up. Vice Presi-

dent Ambrose had the group pull the crosses out and move to the edge of the field.

Demonstrators, 60-70 strong, rallied behind the crosses at the field's perimeter, while plain-clothed policemen, some carrying walkie-talkies, circulated the area.

While the demonstrators were massed behind the crosses, Ambrose was asked what his feelings were on the demonstration. "I am not sure what they

are. They (the demonstrators) are disrespectful to a university activity. As long as they don't interfere with the activity, it is alright," he said.

When asked if he felt the demonstrators were gaining anything by their demonstration, he said, "I don't think so."

Commenting on the same question, ASNMSU Vice President Dennis George said, "I feel that it is not. Well, it

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