500 Students Protest University Disciplinary Procedures

By SANDY COYNER
Thresher Staff Reporter

More than 500 Rice students walked quietly in a single line around the academic quadrangle for fifteen minutes yesterday afternoon, to demonstrate their interest in a statement bearing 1000 signatures which was presented to University President K. S. Pitzer's office by five members of the Student Affairs Committee.

Although the students were heckled by some of the spectators ringing the quadrangle, they remained orderly throughout the presentation. Spectators also viewed the students from the windows of the surrounding buildings.

The students left the vicinity of the RMC at 12:45, walked single file to the Sallyport, then circled the central sidewalk and the statue of the university founder, William Marsh Rice. The line circled the quadrangle while the petition was being presented, then marched through the Sallyport and dispersed.

1000 Names

The students were demonstrating their support for the 300-word statement, which had been adopted by an ad hoc meeting of 500 students on Sunday afternoon. One thousand signatures to the statement were collected between 8 pm Sunday and noon Monday.

The statement admitted that Thresher Editor Hugh Rice Kelly had been guilty of "grave discourtesy" to the Dean of Students, but questioned a disciplinary structure in which due process was not defined, and one man could take action whose effect was to remove an elected student officer from office.

A group of students led by Quentin Crommelin, a Hanszen junior, barricaded themselves in a room on the second floor of the Physics Building. As the front of the line passed the statue, this group played a record of the children's song, "Follow the Leader."

A recording of this music was used by television station KPRC in their Monday evening news broadcast.

President Informed

Hanszen junior Bill Broyles and Wiess fifth year student Jan Lodal organized the presentation and led the students march.

Lodal and Broyles had called both President Pitzer and Dean Higginbotham late Sunday night to notify them of the plans for the presentation. The President and the Dean were informed that all precautions had been taken to assure that conduct would be orderly. Both expressed confidence that the students would not get out of hand.

Both President Pitzer and Dean Higginbotham, when contacted by the Thresher after the (Continued on Page 4)
PRESENTATION

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presentation, had no comment since neither had been on campus at the time of the presentation.

Student Monitors

A group of twenty student monitors was organized by Hanszen junior Greg Curtis to direct the students in the march, keep them separated from the onlookers, and aid in censoring the signs carried in the march.

The members of the Student Affairs Committee who actually took the statement to the President’s office were Bill Timme, SA President; Kent Morrison, Baker President elect; Tom Schunior, Will Rice President; Jeff Winningham, Baker President; and Larry Yeatman, Hanszen President.

The students waited in the office until 1 pm, then left the signed statement. President Pitzer was expected to return at 1:15.