

Vote of Confidence

Newsgram Revises Policy

THE RAM Council has already given RAM President Dave Scholz its vote of confidence for his recent dismissal of the Newsgram editor, but the Daily Nebraskan still wishes to turn in its affirmative vote for Scholz' action.

In the February 15 edition of the Daily Nebraskan, we asked the Council to begin an immediate investigation of the Newsgram in order to re-evaluate its editorial policy, its news content and its purposes. We based our charge on a recent editorial printed in the Newsgram which represented irresponsibility and slanted news reporting.

IN THE most recent edition of the Newsgram it was evident that the Newsgram's editorial policy has been re-evaluated and patterned after the principles of objective presentation.

The following is the context of the publications' editorial policy as presented by George Peterson, RAM vice-president:

"BRIEFLY, THE Newsgram should serve at least four functions: 1) report the news, 2) serve as a sounding board for the opinions of the residents, 3) make public announcements, and 4) to some extent, serve as a device for displaying literary talents of residents.

"All news reporting must be accurate, impartial, and responsible. Personal opinions, too may be expressed, but only if they are responsible and not libelous. Printing rumors is not responsible even if submitted by an interested reader. In addition, all content should be in good taste and indicative of the high quality men that we have living here."

IN THE Nebraskan's opinion, the Newsgram's policy has finally become one of effectiveness for the important group which it serves and represents.

You are now on your way to serving the best interests of RAM, the residents of the Quadrangle and the University of Nebraska.



Adult Comments on Student Council's

TO THE EDITOR:

In the Rag of Thursday, Feb. 7, the lead story described a nd quoted from Don Burt's address to the opening session of the Student Council.

Included in the quoted material was a strong statement to the effect that the Student Council should act firmly to dissolve any student organization that did not actively pursue some worthwhile purpose. The way I read this, if a dozen or so students should become intrigued enough with the

complexities of finger wrestling, cockroach racing, or matchbook collecting to want to formalize their activities, and the Student Council decided their purpose was not a worthy one, their organization into a club should not be permitted. And if organization did occur, Student Council should force them to disband. Why?

Not being a student, I wonder at so arbitrary a point of view only from a sense of mild curiosity.

Arbiter Rights

Real discouragement comes from the absence of any student reaction. Since the story appeared, no student letter and no editorial statement has been printed questioning the appropriateness of Student Council's setting itself up as arbiter of the purposes student organizations should be permitted to pursue. Would frivolity be banned? That would be unfortunate. But that the students shouldn't care is kind of tragic.

JONATHAN WARREN
COUNSELING SERVICE

Reader Feels News

TO THE EDITOR:

It seems to me that news must be getting awful scarce.

Otherwise, why is the Rag turning into a scandal sheet? In saying this I am referring to the feud between D. F. and V. C.

In the light of GOOD journalism, I think that a series of feature articles on each of the departments and organizations on campus would be more newsworthy than some of what was published last week.

Most anything else would be an improvement.

Very Truly,
DISGUSTED

EDITOR'S NOTE: First of all, Disgusted, you should realize that the editorial page of the Daily Nebraskan does not concern itself with straight news content. The editorial page is reserved for editorial comment, editorial columns and columns. The department features have been and will be used on pages one

Substitutes Needed

and three. Our writers are given the opportunity of free expression within the limits of our editorial policy on libel and slander. D. F. and V. C. felt that they wanted to have their opinions printed. And, you, Disgusted, in writing this letter, took advantage of the same opportunity.

In short, all three of you have exercised the right of free expression. This in itself constitutes a large part of our editorial policy.

GAP Vine Column

TO THE EDITOR:

In an article in the Daily Nebraskan last week, GAP Vine, the writer ended a superb piece of nothing by beseeching our pity with these words, "You (greeks) are no doubt forming such descriptive adjectives about me as 'uninformed,' 'prejudiced,' and 'just plain stupid.'"

With a little thought on the subject, both greeks and independents will agree that he is "uninformed, prejudiced, and just plain stupid," at least in regard to the words he uses to back up his statements.

He seems to go by the adage that "What they will believe is better than anything you can tell them."

I will not take issue with the issues with which he took issue, these can be left to those who know more about them than I (a lesson even he could learn).

To begin with, a person should be well-versed in his subject before he attempts to write about it. Not being a greek himself, how can he possibly know the internals of the system. It certainly doesn't suffice to read an article by one who does know, and then consider yourself well enough informed on a subject to judge and criticize it.

He mentioned the defeat of a certain motion on the Student Council, but my gosh, how many meetings have we at-

Is Questioned

tended in which every motion was passed?

What really irks me though, is his use of the catch-alls "unofficially," and "according to very reliable source." Their use means that one can say absolutely nothing, and have readers give it their serious consideration, (e.g. informed sources in the Administration building say that Mao Tse-Tung has accepted Chancellor Hardin's invitation to speak at the University's commencement in June). See?

Unless he is more specific in regard to his writing, (sources, informants, etc.), I feel that I can safely predict that any influence he has will FADE... Fade... fade.
INTERESTED

Request Made For Constitutional Policies

TO THE EDITOR:

It has come to my attention that, on the discussion of students of fraternal organizations as opposed to independent students, there has been a large amount of ambiguity as to who is informed and who is not.

I hereby wish to ask a

question for the purpose of personal information, concerning fraternal organizations. Are there, on this campus, any approved fraternal organizations that govern the admittance of members as to creed or color through constitutional articles?

It is my desire that someone having pertinent information on this subject will answer my question through the medium of the student newspaper so that all might be better informed.

Sincerely,
Lowell J. Eck

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Broken Glass

—by jim moore

Ever stop to think about the glass houses that exist on our great and famous campus? Ever realize the ubiquitous stone-throwers that inevitably live in these houses?

Personally, the old adage, which some of our illustrious professors, administrators and students seem to have forgotten, "People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones," seems very appropriate.

And it always seems that these glass-house, stone-throwers always break some glass... sometimes in their own houses.

And so this column is dedicated to those crusading souls who have found "Truth, Justice, and the American Way of Life" and have desperately attempted to make the rest of us conform.

I was going to use this space for a marvelous little treatise entitled, "Students Have A Right Not To Attend Class,"—but, after someone in administration told me that as far as he knew no statement of students rights existed, (I guess we don't have any—surprised, aren't you?) I decided to forego causing our administrators any more headaches.

Anyway, M. F. wrote that brilliantly-thought-out column that if the pledges didn't like hell week, they could, and even, oh yes, they should, rebel.

As the demagogue

screamed in print, "Rebel, rebel, rebel oh ye pledges." Rebel to make Hell Week non-existent! Rebel to "make Hell Week work in reverse!" Do anything—throw eggs, not at your pledge brother but at the active, spit your bite of the happy apple (onion) in the active faces, and on and on and on.

Brilliant reasoning! And from the rooftops, deans of offices, and boys dorm come echoes—"Good idea, wonder if it would work?" Sorority presidents and Mortar Boards yell "Finally, at last a solution—at last the perfect idea—a pledge revolt!"

Sounds great in print—especially to those glass-house, stone-throwers who have absolutely no contact with the fraternity system. When we consider the practical results of such action, the prospects are frightening.

Presently, the Greek system is wholeheartedly working towards a "Help Week"—with no hell. However, things do not change overnight, and in general, fraternities are working towards a Help Week.

Then M. F. in a brilliantly-thought out work, tells the pledges to revolt and end hell weeks immediately. Wouldn't that be sharp? Cool?

Yes, I can just see it now. The pledges are lined up, awaiting the "hell" to begin. This year, however,

something is different. Instead of being told to "assume the position" they are given instructions for constructive—yes, M. F., constructive—action.

Let's consider where the fraternity "hell weeks" stand as of right now. No one will say that "hell" plays no part in pre-initiation activities. But neither can anyone (even you, M.F.) say that no "help" exists either.

Fraternalties are at a midpoint in progress between the old style, paddle and egg hell weeks and a purely constructive Help Week.

No one will deny, I repeat, that some hell still exists. But the intensity is diminishing—fraternity men are realizing that a true fraternity cannot exist on such things as hell weeks.

Practically, however, these things take time. The movement for "help weeks" is young. The old-guarders still exist—but in ever decreasing numbers.

Now, let's speculate what any active chapter would do in the face of a pledge revolt. Old-guarders would scream—"Look, I told you,

all this crap about new-style hasn't worked at all!" Before long, a motion starting, "I move that Chi Chi return to hell weeks instead of these unsuccessful help weeks..." would unanimously pass a active chapter after active chapter.

All present progress would be lost, all present gains defeated. For, regardless of immature "threats" pledges could make the active chapter world pre-dominant. M.F. the idealist would not agree. But those of us who know the fraternity system, those of us who are realists, and those of us who think before they print, would agree.

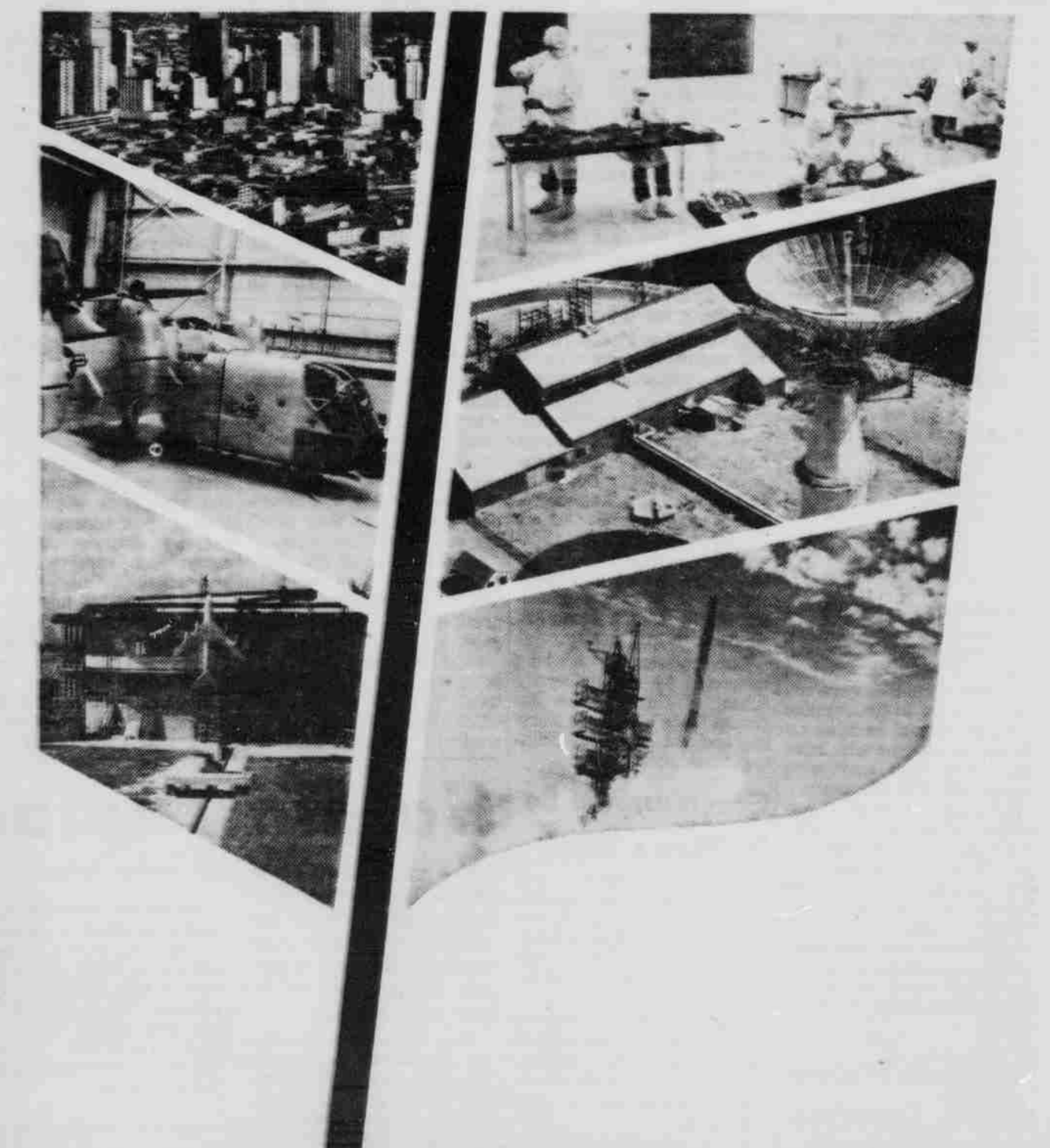
Practically, the results of a pledge revolt would be disastrous. Six months of pledge work details, pledge meetings and pledge tests would evaporate.

M.F., in my opinion, has missed an essential point. Hell does still exist—I'm not denying that. But progress has been made—and will continue to be made toward a fully constructive Help Week.

I cannot believe M.F. was actually serious...



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