

MECA called subversive by past member Say

By Scott Whitcomb

Jim Say, 1975-76 ASUN president, has said he was a member of an organization called MECA, which he said he now believes is politically subversive.

Say told the *Daily Nebraskan* last week in a telephone interview from Michigan he realized only after his term of office that MECA began to have "subversive tendencies."

Say, now a law student at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, said he attended MECA meetings at a downtown Lincoln bar and assumed MECA was only a social drinking club.

Admitted members said MECA stands for Monday Evening Club Amended, because members were going to meet as a drinking group on Monday nights. They currently meet Wednesday nights.

"The original intent of MECA was to subvert and block the programs of Ann Henry (1972 ASUN president)," Say said. "But I didn't start going until the year after (during 1974-75 ASUN president Ron Clingenpeel's term)."

Say said MECA members "told a few off-color jokes and talked politics," adding that he thought it was his

social duty to attend.

Talk of subversion

However, Say said through correspondence with graduate student Carolyn Grice, he "began to hear talk of subversion again."

He said he thought MECA began to be a communication link with people that were not able to participate in the regular channels of student government.

"Only now have I begun to realize it's (MECA's) potential for abuse," Say said.

"It was really hard to believe," he said, when he got a recent letter from Grice informing him the *Daily Nebraskan* was investigating MECA.

"It sounded like everybody was scared," Say said. He said only a few MECA members knew MECA was "politically subversive."

Students angered

Grice, who said she has been twice elected MECA president, concurred with Say that MECA was formed by students angered about ASUN elections during Henry's term.

"The students who were defeated felt like they had been slapped in the face," Grice said. "We angered students just met to voice our dissatisfaction with the elections. If Jim (Say) said he thought MECA began to turn politically subversive, then I'm sorry he felt like that. What can I say?"

She said membership in MECA depends upon attendance three times in a row.

"If a person basically looks like a nice person, then we will initiate them," Grice said.

She said MECA has more than 50 initiated members although more than 100 different people have attended MECA meetings.

Law student Dennis Martin, who said he was a MECA member, said most members were actively involved in student politics.

Facets of politics

"All I know is that we have talked about all facets of politics," Martin said. "Some of the comments get very personal and sometimes quite colorful."

Responding to Say's comment that MECA is politically subversive, Martin said "at times it (MECA) will do that," adding that the attitude of MECA members fluctuates.

He said MECA members have never persuaded anyone to join MECA by promising them an appointment to a UNL organization. However, he said MECA has endorsed "some senators who were running for political office."

Don Wesely, a UNL Student Court justice who said he had attended three MECA meetings, said that "with no exception, people in MECA do not like the job (ASUN President) Bill Mueller has been doing."

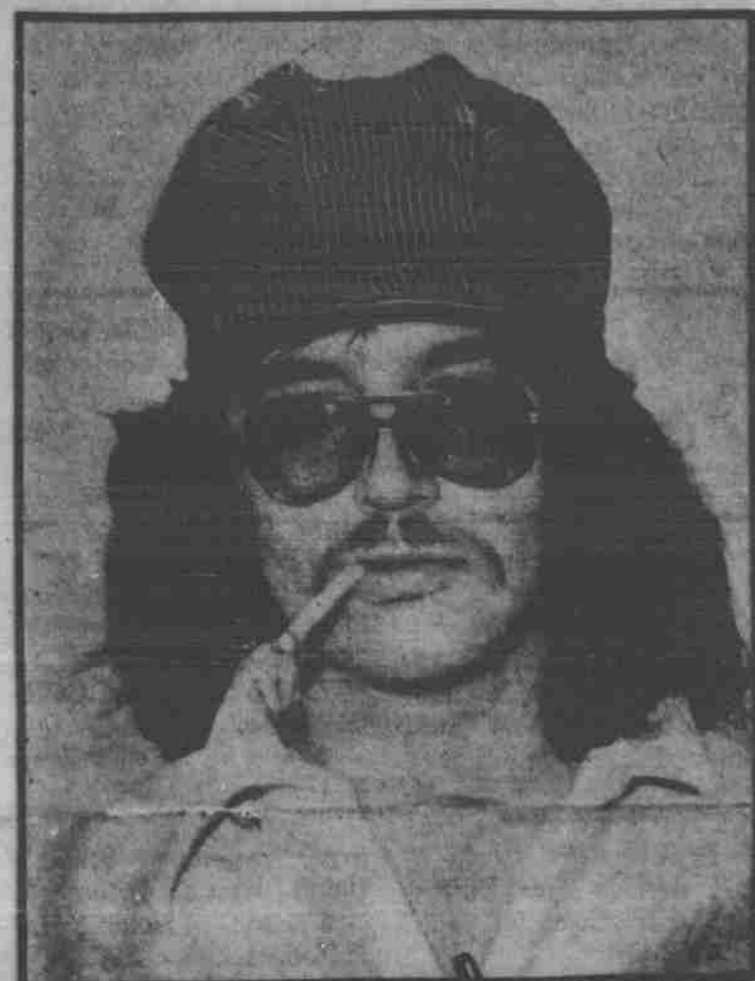
He said he did not think MECA was politically subversive, but that a petition filed by two alleged MECA members against ASUN might have been interpreted as being subversive.

Wesely was referring to a petition filed by Britt Miller and Randall Murphy against ASUN, charging that ASUN had operated invalidly for more than three months.

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Hemphill withdraws from race



Kirk Hemphill, former ASUN presidential candidate. Daily Nebraskan photo

Kirk Hemphill said Friday he is withdrawing from the ASUN presidential race for financial reasons.

"It's a matter of simple economics," he explained. "I am not a rich man's son. I work."

Hemphill said he also has withdrawn from this semester's classes and is working for the railroad. He added that he technically still is a UNL student since he is finishing incompletes and independent study courses.

According to Hemphill, lack of money would prevent him from waging an active campaign for this election. If the election had not been postponed, he said, he would have stayed in the race because he already had campaigned for that time.

Hemphill said his decision also was prompted by the Student Court's recent decision to disqualify 10 candidates from his party, the High People's Coalition, because they had invalid signatures on their filing petitions.

"I am slightly disillusioned that I have no one to run with," he said.

Although he said he had no complaints with the remaining candidates, Hemphill said he will not throw his support to any of them.

He said he thinks people would accuse him of playing politics if he made an endorsement.

"It is more important that a good Senate get elected," he added. He said none of the candidates "could mess up things too badly with a good Senate to work with."

Hemphill stressed what he called the importance of electing a wide diversity of people to the Senate.

"No one group possesses enough manpower to run ASUN," he said. "That's become evident in this year's Senate." See related stories p. 5 and p. 9.

For \$2,100 this junior—size computer is all yours

By Jim Williams

You've got \$2,100, let's say, to spend on sheer self-indulgence, and what can you buy?

Sixteen thousand, eight hundred games of pinball or 3,818 packs of cigarettes. Eight hundred and forty movie tickets or 302 record albums. A good dirt bike or a used sports car.

Or a computer.

The microprocessor, a packet of thousands of electronic parts about as big as a stamp, has shrunk the computer's size and price. That \$2,100 really will buy a complete, junior-size data processing system and two stores in Lincoln will happily take you up the price scale as far as you want.

MITS, at 611 N. 27th St., was Lincoln's first micro-computer boutique. Another, Microtech, opened this week at 129 S. 27th St.

Microtech still is getting settled in its office on the north side of the 27th and N streets parking lot. But Jerry Jensen and Stan Walter, who said he works for IBM and was just helping out, have catalogs of what is available for the man who has everything—and needs a computer to keep track of it all.

Walter displayed an \$85 basic training kit, a sort of mentally retarded computer that helps beginners learn how to build and use the equipment.

The real fun starts with the Polymorphics microcomputer. You can get by for less, but the complete, \$1,350 kit includes about all you need—a television monitor, typewriter-style keyboard and base, a cassette recorder to store information and a kit to build the shoebox-size computer itself.

Microtech hopes to provide work space for people with no computer-building room and an exchange service for

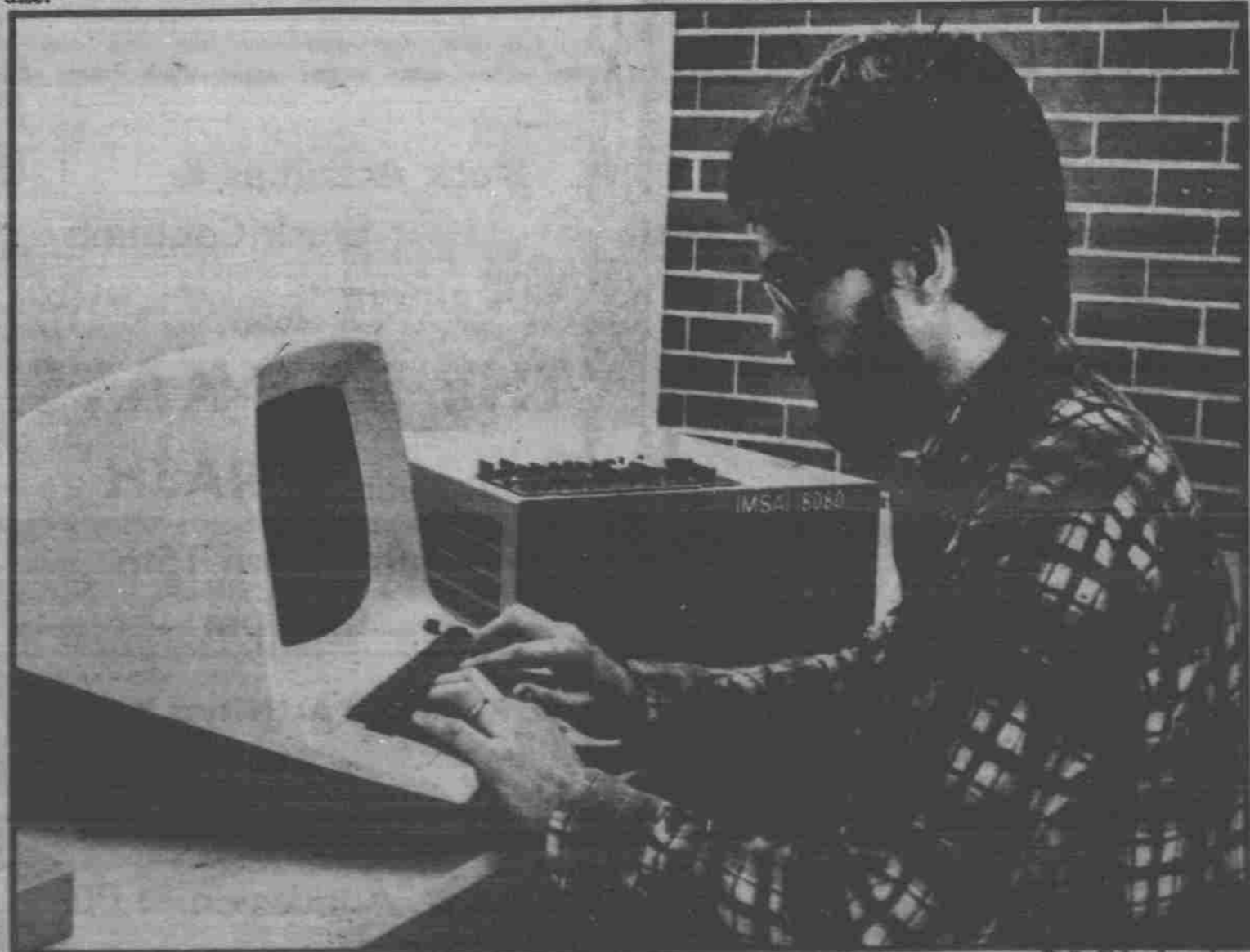
those wanting to move up to more elaborate equipment, they said.

"A reasonable quality home cassette recorder will directly record digital data," Walter said, but you have to hunt for the part you want with the fast-forward and rewind buttons. A \$699 disc-drive unit lets the computer do its own hunting in less than a second. It stores the equivalent of more than 70 typed pages on each \$4.50 disc.

What can this \$2,100 computer do? Jensen said pre-recorded taped programs for playing computer games are available, or users can write their own.

With eternal add-ons, the computer can start you car in the morning, make coffee, draw pictures, balance checkbooks and figure tax returns, tell you when to pay your bills, make music and keep you entertained.

And 16,800 games of pinball would make your fingers fall off anyway.



Jack Pierce of Microtech checks a terminal. The computer itself, at Pierce's right, is about the size of a stereo receiver. Daily Nebraskan photo

monday

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 Entertainment: The Great Plains Study is getting folksy this week p. 6 and 7
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