

TO All Students, Faculty, and Staff of Northern Michigan University
FROM Dr. Allan Niemi, Vice President for Student Affairs *Allan Niemi*
RE Resident Assistants
DATE December 19, 1969

I believe that it is necessary to clarify some particular issues which are at this time of common concern to all members of the University community.

The Resident Assistant living on each floor of every residence hall on campus is responsible for the activities of that floor. He is a staff member of the Student Affairs Office and is hired because of his ability to relate to and work with people. He has certain degrees of authority which accompany his or her position. One aspect of this authority is the right to enter any student's room if he or she has reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of the Student Code of Conduct is taking place in that room. The Resident Assistant need not knock or identify himself although this, of course, is a common courtesy normally extended. Once in the room he or she may survey the room for the proof of the suspected violation. He or she may gather the evidence of the violation or, in fact, any other material showing that any additional violations might have occurred. He or she may require that any and all students in that room properly identify themselves if evidence of a violation is found. Refusal to identify oneself is in itself grounds for judicial action.

It has become quite evident from the events of the last week that our residence hall staff has not received the proper amount of support they deserve.

I would like to make it known that as of this date the area of staff training, programming and assistance will be the next priority within the range of responsibility of our office. It is hoped that this will be a co-operative effort by the entire Student Affairs staff. With the common goal of building upon the frustrations of the past and present toward improved and more rewarding experiences we can eliminate any reoccurrence of the present state of affairs.

Thought here is much more that must be said I hope this small beginning will help to build a program as envisioned by the staffs of each of the residence halls.

ASN:es