

Faculty Backs Freedom Of Press

The following letter was presented Monday night to the Faculty Welfare Committee and to President Pitzer by members of the Rice Faculty.—Ed.

To the Faculty Welfare Committee,

We wish, respectfully, to petition the committee to consider and recommend to the President appropriate action concerning certain issues raised by the disciplinary probation imposed on the Thresher editor, Hugh Rice Kelly, this weekend. The independence of the Thresher has been a valued and important part of University life at Rice and must be jealously guarded, not only by the Thresher staff and by the student body, but by the Faculty and the University administration as well. Any encroachment or even the appearance of encroachment, on this independence is regrettable and to be avoided. Therefore we ask:

1. that the punishment of Mr. Kelly be reviewed and that other forms of punishment be considered which will not have the effect of removing him from his position of editor of the Thresher.

2. that the committee consider how the independence of student publications may be officially guaranteed and to this end that it review present University procedures for the supervision of student publications.