

Carpenter decision hasty

The assumption was that a Legislature without Terry Carpenter would be quite different. Removing his familiar form from the chambers would be, it seemed, tantamount to removing The Sower from atop the State Capitol.

But, with the session just underway, Carpenter has demonstrated an ability to wield influence in the Legislature whether formally a member or not. As a result, the session has looked, at times, like a full-scale Punch and Judy show with Terry Carpenter pulling the strings.

So much so that during last Thursday's debate on whether to oust Sen. William Nichol in favor of Carpenter, Sen. Ernest Chambers felt obligated to remind his colleagues that "he (Carpenter) can't walk on water. He can't suspend the earth from a string of sand. He can't make the sun stop."

As if thereby assured that the sky would not fall for doing so, the senators voted 30-18 to throw out Carpenter's challenge.

Their courage is laudable. Their hasty action is not.

Carpenter originally beat Nichol by three

votes in the election for the 48th District seat. A recount gave Nichol a 68-vote victory.

Carpenter then went to District Court but was referred to the Legislature which, under the Nebraska Constitution, has jurisdiction over such matters. An investigation by a seven-member legislative committee halted when it appeared that Carpenter had not filed the necessary bond.

In their hurry to dispose of Carpenter, the senators left several important questions unanswered.

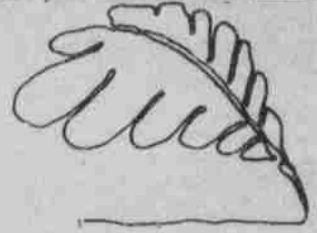
When Sen. John DeCamp rose during debate and asked if any senator could say for sure that Carpenter had not filed a bond, no one answered. It appears Thursday's decision was based on hearsay rather than fact.

Also not dealt with was DeCamp's disclosure that Carpenter had filed a bond in District Court Dec. 4 to cover costs up to \$1 million.

The Legislature's decision last week sacrificed fairness for the more immediate pleasures of life without Carpenter. That decision should be reconsidered. A fair hearing is the least they owe the man.

Wes Albers

to the editor



Irresponsible Journalism

Dear editor:

The editorial on the CIA by Wes Albers should not stand unanswered. Although I realize the editorial page represents opinion, I still feel the article is not only a piece of irresponsible journalism but also a cynical, arrogant attempt to grind an ax.

More fundamentally, it makes one wonder about the degree to which a college education can affect performance.

It also should include the possibility of enhancing one's sense of ethics and one's concern for responsibility. Mr. Albers' editorial shows none of these things. "The CIA is bad." That is all that one needs to report. There is no grey. All is black and white.

Mr. Albers mentions that not only did the CIA attempt to overthrow foreign governments, keep files on Americans and launch spy satellites, but also, some say, may have attempted to overthrow the government of the United States. The latter is very far-reaching insinuation, one that should be backed up by more than appears in the article. It illustrates the power of the press to be irresponsible or, I should say, one person—the editor—to be irresponsible. One wonders if Mr. Albers, someday, will be exercising such judgment for a major newspaper.

I am certain the Senate Committee would be interested to know that the organization which they supervise (and they do receive all information required for this supervision) may have attempted to overthrow the U.S. government.

I worked for the U.S. government for 14 years—both as a member of the CIA and the Foreign Service of the State Department. What is more, I am proud of it. I realize that these agencies are not perfect, just as no organization is. The CIA may have carried out certain activities that were outside their jurisdiction and perhaps were wrong. Nevertheless these actions were approved by five presidents representing both major parties.

However, with recent disclosures one welcomes the investigation and perhaps the re-evaluation of the CIA's responsibilities. Nevertheless, it is obvious that as long as the world political situation exists as it does, there will be a need for intelligence organizations.

The CIA has done good work, but this seldom gets recognition. Therefore, it is well to keep perspective while recognizing the need for continually evaluating our government.

Dean S. Rugg

Goals wanted

Dear editor:

In a recent **Daily Nebraskan** editorial, Residence Hall Association President Tim Evensen advocated raising room and board rates \$96 instead of \$95. Under his proposal, the additional dollar would be evenly split between RHA and residence hall governments. A referendum Tuesday will ask residents their opinion of the idea. The plan appears to be ill-conceived and ill-advised.

Evensen's suggestion comes, as he admits, at a poor time. With students facing rising costs on every front, any proposal for new student-imposed increases should be subject to question and debate. Are these increases justifiable?

This year RHA will spend over \$2,500 with half allocated to salaries. If, as Evensen believes, a hike would allow RHA to "reach its full potential," those plans should be presented. Give residents an idea of what they may expect to see from the extra funds. To maintain that one should not limit future presidents' imagination by suggesting proposals is a cop-out. If RHA needs to double its budget, the people who would pay for the increase are entitled to see some well-defined goals.

Since RHA has not formulated any new plans, the residents' only guide is the organization's record. Unfortunately, its effectiveness is questionable. Most students would be hard-pressed to state what RHA is, let alone tell you what it's done. Paying an additional \$2,000 for "increasing the type of things RHA has done this year" isn't a deal students should buy.

Before students allow apathy and Evensen to extend a room and board increase, they need to examine the situation. Judging by RHA's record, the increase is neither justified nor needed. I urge residence hall residents to reject it.

Dave Irvin
Member, Harper Hall Senate

India should feed her own

Charles Dickens in **Hard Times** wrote, "In this life we want nothing but facts, sir; nothing but facts."

Unfortunately, our society is not very fond of facts, especially if they deal with controversial issues such as the food problem and India.

Between 1950 and 1960, U.S. aid in grants and loans to India totaled \$3.9 billion.

In 1960, the United States signed a trade agreement with India which provided for the sale of 16 million tons of wheat and one million tons of rice over a four-year period.

Almost four-fifths of the rupees used to pay for this grain were returned to India, one-half in loans and one-half in grants for agricultural projects. At that time it was the largest single U.S. surplus transaction.

In 1964, this agreement was renewed with the United States, giving India 6.4 million tons of wheat and 300,000 tons of rice. This time, none of the rupees used to pay for the aid were allowed to leave India.

In 1966, as a result of the famine and drought India was suffering, the United States promised an additional six million tons of food if the other countries of the world would join together and match those supplies with three million tons.

Naturally this plea fell on deaf ears, but the United States gave India 6.1 million tons of food anyway.

Please note that all the former statistics do not include either military or technological projects such as the 1962 loan of \$52 million for the Pamba Kakki hydroelectric project in Kerala.

Lately, the United States, at the urging of Ambassador Daniel Moynihan last year, simply wrote off \$2.2 billion from the debt India owes us.

These facts must surely temper demands from Indians that we owe them more aid. Instead, it is high time India seriously attempt to deal with these problems herself.

First, she can drastically cut her population growth, which increases by 15 million a year. Indeed, in 1973, in an attempt to balance the budget, India cut back severely on its family planning, birth control and sterilization programs. This is like cutting your neck to save your arms. India's food production has been growing 2.3 per cent while her population has

been growing by 2.5 per cent.

Secondly, India is over two-thirds Hindu. Hinduism, with its dubious beliefs of reincarnation, is responsible for the feeding and maintenance of millions of animals; everything from cows to rats.

While my heart may be affected by pictures of starving children, my head is still able to see the temple next door in which thousands of rats are cared for.

If the majority of Indians wish to be Hindu, that is fine, as long as they are willing to suffer the consequences of their own religious beliefs, even if that means starvation.

Prime Minister Gandhi is intending to spend between two and three billion dollars this year to build nuclear reactors. This is somewhat akin to pounding your plowshares into swords.

There are those who would say our trade policies with India are only a manifestation of our imperialistic ambitions. Doubtless we are and have been guilty of imperialism, but not in India.

Grandhi, and Nehru before her, have been strong neutralists forever on guard against imperialistic meandering by either Moscow or Washington.

For example, in the late sixties the United

bruce nelson cynic's corner

States offered to build a \$50,000 radio station in northern India for free—if we were allowed to have four hours of broadcast time daily for beaming propaganda into China and Russia.

India refused the four-hour stipulation. The United States built the station anyway. So now China and Russia get 24 hours of Indian propaganda instead of Washington's.

India has played fast and loose with American public opinion long enough. The facts show we have done our fair share. Americans need to stop feeling guilty about starving children with distended stomachs and start calling on India to feed her own.

