

news digest

By The Associated Press

Harrises arraigned

Berkley Calif.—William and Emily Harris, the radical couple who joined Patricia Hearst in a cross-country fugitive flight, pleaded innocent Thursday to charges they kidnaped the young heiress. Their arraignment on a 19-count criminal complaint came just one day before Miss Hearst herself goes into federal court across the bay in San Francisco to be sentenced for a bank robbery conviction. Defense attorney Leonard Weinglass complained that the proceeding that the Harris was handled by a guard during a prearraignment conference of the defense team in another courtroom. Weinglass said that before the conference was finished, a sheriff's deputy ended it himself by seizing Mrs. Harris. When Harris tried to intervene, Weinglass said, he was wrestled to the ground by a deputy and his glasses knocked off.

Theft increase

Washington—An increase in theft pushed the nation's crime rate up 3 per cent during the first six months of this year, compared with the same period a year ago, the FBI reported Thursday. Although the six other crime categories declined, an 11 per cent surge in thefts was enough to produce an over-all increase in the crimes measure by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports. Theft was up in cities, suburbs and rural areas alike and in all parts of the country. The FBI figures are based on crimes reported to 9,160 state and local police agencies. Other studies have shown that the number of crimes actually committed far exceeds the number reported to police.

Alumni Association adds members

The NU Alumni Association has added 1,200 new members this year because more than 700 students telephoned alumni last March.

The association sponsored a telephone contest that was open to any group or organization, and \$850 in cash prizes were awarded to the three groups which sold the most new memberships.

Twenty-four organizations participated in the campaign.

The telephone campaign will be held again this spring because of its success, said Jack Miller, Alumni vice president. The association has increased its membership from 11,500 members to 12,700.

Not only was success achieved through new memberships during the campaign, but Miller said students who participated are future alumni and were informed of what the association is all about.

Green charged

Omaha—A former Oklahoman, charged in connection with a 17-hour siege which ended with the death of an Omaha man last month, was arraigned in Douglas County District Court Thursday. The charges filed against Jimmy Green, 31, stem from a siege at a South Omaha tavern. Green, a former prep football standout at Pawnee, Okla., stood mute Thursday as Judge Donald Hamilton asked him for pleas to charges of first-degree murder, stabbing with intent to kill, wound or maim, and burglary. With court-appointed attorney Ronald Frank of the county's public defender's office at his side, Green did not enter pleas. Thus, Hamilton entered pleas of not guilty on all three charges. No further court proceedings were set, but a hearing on discovery motions probably will be held within the next two weeks, Frank said.

Lady Bird 'hurt'

Austin, Tex.—Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson said Thursday she was "distressed, hurt and perplexed" by Jimmy Carter's remarks about her late husband in a magazine interview. Carter has apologized for his comments about Johnson. Mrs. Johnson's statement was released shortly before the former first lady toured the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library with Carter's wife, Rosalynn. Shortly before Mrs. Carter arrived, Mrs. Johnson was asked by reporters for comments on Carter's remark to a Playboy interviewer that Presidents Richard M. Nixon and Johnson engaged in "lying, cheating and distortion of the truth."

Shovers to appeal

Omaha Steve Shovers, who is accused of entering confidential files at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, said he wants to appeal a "disciplinary notice" inserted in his own student file. Shovers is student body president at UNO and sits on the Nebraska Board of Regents. University officials placed the disciplinary letter in his file after the confidential files incident. A school appeals board upheld the order for the letter in his file and Shovers said he is looking for an appeal process beyond that because his scholarship chances might be impaired.

Wheelchair ramp plan progressing

Construction plans are progressing for a new wheelchair ramp at the northwest corner of the Nebraska Union, according to Allen Bennett, Union director.

Bennett said the new ramp will have an electric eye-operated door opening into the northeast corner of the main lounge. This will benefit the blind who sometimes break their canes in the revolving doors, he said.

The \$30,000 plan also calls for a window-wall interior with an air-handling unit that will heat or cool the entrance as needed, Bennett said.

He said the \$30,000, approved last May by ASUN and the Nebraska Union Advisory Board, comes from student fees in the Union's bond reserve account. Part of this money will be used for replacing the Union's southwest wheelchair ramp with a platform, steps and electrically operated lift, he said.

The lift would serve people on crutches and in wheelchairs who have difficulty with the long ramp, Bennett said.

The new ramp will not slope as sharply as the old one, he said, and it will have an electric heating system in the concrete to keep off ice and snow.

Bennett said he thinks there are about 17 wheelchair students at UNL.

"The assumption placed before us by the student government and the board is (that) one handicapped person is (enough to warrant construction)," Bennett said.

"As far as the federal government is concerned, any handicapped person should have free and ready access to any university building," he said. "We're responding to the need with or without a law."

He said he is hoping construction will start in late autumn.

daily nebraskan

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