

Treaty ratified despite Nebraska vote

The United States ratified the first of the two Panama Canal treaties by a 68-32 vote Thursday afternoon.

Nebraska Senators Carl Curtis and Edward Zorinsky voted against ratifying the treaty.

The ratified treaty concerns canal neutrality following the year 2000 when it would be under Panamanian control.

The second treaty, which the Senate now is debating, would establish the process for turning the canal over to Panama.

Zorinsky was one of the last senators to decide how he would vote on the treaty. He decided early Thursday morning, he said.

Zorinsky told President Carter in a meeting at the White House early Thursday that he could not support the treaty because he did not feel the treaty adequately assured United States military presence in Panama after the year 2000, he said.

Zorinsky was heavily lobbied by the President and members of his Cabinet, but he said he did not receive any offers of political tradeoffs from the President.

"Jimmy Carter is an honorable, professional man," Zorinsky said. "He never made any offers to me."

Zorinsky also was concerned about the emphasis placed on preventing another plebiscite in Panama when amendments were discussed.

"So much emphasis was placed on the feelings of the people of Panama, I don't feel it was an equal treaty for the people of the United States," Zorinsky said.

Regents to set student officer requirements

The NU Board of Regents Saturday will vote on a recommendation to set eligibility requirements for student government officers.

The academic affairs subcommittee is recommending that the regents approve a plan to require that student government candidates have a minimum 2.0 grade point average and not be on academic or disciplinary probation.

If the regents accept the recommendation, student government officers and candidates also will have to be enrolled in at least six credit hours on that campus and have completed 24 hours of credit during the two years prior to the year they seek election.

The candidate will have to be elected by a majority of the students voting in the election rather than a plurality vote.

The regents also will be asked to approve budgets for renovation of the Theatre Arts Building and the College of Architecture.

The board also will decide whether to rehire former UNL women's basketball coach George Nicodemus who was fired last May.

The meeting will be 12:30 Saturday at Regents Hall.



Daily Nebraskan Photo
Sen. Edward Zorinsky

Zorinsky said he favored a new treaty which modernized the United States relationship with Panama. He said the current treaties are "quite a bit of a one-way street in favor of Panama."

A great deal of "armtwisting" to vote for ratification was based on not embarrassing the U.S. presidency, Zorinsky said.

This required considering the effect of the treaties' defeat on the office of the presidency and President Carter's ability to deal with nations of the world, Zorinsky said.

"I really voted for what I thought was really in the best interests of the United States," Zorinsky said. "This was the toughest decision I have had to make and I wanted to take all the time I had to make it."

The ratified treaty contained the so-called "leadership amendment" which assured the right of the United States to keep the canal open and defend its neutrality and gave U.S. warships the right of expeditious passage during an emergency.

Treaty ratification requires approval by two-thirds of the Senate, or 67 votes.

Latest microcomputer offers maxi uses

By Randy Essex

The micro is in. The maxi and the mini still serve their purposes, but it is the microcomputer that will bring computers into popular use, according to a UNL professor.

Sharad Seth, associate professor of computer science, predicted that within 10 years microcomputers will be used in homes to serve a variety of functions, including helping with finances, taxes and shopping.

Seth and several students recently completed a microcomputer laboratory in the basement of Ferguson Hall. The microcomputer fits in a drawer the size of an average desk drawer, and the computer's "brain" is smaller than a package of gum.

Funded by a \$13,100 grant from the National Science Foundation, the computer is being used as an educational tool by Seth and others. Seth said there

are other microcomputers already used at UNL in the physics, electrical engineering and psychology departments.

Seth said the new computer has been programmed to play chess with students, and is used in basic and applied research, such as controlling exact oven temperature.

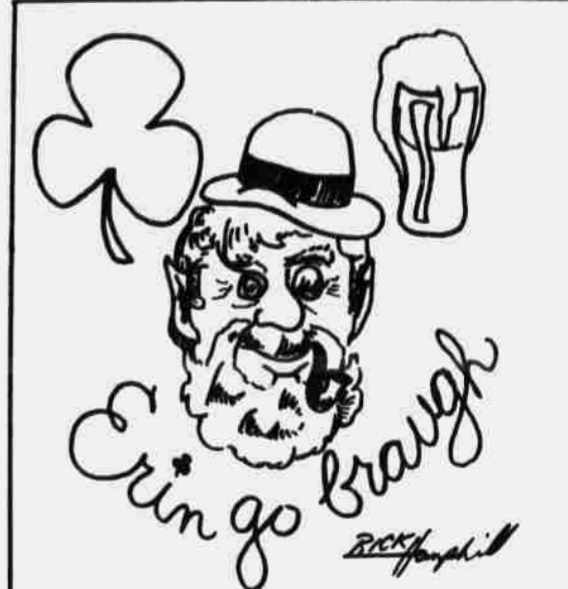
"The first computer in 1945 took up several small rooms with its processor (brain), while ours is very small, and is more capable," Seth said.

Cost, has been reduced along with size. The cost of the microprocessor is between \$10 and \$20 Seth said.

"The real expense in computers is in things like video display terminals and the chassis," Seth said. "There is a \$585 home computer available now."

Home computers could save homeowners work, Seth said.

"Shopping done through the mail now could be done by a home computer



St. Pat's quenches dry holiday season

All St. Patrick's Day needs is a Santa Claus.

It has all the makings of a holiday, if everyone would observe March 17 with the zest of December 25.

St. Patrick's Day already includes celebrations, traditions and commercialism.

All that is necessary is a reason for celebrating the day if you are not Irish.

The University Bookstore is helping give St. Pat's Day holiday status by selling cards and party goods. Cindy Grashorn, supply manager, said employees took all the green things they had in the store and displayed them.

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Photo by Bob Pearson

Cheerleaders a-bound with enthusiasm

By Gail Stork

Nervous smiles bounced above the high kicks of the six UNL Yell Squad finalists Wednesday as they tried to pom-pom and dance their way into the two spots open on next year's squad.

Of the almost 50 girls who started

practicing Feb. 22, 28 continued the daily exercise and instruction routine until preliminary tryouts Tuesday.

Wednesday's finalists performed without a hint of the previous three week's sore muscles and occasional frustration in mastering "the step,"

footwork in one of the squad's routines.

In saddle shoes and shorts, the girls completed two routines for judges and the audience gathered in the Mabel Lee Hall gym to cheer on their favorite cheerleader.

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friday

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