

Pre-picnic preparations

Alpha Phi Omega and the Apartment Council combined efforts for some outdoor living furnishings for married students. Members of both organizations put finishing touches on 10 picnic tables Saturday.

Organizations combine efforts in table project

The Apartment Council and student chapter of Alpha Phi Omega completed a cooperative project Saturday.

They contributed 10 picnic tables for married student use in the College View and Hensel apartment area.

Apartment Council members and APO joined up in the work. It took four Saturdays and several hundred board feet of lumber from the old College View apartments.

Judy Stearman, council president, said paint, nails and other materials cost about \$50. She said the 14-member council hopes the project will help show apathetic apartment dwellers how the governing group can be of service.

Vice President Ron Epps said that in a recent election, all officer candidates were un-

tested and no one filed for the secretary post.

APO's Xi Delta chapter pitched in labor on the project. Richard Scruggs, project chairman for APO, said about 10 people including council members worked each Saturday.

APO conducts numerous campus service projects, many so regularly that they tend to be taken for granted. The chapter rises early Saturdays on major event weekends to set up American flags on the MSC drill field.

The national service fraternity chapter conducts Campus Chest drives at football and basketball games, runs a ticket exchange in the MSC on home football weekends, helps run student elections and twice a year conducts the Aggie Blood Drive, among other projects.

Mail opened illegally with CIA knowledge

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The CIA opened more than 215,000 letters over 20 years knowing it was illegal and despite an internal study that showed the operation was poorly run and of marginal intelligence value, according to evidence made public yesterday by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The disclosures came after it was learned the CIA opened and read at least three and perhaps eight letters written by committee Chairman Frank Church, D-Idaho, during and after a 1971 trip he made to the Soviet Union.

Church confirmed in a telephone interview Monday that copies of two letters he had written to the Soviet Union "thanking our hosts for their courtesies" had been found in CIA files. The senator authorized release of the two letters to The Associated Press.

Statistics provided by the Central Intelligence Agency and made public by the committee today showed that envelopes containing more than 2.7 million letters to and from the Soviet Union and passing through the New York City post office had been photographed and that 215,820 of these were opened.

Thomas Abernathy, formerly with the CIA inspector general's office, told the committee he prepared a study in February 1961 showing that "no tangible operational benefits have accrued" to the agency's Soviet division from the mail-opening operation.

Abernathy also said he found a lack of coordination among the various CIA units involved in the program and that he had recommended reconsidering its value and preparing of a cover story should the operation be publicly disclosed.

"We assumed everybody realized it was illegal," testified John Glennon, a former CIA official who conducted a study in 1969 that found no evidence that the operation "provided significant leads or information which would have proved a positive operational help."

Gordon Stewart, who headed the inspector general's office in 1969, told the committee he had briefed then-CIA Director Richard M. Helms on the mail-opening project and that "it was my understanding that Helms knew it was illegal."

Helms, now ambassador to Iran, was sitting in the committee audience while Stewart testified. The former director is scheduled to testify before the committee on Wednesday.

The mail-opening program began

in 1952 as a legal mail-cover operation in which the outside of envelopes were photographed, but it soon expanded into an operation in which the mail was opened. The program was not ended until 1973, when then-CIA director James Schlesinger ordered it stopped.

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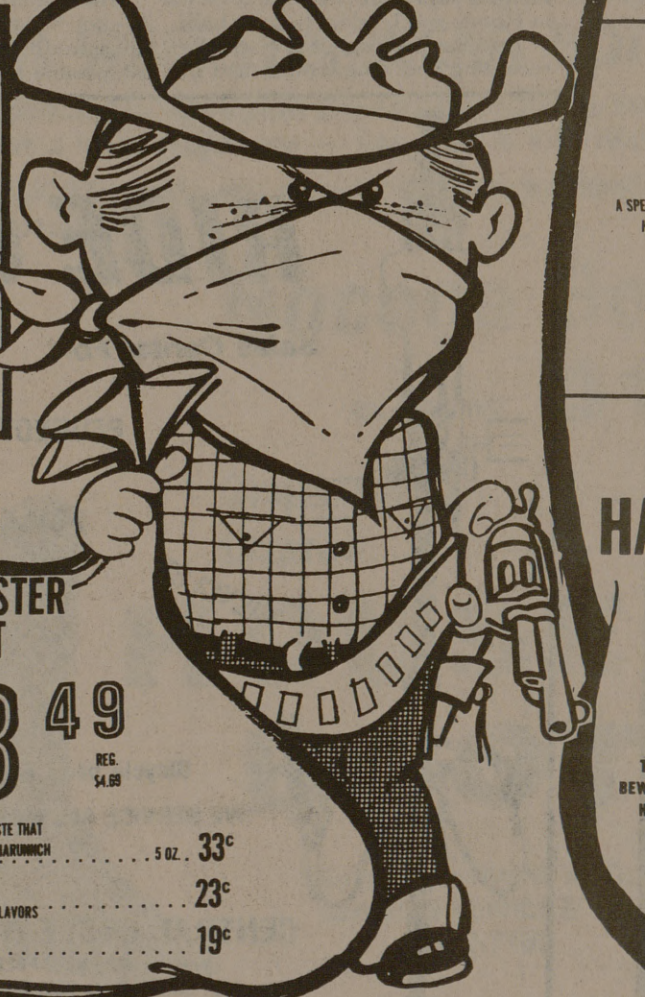
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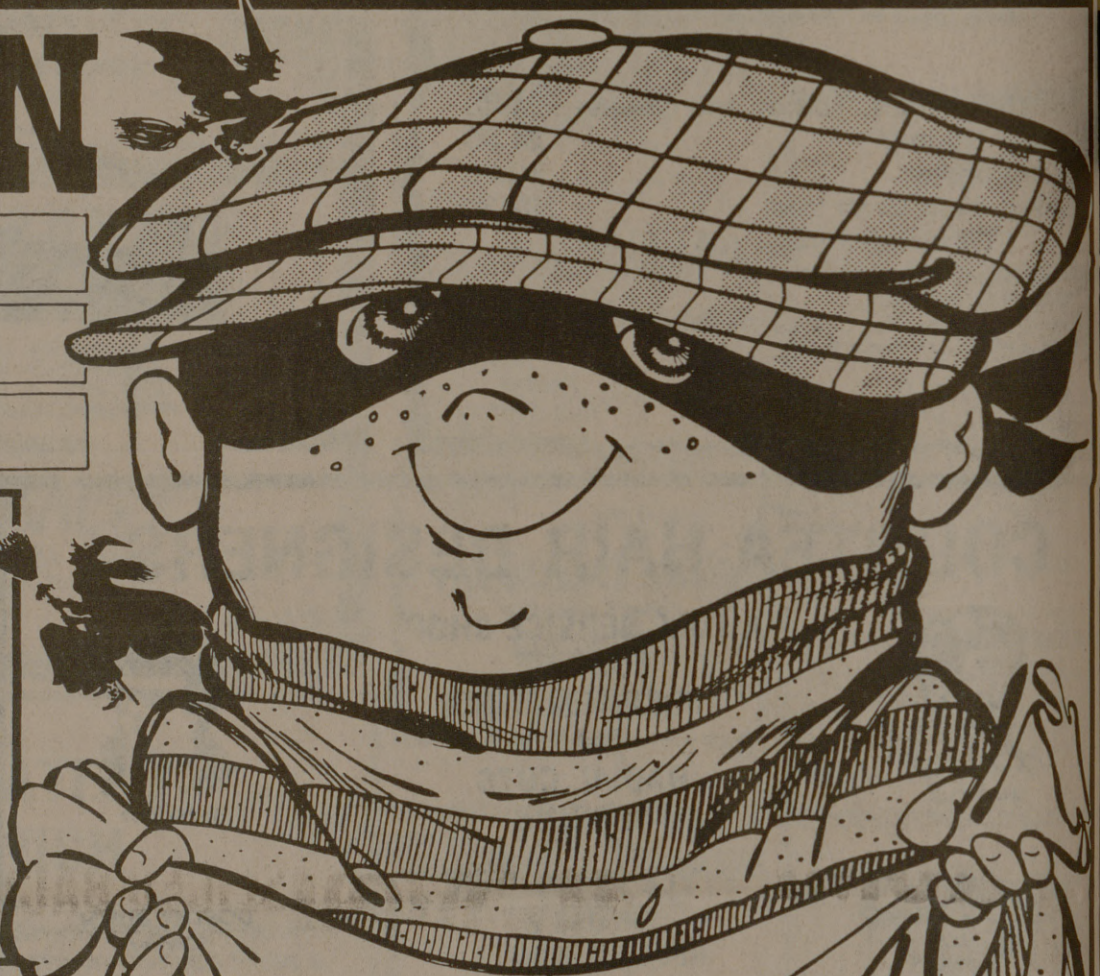
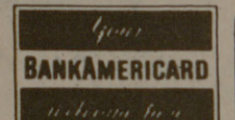
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