news roundup

World

UN indicts USSR — The General Assembly overturned the Soviet veto of the Security Council resolution calling for the removal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. The vote, 104 to 18, was ten more than the two-thirds required for passage. Eighteen nations abstained, many of them traditionally seen as supporters of the Soviet Union. In a related development, a spokesman for the city of Munich, West Germany said Vice President Walter Mondale's suggestion to move the summer Olympics to that city "is not feasible."

Irans expels journalists — Following a ruling by the Revolutionary Council Monday, Abolghassem Sadegh, foreign press director of the Ministry of National Guidance, said American journalists and technicians working for American news agencies would have "two or three days" to leave the country. The order applies to all persons, regardless of nationality, who work for any of the three American networks, or the two wire services. About 100 of the 3000 foreign journalists in Iran are Americans.

Nation

Government agencies destroying files — The Fund for Open Information and Accountability charged that government agencies, particularly the Federal Bureau of Investigation, have been destroying files in an effort to undermine the effectiveness of the Freedom of Information Act. "For well over a year, a movement to weaken the act has developed," Howard Fruchtbaum, historian at the New School for Social Research, told the American Historical Association earlier this month.

Colleges checking athletes' academics — In the wake of a scandal at the University of New Mexico, where a grand jury is investigating charges that the former basketball coach and his chief recruiter falsified the transcript of a junior-college transfer student, colleges and universities are taking a hard look at the academic records of their student athletes. The CAP has announced no similar plans for the members of the football club.

— By Richard Salz

Blackjack — count on it

(Continued from page 2)

trivial, the money adds up. On their last expedition to Atlantic City, the course organizers won almost $800.

Demaree and Massar are teaching this course by their own choosing and sometimes wonder whether they might be "robbing their own nest" by imparting gambling strategy. However, they find teaching the course "fun" and they are becoming more adept at card-counting in the process. The two also hope to find students in this course eager to play Blackjack with them in Atlantic City.

The obvious setback of strategic gambling, the leaders of the course admit, is that if card-counters are caught in a Casino they are thrown out and ordered never to come back. To this policy, Massar is bitterly opposed: "Why should I be refused a seat at a Blackjack table because I can perform some trivial functions with my mind, anymore than I should be refused a seat if I were black or female?"

Ways to avoid being caught at card-counting will be discussed among the students. Physical disguises may include beards, wigs, changes of hair color and length, and different modes of dressing. If a pit-boss at a Casino becomes suspicious of someone, sometimes it is necessary to change many of one's mannerisms as well. However, Demaree states that the most important things are to not play for too high a stake and to not act like a nervous card-counter. It was mutually agreed upon by the card-counters that it would be "incredibly stupid if anybody indicated he or she was from MIT."

Atlantic City is preferred as a gambling resort by MIT students for a number of reasons. They claim that the odds of winning Blackjack under their strategy are the best at Atlantic City for a number of reasons. They claim that the odds of winning Blackjack under their strategy are the best at Atlantic City. The area is closer to most students' residences than is Nevada and the legal gambling age in New Jersey is eighteen. Furthermore, Atlantic City is regulated strictly by the New Jersey regulating commission, so one is not as likely to be thrown out of the Casinos without reason as in Las Vegas.

The main reason why the card-counting students prefer Atlantic City, however, is because they are not as likely to get caught. Demaree stated, "The Casinos are beginning, and they're incompetent. Even if someone is thrown out, he can come back six hours later, unrecognized — not that I'd recommend it." Bally's Park Place was cited as one place that has difficulty spotting counters, because they are too busy watching their inexperienced dealers.

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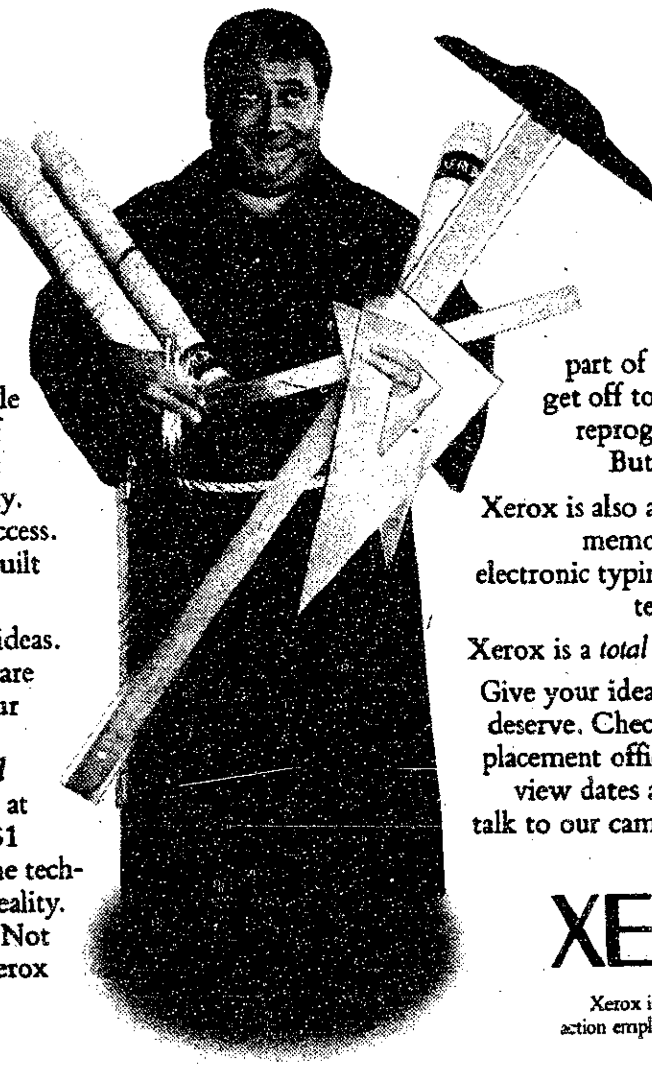

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