

Islam misunderstood by average Americans

By Michael Hooper
Senior Reporter

When the average American thinks of the Islamic religion, he or she often acquaints it to the Middle-Eastern terrorist group, Islamic Jihad, or such people as Moammar Gadhafi and the Ayatollah Khomeini.

Such associations, however, misrepresent the religion, said Christopher Von Hollen, former ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives and current Director of the American Institute for Islamic Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Most Americans became familiar with Islam only seven years ago, when Khomeini took over in Iran, the price of oil increased significantly, American hostages were taken in Lebanon and the Soviet Union invaded Islamic Afghanistan. But the religion, which is similar to Christianity, has been around for more than 14 centuries, Von Hollen said in a speech at the Wick Alumni Center. Von Hollen's appearance was sponsored by UNL's Institute for International Studies.

Islam is both a religion and a way of life, Von Hollen said. Nearly one billion people around the world adhere to the religion, he said. It is the fastest growing religion. About 40 Muslim-majority countries stretch from sub-Saharan Africa through the Middle East to south and south-east Asia, Von Hollen said.

Von Hollen said some Americans view Islam negatively.

Many Americans don't realize that

Islam is a monotheistic religion, similar to Christianity in that it recognizes such prophets as Adam, Noah, Abraham and Jesus. However, Moslems do not accept Jesus as the son of God.

Associating terrorism to Islam has been prompted by the media, Von Hollen said. Only a minor portion of Moslems, often those seeking revivalism of the faith, are critical of the Uni-

ted States or are involved in political terrorism, he said.

The great majority of Moslems live peacefully, he said.

Moslems share a common belief — the five pillars of Islam:

- profession of faith in God and the acceptance of Mohammed as God's messenger of his will. (Moslems do not see Mohammed as divine; they do not

worship him.)

- praying five times a day
- alms giving, between 2 1/2 and 3 percent a year
- fasting
- pilgrimage to Mecca, a trip that Moslems are expected to make.

Von Hollen said there is approximately 450 places of worship for Muslims in the United States.

Von Hollen encouraged Lincoln Moslems to share their religion with non-Moslems because, although Americans seem apprehensive toward it, they are also curious.

Von Hollen's speech and the panel discussion that followed it was the first of a series of such conferences to be sponsored by the Institute of International Studies this year.



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan
Van Hollen

REO - CCR - THREE DOG NIGHT - ROLLING STONES - BEATLES - ANIMALS - AEROSMITH - BOB SEGER

Monday
KABOBS 75¢
HEINEKEN & MICHELOB DARK
\$3 Pitcher
Rock 'N' Roll Trivia

Tuesday
MARGARITA 16 oz. \$1
STRAWBERRY MARGARITAS \$1.25
MEXICAN PIZZA 75¢

Thursday
25¢ TACOS

Big Red Super Saturday Specials
50¢ Burritos
\$1.00 Bloody Marys
Big Screen TV

Drink Specials
WHAT A PLACE TO PARTY!

JACKS OR BETTER 27th & Holdrege

THREE DOG NIGHT - ROLLING STONES - EAGLES -

New Mission to open doors January '87

By Kirk Zebolsky
Staff Reporter

The People's City Mission, 124 S. Ninth St., is too old and too small, so the provider of social services will move to 110 Q St.

The new building is being constructed. About 135 volunteers have started — the ground-breaking ceremony was July 27 — and 200 to 300 more volunteers will be needed, said Steve Janovec, executive director of the mission.

One hundred volunteers will be needed each day from Sept. 22 through Oct. 17, Janovec said. The positions include common labor, clean up, skilled work such as carpentry, tile setting and roofing, security and food service. Student volunteers are welcome, he said.

The two-story brick building, with twice the space of the old building, will open in January, Janovec said, and will serve twice the number of poor people. For example, he said, a playground is planned, and the medical clinic will be almost three times larger.

The "overcrowded, aging" Ninth Street building doesn't meet the needs of the community, he said, and mission workers are "trying to do too much."

Police often refer the needy to the mission, Janovec said. Lincoln families, or singles facing eviction or domestic abuse, for example, need emergency shelter, he said. The "large population" of low-income residents needs other services the mission provides, including counseling and ministry.

Last year the mission, which is open 24 hours a day, served 50,000 meals, provided 15,000 nights of lodging and distributed 30,000 items of clothing, Janovec said. Ten thousand people were served last year.

The decision to move was made in June 1981.

Money for the new building was raised last year through donations, Janovec said. The \$1.3 million needed includes the value of volunteer construction work.

For more information, call 476-7070 or 475-1303.

This could be your LUCKY FRIDAY!



Lucky Friday offer ends September 27, 1986



Over \$1,000 in cash will be given away every Friday at NBC Bank-In-The-Box terminals across Lincoln.

You could win part of it. All you have to do is withdraw any amount of money with any NetWorks ATM card. If you're lucky, you could receive up to \$30 FREE.

It's that easy.

National Bank of Commerce Bank-In-The-Box machines are strategically located around town, so your cash is never more than five minutes away. Go ahead — try your luck. Stop by the Bank-In-The-Box nearest you, and make this Friday your Lucky Friday.

Use any of these Bank-In-The-Box locations:

- *13th & "O"
- *40th & South
- *14th & Superior
- *1230 N. Cotner
- *Touzalin & Colfax
- *66th & "O"
- *10th & "O"
- *11th & Cornhusker
- *48th & "O"
- *48th & Leighton
- *48th & Highway 2
- *B & R IGA
17th & Washington
- *Nebraska Union
14th & "R"
- *Food Bonanza, West "O"
- *Super C, 10th & High
East Park Mall
- Super C, 21st & "G"
- Shopko, 27th & Hwy. 2
- State Office Building

*24 hr. ATMs

NBC
National Bank of Commerce

MEMBER FDIC A FIRST COMMERCE bank.



Daily Nebraskan
Newsline
472-1763