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Weston—failing to act lowered U.N.'s reputation

by Ruth Ulrich

Although forty-five minutes late in starting and with 30 of the 90 registered delegations still somewhere out in the snow, the Model United Nations Conference opened in the Nebraska Union Thursday as British diplomat Michael Weston addressed the General Assembly.

Weston, First Secretary of the British U.N., Mission, discussed mid-eastern conflicts, Britain's role in Northern Ireland and in the U.N. and the functions of the United Nations in general.

He said the U.N.'s low reputation, especially among western countries, is because of its "failure to do anything at the last session." Elsewhere, the reputation of the U.N. is scarcely any higher, he said. Africa sees the body as doing nothing more than "producing a torrent of words," Weston said.

"However, there is a brighter side," he said. First, there has not been another world war. Secondly, economic and social affairs are going

well, and thirdly, the U.N. has provided a forum for discussion of "new frontier" subjects, he said.

Weston, a mid-eastern affairs expert who has served in Kuwait and Iran, said the U.N. since it was organized has been closely linked with the Middle East.

He said he thinks the Middle East is a good example of the problems facing the U.N. "The smaller countries tend to bring their differences to the U.N., not to solve them, but to continue them," he said.

Because Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom, it is considered a duty of the British to find solutions to political problems there, he said.

"The main purpose of the United Nations," Weston said, "is the preservation of peace and the resolving of disputes. It can't force any nation to do anything contrary to that nation's policy."

Weston expressed Britain's deep concern about the trend in the world toward violence, including terrorist



Britain's Michael Weston (left) . . . discusses his country's policies with a model United Nations delegate.

activities, skyjackings and guerrilla tactics.

"However noble the ends may be, they cannot justify these particular means," he said. The United Kingdom has

consistently supported the U.N., Weston said. "It's the only U.N. we've got, and if it doesn't live, it is doubtful that any agreement could ever be reached on the formation of anything half as good."



Karen Buller . . . Indian counselor on an interim basis.

Indian adviser emphasizes academics

The most important thing on Karen Buller's mind now is seeing that all 24 UNL Indian students receive adequate academic counselling, she said Thursday in an interview.

Buller is the new Indian counselor, replacing John Arbuckle, who resigned in December. Buller, on a leave of absence from graduate studies in educational psychology, accepted the full-time post in an interim capacity.

"The emphasis is on academics," Buller said. "Keeping everybody in school is the most important thing."

She said that some Indian students are taking advantage of the tutoring programs offered by the Minority Affairs Department.

She said financial and social differences between Indian and white students tie in with the academic difficulties of Indian students.

"The biggest problem is finances," Buller said. "Some Indian students can't concentrate on their studies because they're worrying about where their next meal is coming from."

Buller said she thought "nearly all" enrolled

Indian students were receiving adequate funding at least for this semester, although funds for first semester of next year have not been confirmed.

Buller said most UNL Indian students are active members of the Council of American Indian Students (CAIS) and that the club has several projects currently underway.

—CAIS is starting a library of relevant books, which now rest in Buller's closet, and are available to interested students.

—CAIS has a basketball team, but no cheerleaders. "If you're in a dormitory, the whole dormitory comes and cheers, but in our case, everybody is on the team, so there's nobody left to cheer," she said.

—CAIS is planning an Indian Culture Week for April 11-15. It will be in conjunction with the Nebraska Union Program Council, and will feature speakers, a concert, arts and crafts and a pow-wow.

Buller said CAIS is separate from the American Indian Movement, which is a national Indian organization.

"Indian students (at UNL) are very independent here and don't want to be affiliated with other political groups at this time," she said.

Rising postage costs may junk garbage mail

by H.J. Cummins

Most everyone, including the UNL student, is on at least 150 mailing lists, according to a 1971 survey by the Association of American Publishers (AAP).

These lists are used by merchants in their "direct mailing"—junk mail as it's more commonly called.

National statistics show there are 400,000 customers with third class postal permits. (Ninety per cent of all direct mail is sent through third class mail.)

Statistics also show that 20,000 of these permit holders are mailing list companies.

How do UNL students' names find their way to these lists? Telephone directories are one obvious answer. But companies told the AAP surveyors that they've gotten names from voting registration lists, car registration lists, school records, charge accounts and military and service records.

Zip codes have gone from being the companies' curse to their best friend, mailing list companies reported. If a record company wants to advertise to students they need only learn the university zip code number—in UNL's case, 68508—and send their mailings to all addresses with that number. They can reach most dormitories and Greek houses that way, they said.

The UNL *Builder's Buzz Book* appears to be another useful tool for the companies who use junk mail.

Past editor of the book, Jim Gray, said the book always has been popular on campus because it lists all students and their Lincoln addresses, even those not listed in the phone book.

Gray said Builders never has had any complaints from students.

A Kansas City, Mo., firm, Modern Guide to Buying, Inc., used the book this month to contact all graduating seniors at UNL, a representative said in a phone interview. (The *Buzz Book* also lists a students' class and hometown address.)

He said placement offices in other universities always have given them lists of graduating seniors.

UNL Computer Network Director Walter Bruning said he thinks the University receives fewer requests from businesses for mailing lists because of the book.

Gerald Bowker, UNL director of academic services, said the University "is not in the business of selling mailing lists." The list of students is released only to Builders and ASUN during its spring elections, he said.

But the AAP survey indicated that direct mailings are falling by the way. They're becoming too expensive.

Postage is now 40 per cent of the companies' direct mailing bill, compared to 25 per cent 10 years ago, the report said. Newspaper and television advertising, because it reaches more people for the same price, is replacing the direct mailings.

Companies are becoming more efficient too, selecting ever smaller and more probable client lists, the report said.

So even if students continue to receive record club advertisements and dry cleaning coupons, those furniture pitches may soon stop coming around.

