

# Afghan, Pakistani students comment on Soviet invasion

By Patti Gallagher

As Soviet forces continue to move into neighboring Afghanistan and daily reports of violence and the spreading threat to worldwide security are heard, some UNL foreign students express concern over the crisis.

Kumail Thariani, second-year UNL student from Pakistan, said his family's safety is his primary concern. "All I'm concerned about is my parents and my family," Thariani said.

Rahim Walil said he did not want to comment on the strife in his native Afghanistan for fear his family would be endangered.

He did, however, call the situation "very serious."

## Refugees

An estimated 30,000 to 40,000 Afghan refugees have fled to Pakistan, which borders Afghanistan on the east.

Thariani said he foresees no conflicts between the people of Afghanistan and the people of Pakistan because of the similarities in lifestyles, beliefs and religion. But he added he "would hate to give guns to any of them around the border."

Pakistan is in jeopardy because of its location, Thariani said. "Its position makes it very strategic," he said.

Another Pakistan student, Sylvana Airan, called the mood in Afghanistan "very, very tense."

## Letters confirm

Airan said reports from a friend returning from the Pakistan-Afghanistan area in the last two weeks, combined with bits of her family's letters—although they are censored—confirmed her belief in the tenseness of the situation.

Airan said that the Afghans seeking refuge in Pakistan will "cause a lot of problems" economically, because Pakistan is not a rich country.

Airan said American aid to Pakistan is a step in the right direction. "Pakistan needs backing," she said.

Airan said one of the Soviet Union's aims is to advance to the Persian Sea.

She said if the Soviet Union was only trying to help Afghanistan prevent outside aggression, as Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev claimed, then they should "settle it and go away." The extended Soviet presence in the country is "causing a world uproar," she said.

A third Pakistani studying at UNL agrees with Airan on

the motive behind the Soviet invasion.

## Warm-water port

"The Soviets have always had a kind of obsession with obtaining a warm-water port," Munawar Noorani said.

Noorani said the "first stage" of Soviet movement toward gaining such a port was the action taken in Afghanistan. Because the population is over 90 percent illiterate, he said, it is "not difficult to bring in a communist or socialist government."

Another motive behind the Soviet action is to prove its power to its own people, he said. It is imperative for the Soviet Union to succeed in Afghanistan to illustrate to its large Moslem minority that the government can easily subdue them.

Noorani said he approves of American action so far, but said that because it is an election year, "Mr. Carter might go overboard."

"There is cold war," Noorani said, and the last thing the United States should do is give direct military aid to Afghanistan.

He said the Russians would be more likely to react violently if another "superpower" were to supply aid than if a neighboring Moslem country were to give military assistance.

# Fraternity should have sounded alarm, inspector says

By Jim Faddis

The Dec. 18 fire at Theta Xi fraternity, 1535 R St. was not handled as well as it should have been, a Lincoln fire inspector said.

Fire inspector Mike Durst said no one pulled the fire alarm in the fraternity. Instead, two Theta Xi members woke up house residents to alert them about the fire at 6:30 a.m., Durst said.

The fire alarm should have been pulled, he said.

"When you attempt to wake everyone up in a building,

there is a possibility that you will miss a room and somebody won't get out," Durst said. "Fire alarms are designed to alert people about a fire and should be used."

Theta Xi member Tim Stanek said the fire alarm was not used because of false alarms in the past.

## False alarms a problem

"There have been so many false alarms in other fraternity houses and dormitories that most people don't do anything when they hear a fire alarm anyway," Stanek

said.

"We thought that if we pulled the fire alarm people would have thought it was just another prank and not have gotten out of the building."

Durst said two fireplaces in the fraternity had been used for three days and the heat started a fire between bricks in the chimney.

The fire then climbed three floors through chinks in the chimney mortar, Durst said. Firefighters were able to confine the fire to the chimney by making three holes in the chimney wall and wetting it down, he said.

The fireplaces were used continually because it was final examinations week and several Theta Xi members were staying up all night to study, Stanek said.

Durst estimated fire damage to be \$1,000. Stanek said the damage was repaired during semester break.

## City has regulations

Durst said fraternity and sorority houses must meet city fire regulations. Those regulations require the houses to have a fire alarm system; to have fire extinguishers on each floor; to have a fire door on each floor to block stairways; and to have two fire escapes on each floor.

Theta Xi meets the regulations, Durst said.

It is also recommended that fraternities and sororities have a fire drill every semester, he said.

Six sororities have had a fire drill where a Fire Dept. representative has shown sorority members what to do, Durst said. But, he said, no fraternities has asked the department to conduct a fire drill.

Stanek said Theta Xi had an organized fire drill earlier in the year. He said the fraternity has a plan on what to do during a fire, which includes making sure everyone is out of the building.

# New Year's vow...

Continued from Page 4

Unfortunately, these exchanges took place entirely in my head.

The fact is that, like so many other Americans, I am increasingly thwarted at the anger gate by the absolute certainty that it isn't going to be worth the hassle.

I am sure that I will not be able to (1) find a person to talk or write to; that (2) this person will neither care about my problem or be able to help; that (3) it's company policy (4) the computer did it and (5) after all is said and done, I am left with the choice of bad service or no service.

Under these circumstances you begin to feel that it's nutty to complain. It's clearly not sensible to waste your energy futilely fighting the system when you need every bit of it to deal with the system. It begins to appear that it's saner to cope with the world than argue with it.

But this is an absolutely insidious argument. I believe that you have to pick your fights. But when you find you


aren't picking any fights, you're part of the problem. The problem of muted rage and ulcerous impotence, and disintegrating buttonholes.

People and product managers ought to be called to task for thoughtlessness, rudeness, incompetence and stupid shower heads. We ought to do it to keep our ire in shape, our anger going in the right direction and our principles propped up. If you have to rage powerlessly at an ayatollah, the least you can do is confront a computer operator.

So, in 1980, I'm going to be cranky. I'm going to complain and not just when it's a leaky roof or a screwed-up bill. I'm going to get irritated because the Democratic National Committee keeps addressing me as Mr. E. Goodman and because the lightbulb with a year-long guarantee went pop in the night.

After all, hassling is good for the waistline.

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