

Goodwill mission

80 Nebraskans to visit Russia

By Lorna Nissen

Eighty Nebraskans will leave the state in March to serve as ambassadors to the Soviet Union as part of a goodwill mission sponsored by Friendship Force, Mary Hart of the Nebraska Friendship Force said.

An international organization formed by former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Friendship Force attempts to help people of all ages and nationalities to learn about and understand each other through exchanges, Hart said.

Although this is the first Nebraska mission to Russia, it is not the first Force-sponsored trip to the Soviet Union, she said. Also, it is not a true Friendship Force exchange since the Russian people are not allowed to come to the United States as ambassadors, she said.

\$1,295 exchange cost

The 12-day trip will cost each ambassador about \$1,295, which includes air fare from New York to Russia, hotel accommodations, most meals and train fare, Hart said.

In the past, 250 Nebraskans were chosen as ambassadors for missions, but now only 80 are chosen, Hart said. The number of ambassadors was cut because the larger number of people necessitated taking a charter flight, which is not as enjoyable as flying on a regular airline.

On their trip to the Soviet Union, the ambassadors will get the chance to meet with many of the Russian people, see the countryside, ride a Soviet train and generally observe the Soviet lifestyle, Hart said. The ambassadors will wear buttons and carry calling cards as they visit families and learn about the Soviet Union.

Some of the stipulations being placed on the ambassadors are that they stay in hotels and not in people's homes and that they don't invite people to their hotel rooms, she said. They will be allowed to travel on their own, go out to dinner and go to the Russian ballet.

Stipulations stressed

Not talking about politics or religion and not bringing expensive gifts or items that may be sold in the black market are some of the stipulations placed on the ambassadors by the force itself, Hart said.

She said the Russian people are curious that Americans care that much to visit Russia and are anxious to talk to the ambassadors. The Friendship Force wanted to do away with the "painted image" that Russians have of Americans and show that Americans are "beautiful people."

The Friendship Force looks for people who are sincerely interested in meeting with people of other cultures, who are not looking to go on a "whoopie cruise" and who are not argumentative or are going to sell things, Hart said. Interviews for prospective ambassadors to the Soviet Union will take place in Lincoln, Omaha and Grand Island until Jan. 1, Hart said.

Following the trip to the Soviet Union, ambassadors are allowed to correspond with the people that they meet. Hart said the previous U.S. Friendship Force mission to the Soviet Union was successful and she is hopeful that this special Nebraska Mission will be, too.

She said she wishes the Soviet Union would ease restrictions and let the Russian people visit the United States so that they could experience the American lifestyle firsthand.

Police Report

The following calls and complaints were received by UNL police from 7 a.m. Tuesday to 7 a.m. Wednesday.

8:23 a.m. — Cash reported stolen from the Love Memorial Cooperative on East Campus.

1:58 p.m. — Telephone reported stolen from Bancroft Hall.

3:54 p.m. — People reported hunting at a farm located at 84th street and Havelock Avenue.

2:19 p.m. — Locker reported broken into at Mabel Lee Hall; wallet stolen.

4:16 p.m. — Persons reported slinking along the walks of the Lutheran Student Chapel, 535 N. 16th St.; gone when officers arrived.

4:50 p.m. — Wallet reported lost or stolen from Memorial Stadium on Friday.

4:58 p.m. — Fire alarm set off at Manter Hall; no fire.

6:35 p.m. — Report of unauthorized use of an NU credit card; report unfounded.

6:45 p.m. — Person stopped for a traffic violation was arrested for warrants issued by Lincoln police.

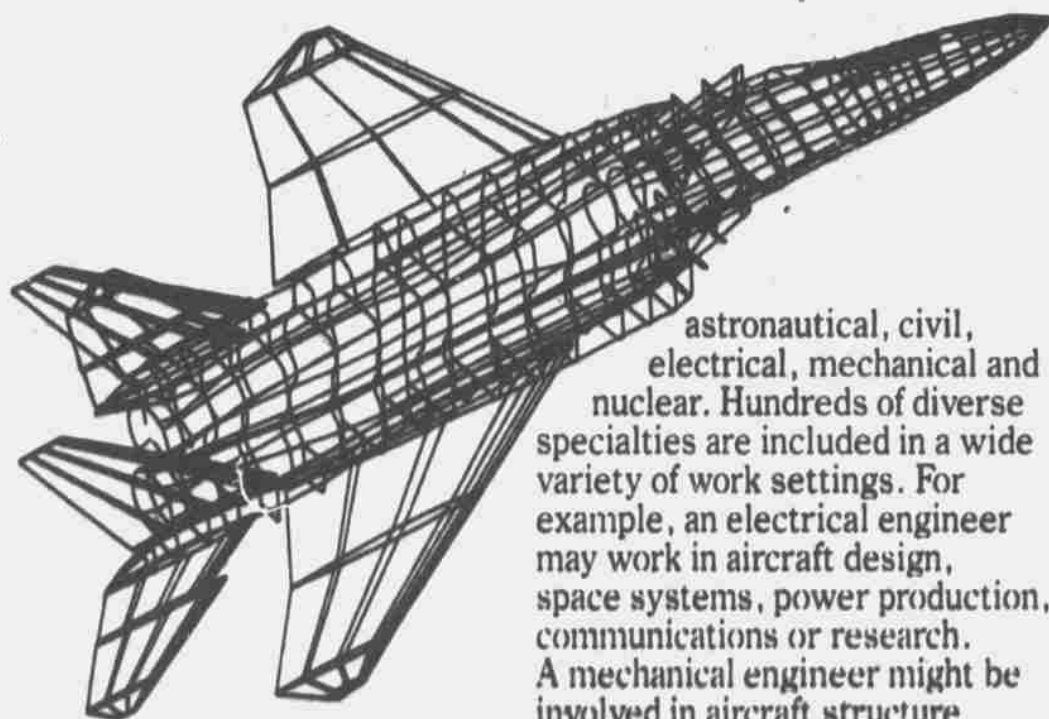
9:50 p.m. — Bicycle parts reported stolen from Avery Hall.

9:52 p.m. — Complaint made about a person breaking bottles at 18th and T streets; settled by officers.

10:16 p.m. — Three students arrested for making nuisance calls. The calls were made during the last two months. The Lincoln Telephone Co. traced the callers, resulting in the arrest.

3:33 a.m. — Stolen car found on East Campus.

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