

ISO candidates stress participation

By Janet Chu

Election of officers for the UNL International Students Organization will be today at 5 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Presidential candidates are Muhammad Aqdas Ali, a graduate student from Pakistan studying chemistry; Saeed Bahramzad, a senior from Iran studying industrial engineering; and Vijay Kondamudi, a graduate student from India studying

human nutrition.

While all the presidential candidates stressed the importance of participation of international students in ISO, each also has his own objectives. Ali, a member of the Pakistan Student Association, said he wants to set up a more solid reception program for new students arriving at Lincoln Municipal Airport. He said providing temporary housing for new students would be one way to expand the program.

He also stressed greater participation of international students in ISO meetings and activities and better interaction between American and international students. This, he said, could be accomplished through informative movies about different countries and more social functions, such as dances. Ali has been at UNL since spring of 1983.

Bahramzad, presently ISO's social secretary, said the revitalization of the organization is his primary campaign goal. He said he would like to see more students outside the executive committee involved in ISO's decision-making process.

Another of Bahramzad's goals is to establish a low-interest, short-term loan program for international students for emergencies. He said students frequently don't receive money from home in time to meet payments or do not have enough time to find American co-signers for loans.

Bahramzad worked as an orientation assistant for international students with International Educational Services. He has done volunteer work for IES for three years and has attended UNL for five years.

Kondamudi, like Ali, said he would like to expand the airport reception program and provide temporary housing. However, Kondamudi, a member of the India Association, said he would extend the program to Greyhound and Trailway bus terminals and Eppley Airfield in Omaha.

Kondamudi said he would work to dismiss the requirement for foreign teaching assistants to take proficiency tests.

He said he also would try to expand the present IES library by providing students with newspapers from all the countries represented at UNL.

Soala Ariweriokuma, ISO president, urged students to participate in the elections. The primary aim of the organization, which encompasses 16 international organizations and students representing 85 countries, is to encourage all students to share educational, cultural and social experiences with students from other parts of the world, he said. He said the ISO also intercedes in problem situations and can be an avenue for solving them.

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Off The Wire

National and international news from the Reuter News Report

Ministers reaffirm support for Lebanon

PARIS — The United States and the three other nations that make up the peacekeeping force in Beirut, Lebanon, said Thursday that they will keep their troops in place. Continued support for the force emerged from an emergency conference attended by Secretary of State George Shultz and the foreign ministers of France, Italy and Britain. Last Sunday's bomb attacks, which killed more than 270 U.S. and French soldiers in Beirut, prompted the conference.

French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson read a statement on behalf of all four countries after almost three hours of talks. Cheysson said the four countries appealed to Lebanese throughout the world to support peace and unity, and in particular to those taking part in a reconciliation conference scheduled to open in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday.

NATO to scrap warheads

MONTEBELLO, Quebec — NATO ministers Thursday announced they have decided to reduce the alliance's nuclear stockpile by 1,400 old, unneeded warheads and urged the Soviet Union to make similar reductions in its arsenal. At the same time, the ministers said they planned to go ahead with stationing 572 new Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Europe in December, starting in Britain and West Germany. The ministers said after a meeting of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group that the short-range nuclear weapons and artillery shells will be withdrawn during the next five to six years. The ministers noted that the new reductions would reduce the alliance's stockpile to 4,600, its lowest level in 20 years.

Chinese search for ship

PEKING — Chinese and American ships and planes scoured the Gulf of Tonkin Thursday night for signs of a missing American oil-drilling ship with about 74 people aboard, diplomatic sources said. The vessel disappeared when a tropical storm hit the area Wednesday. It was last heard from as it drifted toward Vietnamese waters. If the ship is blown into Vietnamese territory, the diplomatic sources said, an effective search may be difficult. The region is potentially sensitive because Vietnam has accused China of violating its sovereignty by allowing U.S. companies to operate in the Gulf, the sources said.

Soviet tankers escape ice

MOSCOW — Icebreakers have freed the last of several dozen Soviet ships trapped by pack ice off northeastern Siberia, the official news agency Tass reported Thursday. It said the last ship, the tanker Igrim, was led to safer waters from the Yakan Peninsula where it had been stuck since a large-scale rescue operation began three weeks ago. About 35 ships were caught by ice when the weather turned drastically colder earlier this month and autumn navigation routes were suddenly sealed. Atomic-powered icebreakers were called in to smash paths through the ice to the stranded vessels, which supply towns along the northern coastline.

Wrong number for help

LONDON — As U.S. Marines mounted their invasion of Grenada this week, the island's short-lived military regime was appealing for British help on a wrong number. Three appeals to the British government arrived on the telex of a London plastic-bag manufacturer called Scanplus Ltd., the company said Thursday. The telex number formerly belonged to the Foreign Office, a member of Parliament said.

Beer can't do everything

PEKING — China's Arctic Ocean and White Snow beers may still be very good for you, but the brewery has removed from its advertising a claim that the beers can prevent cancer. An advertisement in Monday's China Daily said the brews, produced in the eastern city of Jinan, were "nutritious, stops thirst, good for the digestive system, can increase blood circulation and prevent cancer." The claim of cancer prevention did not appear when the advertisement ran in Thursday's paper.