

Iranian students protest Shah's regime

(CPS) — This is the story of secret police, a megalomaniac, some American universities, one hundred million dollars and student protesters who wear bags over their heads.

The students are young Iranians: according to the Iranian Embassy in Washington there are nearly 17,000 of them currently taking courses at U.S. colleges, making them this country's second largest foreign delegation after students from Hong Kong.

The Iranians are overwhelmingly male, they are mainly studying engineering and other technical subjects, most hail from Iran's upper class and many of them are angry.

Like no other group of students these days, militant Iranians, mainly members of the 3,000 strong Iranian Students Association (ISA), are raising a collective stink at dozens of colleges across the country and around the world.

The Iranians are holding teach-ins, sit-ins, dashing off letters to campus editors, leafleting or parading about with signs, hiding their identities with ski masks and bags that make them look like medieval jousting.

The target of their ire and the reason for their paranoia is his Imperial Majesty, Mohammed Reza Pahlevi, King of Kings and Light of the Aryans, also known as the Shah of Iran. The Shah gained power in 1953 after a now-acknowledged CIA coup. In 1967 he crowned himself after reportedly watching a film of Queen Elizabeth's coronation 20 times in preparation.

The ISA and its many worldwide sympathizers say the Shah is an iron-fisted dictator who uses

Iran's annual \$20 billion oil revenues to consolidate his power and further his empire, all at the expense of that country's poor — most of Iran's 32-million people. The Shah has bought over \$10 billion worth of sophisticated U.S. weapons and ships in the past decade. "U.S. arms sales come from money sucked from the Iranian people," says an ISA student at New Mexico State.

Censorship abounds in Iran, the ISA claims, and when it comes to "God's Shadow," as the Shah likes to be called, never is there heard a discouraging word. Failure to abide by this rule means prison, where 100,000 political opponents of the Shah now sit, battered by cattle prods and other modern devices of torture, according to Amnesty International, the French newspaper Le Monde and several other European organizations. Since 1972, over 300 Iranians have been executed for political crimes. The Shah also controls the 70,000-member SAVAK secret police, and even the Iranian embassy has admitted that there are SAVAK agents on the prowl in America, keeping an eye on Iranian expatriots.

What really rankles the ISA and its supporters is the complicity between U.S. universities and the Shah. Ever since the Arab oil boycott two years ago, college administrators have been tripping over each other in their attempts to strike up bargains with Iran, seeing the wealthy country as one way out of their present money woes.

American educational experts put the total value of educational services gone from the U.S. to Iran at \$100 million. One of the

largest deals is an \$11 million, five-year agreement with George Washington University in which its professors will set up an economic institute in Iran. Stanford, UCLA, Berkeley, the University of Pennsylvania, MIT, Harvard, the University of Cincinnati and dozens of other schools have also agreed to establish some sort of program with the Shah's government.

Little of this has gone unnoticed at the schools involved. "Some (academic personnel) have scruples about doing anything to reinforce the Shah's rule but the prevailing feeling seems to be that it's nice to help a country fight its backwardness," commented Science Magazine.

But some Iranian students, as well as American students and professors, point out the militaristic nature of many of the agreements and ask how they will help raise Iran's \$1,800 annual per capita wage or cut into its 75 per cent illiteracy rate.

Student protests last fall at Southern Massachusetts University over a plan to use the campus as a training ground for the Iranian Navy led officials there to cancel the program. In early February, a debate on Iran at the University of Texas ended in a brawl between ISA members and a photographer whom they accused of working for SAVAK.

Most recently, protests and verbal outbursts disrupted Johns Hopkins University's Graduation Day celebration when the university — which has an agreement with the Shah — awarded an honorary degree to his wife's sister.

Reza, an Iranian graduate student in engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, says it is easy for Iranians to turn against the Shah once they leave Iran.

"The Shah built the country," he was a great man, Reza thought before he came to the U.S. to study. "So I came here, I saw

American papers, watched some TV. Automatically, my mind started opening up. It happens to all Iranians here."

As for the Shah, he does not appear worried that many of his hopes for the future have turned into enemies. "I am not afraid of my people," he told DBS last year. "They trust me. I trust them."

Killing of official mars new Argentina regime

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — Guerrillas assassinated a high federal police official and staged other attacks Monday as Gen. Jorge Videla took the oath of office as Argentina's new military president.

Videla, 50, is commander of the army and a member of the three-man junta that assumed power last Wednesday after the armed forces overthrew Pres. Isabel Peron in a bloodless coup. The junta designated Videla as president Saturday.

At least 10 persons were killed in the outbreak of violence, including Chief Inspector Guillermo

Pavon, and several children were reported taken hostage at a school.

Three persons presumed to be leftist guerrillas gunned Pavon down as he left his suburban home for work Monday morning. Authorities said he died instantly from the machine-gun fire and his chauffeur was seriously wounded. The attackers fled in a pickup truck.

In Cordoba, Argentina's second largest city, authorities announced the detention of seven persons at newsstands where "subversive Marxist" publications were found.

\$1 bill not worth printing

(CPS) — The United States Treasury has found a partial solution to the problem of inflation by raising the denominations of bills that will be circulating in Americans' pockets and wallets this year. Starting in a few weeks, the \$2 bill will make a comeback and if it's as popular as officials think it will be, the \$1 bill may become obsolete.

The government is considering replacing the \$1 bill with a \$1 coin, bigger than a quarter but smaller than a half-dollar. The \$1 bill has already lost 40 cents of its former value just since 1966.



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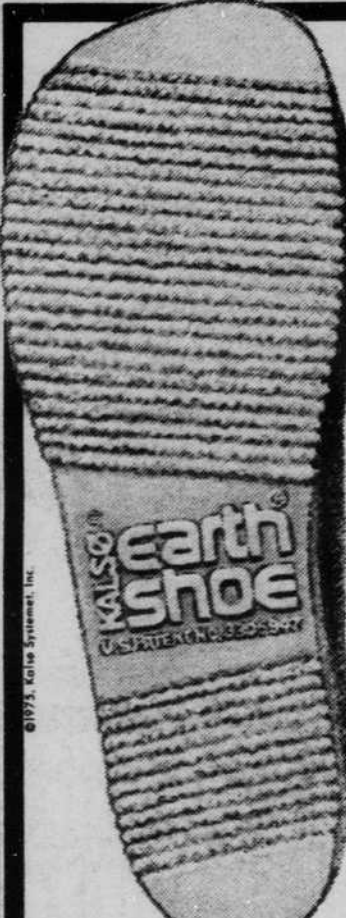
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