

Law violated

Hassan Ahmadi, a local Iranian student, was quoted (Emerald, 11-12) as saying "that the takeover followed eight months of unsuccessful attempts through diplomatic channels to bring the exiled shah back to Iran." That statement raises several questions.

Did the Khomeini regime attempt through "normal diplomatic channels" to obtain the extradition of the shah from the various nations in which he has resided since leaving Iran this January? During this time the shah stayed in Egypt, Morocco, the Bahamas and finally Mexico. Were requests for extradition made of each of these governments? Since extradition was not made by these nations why weren't their embassies occupied?

The shah arrived in the U.S. Oct. 23, just 12 days before the occupation of the U.S. embassy in Iran. Did the Khomeini government request extradition of the the U.S. government before its occupation of the embassy? If so, is 12 days really a reasonable amount of time for negotiations to proceed?

It would appear that the answers to all these question is no. The Khomeini regime has in fact abjured the normal diplomatic practice of civilized nations. It has violated one of the most ancient of all principles of international law: diplomatic immunity and the inviolability of diplomatic agents. It is ironic that it was ancient Persia which first began this step toward civilized behavior among the members of the community of nations. This occupation is also in direct violation of the "Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents" passed by consensus of the U.N. General Assembly, Dec. 14, 1973.

Robert Lockard
librarian, social science

Naive opinion

In response to Mr. Syzmanski's letter of November 7th, regarding dictatorships and communism:

It is my suggestion that Mr. Syzmanski spend a couple of years in the Soviet Union, so he can see his beloved republic at first hand. He can take part in a "true democratic process" and find the equality of which he writes. (There is equality: The majority of the populace is on the U.S. poverty level.) Also, he might spend a month or so in one of the thousands of forced labor camps (or rehabilitation facilities) which have been responsible for the death of millions in the last fifty years. This way Mr. Syzmanski may experience the "mild repression" of the Soviets.

If Mr. Syzmanski made this trip to Russia, we — here in the oppressive city Eugene — would be rid of one more of the people who are using the freedoms our country provides to destroy it. And by the way, Syzmanski: You have the freedom to express your opinion, and I have the freedom to refute that opinion. In the USSR,

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China, Cuba or any other communist country, neither of these freedoms would have been allowed or tolerated.

Erik D. Stowell
freshman, biology

Two-way street

The behavior of a number of American students on the campus in response to the Iranian students' support of the takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran is appalling. To attempt to deny the Iranian students their constitutionally guaranteed right to free speech and free assembly is to mouth the very fascist principles Americans claim to be criticizing. The American students have the right to criticize the Iranians, exactly as, and no more than the Iranians have the right to express their support for the takeover. To go any farther — to threaten violence or deportation — is to become the mob. As one woman was quoted as saying on Friday (Emerald, 11-12), "We are the American government." If you believe that, then act in faith of the principles you claim to love. If it isn't a two-way street, it isn't a street at all.

Sallie Teasdale
pre-nursing major

Near violence

Friday's episode in the EMU lobby was too much. The extremely vocal confrontation between the Muslim Student Union and a large group of irate American students came about as close to violence as a confrontation can come without being violent.

No one needed to guess what caused the argument. It was simply an indirect result of the current Iranian situation, a situation which former Pres. Ford has called the most serious that this country has faced since World War II.

What is unclear is who are the members and leaders of Fight Iranian Student Hypocrisy. Is any American student who is angry about the Iranian situation a member? Perhaps, but who are its leaders? We know who the Iranian student's leaders are; they're not hiding now, and I doubt that they will be in the future. They have remained visible and accountable for their actions. The leaders of FISH have not. I can't purport to speak for other students. Perhaps I speak only for myself, but I for one find it impossible to rally behind any secret organization, be it FISH or the KKK. Before I join forces with any group, I must know who and what it is and that is information that FISH has not provided me. Further, I suspect that they will never publicly provide anyone with that information. So much for FISH.

The most important questions currently facing our country are: What do we do? What do we do if negotiations for the release of the captive Americans fail. Should we send the Marines? Should Iranians be taken hostage (perhaps in a fashion similar to our government's decision during World War II to herd Japanese people who are living in the U.S. into detention centers)?

A not so funny thing is that all

these questions would not need answers if the shah had not been allowed into our country. So the question that must be answered is: Why is he here? If Americans would direct that question to their government, rather than their anger to Iranian students, then they might see the shah's speedy departure from the U.S. and an equally speedy release of the American hostages.

Consider this: If negotiations with Iran fail, our government may have only one method for resolving the situation — military intervention. One thing that could prevent them from using this method is public disapproval of it. If the government perceives a public opinion that approves of military intervention, then that will happen. But also consider this: It is extremely likely that military intervention in Iran will lead to war, and such a war could make Vietnam, Korea and even World War II look like picnics.

Please, don't question the Iranian students. Rather, question our government's decision to give refuge to the shah.

Jesse Barton
chairman, SUAB

Gays object

Jeff William's response to "note passing perverted homosexuals" displayed a callous lack of understanding. Rather than attempt to understand how many gay people are forced into less than ideal social situations by societal pressures, he attacks the victims.

Where as heterosexuals have several socially acceptable means of contact, homosexuals are denied these public opportunities for fear of losing employment, housing and other services, and receiving hateful alienation. In saying "the fight is on," Jeff Williams perpetuates this alienation, thereby pushing gay professionals, students, blue-collar workers, married people and other homosexuals into the situations he so vehemently condemns.

Please, Jeff, don't use privacy as an excuse for masking homophobia.

Gay People's Alliance

Like or leave

Recent events on campus have been very disturbing to myself and many other American students. In the Emerald, I read about Iranian students here supporting the takeover of the American embassy and the holding of hostages in Tehran in addition to denouncing the U.S. Then I read about Arab students denouncing the Jewish students here at the University, as well as the Campus Interfaith Ministry.

I think that it's high time these foreign students understand that they are very welcome to visit and study here, but if they come here to knock America and to espouse their prejudice against some of our citizens they can go back where they came from.

Richard Cleveland
junior, business

Logic challenge

I would like to use this letter to respond to Student University Affairs Board Chairer Jess Barton's criticism of FISH (Emerald, 11-12), for involvement in last Friday's protest of the Iranian takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran.

Barton cites the groups "attempt to curtail the Iranian students right of free speech." While Barton espouses that the Iranians have the right to speak, as they were allowed to on Friday, he fails to realize that FISH has just as much right to speak as the Iranians.

While FISH calls for removal of the Iranians from campus, it hardly seems possible that it would occur as a result of Friday's protest.

Barton's claims that this kind of "bullshit" will lead to military intervention in Iran are yet to be seen. Personally I believe that President Carter has enough intelligence to not intervene militarily on the basis of student protests across the country.

While I do not necessarily support the deposed shah or his being in this country for treatment, I find it even more difficult

to support a nation that takes innocent people hostage as a means to an end.

Tell me, Mr. Barton, are you prepared to answer for the Iranians if the hostages are not released alive? You better be, because if they aren't released unharmed and alive it may be awfully hard to find an Iranian who's willing to stand up and talk.

Bob Thompson
senior, telecommunications

Moped must go

Wednesday, after seeing yet another moped user blaze through the barricade and continue to motor down the section of 13th Avenue closed to motorized vehicles, I was finally angry enough to write a letter. That was also the day Greg Wasson's column addressed the moped issue. What a delight it was to learn that there are other people similarly concerned and incensed.

Motorized vehicles don't belong in bike lanes, in bike paths or in sections of the University closed to motorized uses. We don't need the subtle tyranny which they represent. Off with their motors.

John Hogan
graduate student, architecture

letters policy

The Emerald will accept and try to print all letters and opinion columns containing fair comment on ideas and topics of concern or interest to the University community. Letters and opinions will be run on a first-come, first-served basis. Both letters and opinion columns must be typewritten, using 65 character margins, and should be triple-spaced. Letters and opinions must be signed and the author's field of study (or faculty status) noted.

