

Islam fueled Iran revolution, speaker says

By ALAN HARRIS
Of the Emerald

The power behind the Iranian revolution was the Islamic religion, Ahmed Altwajri said Tuesday in an Iran Week lecture.

Altwajri, a member of the Muslim Student Association and a Ph.D. candidate in higher education, told about 20 people in 167 EMU that Iranians who were following the "just path" of Islam carried out the revolution.

Islamic ideology holds that there are definite rights and wrongs, and wrongs must be righted, he said. The wrongs in this case were allegedly committed by the shah.

Holy days were a catalyst for demonstrations against those alleged wrongs. Muharram (September), Islam's sacred month, brought the most dramatic and violent demonstrations against the shah.

But it's not true, contrary to the picture presented by

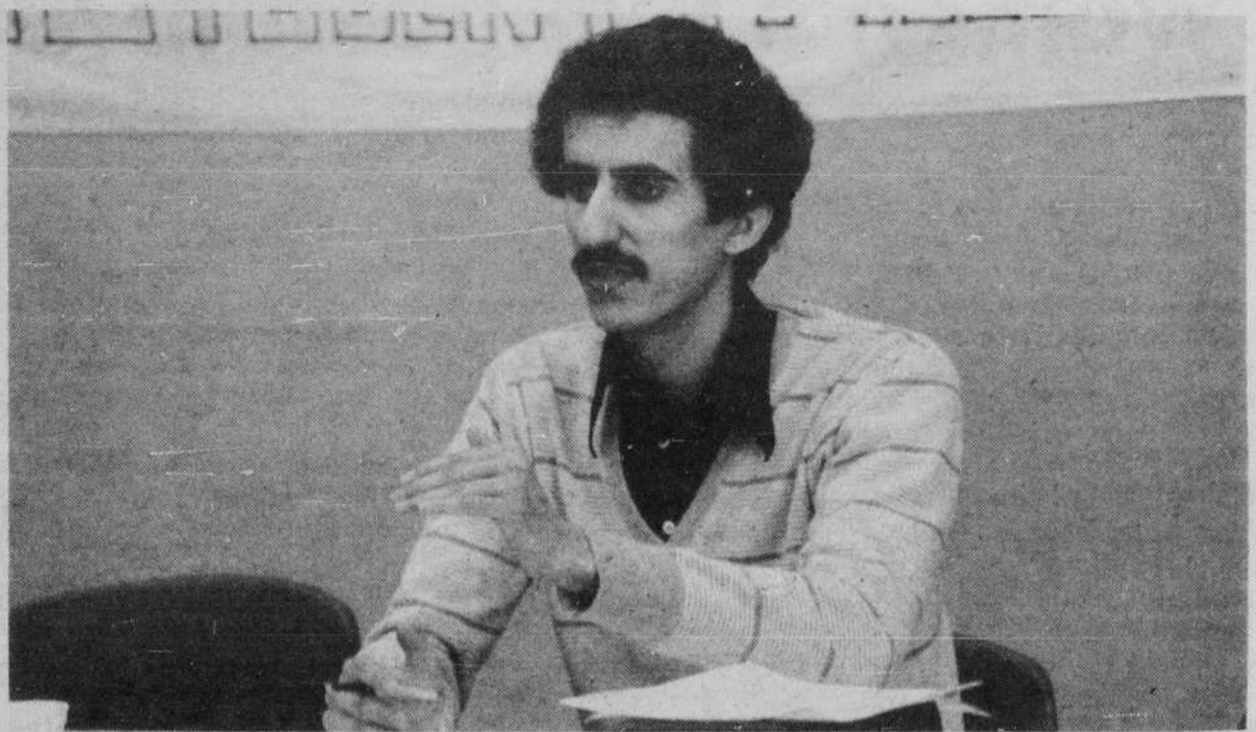
Western media, that Islam is an aggressive and oppressive religion, Altwajri said.

"We look at the last 50 years of Iran's history and learn that by straying from the path of Islam and its teachings there is much greater oppression," he said.

The rules and laws of Islam have been modified and refined since the seventh century to where today they "cover the mental and physical side of the human being," Altwajri said.

Islam differs from Christianity and Judaism, he said, in its application to daily existence. Islamic laws govern the individual and the collective society in every aspect of daily living, not for just two or three hours a day, he said.

"Muslims believe that it is in this way (by complete dedication to their religion), that the human being enters into a harmonious relationship with the universe," he said. "We



Ahmen Altwajri, representing the Muslim Student Association, spoke Tuesday about the effects of the Islamic religion on the revolution and on personal life in Iran. Photo by Ken Kromer

then have a proper place as do the planets and the elements. To attain this is the best worship, the ultimate."

This is a lifelong struggle within the individual and then within the society, Altwajri said. "One does not do it for

his or her own self-gratification, but does it because it is the purest way to worship the creator," he said.

School tackles minority issues

By JEFF ENGLAND
Of the Emerald

Law school Dean Chapin Clark met Tuesday with the Minority Law Students Association to discuss problems relating to minority probation.

Sixty-nine percent of the first-year minority law students are on academic probation.

"Law school faculty and administration are committed to increasing representation of minority attorneys in this country," said Clark, who was unable to finish his address to the MLSA due to "time conflicts."

Increased emphasis on the recruitment of minorities and flexibility in admissions of minority students were cited by Clark as examples of that commitment.

"No application from a minority student is routinely denied," said Clark. "Cultural and ethnic backgrounds and disadvantages make it appropriate to take these factors into consideration. All minority applications are individually reviewed."

Clark also noted the law school's use of the Council on Legal Education Opportunities, a

national program for minority graduates applying to law school. Through the program, students are involved in an intensive six-week summer program that evaluates their chances for success in law school and awards a \$100 monthly stipend to students who do well in the program.

During the meeting, MLSA members voted to develop a platform listing grievances and possible solutions to the minority students' problems.

The MLSA platform will be presented at a law school faculty meeting today at 3:30 p.m. in 375 Law Center.

Corrections, Amplifications

Wednesday's analysis of the ASUO representatives' trip to Washington, D.C. said that ASUO Pres. Scott Bassett did not meet with any of Oregon's congressional representatives. Bassett did, however, meet with Sen. Mark Hatfield in the company of a student from Ashland.



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