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I'd like to apologize to you. I haven't been very nice lately, I know. I spend much of my time at my job, and what little time I have left over I hoard greedily. I'm sorry I haven't called you as often as I might have.

I ask your forgiveness and understanding, although deep down I know I don't deserve it. I do care for you. If you should feel the same way towards me, then you are generous with your affections, because I have done woefully little to merit it.

The man from Iran

Excalibur: Could you tell me how you became so fascinated with Iran's social, political and cultural transformation?

Carlsen: At the time of the hostage crisis, it appeared to me to be an attempt by Iran to reconcile its pluralist social views with its religious traditions. These two worldviews conflicted and brought into play several factors which culminated in the revolution, and the hostage crisis.

Excalibur: Do you see Libya's Quaddafi trying to modernize Libya, but having learned the Shah's mistake, aim at a more balanced integration of Western and religious tradition?

Carlsen: Quaddafi in my opinion is a perfect example of an iconoclast individual. He represents a dynamic and political reality, a 20th century ruler much like Castro in his pragmatic policies and he won't be overthrown like the Shah.

Excalibur: In your book, you state that all foreign trained expertise, and even upper class Iranian professionals and businessmen have left Iran. Will Iran be able to train its own people to carry on the basic economic necessities vital to its economic recovery?

Carlsen: Iran's infrastructure collapsed in the wake of the exodus following the revolution. They will have to persuade their own managerial class to come back to Iran, as well as enticing skilled foreigners to return, but of course only those who weren't associated with the Shah's corrupt rule.

Excalibur: You state that Dr. Mokalla (Director of Press, Publicity and Information) described how the elections in Iran were important because it was "the only Moslem country where free and democratic elections were taking place." Do you actually agree with this statement?

Carlsen: The vote on the Islamic Republic should not be confused with the Parliamentary elections. The latter ones were free and represented a wide variety of choice, with several levels of commitment and political infighting. This was reflected in the free selection of such moderates as President Bani-Sadr.

Excalibur: You praise Khomeini in your book and interpret his inspiration to the Iranian masses, as a feat that Mao or Castro could never duplicate. Given the religious symbolism of the revolution in Iran and the fervour it generated, was it not unlike Mao's cultural revolution which also called upon the masses to sacrifice and reject material wealth?

Carlsen: Yes, but Iran had a particular intensity for righteous-

ness which was unparalleled in recent times. This is not to say that Mao lacked charisma in his style of leadership. However, the martyrdom inherent in Iran's holy war against corrupt influences lends itself to a mystical revolution not found to China, Cuba or elsewhere.

Excalibur: Khomeini's decisions seem paradoxical. He declared a ban on liquor, saying it impure, and proceeded to ban music because "it is the opiate of the masses." Yet, there is widespread use of opium in Iran, and more pure opium was harvested and exported from Iran in 1979 than in any other country in the world (700 Tons). Can you explain this?

Carlsen: There is no contradiction in Khomeini's simplified vision of right and wrong. But Iran must go beyond its spiritual revolution if it is to recover economically.

Excalibur: Iran has isolated itself in the international community.

After a 17-day journey to Iran and key interviews with Iranian President Banisadr, former Iranian Foreign Minister Ghotbzadeh, and some of the students militants holding the 52 U.S. hostages, Robin Woodsworth Carlsen has recently completed his second novel, *Seventeen Days in Iran—Revolution, Evolution and Ignorance* (Snow Man Press). *Excalibur's* Danny Goldberger interviewed Robin Carlsen about this novel, *affairs in Iran*, and also his first novel, *Crisis in Iran*, now a required text for many political science university courses.

Carlsen will be speaking today at 4:00 p.m. in Curtis Lecture Hall G.



Carlsen: The Tudis Party is sympathetic to the Soviet Union, and is waiting for the moment to seize power. Still, it would require the death of Khomeini and the entire collapse of the present regime before it could happen. That kind of anarchy would be impossible to justify to the masses which reflect a strong anti-Soviet sentiment.

Excalibur: Do you feel the hostages will be freed within the next two weeks in exchange for much needed U.S. military parts or in an attempt to re-elect Carter?

Carlsen: No. In response to the first possibility, this can't happen. It would compromise everything upon which the Iranian revolution has been predicated. With respect to the second scenario, Ghotbzadeh said Reagan is more of a "satanic" opponent than Carter. Prime Minister Rajai won't say anything on this issue. The IRP (Islamic Republican Party) are non-compromising hardliners and thus there will be no such compromises.

Excalibur: Given the fact that the CIA's coup d'etat in 1953 was wrong and self-serving on behalf of the U.S., can the U.S. denounce their past crime without further weakening its global prestige, or its allies' faith in its commitments to "democratic" regimes the world over?

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YORK * Connection

of Ontario cites new information concerning the possible adverse effects of cannabis use. The following is a summary of the most striking information to come out of this report.

Alterations of the perception of time and space has been shown to have drastic effects on reaction time. The most serious connotation of this finding is the possible dire consequences to motor vehicle operating while under the influence of cannabis. It has been demonstrated that these alterations of perception and mood can also cause adverse effects in anxious or depressed people as well as in borderline schizophrenia. These people can experience psychotic reactions and paranoia which can last for several days.

Brain cell deterioration has been observed in animals and humans who have frequently consumed cannabis drugs. Short-term memory seems to be most affected by this deterioration.

The lungs seem to be most harmed by cannabis use. When marijuana or hashish is smoked, particles suspended in water vapours along with a variety of gases are taken into the lungs. The residue of this mixture is called "tar" and is similar to the tar found in tobacco smoke. The Addiction Research Foundation reports that cannabis produces 50% more tar than the same weight of tobacco.

Cannabis tar contains a variety of carcinogens (cancer producing agents) which are 70%

higher in concentration than that found in the same weight of tobacco tar. When one considers that cannabis is not smoked through a filter, the joint is smoked to leave very little waste, and the smoke is held deep in the lungs for a relatively long period of time, smoking two or three joints can have the same adverse effects as smoking a pack of cigarettes.

Cancerous growths have been produced by cannabis tar applied to the skin of mice as well as in cultures on human lung tissue. In addition, it has been reported that cannabis smoke reduces the lung's ability to fight infection. This would result in the user being more susceptible to colds and other infections.

To obtain a copy of the Addiction Research Foundation report and for any further drug information contact the York Connection at 026 or 027 McLaughlin College.