

Lecture provokes heated debate

by Ivor MacKay

Heated debate broke out between Iraqi and Iranian audience members after a McInnes Room lecture on the Iraq-Iran War held Feb. 14.

Dr. Muhammed Ali, an Iraqi, was invited by the Maritime Muslim Students Association and the Dalhousie International student Co-ordinator to speak on "the perspective of the Iraqi people" in the war. However, it soon became apparent Ali supported the Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini. One Lebanese man called Ali "a puppet of Khomeini".

The majority of Ali's speech attacked the ruling Iraqi Ba'ath party, President Saddam Hussain's regime, and the two superpowers. He said the "Ba'ath party is a nazi party" and equated Hussain with Hitler. Ali added that Iraq had been a puppet of the U.S.S.R., but after the coup that brought Hussain to power Iraq became a puppet of the U.S. He also said the U.S. prompted Iraq to attack Iran. "Iran will win the war," Ali stated. He said it was only a matter of time before it would be over.

Ali said "the majority of the

people in Iraq don't understand why they are fighting the war and they don't support it". There is a small minority that do support the war, he said.

Ali received a number of hostile questions from the floor about his support of Khomeini. One man asked if he supported the Syrian Ba'ath regime as Khomeini did. Ali replied that Syria was the "puppet of the puppet". When asked if he was elected to any position by the Iraqi people he said "there are no elections in Iraq."

Ali was also asked if he understood the history behind the conflict. He said he did.

The organizers were expecting trouble at the lecture due to its controversial topic. Ali was quickly ushered out of the room after the question period through a prepared exit.

Questions directed to Ali had to be written on paper first to prevent "grandstanding and debating on the floor" said organizer and student union science rep Riza Rizvi. "We didn't allow audio-visual equipment at the lecture to protect Dr. Ali," said Rizvi.

Women's Day celebrated at Dal

by Bob Morrison

To coincide with International Women's Day on March 8, Dalhousie's Women's Committee has arranged for a wide variety of presentations, speeches and displays dealing with women's issues to take place in the SUB throughout the day.

Susan McIntyre, Women's Committee chairperson and newly elected Vice President (internal), and other members of the committee have invited all women's groups in the city to take part.

"Presentations will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Greenroom with a discussion on women in trades", said Caroline Zayid, a committee member involved with much of the organizing.

Among the activities planned are rape education seminars. At 7:30 p.m. a doctor at the Victoria General Hospital Emergency Dept. will be explaining how rape cases are dealt with.

A presentation on self defense for women is also scheduled.

"Women involved in Art will be encouraged to set up visual displays", said Zayid. She added arrangements are being made to have female musicians perform during the lunch hour.

Along with the SUB activities, the committee is supporting the efforts of Mount St. Vincent students in their rally which various women politicians in the province will attend.



Profs investigate Moncton administration

VICTORIA (CUP)—The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) plans to investigate the Université de Moncton administration's violation of student liberties in the aftermath of last spring's anti-tuition hike occupation by Moncton students.

Moncton student association executive Erik Roy recently announced that the Moncton professors' association had informed him of the upcoming CAUT investigation.

"The war is not over in Moncton," Roy said.

Following the April occupation, the university administration banned all on-campus meetings and expelled 17 students.

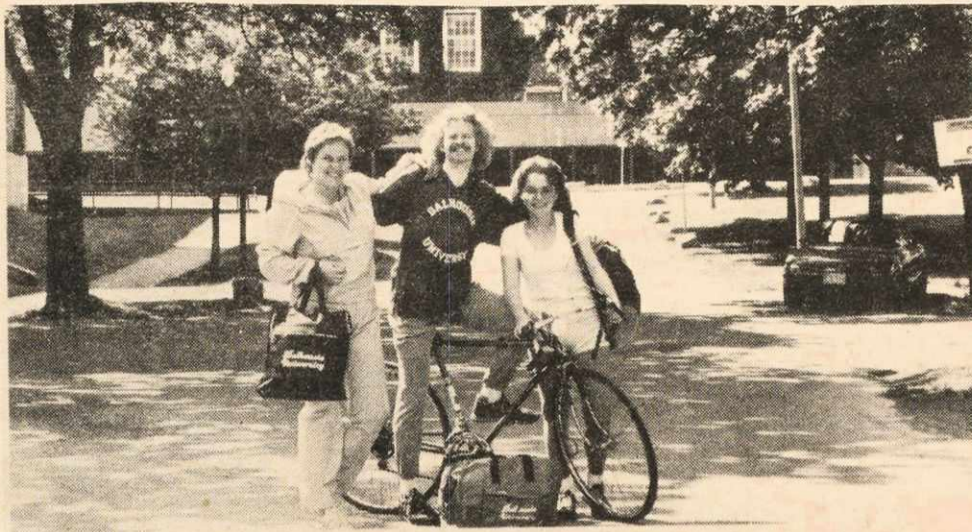
He said that students and faculty had formed a committee to work for the readmission of the 17, but the university twice refused to reconsider its action.

If the CAUT investigation confirms that the university did violate the students' civil liberties, it would heighten pressure on Moncton to re-admit the expelled students.

Roy, in a letter to the Canadian Federation of Students-Pacific (CFS-P), thanked it for its support of the Moncton students who "faced the repression of a fascist administration."

"If ever CFS-P needs help, never forget that students from Moncton will always be there to give a hand," wrote Roy.

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