

# Iran-Iraq: war of revenge

by Jim McElgunn

The Iran-Iraq war will be difficult to end because both sides have so much pride at stake.

This was one of the conclusions reached by political science professor Saleem Qureshi at a forum Friday sponsored by the Political Science Undergraduate Association. Qureshi told an audience of over sixty that "one may expect each (country) to clobber the other back to the camel age ... they will be fighting with sticks."

He said Iraq's reasons for invading Iran are unclear. At the very least, it wants to seize control of disputed border areas, especially the Shatt Al Arab, its only outlet to the Persian Gulf.

Another possibility is it might want to gain a strong influence over Khuzistan, an oil-rich Arab region in predominantly non-Arab Iran.

"Iran is too large for Iraq to swallow," said Qureshi, but one of

Iraq's aims might be to overthrow the Khomeini government.

The Iranians and Iraqis have been enemies for 13 centuries, said Qureshi, so revenge for past humiliations is one of the reasons for the war.

He said the motives of the leaders of Iran and Iraq are hard to discern because they think differently than Westerners. One difference is the overriding importance they attach to honor.

"Their sense of honor won't permit either (side) to concede defeat," he said.

The other speaker at the forum, political science Professor David DeWitt, made three observations on the effects of the war on the Western world.

"The major industrial states have come to the recognition ... that an Arab-Israeli peace says nothing about secure supplies of oil," said DeWitt. In the past, he said, Western leaders believed that secure oil supplies could only

be guaranteed if the Arab-Israeli conflict is resolved.

Second, DeWitt said the war shows the extreme fluidity of alliances in the Middle East. There is "a new uncertainty" among countries involved in the area about what to do, he said.

DeWitt's third observation was that "no longer is it simply Soviet versus American interests in the Middle East." It is increasingly evident that American interests in the Middle East are different than Western European interests.

Qureshi said the two countries are quite evenly matched militarily. But the Iranians are better trained and the Iraqis have better morale and are more integrated.

"The Iranian soldiers have fought a lot better than was expected of them and the Iraqis have not progressed as fast as was expected," he said.

The Iraqis have the support of most of the Arab countries, said Qureshi, but they have been refused resupply by the Soviet Union, which supplies most of

their arms.

Similarly, the Iranians have been unable to obtain supplies because of the American embargo. Their only arms supplier is North Korea, which is only doing it because it needs the money.

"If there is any definite loser in this war, it is the Palestinians," said Qureshi, because they are split over which side to support.

Neither professor thought it was very likely the war would escalate to include the Americans or Soviets.

## We don't have Savard to kick around any more

The *Gateway* lost its most enduring and possibly famous letter writer last week.

John Savard has received his Masters degree and is leaving the U

of A for gainful employment in downtown Edmonton.

"To paraphrase a well-known American, 'You won't have John Savard to kick around anymore.' However, I reserve the right to render this statement inoperative at any future date," Savard said on a farewell visit to the *Gateway* office.

Savard's departure came seven years and one day after the publication of his first letter in the *Gateway* on October 16, 1973. He estimates more than 50 of his letters have been published in the paper since.

Savard is perhaps best known to U of A letter readers for his staunch support of U.S. foreign policy and his fierce opposition to abortion. However, he will be remembered by seven years of *Gateway* staffers for the amazing volume and scope of his letters.

The *Gateway* presented Savard with an honorary degree in student journalism, in the form of a L'Express Cafe coffee cup.

Savard's last letter as a student, a model of his inimitable style, appears on page five of today's paper. It is printed in five-point type to squeeze it into our limited space.

## Union bashing on campus Contract controversy

A draft memo sent to university vp finance and administration Lorne Leitch by science faculty administrator Wes Randall and other administrators complained of the following points in the university's collective agreement with the non-academic staff:

1) Overtime pay - employees now receive double pay for overtime. The memo says the university cannot afford even time and a half.

But NASA members say a good deal of overtime is never paid for. NASA secretary George Walker says often it is never even

claimed by employees; it is simply done as a favour to professors.

Genetics administrator Dennis Wighton added if the university paid for all the overtime, it would go broke.

2) General Illness Entitlement - employees have two types of time off for illness. The general entitlement applies when the employee brings a note from a physician, but in less serious illnesses, employees have up to ten days casual entitlement without a note. The memo charges this privilege is being abused by employees who bring

notes for every illness, "making a mockery of the casual illness entitlement."

Walker pointed out this clause existed even before NASA was a union.

3) Funeral Leave - employees are allowed one day to attend funerals.

The memo recommends deletion of the allowance, saying only three hours are necessary for funerals. The memo suggests employees are saying they attend all kinds of extra funerals, to get extra time off.

A NASA administrator said it was the fault of the administrators if people are lying about absences.

## NASA behind

Is the NASA agreement too generous? Randall charges it is, and suggests a number of areas where it could be modified.

On the other hand, both the union and university Personnel Services say it is not exceptional in comparison with other public service agreements in Alberta and with other western Canadian universities.

When rates of pay of NASA members, city employees, and Alberta government employees are compared, NASA is, if anything, behind public sector unions.

Some examples are:	Alta.	Edmonton
Storeman 1	behind 15%	behind 30-36%
Building services worker 2	behind 12-31%	behind 32-38%
Technician 1	behind 20%	behind 13-16%
Warehouse super.	behind 19-21%	behind 27-28%

## Hall report forum

The University of Alberta Medical Student's Association is hosting a forum on the Hall report on the health care system on Thursday October 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the basement meeting

room of the Jubilee Auditorium.

The specific aspects of the report which will be dealt with are balance billing, medicare premiums, and binding arbitration of physicians' fees.

## Nurses' convention

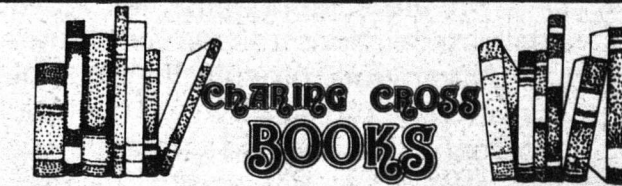
"Sexuality in a Professional Nursing Focus" is the theme of a conference for the Canadian University Nursing Students' Association (CUNSA) being hosted by the University of Alberta nursing students February 5-7.

Some topics to be dealt with at this conference are growth and development of the adolescent, helping patients deal with sexual

problems, and sexuality and the handicapped.

The B Sc nurses at the U of A need to raise \$15,000 for the conference. They are requesting student cooperation through attendance at social functions, billeting students, and co-hosting functions.

For more information phone CUNSA publicity coordinator, Thelma Boychuk at 436-2947.



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### Edmonton Northlands 4th Annual Inter-Collegiate Harness Driving Competition

Friday, Oct. 24th, 1980 • 7 PM

Students from across Alberta have been training at Northlands Park learning to drive harness horses in an actual race. The top 6 students will meet Friday, October 24th in an exhibition race. The winning student will receive a \$500 scholarship and the right to represent Alberta in the Canadian Driving Championship next month in Quebec.

A full 10 race harness card will be offered and all the students will get in free by showing their student card.

*Don't Miss It!*

