

Pendulum photographer

Iranian student strives for education, citizenship



NATIVE OF IRAN — Nader Hamidpour finds many things different in the United States. Photo by Debbie Hurley.

by Joy Hamilton

"I have no plans to go back to Iran unless they (immigration officers) force me to leave the country. I had no idea that the revolution would happen like this," said Nader Hamidpour, senior transfer from Guilford Technical Institute and native of Iran.

Nader had been accepted by four different countries, but he came to the United States in October, 1977. He had decided he "wanted to get some education." His first school was the English language center in Belmont, N.C. "When I started college, I had a language barrier," said Nader.

After earning an associate degree in commercial art, Nader transferred to Elon to earn a four-year degree. "I felt this would very much enhance my chances for getting a job. I had a job offer with a design company in Greensboro, but the immigration office forces me to be in school. So I'm in school."

Culture Shock

Nader said he experienced somewhat of a culture shock when coming to the United States. "Some things I saw were different. We have more children in the family at home, and Iran has more attachment to the family.

"Socially, dating in Iran is not as open as it is here. If two people go out, it stays within the family. As for friendships here, girls and boys get together in Iran but they get together separately. Relatives get together very often, and they stay very close in Iran," added Nader.

"I've only seen my family once in 11 years," said the Elon student. Serving in the Iranian army for two years, Nader traveled on horses between villages in Iran. "I

had three villages of 1,800 people under my supervision. I took care of health care, food, and taught people how to read and write. I'm very proud of this. But the only way you could travel in those rocky mountains was by horse. I had two horses and rode them to different places," said Nader.

As for Iran, Nader said, "I'm not there. I don't really know what's happening. I don't like the way things are, and I worry about my friends and family. People understand I have nothing to do with the situation. People are very friendly. I thought they would give me some hassle but they understand. However, a few times I've had an argument with a few people."

Photography Buff

Around the campus, Nader is usually seen with a camera around his neck or he is wearing the uniform of a security guard. He is head of photography for the *Pendulum* and works week-ends as a security guard. He worked double shifts all summer to earn enough money to put himself through school. He said, "I will have to borrow money to be in school next semester. I will have to work next summer to pay it back. But I have to support myself."

As for working sometimes as many as 24 hours in a row this summer, Nader said, "I'll do it again if I have to. I'm sure I'll have to do it to be in school next fall."

Nader is living with Dr. and Mrs. Kostas Cepas on 210 Summerbell Dr. Dr. Cepas is a former foreign language professor at Elon. Said Nader, "They are great people. I lived in Smith

Dorm first but I needed a quiet place to study. Things have worked out really well."

An accomplished artist, Nader has an impressive portfolio and some of his work was in the High Point Art Gallery in 1979. "I'll try to get hired at a design company or work as a free-lance artist after I graduate. I'd rather live in a bigger city because greater opportunity exists," said Nader. "I've sold my art works in Canada, Bolivia, and many other places," he added.

Being of the Moslem religion, Nader said he believes in Mohammed and Jesus Christ. "We believe Jesus Christ is the son of God, but we believe he is a prophet. I've been going to church, but it lacks being a part of my religion."

The Iranian native said, "I don't have much in common with people from other countries. I mostly go along with Americans. Students at Elon are younger but with their kindness, they block that difference. I feel I'm older than they are but they are all very nice to me. I never thought I'd be known on this campus but in a very short time I have come to know the staff and students of Elon."

The 27-year old student will finish in December of 1982. His basic philosophy is as follows: "I'm very hopeful of the future. Life is a process; what you give, you gain and will receive back."

Newspaper workshop

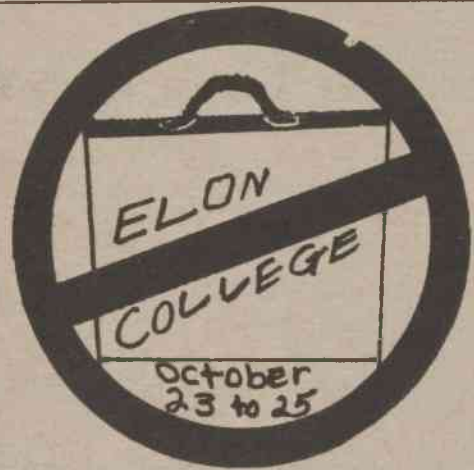
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be specifically designed for high school journalists and their newspapers, according to Dr. Mary E. Priestley and Robert Nowell, English/Journalism professors.

The agenda will include three general sessions in Mooney Theater, lunch in the cafeteria, four work sessions, and an awards presentation. General sessions will cover techniques of interviewing, covering a public meeting featuring Dr. George Taylor and students in a simulated meeting, and press law, libel and the rights of the newspaper with Prof. Jack Adams of UNC School of Journalism as speaker.

Work sessions will concentrate on four facets of newspapering: sports writing and editing, photography, copyediting and editorials and layout, art and graphics.

Awards will be given in seven categories. Overall excellence will be awarded by ratings based on accumulated total points.



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