



Saied Azali talks about the situation in Iran.

## Azali fears for parents

# New Iran threatens rights

By Debbie Baine

Many Americans are not aware of how fortunate they are to live in a country whose Constitution guarantees individual rights. Recently, there has been heated controversy over certain Puritanical religious organizations. Americans have never suffered anything as severe as the present situation in Iran.

In the name of religion, millions of innocent people have been relentlessly seized on the orders of the powerful Ayatullah Ruhollah Khomeini, whose followers are directed to kill anyone who opposes the right of the Islamic Republic to rule.

The oppressive theory incorporated into Islamic Law requires that one religious belief dominates: Islam itself.

According to Saied Azali, an Iranian geology major at Guilford College, his parents have been threatened because his father is an active Christian missionary in Iran.

Apparently, Azali's father and the Bishop in Iran tried to convince Khomeini of the importance behind individual choice of worship. Here arises an absurd situation which causes the people to fear the Christian Church.

The Moslems seem to think that Christians are foreign spies. Azali claims that there is no sense of freedom anymore and that most of Khomeini's followers are possessed by the outmoded laws abiding in the Moslem religion.

Included within these old moral doctrines are such archaic directives as twenty lashes for holding hands publicly with members of the opposite sex, fifty lashes for kissing publicly, death for all homosexuals, separate schools for males and females, and the prohibition of male teachers for younger girls.

It is a place of utter chaos because an old man came out of the hills and proclaimed he knew how to save his people. As a further example of how endangered the whole country is, Azali admitted that a close friend was **beheaded** for no apparent reason.

Is there ever a justifiable excuse for the taking of life

when no tangible danger to anyone could be proven? Acts of this kind are perpetrated not in the name of religion, but rather in the name of tyranny.

Azali suggests that these Iranians have lost all conception of what loving is. Guns might as well be toys since they have lost their value as a political weapon.

One is not even allowed to vote by secret ballot as special guards (notably the **Savak**, Iran's secret police) surrounded the entire area. The voting procedures demanded that a complete identity chart be filed if one chose to vote for the Shah whereas one could vote for Khomeini on the green card with no such repercussions.

Azali foresees the whole Iranian population on the verge of an inflationary period due to the increase in oil prices and the decrease in taxes included in Khomeini's regime.

These examples of Islamic rule prompt one to ask the following questions: Should the old man have come down from the hills to save this people? Is this Islamic Republic saving the people or is this an example of religion or of tyranny?

In this writer's opinion, one would have answered these three questions negatively. What one can say without a doubt is that there is a difficult time beginning in Iran, one that will not be resolved in the near future.

## Save the Alaskan lands from greed

A new H.R. 39 Alaska lands bill, with the same ecologically protecting amendments as last years H.R. 39, was introduced on January 15, 1979 by Congressman Morris Udall and John Seiberling with strong support from many conservation groups representing the Alaska Coalition. However, weaker bills are presently being accepted and reported in the House of Representatives' Interior Committee.

One of these threatening bills is the Huckaby Substitute. The concept of the National Parks are lost to the other agencies with less concern for the preservation of the Alaskan wildlife and wilderness lands. The National Monuments that President Carter set aside last year would be placed into weaker and contradictory management systems. In addition, Wilderness designation would be slashed by five million acres in SE Alaska if this bill passes the

Congress. This bill mandates oil exploration within the calving grounds in the Arctic Wildlife Range. Other National Wildlife Ranges will be deleted, totaling 20 million acres. Right-of-ways into National Parks and Monuments would be allowed, making way for roads and pipelines.

The final decisions on the make-up of the Alaska lands bill, which ever one is accepted, begins next week!! Today is the last chance you will have to voice your designing one your self. Our future generations will thank you.

Following is an example of a letter supporting the bill:

Dear Representative Richardson Preyer:

I see a unique chance before us as a country to protect perhaps some of the most precious wilderness areas in the

world. I am referring to the millions of acres of land still untouched by man in our great land of Alaska.

I support the Udall-Seiberling H.R. 39 Alaska lands bill and any effort made to reinforce the amendment described within the bill. There are other bills; however, this is by far the most acceptable environmentally.

As we both know there is a serious lack of unpolluted, unharmed, and undisturbed lands where man and wild animals can run free, without fear from the greedy hands of man's development and exploitation interests. I would like to see these remaining lands of America protected for all time so my children's children can also enjoy the pleasures of such wilderness. It is up to the powers of our government officials, such as yourself to follow through and lead us to this type of future that will benefit all.

Thank you,

## Adults invited to join seminar

Because the number of students registered for Guilford College's 22nd annual Seminars Abroad is smaller than in past years, there is space available for adults this summer.

Seminars Abroad, which operates the program at cost, is offering adults two alternatives. The first is a 23-day trip departing from New York May 24 and visiting Paris, Madrid, Florence, Rome, Bern and Wengen in Switzerland, returning from Zurich June 17.

The second would allow adults to travel for as long as

they choose with the student group, visiting Berlin, Leninograd, Copenhagen, Amsterdam and London and returning to the States from either of those cities.

Social evenings will be held with residents of Athens, Madrid and Florence.

Claude Shotts, who may be contacted at Guilford College for more details, stressed that immediate response is necessary on the part of interested adults because of the short period of time left before the departure date.

## Letters to the Editor. . .

### Simon needs help

Dear Editor:

This letter is addressed to all faculty, staff, and students of Guilford College;

Three years ago I was the recipient of one of the College's Excellence in Teaching Awards. This included a cash award of \$500 as well as a great deal of personal satisfaction. As some of you may recall from last year, I used the cash award to establish an annual award for teaching assistants called the Aaron Simon Award. The award is named for my father, who spent his career as a high school history teacher in the core areas of Buffalo, N.Y. Conditions were arduous; his accomplishments were enormous. His efforts have served as a stimulus to me throughout my own

career, and hopefully may serve as an example to others as well.

In order to give this award to a deserving individual (the award includes a \$50 cash prize), I need your help. If you know a deserving teaching assistant, please send me a short letter recommending this person. You should explain why you are making the recommendation, and include your name (all letters will remain confidential and will be destroyed after this year's recipient is chosen). I am particularly interested in student recommendations, since you are capable of judging the effectiveness of a teaching assistant better than anyone else.

All letters should be in by 4:30 P.M. Friday, April 6, to my office (King Basement 27) or to me personally. They will be read by a group of three faculty who will make recommenda-

tions to me on the basis of information contained in the letters.

It is my hope that this award will serve to promote excellence in teaching by student teaching assistants as well as to reward the diligence of one of their number who has been particularly successful.

Sheridan Simon  
Assistant Professor of Physics

### More Disco

Dear Editor:

Concerning the much discussed disco dilemma -- I have this advantage, at least, in my mode of life over those who are obliged to look abroad for amusement, to society and the theater: that my life itself has become my amusement and never ceases to be novel.

Thor Rowe



Parents and Alumni meet outside Founders.