

## Islamic Speaker Visits Salem

Mahmud Faksh spoke to an audience that nearly filled Shirley Auditorium last Tuesday. He is professor of Islamic and Arabian Development Studies at Wake University. Faksh described three main sources of conflict in the Middle East, and explained why the area is important to the United States. The professor explained that contrary to Western belief, the Islamic cultural revolution is not necessarily anti-Western. He said anything that would promote peace and solidarity in the Middle East would be in the United States' best interest. The three main sources of conflict in the Middle East, according to Faksh, are the Arabian revolution, the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and the war between Iran and Iraq. Although the Iranian revolution was declared in the name of Islam, Faksh said it did not serve to better the Islamic people. To the contrary, the revolution has "brought sectarian divisions into the political Muslim societies," Faksh said. Other Islamic countries tolerate all forms of Islamic religion, he said, and Iran is the only country to designate Shiite beliefs as the only legitimate ones. Faksh stressed that the rejection of all other beliefs alienated many non-Muslims in the Middle East. Russia's invasion of Afghanistan also split Muslim people into separate factions. Russia still represents the old imperial monarch to many countries surrounding Afghanistan, he said. "They still have vivid memories of Russia invading their countries," he added. Faksh cited Syria, with Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as among those who support Russia's invasion. The professor added that the war between Iran and Iraq is the most obvious split between the Muslim people. He said each country has its own group of supporters. The Arabian Peninsula and the

surrounding area are important to the United States for three reasons, according to Faksh.

First, he noted that all three monotheistic religions, (Christianity, the Jewish faith, and the Muslim faith), developed in the Arabian Peninsula.

Faksh emphasized that the conflict between, and mixing of, politics and religion is a "dangerous and explosive mixture," because God or Allah must make the decision, not the courts.

Second, Faksh said the area is important strategically. The Arabian Peninsula lies between Asia, Africa, and Europe. It is surrounded by four major bodies of contiguous water, each of which allows access to valuable ports.

From 1815 until 1915, when England commanded her strongest navy, Faksh said the British controlled these straits. Western control of this area kept Russian advances in check, he said.

Lastly, Faksh said oil has become a major western resource only since World War II, about 10 or 15 years after oil was discovered in the Mideast.

The professor also mentioned the importance of the wealth that accompanies oil production. He said that because the U.S. has the most stable and secure economy in the world, those countries selling oil to the U.S. reinvest most of those profits in American businesses. Faksh said the boost to our economy from this investment is as important as the oil we receive.

Faksh predicted a long power struggle over the Middle East in the 80's, "perhaps as great as that which occurred just after World War II.

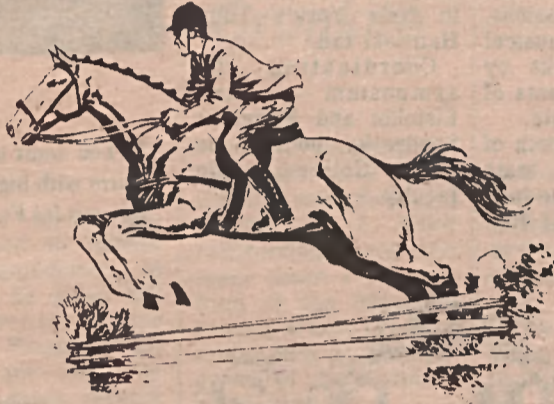
He reminded the audience that it took from 1945 until 1955 to devise the proper strategy to assure European stability.

But Faksh believes it will take 20 to 25 years or longer to stabilize affairs in the Arab world.

The lecture, sponsored by the History-Political Science Department, was the first in a series of lectures dedicated to Islamic study.

Carolyn McCollum

## Support the Alumnae Phonathon



## Tyron Steeplechase Is As Much Fun As Tanglewood

### "CHEAPER BY THE CARLOAD"

1981 will mark the 35th renewal of the Block House Steeplechase. The original race was run by four horses and the prize was a tin cup. This year there will be five races for purses totaling \$21,000. Expenses incurred in producing the races more than double this figure. In other words the Block House Steeplechase races have become a very professional sporting event.

In keeping with the way professional sporting events are produced, we are going to a program of total pre-sold parking reservations, a practice followed by most other race meets. In the past, other than reserved parking, we allowed general admission parking on race day. Cars were allowed to park in the field opposite the main gate for \$5 and passengers then entering the gate paid a fee of \$5 per person.

On a bright sunny day general admissions produced one-third of our total gate receipts. On a rainy cold day they produced zilch. We, as we are sure you do, want to be assured of having the Block House races in the future, but we cannot continue to

take this kind of risk. Therefore, there will be no general admission parking. However, there are other benefits to be gained by this policy:

1. We will be able to insure better traffic flow on the roads and into the gates. Cars with reserved parking stickers will not be stopped at the gates, to count passengers, tickets, or pay fees to enter the former general admission parking area.

2. Parking along the roads approaching the course will be eliminated, further assisting traffic flow, but also preventing vandalism to our good neighbors' lawns, drives, and homes.

3. We also feel that this plan will provide our professional sporting event with a quality spectator crowd and race.

Now as to how this will work. First, ticket prices will go up, but it will be "cheaper by the carload."

For example: Last year infield parking space cost \$35 including 2 tickets. Each additional passenger paid \$5 - five people in your car that's \$50. This year infield parking is \$55 ... last year a general admission car with five passengers paid \$30 ... this year, this area

known as "reserved pasture parking" will cost \$30 ... but you may put as many people in your car as you desire at no extra cost. It's "cheaper by the carload"!!! A nice inexpensive way to spend a day in the country and entertain your friends. And with your help and support, we feel that by changing our admissions policy, it will insure all spectators a better, more enjoyable day at the races.

All parking reservations must be made at the TR & HC office on Depot Street, Tryon NC 28782 (P.O. Box 1095) - (704-859-6109). TR & HC members get first choice of parking spaces till March 1st - after March 1st all remaining spaces will be open for general sale.

The deadline for mailing out reservations is March 27th (if not mailed they must be picked up at the office by April 1st). Office hours are: Monday thru Friday 9-12 - appointments can be made for afternoon hours.

As in the past: in the event that on-course parking is not feasible on race day for reason of inclement weather prior to or on that day, alternate parking cannot be guaranteed and reservations are not refundable.

## Lecture Assembly Presents Dick Gregory

Entertainer-activist Dick Gregory will speak at Salem College Thursday, March 12, as part of the Lecture-Assembly series on "Survival in the 1980's." The program, open to the public free, will begin at 1 p.m. in Hanes Auditorium of the Salem Fine Arts Center.

Gregory, who became famous as a professional comedian in the early 1960's, has used this fame to open doors for his human liberation crusades. During the civil rights movement of the 1960's, he participated in every major demonstration for human rights in America and gave many benefit performances for civil rights groups. His activism cost him much in cancelled bookings,

travel expenses and legal fees and in time spent in jail serving short sentences for his role in demonstrations.

Today he is a popular campus speaker, visiting more than 200 colleges and universities each year.

As an opponent of nuclear power, he has hinted that he may run against Senator Ted Kennedy in the next election for the Senate seat from Massachusetts.

His recordings and books are many. He has received the degree of Doctor of Human Letters from Malcolm X University (Chicago) and Rust College (Mississippi) and the degree of Doctor of Laws from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania.

## Flasher Flees

A man was arrested on the Salem College campus last Tuesday about 3 p.m. for indecent exposure, according to Larry Upshaw, Director of Security at the College.

The man approached Jan Stewart Patterson on the third floor of the Gramley Library and exposed himself.

Miss Patterson went to the main desk and told the librarian to call security. She was not harmed.

Upshaw said he received the call in his office, and went out to find the suspect, who was walking towards Main Hall on front campus.

Upshaw said the man appeared willing to walk with him back to his office, but as the two approached the office, the suspect took off running toward the May Dell.

Upshaw said he chased and tackled the man, and handcuffed him after a tangle in the mud.

Upshaw said the man apologized and admitted to police officers, (who arrived within three to four minutes), that this made the third time he had been caught for indecent exposure.

Upshaw said the court date had been set for the other two charges. He added that the penalty for indecent exposure can be up to two years in the county jail or a correctional institute.

The man, about 25 years old and apparently from Rocky Mount, N.C., told police he was planning to move to Winston-Salem soon.

According to reports from other students, the man had been in the Gramley Library since about 10 a.m. Tuesday.

"I would like to commend Jan for signing the warrant," Upshaw said. He added that "so many people don't want to get involved," but signing the warrant is the only way to have someone arrested.

Miss Patterson said of Upshaw, "Thank God we've got someone like that working here." She added, "It taught me a lesson ... I used to not be afraid to park my car in the FAC lot at night ... I'll get those two dollar tickets now ... It's not funny when it happens to you."

Upshaw said that in the last year, about 16 people have been given trespassing warnings, and four people have been arrested on the Salem College campus.

C. McCollum