

Masked Iranian students joined in anti-shah protest



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Iranian students, UNL professors and students marching through campus Thursday shouting anti-shah chants and slogans.

Tarot said to unlock mind, foretell future

By Joe Starita

Winston Churchill and Albert Einstein studied it to uncover hidden secrets of the human mind. Aldous Huxley was a great believer in its powers. Vincent Price thinks world problems can be overcome by applying its wisdom.

For a deck of 78 cards decorated with strange-looking pictures those are some heavyweight claims.

But the Tarot is more than just a pack of funny-looking cards. It has been called the oldest book known to man. It may have predated the Bible.

The writings of Ezekiel and Daniel show that these biblical prophets had some knowledge of the Tarot. The Book of Revelation closely parallels the Tarot. Each of the 22 chapters of John's Revelation deals with the same prophetic symbols as the Tarot.

A thorough study of Tarot cards reveals that they also are linked with many teachings of the Hebrew Cabala. Additionally, Tarot symbols have turned up in Egyptian and Babylonian mythology, as well as in ancient Hindu philosophy.

Regardless of their origins, the fact remains that Tarots were the first known cards in Europe.

Credit the Crusaders with turning Europe's medieval capitals into gin rummy joints. Among the many novelties these rampaging warriors brought back to Europe from the East were cards with brilliantly colored symbols on them.

Credit the gypsy caravans marauding across medieval Europe with introducing another way of interpreting the Tarot's symbols. Gypsies believed the Tarot had a nobler purpose than winning the Saturday night poker pot at the local castle. They brought to Europe the art of using Tarot symbols to foretell the future.

Credit King Charles VI of France with laying the foundation for Tarot's future. In 1393 Charles began to feel the first signs of approaching madness. A Tarot pack was elegantly designed to cheer the good king up. Although Charles continued to reign without a full deck, his madness inspired the earliest known set of Tarot cards in Europe.

Later, some of the great kings of France, as well as philosophers, mathematicians and scientists began to use the Tarot to explore the mysteries of life and to guide their people.

Empress Josephine, live-in lady of Napoleon Bonaparte, frequently consulted Mademoiselle Le Normand for a Tarot reading. Called upon by many of Paris' high rollers, Mademoiselle Le Normand was

the reigning high priestess of Tarot readings for her time.

In more recent times, William Butler Yeats belonged to a secret brotherhood that believed in the occult traditions of the Tarot. Many followers of psychoanalyst C.B. Jung consider certain symbols in the Tarot to be blueprints of the unconscious mind.

The conscious mind looks at a Tarot deck and counts 78 cards. The cards are divided into a Major and Minor Arcana. The first 22 cards fall into the Major Arcana, while the remaining 56 comprise the Minor and are divided into four suits of 14 cards each.

A Tarot reader chooses one of nine different layouts (called spreads) to predict meaning that is unique not only to the card itself, but also to the position of that card in the layout.

The cards, and their arrangement, indicate only general trends, traits and in-

fluences. A good interpretation of the spread depends upon the reader's mastery of the symbolic meanings.

If nothing else, a good Tarot reading will always shore up sagging spirits.

'Learning is main motivation' for students graduating early

By Kris Hansen

Although most students prefer to take four years (or longer) to get their college degrees, some can do the job in two or three years.

Diane Snyder, a 19-year-old senior is an example. Snyder completed French and German majors in two years and has minors in chemistry and history. She is only eight hours short of a life sciences major.

"There wasn't anything else to do, and this was the path of least resistance," Snyder explained. "My parents figured I could do it and helped me figure it out. They don't want me to kill myself, but since I'm doing well, it's fine."

Snyder, who began taking college courses as a high school junior in McCook, estimated that most students would take four years to complete what she has done.

However, she said she had one problem. "I was the first student they (the university) had who was in the same relative position in two different languages, and they had lots of courses scheduled in the same time slots," she said. "I had to skip some and take more advanced courses. I've been fighting that for two years now."

Most of Snyder's grades are A's and B's, she said, although "chemistry brings me down a little." She averaged 16 to 17 hours a semester.

"I do get a lot of good out of my courses," she said. "Since I made it into graduate courses as a sophomore, I knew I understood the material."

Snyder works as a campus security guard, tutors and was involved in residence hall student government. She also takes private Russian lessons.

Snyder will attend school in West Germany next year and plans to earn a master's degree in French and German.

Mike Brogan, a business senior from Norfolk, is taking three years to complete his degree before going to law school.

"Life is short. I'd like to absorb as much knowledge as possible now so I can apply it to the real world," he said. "I like to use

An estimated 75 masked demonstrators circled UNL's Broyhill Fountain at noon Thursday, shouting anti-shah and U.S. slogans.

The marchers, a mixture of Iranian Student Association members and UNL professors and students, were led in chants such as "The shah is a U.S. puppet, down with the shah," "The shah is a fascist butcher, down with the shah," "Long live Palestine, down with the shah."

A masked Iranian student said his organization supports the Palestinian Liberation Organization because it is opposed to American imperialism. The PLO also has shown support for anti-shah forces, he said.

A UNL sophomore, who did not want her name used, said she became interested in the resistance movement when she began dating an Iranian.

"My boyfriend is an Iranian," she said. "He made me aware of what is going on."

Political oppression is occurring in Iran, she said, and students involved in similar demonstrations there are killed.

President Carter's human rights stand is two-faced, she said, because he continues to support the shah of Iran.

Another masked spokesman said the UNL demonstration was one of many expected to take place Thursday in the United States, Europe and Asia. More than 100,000 students were expected to take part in the demonstrations, he said.

After marchers from other schools arrived, he said, the procession was scheduled to march through downtown Lincoln.

time efficiently."

Brogan said "you have to like school" to graduate early. "Learning is my prime motivation, and the grades follow from that. My emphasis is on the knowledge."

Brogan is completing his last semester with 14 credit hours, but said he averages 15 to 16, and has taken as many as 18. He attended summer school every year.

"I caution people who take classes in the summer because it should be a time to relax," he said. "In the summer - when you have so little time to accommodate the work load - you don't have much time to relax. Save the easiest classes for summer."

Brogan is an ASUN senator, member of the judicial board and is in several business clubs.

Lynn Paustian, formerly of Bloomfield, will finish her business major when she takes her Certified Public Accountant test in May. She said she plans to work for an accounting firm after graduation.

"I thought it was more practical to get done and earn money instead of just spend it," she said. "Summer jobs are scarce at home, and I would have had to go away for a job anyway. So that led me to get it over with now."

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