

Iranian students uneasy about threats

By Mike Sweeney

A letter received last week by Lincoln and Omaha television stations threatening the safety of Iranians in Nebraska is the latest in a series of harassments of UNL Iranians.

Several Iranian students have received late-night phone calls, had their cars followed and have been shouted at, according to international student advisor Linda Becker.

In addition, a student reported that a bus failed to stop for him although he stood at a marked bus stop, Becker said. The student is Lebanese, but said he thought the bus driver assumed he was Iranian, she said.

An Iranian student who asked not to be identified said a carload of friends was tailed by another car for about 30 minutes before a trip to the police station ended the chase.

The student was reluctant to talk about threats against Iranians, saying some people would be more likely to harass Iranians if they learned about the similar actions of others.

The recent harassment and the threatening letter create a feeling of uneasiness among many Iranian students, Becker said. However, the students have dealt with the actions maturely, and are trying to go about their studies in the usual way, she said.

THE FOUR-PARAGRAPH letter said Iranians in Lincoln are being watched by the Minutemen, a nationwide conservative group. The group said it intends to retaliate against local Iranians if any Americans held hos-

tage in the Tehran embassy are killed.

"Unless all American citizens held captive in Iran are safely released by Christmas day of this year, members of this organization intend to begin selective action against Iranian nationals in this country," the letter said.

"The intelligence section of this organization is now compiling a list of Iranian militants who have ignored the generosity and many privileges extended to them by advocating violence in our streets and disturbances in our universities," it said. "These individuals will be strongly encouraged to leave this country as fast as possible—while they are still able."

Similar letters have been received across the nation, according to FBI supervisory special agent Dick Harper.

Harper said the FBI is conducting a limited investigation of the Minutemen. He said the FBI is precluded from conducting full-scale investigations of organizations like the Ku Klux Klan and the Minutemen.

He characterized the Minutemen as an "ultra rightist organization."

HARPER SAID he didn't know if the letter was a legitimate threat, but said the FBI hasn't yet received any indication of action or violence by the Minutemen. Iranian students interviewed Monday took a low-key approach to the threats.

A member of the Persian-speaking Muslim Student Association said Iranian students shouldn't react harshly to threats and harassment, even though many sympathize with the students holding American hostages in Iran.

"They should try not to be nervous. That doesn't mean

they shouldn't think about it," he said.

Another Iranian student said Iranians should inform each other of threats and lend each other support during trouble.

Although he said he hasn't been the target of any threats, the student said he lives with the feeling that something could happen to him.

"It makes you very defensive. It's not a very good feeling," he said.

THE LETTER made him angry because the Minutemen must realize Iranian students in the United States have nothing to do with the embassy takeover in Iran, he said.

Interviewed students requested anonymity, fearing retaliation if the Minutemen's threats are legitimate.

Although Becker said the letter made her angry, she said Iranians should ignore any threats and let law enforcement authorities investigate them.

Moir Ferguson, faculty advisory to the Iranian Student Association, agreed.

"Iranian students shouldn't do anything different from what they're already doing," Ferguson said. "They should not be intimidated."

She said the Minutemen are a fascist organization which should not be able to deny Iranians their legitimate rights to free speech and their demand for the return of the shah to Iran.

"Iranians should continue to point out the role of United States imperialism in support of the shah, proving its allegiance to the shah by continuing to support him now that he has been deposed," she said.

NU foresees need for 790 additional staff members

By Kim Hachiya

According to a report issued last week by the NU Board of Regents Planning Subcommittee, NU is projecting a need for a 96.7 percent increase beyond current allocations in state funding for the university during the next five years, including 790 additional staff members.

The current state general fund allocations is approximately \$14.9 million for the entire university. The 96.7 percent increase, to \$226 million, is based on a 5 percent annual increase in general tuition rates and a 15 percent increase in medical, dental and pharmacy tuition rates.

The study also indicates a projected 91.6 percent increase in state general funding if annual general tuition

rates increase by 10 percent annually and 87 percent increase if tuition rates raise 15 percent annually.

In projecting for UNL only (excluding the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources) the planning study indicates a state funding percentage increase of 109.6 percent at a 5 percent general tuition increase; a 102.6 percent if tuition is raised at a 10 percent annual rate, and 96.9 percent increase if tuition is raised at a 15 percent annual rate.

The study, termed a "set of workpapers" by subcommittee chairman Regent Kermit Hansen, was released by the University Planning Coordinating Committee in order to establish a formal qualitative and quantitative planning process within the several college units and

operating divisions on the campuses, and to coordinate this process on a university-wide basis."

Although the study indicates a projected university-wide enrollment decline of 6.7 percent, enrollment increases are expected at the medical center, the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, graduate studies at UNO and in the undergraduate College of Engineering and Technology at UNL.

It is the increases in enrollment, plus an expected growth in research, public service programs, off-campus university-level instruction and technical assistance for public agencies and private businesses which the study uses to justify the projected increases in state aid.

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Peaceful demonstrators call for shah's extradition

By Val Swinton

Demanding that the exiled Shah of Iran be extradited to that country and that the United States not become militarily involved, some 35 demonstrators marched in front of the state Capitol Monday.

Martha Stoddard, a member of the Progressive Student Union, a UNL organization that sponsored the demonstration, said that the group did not want armed intervention in Iran, and was afraid the situation could turn into another Vietnam.

"We believe the situation in Iran should be solved peacefully and the only way to do this is to send the shah back," she said.

"We wouldn't support Hitler if he tried to seek asylum in this country," Stoddard said. "And we don't see this as being any different."

Stoddard said the Progressive Student Union did not condone the taking of hostages, but, "We don't want America being seen as taking in someone like this."

The hour-long protest took place during rush hour in downtown Lincoln yesterday, and several drivers honked their horns as they drove by, most apparently in support of the demonstration. However, not everyone who drove by supported the demonstrators.

A passenger in one car declared "kill Iran" as the car passed. Another yelled an obscenity directed at the ayatollah.

Another driver rolled down the window of his brown and white Lincoln Continental and with middle finger raised, thrust his

fist upward several times at the demonstrators.

Not all the demonstrators were UNL students or instructors. Elizabeth Platt, an English teacher for non-national students at Lincoln High School, said a 17-year-old Iranian student had received a telephoned death threat Sunday.

"I'm outraged at that," she said. "He said he could handle it, but I think it's a very harsh thing to happen to someone that old."

Eleven-year-old David Frost, a sixth grade student at St. Mary's School, across the street from the Capitol, discussed the Iranian situation at length before joining the demonstrators. He said he was walking home from school when he saw the demonstrators and decided to join them.

Frost said he learned about the Iranian situation from his sister, an eighth grader, and from discussion in his social studies class.

Although the demonstration was peaceful, it almost caused a traffic accident when a man driving a white Oldsmobile was eyeballing the demonstrators screamed to a halt just before hitting a Volkswagen in front of him.

The shah was moved to an Air Force Hospital at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, Monday, and President Carter refused to rule out the possibility the shah may eventually be given asylum in the United States.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

About 35 demonstrators including UNL students marched in front of the Capitol Monday, demanding that the shah be extradited back to Iran. The demonstration was sponsored by the Progressive Student Union.