

Lawyer speaks

Iran discussed

Iran may be the next Viet Nam. Glen Van Slyke, coordinator of the Houston chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, said Wednesday night.

Van Slyke spoke and gave a slide show about the political situation of Iran. The show was sponsored by the Iranian Students Association of Texas A&M University.

He said the United States gives more money for arms and military to Iran annually than to all other countries combined. He said the Iranian regime could not last without constant support from President Carter.

Van Slyke said at the time of the Vietnam war, there were about 100 military advisers in Iran. At that moment, he said, there are 1,000.

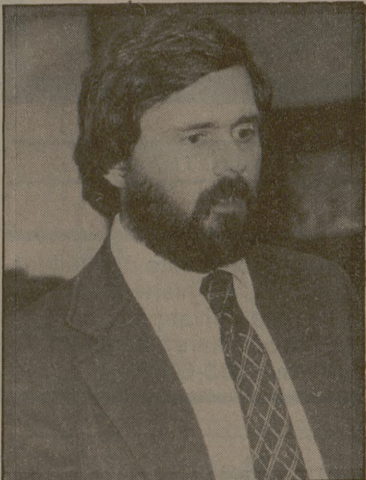
He emphasized the need for understanding between Iranians and Americans. He said Americans need to listen to Iranian students in their country who protest the Shah's regime.

These students are politically involved for an international cause, he said. Van Slyke compared them to American students in the 60s who protested the Viet Nam war. Human rights and civil liberties are also at stake here, he said.

He discussed the Shah's visit to the White House in November, 1977, and said Carter's full acceptance of the "vicious dictator" was in conflict to previous campaign promises to fight for human rights.

The slide show contained pictures of Van Slyke's recent visit to Iran to its capital, Tehran.

Van Slyke said he was invited on



Glen Van Slyke

the trip by a team of international observers to study the political situation in Iran. The trip, sponsored by the American Committee for Iranian Human Rights and six other committees, was from December 28, 1977 to January 10, 1978.

In Tehran, the team concentrated on contacting families of political prisoners. Van Slyke said they were constantly followed by Iranian intelligence, preventing them from attending at least two scheduled meetings.

During the slide show a picture of the Shah in his ceremonial robes brought hisses from many of the 60-70 students.

There are about 60,000 Iranian students overseas, and about 12,000 in the United States.

Also in the slide show were pictures of huts and tents most of the rural population live in.

The message that Iranians want to convey, Van Slyke said, is that "they have great love and respect for the American people."

CBers help lady struck by lightning

TULSA, Okla. — A woman struck by lightning as she poured gasoline into her car beside the Indian Nation Turnpike, is thankful for her CB radio and the "good buddies" it brought to her rescue.

The lightning bolt knocked Miss Ann Dentis four feet into the air as her 5-year-old daughter watched.

Mrs. Dentis was traveling with her three children and a friend when her car ran out of gasoline during a rainstorm Saturday night. Using her CB, she had secured a ride to a service station from a trucker and another CBer took her back to her car.

"A real nice man put me in his van until the ambulance came and they took me to the hospital," she said. "They (CBers) stopped and stayed with me, kept me covered and warm. They were awful good to me."

Mrs. Dentis was in satisfactory condition at a hospital.

Skylab safety questionable

HOUSTON — The orbiting Skylab was last manned in 1974 and scientists predicted the space center would hold its orbit 10 years before losing momentum and falling to earth.

But now as flight controllers in Houston, Madrid and Bermuda team up to regulate the battery chargers on Skylab, they say atmospheric drag is taking its toll on the unmanned space craft hovering 250 miles above the earth.

"It looks now if it keeps decaying at its present rate, it will re-enter in 1979," a Johnson Space Center official said early Wednesday. "The main part of the concern is to get its orbit back up to a safe altitude — not to let it fall in a populated area," said official Terry White.

White said, however, the chances of any part of the Skylab hitting land were slim since 70 percent of its earth track is over water.

Houston-based flight controllers relay communications to operators in Madrid and Bermuda, who in turn pick up any data transmitted from Skylab and submit it to Houston to determine how the craft is holding its orbit.

"We made two passes Tuesday and will have two more later this morning," White said. He said the second pass in the Bermuda station indicated not all of the 18 batteries in Skylab's solar obser-

vatory, needed to correct the orbit, were operating.

"Three of those failed before we even stopped sending crews," White said. "We're trying to build up a charge of electrical power so that in May we can start the big gyroscope spinning."

The gyroscope is made up of large flywheels used to control torque on the station and its attitude. Engineers are preparing for an attempt next month to maneuver the Skylab into a posi-

tion aimed at increasing its lifetime orbit.

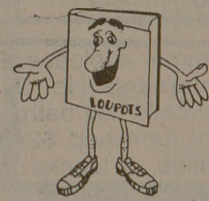
By controlling the attitude, flight controllers hope to suspend the decay and postpone the re-entry until they can get a space shuttle to attach a booster package on Skylab. White said the booster package is planned for mid-1979.

"Though it's not likely Skylab would land in a populated area during re-entry, we're afraid of the impact it would have — after all, it does weigh 84 tons," he said.



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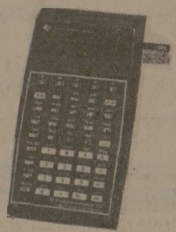


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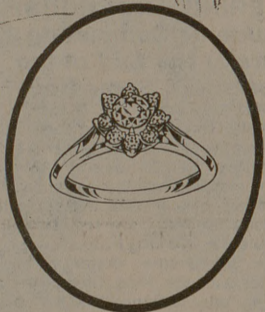
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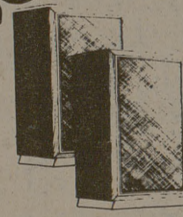
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