

campus & city

Worry plagues Iranians

By LAURA RUTHERFORD
Battalion Reporter

The Vahdat sisters are afraid. Asal, 24, Ghazaleh, 23, and Tala, 19, are from Iran. They are concerned about their future in America.

"I don't want my situation to be really worried, worried that America might go to war with Iran," — Asal Vahdat.

Asal said she is "really worried, worried that America might go to war with Iran." She speaks for all her sisters, accepting the role of older sister with levelheadedness, control and at the right amount of emotion.

When the trio came to America and Ghazaleh spoke very little English and began English classes at Southern Illinois University. Tala spoke English well enough to begin high school immediately.

Winning weekend big for KAMU, too

The Aggie-Longhorn football weekend was a winner for Texas A&M University in more ways than one. Not only did the football team emerge victorious, but pledges to KAMU, the University-owned and operated public television station, broke all previous records.

The Vahdat sisters said they came to Texas because tuition for foreign students was less in Texas than anywhere else. This has since changed. In addition, Asal and Ghazaleh planned to get their degrees in bio-engineering and Texas A&M is the only university in Texas that offers undergraduate degrees in that field.

All three plan to graduate in May. Tala will receive a political science degree.

"From the time the revolution started, all the time we think, 'What is going to happen to us? You just can't concentrate.'" — Ghazaleh Vahdat

ing ever-increasing restrictions on Iranian women, the Vahdat sisters face the possibility they may not be able to use their degrees if they return to Iran. This is coupled with the fear that if they stay in America they may never be able to see their parents again.

"Never seeing them again, I can't think about it," Tala said.

get enough sleep." The sisters, all of whom have very high grade point ratios, said the situation is not really affecting their grades, but they added they are having a bad time.

"Now, when most of the students see me they think I am Khomeini. They forget I am a student here and haven't done anything." — Ghazaleh Vahdat.

I go to bed at night I can't really sleep," Asal said. "I'm thinking of this situation all of the time."

Although they said people here have been really nice to them, they said they don't feel they are totally accepted.

"We got dirty looks before because we were foreigners," Tala said. "Now," Ghazaleh said, "When most of the students see me they think I am Khomeini. They forget I am a student here and haven't done anything."

The three said they were raised in an upper middle class family.

"We are not considered rich in our country," Asal said.

"We were kind of spoiled, never far from something familiar," Asal said.

But they all agreed things are alot easier on them because three of them are together.

Asal had a different perspective of their life here. "I just like the way of living here," she said. "I'm living for myself. I'm comfortable and there is more privacy."

They compared the city of Tehran to that of Manhattan Island. Asal said she used to love the traffic but, "Now that I've lived in a small town for a while I don't think I could ever live in a big city again."

The trio said it is their goal to adopt American customs and culture. They said they even plan to put up a Christmas tree this year. The sisters are Moslem and don't celebrate Christmas as part of their religion, but they said everyone here is so involved with the occasion and they want to get involved.

The sisters say they don't date often. "It is not in our culture to date that much," Ghazaleh said. They said they have already had proposals to marry but they prefer to wait. They said some foreigners marry Americans just to get a permanent visa.

MSC's old ones to be replaced

New chimes planned as gift

By KRIS WIESE
Battalion Reporter

In case you haven't noticed, the chimes that used to ring every 15 minutes at the Memorial Student Center haven't been heard this semester.

According to the Rudder Theatre Complex office, which is responsible for their maintenance, the chimes have been patched many times in their 29-year history. However, last semester they broke and could not be repaired again because of age.

The sound of the Westminster chimes will soon be heard again, though. Jeff Mason, Class of '81 president, said the class has decided to purchase a new clock and chimes as its gift to the University.

"We haven't made an official announcement," said Mason, "because the Class of '80 hasn't presented their gift yet, and we don't want to compete with them. This is their senior year."

"It has been voted on by the class, though, and has been unofficially approved by the administration," Mason added.

The project will cost the class somewhere between \$8,000 and \$12,000.

Mason said there will be several differences between the old chimes and the Class of '81 gift.

The new set will have an indefinite life span, Mason said. "This should be the last chimes the University has to have," he said, adding that the old set had an expected life of 30 years.

In addition, the new clock and chimes will come with a speaker system that will have a one-mile listening radius, so the chimes will be heard all over campus, instead of only in the vicinity of the MSC.

The new chimes will do more than sound the time, too, Mason said. Tapes will also be purchased which will play "The Aggie War Hymn" and "Taps."

Mason said several dates have been discussed for installment of the new chimes.

"Right now, we are considering Parent's Day this year. That would be after the unveiling of the Class of '80's statue of E. King Gill," he said.

That date is subject to change, Mason said. "Recently, several members of the class have brought up the idea of waiting until the beginning of our senior year before playing the chimes. The idea has had strong support, so we may wait until next year."

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