

'NEST OF SPIES' CONTACTED

BY HALIFAX COLLEGE STUDENTS

From the Dalhousie Gazette

by Tom Regan

An idea that was "thought up one day while doing a paper" and led to a phone call to the American Embassy in Iran has given two CKDU reporters one of the bigger and more imaginative news scoops to come out of the student media in a long time.

Kerry DeLorey and Martin Cohn, two journalism students at the University of King's College phoned Iran Monday afternoon and talked to one of the students holding 50 American hostages in the American Embassy.

The interview which was some fourteen minutes in length was picked up by the

Canadian Press, Broadcast News service, the CBC and local radio station CJCH.

DeLorey, who initiated the project, said he didn't know how the idea came to him.

"The idea just crossed my mind one day when I was doing a paper at home," said DeLorey. "I went and checked with Mike Wile at CKDU and he said he would cover the cost of the call. So I went ahead and called."

DeLorey first called the overseas operator in Montreal to ask for the number of the Embassy.

"I felt a little foolish at first asking for the number", said

DeLorey, "but there were very few problems. The operator told me she had the number but that there would be an hour and a half wait for the call to go through."

DeLorey asked the operator to try anyway and to phone him back at CKDU when she could reach Tehran.

DeLorey and Wile then sat down to discuss some questions to ask if he ever did reach the Embassy. They didn't have long to wait.

"It only took 25 minutes to reach Iran," said DeLorey. "Suddenly I was connected with the Embassy. I got really

frantic and my heart went up into my mouth.

The phone rang only once before it was answered.

"When somebody answered the phone, I asked if it was the American Embassy in Tehran. He told me it was the American nest of spies."

Martin Cohn then joined DeLorey and the two reporters quizzed the man who identified himself only as an Iranian student named "Y" for about 15 minutes.

"When he came on at first he was reading a prepared statement," said DeLorey. "But as we asked more questions he began to ad-lib a

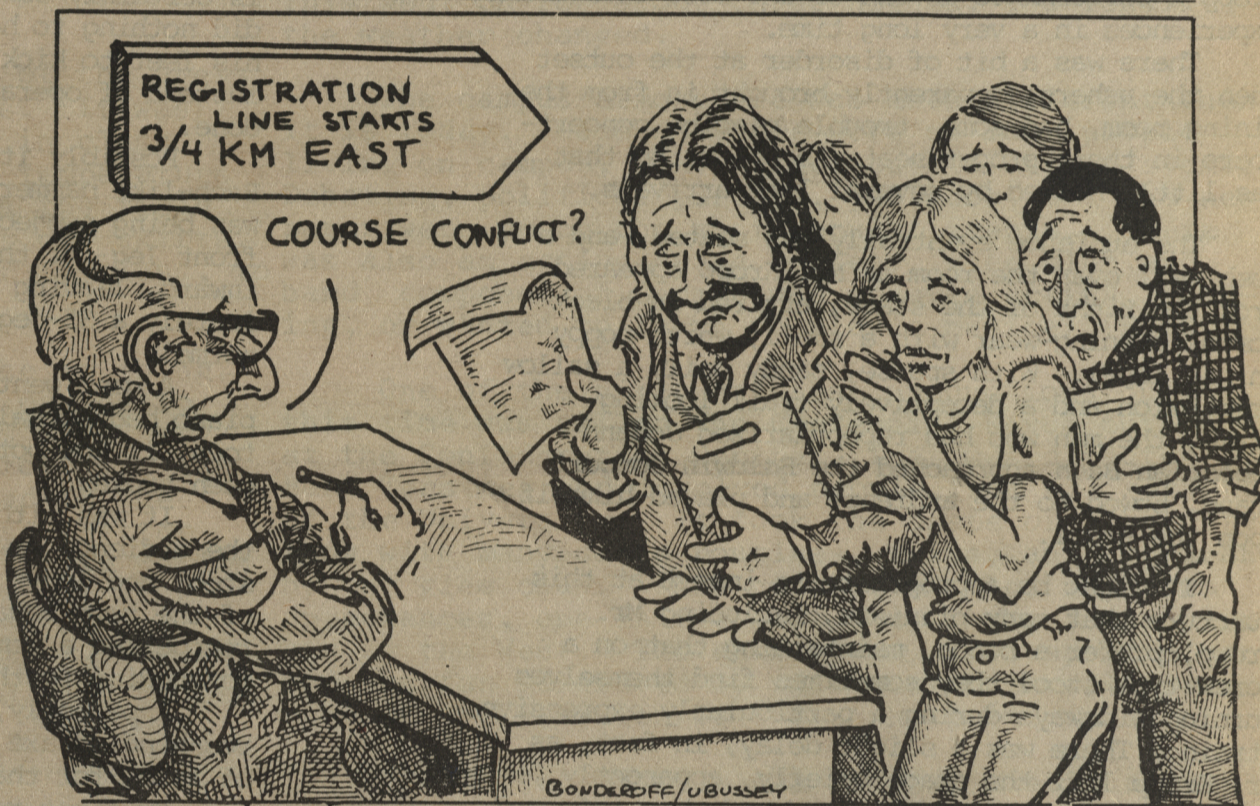
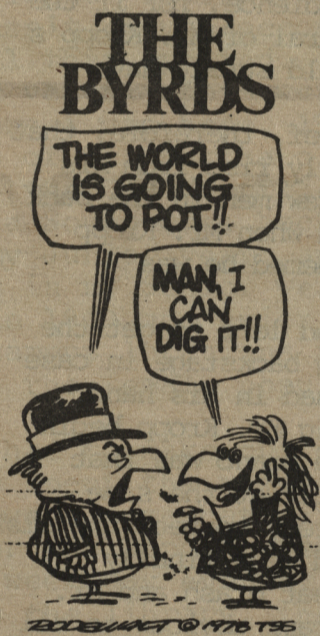
little more. Some questions we asked him he just plain evaded."

The student did tell the two King's students that the Americans were being well looked after and were comfortable. He also said any of the hostages found guilty of spying would be tried according to Islamic justice.

DeLorey said he had no more plans to call any other news hot spots around the world for a while.

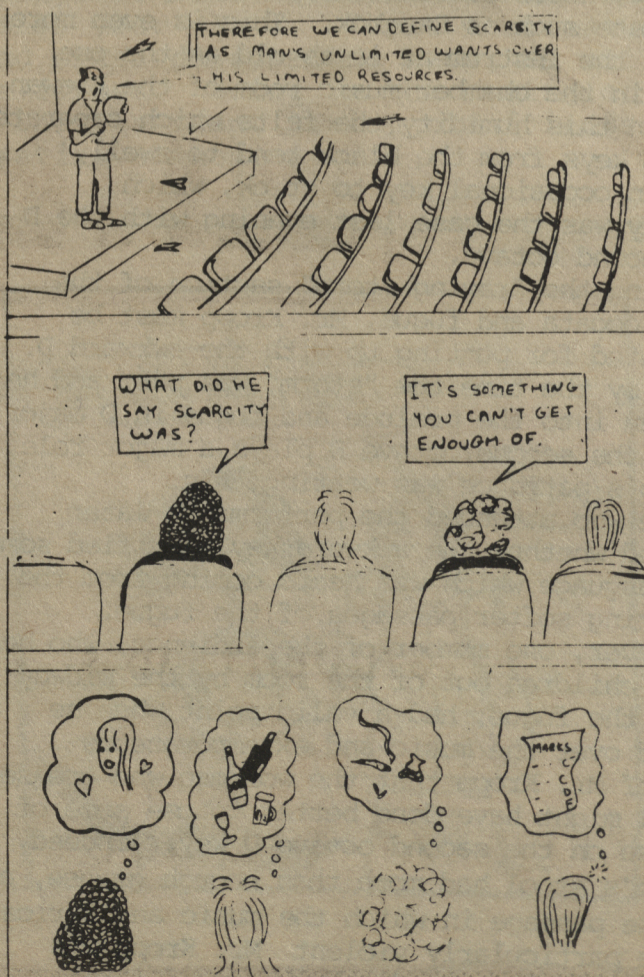
"I don't know of any," said DeLorey, "Not at the present moment anyway. Phoning Iran was enough of an experience. I'll never forget it."

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