



COLBY FREE PRESS

Pakistani-turned-Kansan

Colby College grad addresses current turmoil

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Naeem Khan said he considers himself a Kansan, although he was born in Pakistan.

Khan is from Peshawar, near the famous Khyber Pass on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He came to Colby in 1964 and was in the first graduating class at Colby Community College.

Khan is also a graduate with master's degrees from both Fort Hays State University and Kansas State University and works in investments in Manhattan.

"I'm a Kansan," he said. "I have children and grandchildren here."

Khan said he still maintains warm relations with his birth country, including involvement



Naeem Khan

in Pakistani politics. For 13 years, he was the president of the Peoples Pakistani Party in America.

"I had close relations with (former Pakistani president) Benazir Bhutto," he said, to the point of being considered for an ambassador's post to Botswana under Bhutto's government.

Khan first came to America because of Norman House, of Goodland. Their paths crossed when House was a Peace Corps volunteer from 1962-64 in Peshawar. Khan later visited Goodland.

He and House were able to visit Pakistan together about four years ago. Khan said he used to return about every two years or so, but couldn't go back for many years when General Zia ul-Haq ruled.

"I would have been arrested as soon as I got off the plane, because I opposed him," Khan said. Zia ruled from 1977-1988, while the Russians were in Afghanistan.

Khan said he, like most Americans, was shocked by the events of Sept. 11.

"I wonder how people can do that," he said. "My heart goes out to the innocent victims who died for no reason at all."

He said he believes going after Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda is the right decision.

"I was pleased by the Pakistani government's decision to support America," he said. He said he supports Gen. Pervez Musharraf, who took control from the civilian government in 1999, "because of peace."

"The civilian government devastated the country," he said, adding that he hopes a representative government can come from the military group now in power.

A native Pashtun, Khan said he is also concerned about what happens after bin Laden and Al Qaeda are brought to justice.

The border between Pashtun Afghanistan and Pakistan is crossed often by Pashtuns without visas or papers because they are united in language and ethnicity, he said.

There are also places, called tribal areas, where "Pakistani law does not apply." In addition,

there are about three million Aghani refugees in Pakistan, with almost one million of them in Peshawar.

"These people have commerce there," he said. "It has been 20 years, many were born there." Most of them are Pashtun.

Khan believes American insistence on trying all foreign troops fighting with the Taliban for war crimes will cause serious political problems for the Pakistani government.

"Most of them are not Al Qaeda, they were fighting against the northern alliance," he said. The Pakistani press said many Pakistani generals found Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's comments about trying the Pakistani soldiers "rather callous."

The northern alliance is not popular among the Pashtuns on either side of the border, according to Khan. He cited their own history of civil and human rights violations.

General Abdul Rashid Dostum, one of the principal military leaders within the northern alliance, gained notoriety during the Soviet

occupation by working with the Russian puppet governments.

His legacy includes rape, torture and murder, Khan said. Dostum murdered more than 3,000 Pashtuns in Mosar-i-Sharif, according to the Human Rights Watch, an independent human rights group.

The Taliban gained popularity with the people of Afghanistan initially because of the "excesses" of the northern alliance, made up of mostly minority Uzbeks and Tajiks.

"There are four groups meeting in Bonn (to set up a provisional government)," said Khan, "the northern alliance, the (Pakistan-backed) Peshawar group, the (Iranian-backed) Cyprus delegation and the Rome process (headed by Mohammed Zahir Shah, the former Afghan king.)"

"Very few ethnic Pashtuns are part of this group, yet they comprise almost 40 percent of Afghanistan's population."

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Inmates are moving out of state

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas Corrections plans to keep as many as 100 of its prison inmates in a privately operated prison in Colorado until next spring, said Charles Simmons, corrections secretary.

The announcement came Tuesday when Simmons signed a contract with Corrections Corporation of America.

The Nashville company runs the Kit Carson Correctional Facility in Burlington, Colo.

The facility is located about 20 miles west of the Kansas border along Interstate 70.

The contract represents the first between the state and a private company for placement of inmates outside Kansas.

Simmons said he made the decision because his department is running out of prison cells designed for medium-security inmates.

He said inmates would continue to be placed out of state until the department finishes work on addition at its prison in Ellsworth.

The addition will add 100 cells, each with space for two inmates, Simmons said today.

Seasonal decision



Amanda Olbright, Newton, and Steve Penka, Healy, sophomores at Colby Community College were contemplating today which angel they wanted to take off the school's Angel Christmas tree located in the student union. "There are 24 names of children of single parent Colby

College students," said Debbie Schwanke, public information officer. The project, now in its third year, is sponsored by the Student Senate, for the purpose of helping make the holiday season a little brighter for fellow students. Penka said he has participated in the angel tree project.

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Pressures mount for producers

WICHITA (AP) — Agroterrorism. Meatpacking consolidation. New environmental rules. And low prices.

Familiar old problems — and frighteningly new ones — confront the nearly one thousand Kansas cattle producers expected at the annual Kansas Livestock Association convention starting here on Thursday.

"This business has been through some really tough times in the 107 year existence of the association, but this would certainly rank up there ... for our business as some of the most challenging times," said KLA spokesman Todd Domer. "On Sept. 11 we all woke up to a new world order, and everyone is having to respond to that."

Kansas Animal Health Commissioner George Teagarden will speak Thursday about the role producers play in guarding against contagious diseases and protecting the nation's food supply. His presentation sets the stage for Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., who talks Friday about his agriculture biosecurity bill to fight agroterrorism.

Tyson Foods president John Tyson will talk Thursday about what that means for cattle producers.

Christmas ON US!
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(two \$50 instant winners - page 7)

Kansas State officials considering tuition increase

MANHATTAN (AP) — With little hope for more money from the state, Kansas State University officials are considering a tuition increase.

But how much that increase would be and when it would take affect are issues that are still being discussed.

"For us to continue to do what we do best, it's just going to cost more," said

Bob Krause, vice president of institutional advancement at Kansas State.

Krause said Kansas State needs to offer higher faculty salaries and more programs for students. The university also would like new computers, new equipment for technical programs, such as the aviation school in Salina, and more money for day-to-day costs.

These kinds of changes are needed to keep Kansas State competitive, Krause said. The state Legislature has not been willing to give more money to higher education, said Dennis Kuhlman, dean of the colleges of aviation and engineering technology Kansas State's Salina campus.

"The Legislature seems to be saying

to Regents institutions more and more that they might have to find their own mechanisms of support. Tuition is one, and we're also trying to find outside areas to support our infrastructure and programs," Kuhlman said.

Rep. Clark Shultz, R-Lindsborg, said the state is doing what it can with limited resources for higher education.

Briefly

Weather: +3 was no record

This morning's low of +3 did not set a record for the date. The record for the date is -11 and that is also the lowest reading for November ever for Colby. Now, to the forecast. Tonight, cold, lows near +10 and southwest winds 5-15 mph. Thursday, partly sunny, highs 40-45 and southwest winds 10-20 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy, light winds, lows near 15.

Friday, cloudy, a 20 percent chance for snow showers early, highs 40-45. Friday night and Saturday, cloudy overnight with a 40 percent chance for snow showers, lows in the middle 20s, then becoming partly cloudy with highs in the middle 40s. Saturday night and Sunday, partly cloudy, lows 20-25 and highs 45-50. Fifty? Dig out the sunscreen! Tuesday's high in Colby was 22 and the overnight low this morning was +3. Precipitation remains at 0.98 inches for the month to date. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 34 degrees. The records for Nov. 28: 71 in 1960 and -11 in 1896, the lowest November temperature ever for Colby.

(The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Pancake feed Saturday

The High Plains Lions Club is sponsoring a pancake feed from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, at the Colby Community Building. The cost of the all-you-can-eat feed is \$3, with proceeds going toward community projects, organizers said.

Holiday Home Tour is Sunday

The Holiday Home Tour, sponsored by Kappa Upsilon, will feature five homes in Colby from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2. Advance tickets can be purchased at First National Bank or Donelan Jewelry.

Tickets will also be available at any of the homes the day of the tour. Those homes include Mike and Jennifer Wootter, 1665 W. 5th; Jo Strange, 315 E. Plum; Bryan and Kim Bullington, 420 W. Webster; Larry and Sarah Barrett, 645 Wootter; and Keith and Charlene Baalman, 545 Wootter. For questions, call Bonnie Dinkel, chairperson, 462-7247.

College auditions tonight

The drama department at Colby Community College will conduct auditions for the spring production, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, (revised edition) tonight. The auditions will be held in the Frahm Theater on campus at 7 p.m.

Those interested are asked to bring a musical audition piece and be prepared to sing. Call 462-4783 for more information.

Wellness Fair wants merchants

With the annual Wellness Fair nearing, businesses are being asked to take part in promoting community health and wellness by covering the cost of the fair registration and or health screenings for their employees who may want to participate. The fair will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2002. For information or to obtain coupons for employees, call Erickson at (785) 462-3984, ext. 327.

Food boxers



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

Boxing food for Genesis are: from left, Fred Schertz, Kylie Brown, Robbie Ostermann, Travis Finley, and Jace Shirley; kneeling, Alli Franz, Aaron Rucker, and Taylor Thummel. The children are in Sharon Shirley's pre-kindergarten class at Sacred Heart School. For a service project for November, they have been working on a Native American Unit, learning how to take care of their brothers and sisters. Over the month of November, they collected well over 200 food items for Genesis.

