

Striving for an UNDERSTANDING of jihad

By Colin Atagi

DAILY STAFF WRITER

Though the guest speaker for the Muslim Students Association's presentation on the meaning of jihad was not able to attend Tuesday, students still stopped by to listen to members of the association inform others on the meaning of the word.

A forum was set up instead of the originally planned workshop because Hatim Bazian, the guest speaker, could not participate because of a family situation, said Mohammad Naaman, vice president of the association.

The presentation will be rescheduled, Naaman said.

Students, staff and faculty

members sat in the Umunhum room in the Student Union as they listened to members of the association discuss the meaning of jihad.

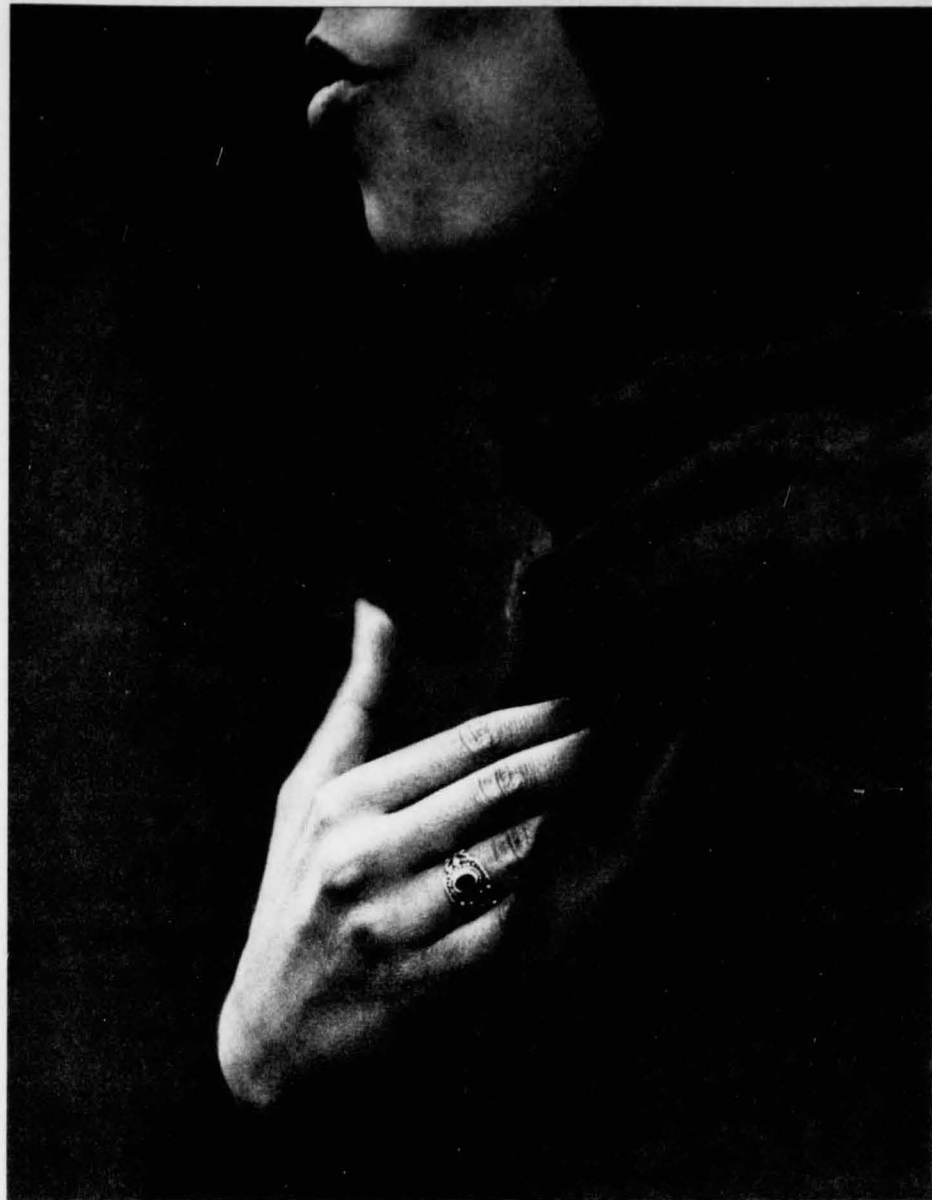
Rimi Khan, the event coordinator for the association, defined jihad as a holy war that doesn't have to be fought on a battlefield, but within one's self.

It's an opportunity to allow Islam to shine and preserve the being within us, she said.

The purpose is to fight against oppression, she said.

Jihad is not about fighting and killing like the media has led people to believe, members of the association said.

It is only OK to take violent action against someone if it is a form of defense, Naaman said.



JaShong King / Daily Staff

Top left: Somiya Rahman, watches a discussion about the nature of Islam and the word "jihad" put on by the Muslim Student Association on Tuesday. **Above: Faten Hijazi talks** about how Islam must come from the heart, during a workshop about the nature of "jihad."

Though taking revenge is justified, choosing not to continue the violence is looked highly upon.

When choosing to fight, though, the actions must lead to a legitimate goal and must be ordered by a leader, not any individual, members of the association said.

One cannot harm innocent

bystanders or other living things, such as plants and animals.

Action cannot be taken for personal gain, either, Naaman said.

Tyson Amir-Mustafa, the president of the association, said he was impressed by the group's job of discussing jihad even though Bazian could not attend.

Amir-Mustafa said he felt that

family is very important, so he wasn't disappointed that Bazian helped a family member instead of attending the presentation.

Amir-Mustafa said he saw Tuesday's forum as a way to prepare for the actual presentation.

Khan said she agreed the

◆ See JIHAD, Page 5