

Double standards on the Subcontinent

Last Friday the United States agreed to ease sanctions on India and Pakistan, two countries that successfully detonated nuclear weapons within weeks of each other this past spring. India, the first of the two rival nations to carry out nuclear tests, was condemned by most western nations. Many of these states feared a local arms race. When Pakistan matched India's feat only weeks later, the West felt their worst fears had been realized. But the craze over this sudden flurry of nuclear testing died down as soon as it had started up. So, did the issue deserve all this attention or did the two countries even deserve sanctions in the first place?

The sanctions sparked a tide of jingoism in both nations, with each country's citizens spouting the most nationalist rhetoric since the last of their three major wars against each other. Most Indians feel that the sanctions were born out of a sort of racist notion on America's part that Eastern nations do not possess the intellect or common sense to handle weapons of mass destruction.

For example, did anyone, with the exception of Greenpeace, kick up a fuss when France recently exploded a nuclear device on their island colony of Reunion?

Indians are angry that the world ignores the fact that the nation is the world's largest democracy with the world's second largest population. In spite of all this, the country still does not have

a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Throughout the Cold War, the United States supported Pakistani interests in spite of the fact that Pakistan was a military dictatorship for most of this time. So much for the United States being guardians of world democracy. It was only natural for Indian citizens to (perhaps wrongly) feel that a nuclear weapon was going to give them a greater say in international affairs.

Editorial

Hindu nationalists like to use the pathetic excuse that because Hindus got their asses kicked for so long by Muslim invaders from the north and then the British, India needs a nuclear weapon to protect itself.

Antagonism from the United States and other Western nations only fuels such sentiments. These people feel like "it's us against the world".

Whatever lame excuse people want to use to justify the possession of a nuclear weapon, the fact remains that neither India nor Pakistan violated any international law by testing these devices. Perhaps the best reason for India and Pakistan to possess nuclear weapons at all is as a deterrent.

Although India and Pakistan have fought major wars in the past, the idea of all-out war doesn't seem

as realistic with the threat of nuclear destruction looming on the horizon. A lot of Indian officials say that the weapon is really a deterrent against the Chinese, who utterly humiliated India in a border war in the 60s. Ever since, Chinese aggression on India's northeastern border has gone unchecked.

The United States' excuse for easing sanctions is that both India and Pakistan have announced a moratorium on further nuclear testing and have agreed to adhere to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by September 1999 — conditions which both countries agreed to from the beginning anyway. The sanctions make the United States look hypocritical because it is apparent that they were imposed as a formality, rather than a necessity. If the United States had sat down with the two countries and started non-proliferation talks from the beginning — instead of blindly imposing sanctions — they wouldn't have stirred up all those angry nationalist/religious sentiments which make India and Pakistan such bitter enemies.

Both India and Pakistan are countries with many economic problems. No one is denying the fact that nuclear proliferation of any sort, especially in third world countries where the money could be diverted to more pressing needs, cannot be justified. The United States and other western countries need to lead the way in this area by refraining from nuclear testing themselves — instead of imposing sanctions which set a double standard.

KARAN SHETTY

Letters

History prof wrong

To the editor,

Bravo to Janet French for her piece "Witch hunts: an integral part of women's history", in the last Gazette. French covered an on campus seminar presented by the Dal Women's Centre as part of Women's History Month.

The seminar, entitled "The Women's Holocaust", was hosted by some local Wiccans, myself included. The idea was to raise awareness of the so-called 'witch craze' and to discuss whether it has relevance today.

Maybe we inadvertently intruded on someone's 'turf' in daring to explore history outside academia. No history professors attended the seminar, though some had plenty to say about it.

"It is bad history just to say that misogyny is all that happened," said MSVU's Frances Early. Remember, we weren't defending a thesis, just opening eyes. It was a two-hour seminar on witch burnings: naturally misogyny came up.

Greg Hanlon, professor of History at Dal, warns us from his ivory tower that "the history of witch burnings should not be blown out of proportion... some extreme feminists extrapolate the witch hunts unjustifiably into a reason for their feelings against men". Huh? Coming from someone who is purportedly a historian, this sounds like psychoanalysis or academic paranoia.

Hanlon really puts his foot in his mouth by stating "we should try not to throw stones at people that were acting in good faith over things that rightfully concerned them". He is referring to witch accusers, inquisitors, judges, torturers and all those who made the witch craze possible through their silence. By this logic, then, it is OK for a group of men to publicly strip search women and grope in every orifice for secret teats used to suckleimps, for this "rightfully concerned them". It is OK, as well, that men performed impromptu public mastectomies and impaled women before roasting them alive, for they were acting in good faith. That's not good enough, Dr. Hanlon.

The purpose of the lecture was to raise awareness of this episode in women's history, of which the vast majority of students are oblivious. You also said "witches did exist" in this era. Explain this comment; it sounds like you are trying to rationalize the behaviour of torturers, rapists and murderers.

The article ended with a quote from Randi Warne, from MSVU. She points out that we have "to be eternally vigilant and keep paying attention to what happens with regard to what gender ideologies are operative". Greg Hanlon, take a good hard look at what gender ideology you are operating under.

Don Adams

Job hunting with the NGR

To the editor,

Looking for employment opportunities in your field of study can be a long and tedious process. Whether you are graduating and looking for permanent employment, or searching for a summer job, internship, or co-op placement, the National Graduate Register (NGR) can help.

The National Graduate Register is a free Internet service designed to match recruiting employers with qualified students in a variety of fields. By simply adding your résumé to the NGR database, you are marketing yourself to thousands of employers from across the country, without cost. By registering, you can let the employer search for you. Last year 21,000 employers requested NGR student profiles, and 20,000 summer jobs were found.

The process is simple. After you have accessed the NGR homepage, <http://ngr.schoolnet.ca>, scroll down and click the "Candidate" button located in the centre of the page. You will then be able to enter your own personal resume into the database. You will be prompted with questions about your education, skills, experience, and aspirations. It will take about 30 minutes to complete. When you are done be sure to write down your username and password — you will need them in order to update your profile. (Note that résumés that have not been updated for 6 months will be de-activated on the system). By accessing your profile often, you will increase your chance of employer requests because the system is set up for employers to view the most recently updated résumés first. You will also need your username and password to access your "Candidate Tool Page". This page enables you to search among 1000 company profiles and apply to "Employer Mailboxes".

It is important to note that, like any web site, it is best to use the National Graduate Register during off-peak hours, so remember that it is busiest between 2-4pm.

With the increasing number of employers using the Internet to post jobs, isn't it about time you put your résumé online? By taking 30 minutes out of your day to enter your profile onto the National Graduate Register's database, you are creating a competitive advantage for yourself in today's job market. I hope that this information will encourage you to use the Internet to enhance the job hunting process. If you have any questions or comments concerning the National Graduate Register, please contact your Campus Representative, Krista Maher, at kmaher@is2.dal.ca.

Krista Maher
NGR Campus Representative

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM PAL ?

Got a problem with something, in the news, in the Gazette, something on campus, something people do that just drives you nuts, think you can do something better than the fools doin' it now, think you can at least write about it ? So write.

OPINIONS, THE GAZETTE, rm312 SUB

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