

Consul General of India lectures at UNB

Continued from Page 3

in India over the past two decades come from all over the subcontinent, and include Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and people of high and low castes (or socioeconomic background).

Bhandari gave a detailed history of India's history since its partition in 1947. He spoke of three ideological battles that India has had to fight during its short, turbulent history: the determined bid in Punjab during the 1980's to destabilize India's democracy; Pakistan-sponsored terrorist efforts to take control of the states of Jammu and Kashmir since 1989, which have uprooted over one hundred thousand Hindu families; and, in India's north-east, the Maoist separatist militants who continue their war of attrition on innocent people in their bid to topple India's political leadership.

The details of these disputes were presented in an unsurprisingly pro-Indian tone, and Bhandari himself gave a disclaimer that the lecture presented only his understanding of the subject. But, setting aside details over which parties are right and wrong in the conflicts mentioned above, it is safe to say that India has been the target of a lot of violence during its 54 year experiment with democracy. And it has many lessons for the rest of the world.

First and foremost, to fight terrorism, Bhandari insisted that we must pinpoint the root causes and fight those. Terrorism is often incited by people who are out for personal gain, he claimed, but those relatively few individuals need mass support to succeed. That support is most often found in areas of high poverty and unemployment — areas which breed overwhelming despair. He claimed that in India those insurgents

most easily mobilized are hungry, unemployed youth between the ages of 10-30. Ignorance and illiteracy often expedite this process of indoctrination and subordination.

In India, and its neighborhood in general, these masses are often lured into fighting under the guise of religious valor. Religion has been a particularly strong tool of faith and helps the poor to continue with life despite extreme difficulties. Militant groups often take advantage of this fact, and have fueled the fires of their causes with religious propaganda.

Finally, as has been emphasized by the United States government in past weeks, terrorism thrives because of the shelter, support and finances provided by State sponsors and the group of people gaining from the terrorist activities.

Bhandari was quick to warn that, "if a certain group of people has formed an opinion, right or wrong, and is ready to go to any extreme for their cause, including sacrificing their lives, than military force alone will not be able to silence them." Selecting a "soft" target, such as a place of business or worship, is very easy and cost-effective for terrorists. Fighting an unconventional, amorphous enemy such as a terrorist group, however, is a very costly affair.

Bhandari stressed that, in light of this imbalance, all peace-loving people and their governments must fight terrorism by "vowing to shun terrorism and the path of violence in general." Moreover, governments must work to win the support of the masses that terrorist networks depend on by providing them with hope for a peaceful, healthy future within a democratic framework.

Since the time of Mahatma Gandhi's

nonviolent fight for Indian independence from Great Britain, India, Bhandari claims, has tried to follow this path of nonviolence. It has required patience, but it has been modestly successful. With a population of over one billion people, India remains the world's largest democracy, and though it continues to struggle with various rebel groups in its outer provinces, it maintains, Bhandari insists, the support of the majority of its peoples. He claims that this is because the Indian government remains committed to answering to its people.

Bhandari expressed hope that western governments would likewise keep in mind the lives of the silent majority of people in countries where terrorists operate. The United States and its allies, he claimed, have taken appropriate steps in trying to provide the people of Afghanistan with food and other aid. He added that their energies would be better focused in continuing this effort, and winning the hearts of these downtrodden people, than in attempting to root out all terrorist elements in every country. He predicted that this latter objective would prove not only costly but futile.

Above all, Bhandari advised the western countries to practice what they preach. He cited Canada and India as great examples of countries that promote multi-culturalism and tolerance of all faiths and creeds. Their examples highlight the fact that multicultural societies lead to better understanding among all cultural and religious groups.

"Secular democracy is one proven way to allow people to vent their anger and emotions in a civilized way," he concluded, "and it should be the responsibility of all countries to promote secular governments and multicultural, democratic societies."

The truth about anthrax

The anthrax scare has caused panic, but do we understand how anthrax really works?

By Keiran Gibbs & Jennifer Henderson, The Picaro

From the American Congress to the Canadian Senate. From university campuses to post offices. Since Sept. 11, anthrax scares — and in some instances confirmed cases — have been popping up across North America.

But how much does the average person really know about this potentially deadly bacteria?

Anthrax is actually an acute infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacteria anthracis, most commonly found in domesticated animals such as cattle and sheep. Humans can become infected with anthrax by ingesting it, inhaling it or through cuts and abrasions in the skin.

Its symptoms vary depending on the type of anthrax contracted but can mimic those of the flu or a common cold. Although antibiotics are available to treat anthrax infection, their long-term health consequences are not yet known.

The bacteria may sound new to the general public but is actually well known to Canadian scientists.

"A lot of work on anthrax as a biological weapon was done in Canada in the 1940s. It was one of the first biological weapons to be produced and

is one of the easiest to make," said John Thompson, director of the Mackenzie Institute, which does research and provides commentary on organized violence and political instability.

Although anthrax has been around for decades, it has seldom been used as a weapon.

"What's normally prevented states from using anthrax are two things: There are more effective biological and chemical weapons available and states know that if you attack the U.S. or a NATO country with it you can expect to see your capital city turned into a parking lot," Thompson said.

Although authorities have not determined the source of the current anthrax outbreak, Thompson believes it is another form of terrorism. He blames terrorists' lack of national identity or allegiance with their willingness to use anthrax as a biological weapon, particularly against the U.S.

"Islamic fundamentalists want to target Western civilization. The U.S. is just the flagship."

Although Thompson believes he will see the use of anthrax on "mass scale" during his lifetime, he doesn't believe the general public should live in fear of the bacteria.

"You can't prepare against every attack or contingency. I'm more worried about not looking both ways before crossing the street or having a heart attack or getting cancer than I am about anthrax."

BC government introduces lower minimum wage for first-time workers

By Sarah MacNeill Morrison
The Ubysey

The B.C. government announced this week it will introduce a lower minimum wage for youth working their first jobs.

Starting November 15, first-time workers in the province will be paid a 'first-job rate' of \$6 an hour for the first 500 hours of their employment. The wage is \$2 below B.C.'s regular minimum wage, which was raised 40 cents to \$8 an hour this week.

"The first-job rate is a first step to help strengthen youth employment options," labour minister Graham Bruce said in a release. "The first-job rate recognizes the valuable service employers provide to new workers, and the fact that it can take

several months before new workers are fully trained.

However, NDP MLA Jenny Kwan, said the new system could easily be abused by employers.

"A person could work up to close to six months at \$6 per hour and then get fired," she said. "I think it's a very dangerous thing to do, and it puts people at a very vulnerable stage in terms of employment practices and employment standards."

"It's shocking to me that they have implemented this," Kwan said.

The B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union also criticized the move. The union's president, George Heyman, called the new wage "an insult to young workers."

"This program is subject to wide-open

abuse by employers and will need a whole new system of record keeping to insure that each employee's hours are accounted for," he said in a press release.

"I wonder if the premier is willing to pay his ministers and deputy ministers 25 per cent less until they learn the ropes," Heyman said.

Kwan also expressed concern that the new wage would affect young people, particularly students working towards post-secondary degrees who often rely on four-month work periods to fund their education.

"If you have to go through a training wage at \$6 an hour, you are effectively completely disadvantaged and I think many employers would not hesitate to take advantage of students and families," she said.

Yvette Lu, a vice-president of the University of British Columbia's student association, said the difference between the regular minimum wage and the first-job wage could be prohibitive for students trying to pay for their education.

"This will be tough for students because six months is a long time and...500 hours at \$2 an hour [is] \$1000 and \$1000 is a lot of money for a student," she said.

Lucy Watson, an organizer for the Canadian Federation of Students said her organization was concerned over the possibilities of a tuition increase in the province. A decrease in the minimum wage for young workers, she said, could leave many people unable to afford college or university.

"It's very much a concern when we hear that students and young people are put into a category that's separate and distinct," she said. "The B.C. Liberals are showing contempt for the value of work for young workers."

B.C. will not be the only province to have a 'training wage.'

Nova Scotia, the Northwest Territories and Ontario also have separate minimum wages for first-time workers.

However, the gap between the two different minimum wages in B.C. is \$2. In other provinces and territories the variance ranges from 45 to 90 cents.

B.C. has the highest youth unemployment rate in Western Canada at 13.6 per cent, compared with 8.4 per cent in Alberta, 10.5 per cent in Saskatchewan and 8.8 per cent in Manitoba.

Former Executive Director to be honoured

BNACL holds retirement celebration for Lorraine Silliphant

By Bruns Staff

The New Brunswick Association for Community Living is pleased to host a retirement celebration in honour of its former Executive Director, Lorraine Silliphant.

The event will begin at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 14th, at the Fredericton Inn.

The Fredericton resident recently retired from NBACL, a voluntary, non-profit organization which works on behalf of children and adults with intellectual disabilities and their families.

Silliphant was Executive Director for 11 years and involved with the NBACL in various capacities for over 25 years.

NBACL President, Sherman Niles, said Silliphant's commitment and dedication have touched the lives of many, many people. "Lorraine... is hard working, caring and her dedication to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in their communities has been unwavering," said Niles. "She has paved the way for

many people to have opportunities and she has helped change the way people with disabilities are treated," continued Niles.

Silliphant has accomplished much over the years, including being largely instrumental in closing the W.F. Roberts Hospital School in the mid 1980s. That decision allowed formerly institutionalized children to be included in the community.

She was also an active board member of the highly successful Jobs Unlimited for 18 years. Silliphant is a member of the IWK Grace Hospital Board and chair of that board's Ethics Committee.

She recently received a Disability Awareness Week award from the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons and was named a life-time member of the Canadian Association for Community Living.

Silliphant and husband David have three children and five grandchildren.

Tickets for the retirement dinner can be purchased by calling the NBACL offices at 458-8866; prices are \$35 per person or \$65 for a couple.

For more information contact Jack Carr, Marketing & Communications Coordinator, at 458-8866.



The Old Arts Building is the landmark which identifies UNB for many people. Opened in 1829, it was not until 1876 that the third storey was added. This rare photograph attests to the pastoral beauty which encompassed UNB in a much earlier time. Old Arts is the oldest university building in Canada still used for educational purposes.



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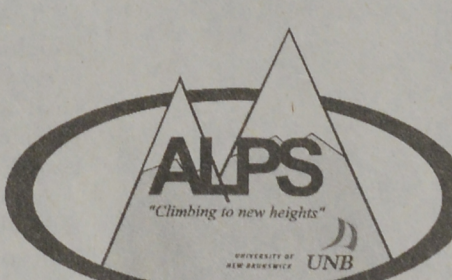
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