

Gandhi emphasizes harmony in speech

Speaker stresses acceptance, understanding

By Sarah Rackley
Contributing Reporter

Arun Gandhi, the grandson of famous Indian leader Mohandas Karamchand "Mahatma" Gandhi spoke to an audience of about 450 people in Brendle Recital Hall in the Scales Fine Arts Center Oct. 16.

Gandhi began his lecture, "The Twenty-first Century is Coming, But Where are We Going?" with an exercise in which he divided the audience into pairs. One person in each group attempted to get "the most valuable diamond in the world" from his partner, who pretended to hold it in his fist.

Instead of asking for the diamond, most people used violence to get the diamond. According to Gandhi, these reactions indicated humans' capability for violence.

Through a series of anecdotes demonstrating the teachings of his grandfather, Gandhi conveyed teachings about learning to dispel conflict.

Gandhi spoke about a workshop on violence that he taught to a South African gang which had massacred 17 people the day before an election. Arriving in the township, Gandhi was horrified by the conditions, as sewage, hanging wires and garbage covered the streets. As the workshop began, 71 young men entered carrying Uzis and AK-47s. Gandhi asked them to stack the weapons by the wall.

Feeling that he was not quite reaching the gang members, Gandhi asked them what they were trying to achieve with violence. The young men responded that they wanted economic stability, jobs and homes.

Gandhi explained to them that in order to procure jobs, businesses must feel secure

enough to invest in the township. The gang members were their own worst enemies and first needed to change themselves, he said. The gang members responded to Gandhi's message of nonviolence by handing over their weapons and declaring themselves nonviolent activists.

Gandhi said that each individual must take a step toward understanding and acceptance in his own life in order to resolve conflict. He encouraged the audience to "do something to break down the barriers we have created between ourselves," especially during the "season of nonviolence" from January to April, which will commemorate anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King's deaths.

The evening also included dancers who performed a Diva Dance in celebration of the triumph of good over evil. There was also a presentation of a red and white flower chain from the campus community in honor of the season of nonviolence. Gandhi then answered questions from the audience.

Born in 1934, Arun Gandhi grew up in apartheid South Africa, where he experienced hatred from both whites and blacks.

As a child, he worked to become physically strong so that he might retaliate against beatings. Gandhi said that this violence taught him that "unless you have suffered humiliation, you will never understand how dehumanizing it is."

When he was 12, his parents sent him to live with his grandfather in an effort to help the boy learn how to control his rage.

Arun Gandhi's grandfather spent time with him daily, and he learned from his grandfather lessons of respect, understanding, acceptance and appreciation.



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

Table talk

Members of the Pi Beta Phi sorority and volunteers for Project Pumpkin inform students about their activities in the Benson University Center. Organizations often take advantage of this chance for publicity.

Sundry manager shares story

Continued from Page A1

plenty of time for her daughter.

Recently Best Choice Center, her daughter's day-care center, awarded Corbett and her daughter with the Best Mother/Daughter Relationship Award.

"We get to go to the Manor House at Tanglewood two times this month to have a tea party," Corbett said. Corbett

regards every day with her daughter and family as special.

Her devotion shows in pastimes such as cleaning the house after a long day of work and making family dinners each night.

"I've been working with the company here for five years," Corbett said.

"I really enjoy working here, and the main thing that keeps me coming back is the students."

Work, however, is not the only way she spends her time. "I love to swim and play pool occasionally, but shopping is number one of course," she said.

Although she enjoys her job and living in her hometown, Corbett hopes her work will allow her one day to move to Atlanta.

Considering her constant smile and happy nature, it is no wonder Corbett said, "I rarely have a bad day."

Journalist addresses relationship between religion, politics

By Theresa Felder
Assistant News Editor



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

Mark Pinsky, a religion reporter for *The Orlando Sentinel*, lectured Oct. 17 on the role religion plays in today's political arena. The lecture, titled "Vengeful Gods: Today's Holy Wars," was co-sponsored by the journalism program and the English department. Pinsky spoke for 45 minutes to a crowd of about 75 people.

Religion has replaced nationalism and conflicting ideologies as the major cause of bloody conflict around the world, according to a religion writer who lectured at the university Oct. 17.

Mark Pinsky, a religion writer for *The Orlando Sentinel*, said, "In the last 25 years, religion has manifested a political dimension that overshadows the spiritual dimension." Pinsky delivered his lecture, titled "Vengeful Gods: Today's Holy Wars," before a crowd of 75 people in Carswell Hall.

Pinsky also said that religious differences, notably the rise of the so-called Religious Right, has also become a major source of political division in the United States, although the differences are manifested at the ballot boxes rather than on the battlefield.

Internationally, religion has become a vehicle for political opposition, subversion of the existing order and resistance to change, according to Pinsky.

Pinsky said that Islam, Christianity and Judaism have replaced nationalism and Marxism as political forces. He discussed the historical antecedents of each religion's conflicts. "No one comes to this party with clean hands," he said.

He cited the conflicts in Afghanistan, in which Islamic groups revolted against Soviet socialism, and in Israel and Palestine, where the Islamic group Hamas battles against the secular Palestinian authority, as examples of religious groups using violence as a means of achieving political objectives. "The goal is secular, but the vehicle is religion," he said. "It provides a willingness to die and a willingness to kill."

He also mentioned the emergence of evangelical

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Mark Pinsky

Religion Writer, *The Orlando Sentinel*

Protestant groups in China and Vietnam, where people have suffered for being Christians. "When they (the government) persecute people as Christians, they are persecuting them as potential opponents of the regime," he said.

According to Pinsky, the conflicts pertaining to Judaism range from Old Testament events, including bloody conquests and the earliest examples of ethnic cleansing, to Israel today, where the Orthodox group has allied itself with the conservative forces to keep the present regime in power.

He said that religion has functioned so well as a vehicle of opposition because it fills critical needs, including discipline, inspiration, cohesion, organizational structure, a cover of legitimacy and a place to meet.

Pinsky also said that there are several causes to which people attribute the resurgence of religion in the United States. The first is that another Great Awakening has occurred. The second is that social disintegration has caused people to yearn for security and absolutes, which they find in religion. Third, aging baby boomers have begun to feel a sense of their own mortality and to think of greater spiritual questions.

The United States has also seen examples of reli-

gious groups promoting political goals, among which were abolition, prohibition, suffrage and civil rights, according to Pinsky. Americans have also used religion as an outlet of action in presidential and congressional elections and in school board elections, he said.

He said that moderate religious groups in the United States have less political sway than more radical groups, since the moderates must deal with issues such as empty churches, lower revenues and gay clergy.

"They are not in an active position to mobilize people," he said.

The radical groups have their problems, too, however. They are loud, but they have a limited constituency, Pinsky said.

He closed by discussing his career in journalism. Offering words of advice to prospective journalists, he said, "I have one word for you: television."

"There is news; there will always be news," but the question is what medium will relay the information, he said.

Pinsky said that he began covering religion when he worked as a general assignment reporter for *The Los Angeles Times*. He said that he enjoys journalism because he usually writes about either people of faith or scoundrels, and that both make good stories. He said he finds his work both challenging and fun. "Every so often, work should be fun, if you can swing it."

Pinsky completed his undergraduate study at Duke University and graduate study at the Columbia School of Journalism and Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Journalism. As a freelance writer he has written for almost every major newspaper in the country, including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*, and he wrote for the New China News Agency in Beijing.

SLC evaluates status of homosexuals

Continued from Page A1

is in the student handbook produced by his office.

The committee also recommended that "issues of homosexuality be included in the community building program during freshman orientation.

Further, whenever appropriate, when issues of diversity are raised as a part of University programs, retreats, etc., issues related to homosexuality should be included."

Perry Patterson, an associate professor of economics and the Gay and Lesbian Bisexual Association faculty adviser, said: "I think it's important that open dialogue on these issues begins as early as possible and that it becomes an expected part of university life that we can share real information on these topics as well on all others."

Zick said that the issue of sexual orientation was included in this year's community building program to a limited extent and that the SLC is in the process of evaluating how successful it was.

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Perry Patterson

Associate Professor of Economics

job of addressing the issue of sexual orientation in community building," he said.

Third, the committee recommended that the Division of Student Life develop a web site during the summer of 1997.

"The information developed by the American Psychological Association and reviewed by the sub-committee and other interested persons related to homosexuality would be used in addition to other pertinent materials," the report reads.

According to Zick, the web site is currently under development and should be

ready at the end of the school year.

Patterson said the web site is important because "(the web site) will affect people who are looking at what the likely climate on this campus is as they're thinking about applying here as potential students, as graduate students and as potential faculty. It is also going to contribute to students and others once on campus by providing some realistic, scientifically based information on these topics that otherwise might not be readily available."

Fourth, the committee "recognizing the importance of role models, mentors, and support persons to students, recommends that faculty and members be invited to have their names appear on the web site as support persons for gay and lesbian students," the report said.

Patterson said: "Students can find themselves in a position where they do not know who to turn to ... and this is one way of making the information readily available."

Patterson was very positive about the results of the survey and the four suggestions being implemented. "I like them all," he said.

Computer snatcher avoids discovery by campus police

Continued from Page A1

"This guy knew what he was doing. He knew how to fit in," Horosko said.

The last person to leave the computer lab told University Police that he secured the door when he left. The lab is locked electronically.

"It's a very small keypad with only five buttons. Typically the person stands in front of that (while he or she enters the code)," said Regina Lawson, the chief of University Police.

"The computer lab was secured at the time, so he probably sat back and watched somebody punch in the number," Horosko said. The theft of the computers was discovered at 9:14 a.m. Oct. 17 by Jonathan Duchac, an assistant professor of business and accountancy. Duchac could not be reached for comment. The thief left other computer equipment in

the lab, including printers, monitors and keyboards, Lawson said.

"The computers weren't locked down and should have been locked down," Horosko said. "Just because there's a lock on the door does not mean the room is secure." Horosko said that she will look into better security measures for the campus computer labs. "I know that I will be spending some time in computer labs," she said.

The biggest problem on campus is people's complacent attitudes about crime, Horosko said. "I think we were in a better position this time last year because there were some serious crimes and people woke up."

"If people thought it was odd, people should have reported it," Horosko said.

"If you see people loading up a bunch of computers, ask them. Ask them what they're doing. If they're not legit, they're gonna squirm."