

Who to blame for Mumbai attacks?

Pakistan should not be a scapegoat to the internal problems facing India

By **ASHWARIYA VENKAT**
Staff Writer

It happens in every cricket match, in every peace conference, in every controversial movie release, and in every military move either party makes: Pakistan and India are blaming each other for their problems, yet again.

The Nov. 26 attack on the Indian city of Mumbai killed around 170 people and injured several others. As always, the first suspect of the Indian government was a Pakistani terrorist organization named Lashkar-i-Taiba. This organization was also blamed for the 2001 attack on the Indian Parliament, which led both countries to the brink of war.

The rivalry between India and Pakistan has existed since 1947, when Pakistan split from India to form its own Muslim state. Since then, both countries have shared a burning hatred for each other, which is intensified by their disputes about Kashmir.

On the surface, both countries have peaceful relations—they promise in UN meetings, SAARC conferences, and to all other global leaders that they will initiate peace talks to resolve their conflicts. But such resolutions hardly ever amount to anything as substantial as the next crisis comes along, and decades of hatred are let loose.

The shootings mainly occurred around opulent hotels like the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel and the Oberoi Trident, along with minor explosions around town. These attacks have shaken the Indian government, which has taken several measures to quell the outpouring of hate among the citizens.

One such measure was ordering TV stations to project the news as less depressing to show that India is not demoralized by these attacks.

This attack has provoked strong reactions from the Indian citizens. In general, they feel a sense of hatred towards Pakistan for having

organized these attacks, as the media holds Pakistan accountable for majority of terrorist attacks in India.

So, whose fault was it? The first and most obvious scapegoat is Pakistan. And India has reason to believe Pakistani terrorists have caused these attacks. Pakistan, historically, has remained silent on Indian extradition demands for underworld dons like Dawood Ibrahim and has often made no substantial effort to track down accused terrorists in the country. This time, Pakistan assures it will try the 20 suspects in the attacks on Pakistani soil if proof of their involvement in the attack is found.

But is it rational to blame everything that goes wrong on Pakistan? Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram has said, "I would be less than truthful if I said there were no lapses," assuring that security breaches would be looked into. The police have also uncovered an Indian suspect named Faim Ansari, who was carrying maps and other materials that planned out the Mumbai attacks.

The Indian police has indicated that there might be other Indian accomplices than Ansari. Attacks like this are not uncommon in a country where religious fanatics, tribal Communist organizations, and Naxalite attacks occur on an almost daily basis. Although Pakistan seems to be the root of these attacks, they are not the only ones to be blamed for Mumbai. India is to be equally blamed for its security lapses and its intelligence errors.

Foreign involvement in this issue is useless. Despite Condoleezza Rice's urges towards a peaceful relationship, both countries will agree to it on paper and go back to attacking each other again. The issue is just a continuation of the decades-old rivalry between India and Pakistan, and both parties will never chose to resolve it because each is the other's scapegoat for everything that is wrong.

If anything, both groups involved must talk to each other without intermediaries, as both leaders comprehend the historical opposition better than any foreign entity could understand. But the impetus for this must come from genuine concern, not begrudging responses to foreign pressure. They must hold honest peace talks that do not involve empty promises and actually try to work on issues like terrorism that are tearing their foreign relations apart before the hatred fuels a full-scale war.



Misunderstanding the economy

Public to better understand the dire financial situation

By **ERIN JOHNSON**
Editorials Editor

The biggest news in recent months has been the nation's economic recession. As with other recessions, or other times in our past where people's wallets were thinner, the atmosphere is one of doom and gloom.

Looking at all of the horrible things that are happening as a consequence of this recession, such as banks failing, auto companies pleading Congress for money, people losing their jobs and college funds losing value, the description seems fitting.

If people look at this from a new angle, they can see that paying attention to a recession, although the situation is difficult to understand, could benefit us in the future.

The government so far has been able to prevent this recession from becoming a depression such as the Great Depression by studying the economic events of the 1930s and how it affected the country.

The generation that came out of the Great Depression was very concerned about preventing

its recurrence, and tried to teach their children how to be savvy with their money. The depression seemed so far off to the younger generations, causing them to get into bad habits of unnecessary risk taking.

Understand that the economic situation right now may not seem like its going to get better soon, but in its own way, shape, and form it will get better. I am not saying this to be optimistic and to keep people happy. By looking in the past, one can see that the world has always risen and fallen from periods such as the Middle Ages to the Renaissance.

People also need to understand that believing that everything will always get better could put us in the same situation we now face. Those who did not think the economy could fail did not save or invest smartly, which causes grave problems in a today's situation.

In this condition, those who did invest and manage their money well are being negatively affected by this crisis.

People who have been greatly affected by this crisis will hopefully come out of it with better knowledge of economic planning. However, our generation, the generation that is still young and

does not have to manage their money entirely, will only understand that a recession such as this is bad, but not what we should do to prevent this in the future.

Those in high school who have heard about the economic crisis and see it daily, whether in their own homes or from an outside perspective, should pay more attention so that they too can learn

something from this experience. If this generation pays closer attention, it is possible that the next time the economy takes a turn for the worse, we will understand better how to handle our money and how to react to a financial deadline.

Specifically looking at today's economic problems, the thing that people need to learn most is how to buy things that they can afford. When buying a house, it is unusual for someone to have all of the money to buy the house at once. But people need to pay attention to interest rates and how they have helped create the recession today if they want to come out of it knowing what to do if pressed with another similar situation.

The main thing is that people need a new attitude, or just another added perspective in relation to the economic recession. Just pay attention, and it will help you in the long run.

“The main thing is that people need a new attitude on the economy”

Economy to go green

While the U.S. is facing a plethora of financial issues, the solution is going green

By **AYA SAED**
Editorials Editor

The economy has not been this tight for decades. We have all heard news about a crashing Citibank, Ford, GM and a multitude of other powerful companies that surround our average lives. On top of it all, the U.S. dollar is weakening in the global market and people all over the U.S. are losing jobs and worrying about insurance and retirement benefits. This is by no means a simple problem; on the contrary, it will require patience and very complex solutions. On the other hand, it is by no means difficult to see that there is one step that can be taken immediately: invest in eco-friendly technology.

Global Warming is a serious issue that cannot be taken lightly. It is a moral problem that could and has placed millions of people in disastrous situations because of a lack of responsibility in powerful and developing countries—the U.S. being the worst. For years now, people have been proposing plans that would eliminate this quandary, and for years, they have been ignored. Recently, however, after an array of research, many have realized that green technology is the way to go.

A recent study by Duke University supports the claim by many politicians of rejuvenating the economy by instituting a green economy. The study states that the "manufacturing sector could be a significant beneficiary of the green movement." Green technology, which can be a money saver in the long run, is not only a great investment, but can also be utilized to increase jobs.

For example, the study pointed to the window sector. A "high-performance" window has



approximately 10 different parts, each of which will require more labor and materials. Eventually, this process will increase productivity as our investments grow, and our flow of money increases, as more people are employed. President-elect Barack Obama stated that green technology has the potential to add five million new jobs, which is further supported by the study. The states that will witness a surge in economic revival are: Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Ohio, Indiana and California.

Moreover, the American car industry is yet another that will be affected by such a proposal. Although all car companies are facing a downfall, it is not surprise that Toyota and Honda are leading GM, Ford, and other inefficient car manufacturers. Both Honda and Toyota have

invested heavily in environmentally friendly cars with better gas mileages. Although gas prices are not as high at the moment, investing in such technologies will prove very advantageous in the future of the global economy. Such investments will also create jobs, as more people are needed to create and manufacture these new technologies.

The link between climate solutions and the manufacturing sector is phenomenal. These two components are crucial in these tumultuous times. If the U.S. were to institute such a proposal, then the affects will be instantaneous and long lasting. As studies have already illustrated, this change will create a multitude of jobs, which will assuage the current economic crisis.

Association limits freedom of speech

In Loudoun County a Hindu man has recently been fined for painting a "kolam," or an intricate Hindu symbol, on the asphalt of his driving lot. The design is a symbol that attracts the Hindu goddess of prosperity into a home. However, the homeowner's association has fined him \$10 for every day it is not removed.

To Ram Balasubramanian, this six-foot design of white and red swirls is a peaceful way by which he can express his religious freedom. To him, it holds momentous emotional value and he believes that the homeowner's association has not given him an adequate reason to remove it. Balasubramanian has asked all of his neighbors, and none oblige.

Simply put, the "kolam" is nothing more than a peaceful symbol. There is absolutely no reason for the homeowner's association to find fault with.

The design is not a symbol for hatred, nor does it conjure up offensive or hateful images. It is a show of religious belief, and by removing it, freedom of religion and speech will truly be undermined.

Having said that, however, homeowner associations are important. They set standards in residential areas so as to reduce any mishaps and set a uniform standard by which all the neighbors will be included and none offended.

This does not allow a homeowner association to make their community into a "cookie-cutter" type area. We are all different and we must embrace, not deface, these differences. Balasubramanian has done nothing wrong. He has not disturbed the peace in anyway, rather, he has induced the community with a sense of understanding. His neighbors can learn something new about the Hindu religion.

—**Aya Saed**
Editorials Editor

Should Homeowner Associations fine residents for religious display?

"If it is something you believe in, then people have the freedom to express it."

—**Aden Yung**
freshman



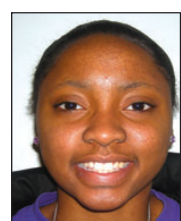
"If the rules were specific when the owner moved in, then it makes sense to fine them."



—**Brittney Jerry**
sophomore

"I think that since the house belongs to you, then you should be able to do anything you want. Especially if it is peaceful."

—**Dominique Harris**
junior



"People should not violate the rules. If it is not in violation if the rules then it does not matter."



—**Shane Doty**
senior

"No. That is just a way in which people want to express themselves."

—**May Dang**
senior



"The association stayed within its legal limits. But I think they should deal with the more important issues first."



—**Amy Graham**
English teacher

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