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Hari Sharma

Invasion shatters myth

By KYLE JOHNSON
Of the Emerald

Hari Sharma, a professor at Simon Fraser University in Canada, declared Thursday that "1971 was a major turning point" in the history of the Indian sub-continent.

Sharma, who received his bachelors degree from the University of Dehli, was speaking in the Dad's Room of the EMU. His visit to Eugene was sponsored by the International Program Committee, and it also included a talk at Central Presbyterian Church Wednesday.

He said the myth of the Indian sub-continent as a "land of tranquility, serenity, and rapid progress" was shattered by the March 1971 invasion of East Pakistan, now Bangla Desh, by West Pakistan.

The creation of Pakistan in 1947, said Sharma, was "an absurdity" and a creation of "British imperialism." He said the two sections of Pakistan "didn't assume characteristics of a nation."

Sharma said East Pakistan, then the state of East Bengal in India, was "the most politically advanced section in India." He said many of the major political parties in India were founded in the state of East Bengal.

The independence movement in East Pakistan, said Sharma, was "a populist movement" and in West Pakistan an "elitist movement."

Sharma said there was "no industrial bourgeoisie" in Pakistan in 1947. He said now 22 families have control of over 80 per cent of West Pakistan's industry.

Sharma said 60 to 65 per cent of the goods made in West Pakistan were consumed in East Pakistan at "higher prices."

"It was not simply an economic exploitation, but also a political exploitation" said Sharma.

He said the officers of the Pakistani army, who were only 10 to 15 per cent Bengali, while the population was over 50 per cent Bengali, staged a coup d'etat in 1958 when it appeared the Bengali's would win a national election.

Sharma said the Pakistani army had gained its strength from American foreign aid. It had come "in orbit of American imperialism."

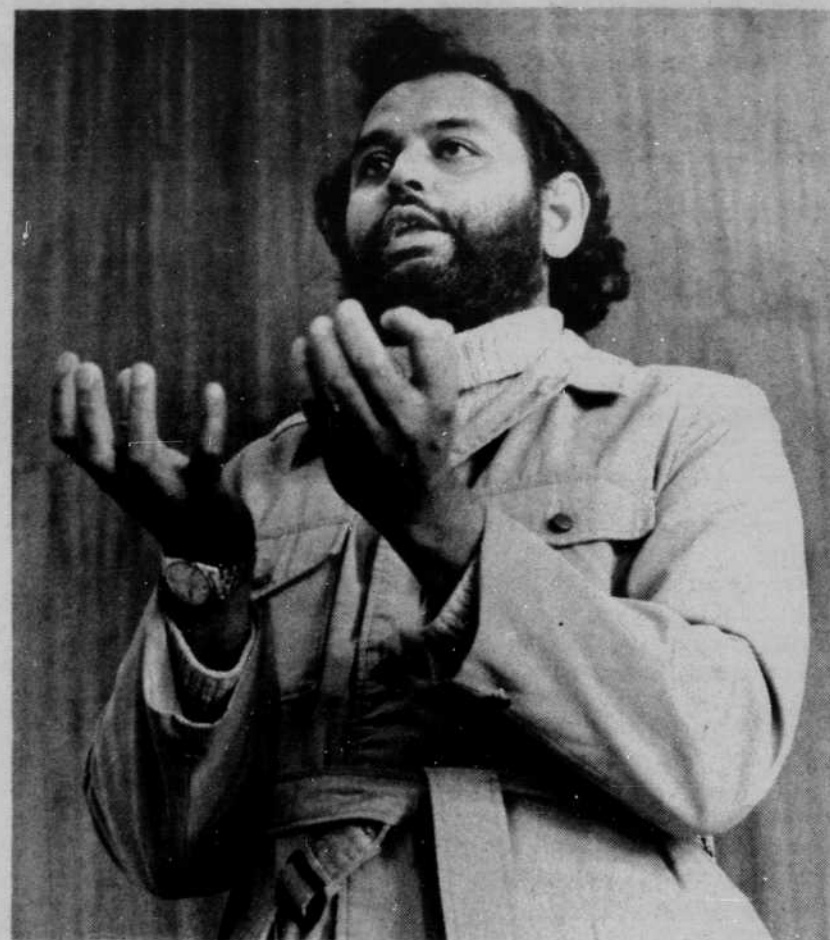
General Ayub Khan who led the coup d'etat was forced to resign as President in 1968 because of "massive student, peasant strikes" even though he had all the "massive, repressive forces behind him," said Sharma.

He said when free elections were first held in East Pakistan in 1971, the Awami League, which now heads the Bangla Desh government, won 167 of 169 seats, or enough to control the legislature of Pakistan.

He said while Sheik Mujibur Rahman, head of the Awami League, was negotiating with President Yahya Khan of West Pakistan, Yahya had Pakistani troops invade East Pakistan.

Sharma described the invasion as a "genocide par excellence." He said the invasion did not crush East Pakistan people because "nationalistic forces" of the Bengalis were strong, the whole civil bureaucracy had collapsed, and that guerilla movements had started.

He said the Awami League leadership except Sheik Mujib who had been arrested, fled to Calcutta.



Hari Sharma

Sharma said Prime Minister Indira Ghandi invaded East Pakistan because she was

fearful, of what Sharma termed, "a militant, young leftist movement" would seize control of the Mukti Bahini, a Bengali guerilla force. He said this group had ties with a similar Indian guerilla movement.

Sharma said Sheik Mujib will "ride the tide" of nationalism before the guerilla movement will take power.

Sharma said the war was "decisive and peaceful" because in a few years "the armies of India and Pakistan and Ceylon and Bangla Desh will join together in fighting internal problems."

Community

Pedestrian-bike overpass proposed

A bicycle program proposed for next year's Eugene city budget places a pedestrian-bicycle overpass across Franklin Blvd. and a bike path through the Lane County Fairgrounds at the top of its priority list.

The \$214,000 bike program was presented to the Eugene City Council Wednesday by Ms. John Bascom, chairman of the city's Bicycle Committee (which designed the program).

According to Ms. Bascom, the committee has not planned any additional bike route designations because previous experience has shown it "neither encourages use (by bicyclists) nor adds to the safety of the bicyclist."

The two-mile route between the University and Amazon Drive in south Eugene along University and Alder streets, established last year, has shown only a slight increase in bike traffic since opening in June.

The pedestrian-bicycle overpass would connect with the Autzen Stadium footbridge, which crosses the Willamette River. The state would be asked to pay a major share of the cost, estimated to exceed \$50,000.

The fairgrounds bike path, which would serve many University students who are commuting from the Westmoreland student housing project, is estimated to cost about \$50,000. The path is designated to begin at Hayes Street in west Eugene and pass through the fairgrounds to Jefferson Street.

The Eugene City Council Committee of the Whole will meet at noon Wednesday in the Emerald Room of the Eugene Hotel.

KEZI sponsors consumer program

The name of the game is Consumer Call-In. You can play the game by tuning in Station KEZI (channel 9) at 6:00 p.m. this evening.

You will learn about some of your new rights in retail sales situations; you can fire questions at a panel of experts on the new law that affects every consumer and retailer in the state of Oregon.

The panel of experts include Don Diment, head of Consumer Protection in the District Attorney's office, Ruby Brenne, Eugene Chamber of Commerce and Dave Shannon, a Portland attorney who had a hand in drafting the new law.

Other University students who are familiar with the Act will man phones, screen questions, and serve as runners.

In cooperation with people at KEZI, four University students—Stephanie Fox, Brian Arpajian, Luke Moore and Herb Pierson—planned the hour-long program. All were members of a fall term writing class, initiated by OSPIRG and sponsored by the English Department. They will present the heart of the new law.

Monday, January 31, 1972