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Recent rioting in India stirs local agony, concern

By Diana Elliott

Of the Emerald

Many citizens of Eugene read the news about the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the violence that followed, and were temporarily shocked. But



Amit Goswami

the incident was more than a front page news story. It was a very real example of the religious strife that has plagued his country for

4,000 years.

to one Univer-

sity professor

Indianborn Amit Goswami, a University physics professor, felt a great sense of personal loss when he learned of the tragedy.

"Some of my worst thoughts and fears are materializing," Goswami says. "Riots in the major cities, and so many dead. All I can think about is what can I do...what can we do...what can anyone do?"

Goswami admits there's nothing he can do for the 800 million people of India. And there's nothing he can do for his mother and sisters who are now living in New Delhi. But he does believe the danger that exists there has presented an opportunity.

"This offers the human race an opportunity to think about what we can do to stop such violence," Goswami says. "Personally I'll try to transform myself."

Although traditionally India has suffered from religious conflict, the philosophy of non-violence taught by Mohandas Gandhi during the Indian independence struggle, emphasized the importance of religious tolerance and brotherhood. Goswami feels the teachings of Mohandas Gandhi are still important today.

"This is a chance for the country to take the vow of non-violence over again," Goswami says.

But since the murder of Indira Gandhi last Wednesday, violence has erupted, taking the lives of more than 1,000 people, most of whom were Sikhs. Tensions climaxed between the government of India and Sikh extremists in June, when Indira Gandhi ordered the Indian army into the Golden Temple of Amritsar, the holiest shrine of the Sikh religion. Sikh extremists had been using the temple as their headquarters.

Troops were ordered into the temple after a series of assassinations of Hindu leaders. Indira Gandhi claimed that the purpose for the operation was to root out the extremists and stop the growing wave of religious violence.

The Sikh extremists who took responsibility for the assassination said it was carried out in revenge for the attack on the Golden Temple and as part of their struggle for an independent nation to be created out of the state of Punjab in Northern India.

The Sikh extremists, however, make up only a fraction of the Sikh population in India. In response to the assassination, Hindus have retaliated against the entire Sikh population of India.

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When it rains, it floods

When it pours, all the rain inevitably washes into this puddle outside the EMU Fishbowl. As water collects, pedestrians usually deal with the nuisance by walking around or by jumping over it. Not in this case — they just had fun with it. As much fun that is, as one can have with a mud puddle.

Photo by Steven Wall

Law Library's exclusionary study policy questioned

By Michael Doke Of the Emerald

Undergraduates using the University Law Library have been told to stay out of that facility unless they are there for legal research, but the legality of that policy has come into question, say several University

officials.

"The State Board (of Higher Education) can do many things," says Bill Kittredge, director of student advocacy. The board may delegate every area from authority over a University building to the president of that institution, he says.

"The State Board seeds the authority to Paul Olum who then seeds it to (Law School Dean) Derrick Bell," Kittredge says.

And the policy restricting undergraduate use of the Law Library was achieved through this process, he says.

In April, Provost Dick Hill issued a memorandum stating "the law school library no longer can be available as an unrestricted study hall facility...(Usage) for non-law students now must be restricted to those actively pursuing research on topics requiring the use of the library's collections."

"The problem resulted from

very, very heavy use of the Law Library by people not in law school," Hill says. The requirements of the people who need the library the most were not being met, he says.

Hill says that the problem escalates during finals period

when both undergraduates and law students are facing tests.

The legality of the exclusionary policy must be looked at from two angles, says Lois Day, president of the Student Bar Association at the law school.

"First, it's a public building

— it cannot be closed to anyone. But for accreditation, a certain number of seats must be held exclusively for law students," she says.

The law school is accredited by the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools, says Peggy Nagae, assistant dean for academic advising at the school.

Law students must pay a \$600 annual fee over and above tui-

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Extended library hours being considered

By Julie Shippen Of the Emerald

The University's library may be available for extended hours if a survey, shows that enough students would use its facilities beyond the present scheduled hours, says University Librarian George Shipman.

The issue arose at a recent informal gathering of leaders of student organizations and members of the University administration, where an ASUO representative asked if the library's hours could be increased by 20 hours per week.

Dick Hill, vice president for academic affairs and provost, responded in a letter to ASUO President Julie Davis, saying that although funds could not support keeping the library open an additional 20 hours, he would see if a more reasonable extension of facility hours could be arranged.

"As I see it, this is a problem which is a bit tricky. We could define the problem as one of a regular extension of hours throughout the term. This would be the easiest to solve logistically," Hill said in the letter. "However, in terms of students' needs, it may be that extended hours at the end of the term are more crucial than such an extension at the beginning of each term."

Past Oregon Student Lobby and ASUO surveys have indicated that between 50 and 60 percent of students consider the library's hours insufficient, Davis says. She says students in general would like to see the library stay open longer Friday and Saturday nights and open earlier Sunday morning.

"It's not a problem of hours being in the wrong place, it's just a matter of not enough hours, period," she says. "It's a serious enough problem in this academic institution that it needs to be addressed, and soon."

and soon."

Hill has requested that Davis' office prepare a student-based list of specific hours that they would like to see the library open, and if students need the extra hours to study there or to use the reference materials. Hill said that while using the library for studying is legitimate, rooms outside the library in buildings such as Gilbert Hall would be less expensive.

Representatives of the ASUO and Student University Affairs Board will be taking an informal survey in the library and classrooms today and next week asking students if and when they would use the library beyond its present hours.

Shipman says he would support the library being open 24 hours-a-day with full services if there were adequate fiscal resources.