

Bush to Iran: Nukes mean WWII

By Hannah Richards
STAFFWRITER

"If Iran had nuclear weapons, it'd be a dangerous threat to world peace," said President George W. Bush in a news conference on Oct. 16. "If you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing (Iran) from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon."

Robert Duncan, assistant professor of political science, does not think it is realistic to believe this threat.

"I think this is a threat to the Bush administration, not to any sane American," said Duncan.

"It doesn't matter who is right and who is wrong, we can't go to war with Iran," said Henry Catania, a first-year international relations major. "We do not have enough military forces and Bush is not going to propose a draft."

Iran denied the Bush's accusations. Iran stated they were not going to create a nuclear bomb and just wanted nuclear equipment for peaceful functions such as power generation.

However, the United States government says it's taking a diplomatic approach against this threat with no military involvement at the time.

Bush thinks that President Vladimir Putin of Russia is trying to help deny Iran nuclear-powered weapons.

"When we were in Australia, (President Putin) reconfirmed to me that he recognizes it's not in the world's interest for Iran to have the capacity to make a nuclear weapon," Bush said in a press conference.

Duncan also says that Bush has been handling the issue wrongly.

"The way to solve the problem is to sit and talk it out, not to kick the stuffing out of the Iranians," Duncan said. "Bush does not have any right to talk to the Iranians without preconditions."

Henry Catania agrees with Duncan.

"We need to increase dialogue with Iran," Catania said.

In the past, Russia has backed two sets of United Nation sanctions against Iran developing nuclear weapons. However, Bush is trying to push a third and Putin has resisted these measures.

"Not only should we reject the use of force, but also the mention of force as a possibility," Putin said in a press conference.

President Putin also said that there is no proof of this even being a threat and Bush should not be worried about it at this moment in time.

However, without allies in Russia, Bush is trying to find new allies against Iran. He is currently trying to rally for Moscow's support.

Bush says this is a threat that will last a long time and that we should handle it sooner than later.

Garbage piles up as workers strike

By Paddy Lehane
STAFFWRITER

Uncollected garbage is piling up on the streets of Los Angeles County this week as 500 garbage collectors went on strike.

The workers, members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, are citing anti-worker business practices.

Their employer, U.S. Waste Management, is accused of paying low wages and forcing workers to work long shifts.

The average worker makes \$37,000 per year, not including overtime pay. The average hourly wage is a little under \$18.00 an hour.

Due to the high living costs in L.A. County, one of the wealthiest areas in the country, many of these workers claim they are just getting by. A wage-increase proposal by the company was turned down as insignificant.

In five years, under the proposal, workers would be making an average of \$21.80 per hour.

This figure, according to union officials, is still far too low for the work involved as well as for living standards.

The company argues that the contract was a more than reasonable offer.

"This was a good contract," said Waste Management spokesman Kit Cole to United Press

International. "It wasn't peanuts."

Despite the importance of wage increases, the strike leaders argue that treatment of workers is also at the forefront of this conflict.

The garbage collection industry is supplemented heavily by immigrant labor. The company is being accused of race-baiting and using intimidation against immigrant workers.

"They play the psychological card against the immigrant workers, making them think that there will be raids and deportations if the workers speak out," said Ron Herrera, Teamster Local 396 Secretary-Treasurer to the Socialist Worker. "They try to create tension between the black and Latino workers."

The union's tactics have come into question as well. The Teamsters have been known for decades as one of the toughest and most solid unions around.

Their tactics on picket lines have been viewed as extreme and at times counterproductive. This strike is no different.

Striking workers are blocking the entrance and exits of the truck yards.

The target is the replacement, or scab, workers that were hired by the company to take their jobs. The goal is to disrupt business as usual and cause as much damage to the company as possible.

"I make each one sit for a minute-and-a-half

before he can come through my line," said Bill Huff, executive coordinator of Local 396 to the Union News Web site. "I'm knocking out about five hours every day. They keep trying to throw me in jail but I'm still here."

The company has called the police several times accusing the strikers of harassing the scab workers. As of yet, no arrests have taken place.

The early morning hours of Oct. 26 saw an act of violence that many argue is a sign of the strike escalating.

A replacement worker was hit with a baseball bat, as was his truck, leading many to believe the strikers are getting more serious, and desperate.

While the union does not condone any violence, many anti-union activists and company supporters cite this incident as a way the union gets what it wants.

The possibility of the company hiring permanent replacements has come up, infuriating the strikers and causing tensions to rise further.

"This is a perfect example of the threatening, intimidating and heavy-handed tactics they use with their workers," said Local 396 President Jay Phillips to the Union News Web site.

"That's one of the reasons they're on strike. This company treats their workers like a commodity that's easily replaceable."

FANIME

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of Anime Night.

Despite fansubs making no profit, the legality of this practice is questionable. The way that most anime comes to the U.S. is through a process called "licensing" in which a production company agrees to commercially subtitle, dub, and distribute a series. Once a series becomes licensed, fansubbers generally stop subtitling the show and ask that fans cease distribution of previous episodes.

"The legality of that is that if it's licensed in America obviously you can't share pirated copies," James said. "As far as I'm aware, it's still legal to own a pirated copy as long as you got it when it was unlicensed in America. You just can't share it with other people."

This does not change the fact that fansubbing is technically illegal. One fansubbing group in particular, ANBU, cites the 17th section of the U.S. Copyright law and the Berne Convention as the primary reasons for their zero-tolerance policy of licensed material.

"Many people try to state that fansubbing is included under 'fair use', however it is very specific as to what constitutes 'fair use' and translations are not," ANBU said in a press release on their website. "ANBU respects the wishes and license of American companies. Fansubs in themselves are illegal, testing our luck when a work has been licensed in our country is asking for trouble."

Another frustration for enthusiasts comes when a production company obtains the license for a show, only to edit, censor, and soften the show's content for a younger audience. In a situation like this, some fans still prefer the fansubs because they address cultural references that the official translations do not.

"A lot of fansubbers are real scholars of Japanese culture," James said. "They put in a lot of cultural references. There are a lot of references in Japanese anime that are difficult to understand. There are words that have double meanings, and we (as foreigners) don't get the joke. The fansubbers

will actually put the cultural references in the subtitles."

The most notorious example of censorship is 4Kids Entertainment and the show "One Piece," which had its comic violence and mild sexuality heavily edited so it they could market it to a younger audience. In addition, approximately 40 episodes of important character exposition and backstory ended up cut out, causing confusing plot-holes and continuity issues. Pokemon and Yu-Gi-Oh! received similar treatment.

"They strip out anything that isn't approved for someone over the age of 10," James said. "While I'm not a fan of Pokemon, I still think that's a travesty to the industry."

In an interview with Anime News Network (ANN) in 2005, 4Kids CEO Alfred R. Kahn stated that their motivation for licensing a series is derived from financial viability in terms of marketing and merchandising, instead of prioritizing accuracy and faithfulness to the original script. Many are critical of this approach, since it has

led to such extensive editing and censoring.

"It's too expensive to do the dubbing and the acquisitions because we rewrite, we re-script, we re-score," Kahn said. "So it's very difficult to do that if you don't have any other revenue streams and we have to make sure we get that."

That business-oriented mentality turns many anime fans off from official releases, since they are interested in Japanese culture and the story, not in adapting a show for American audiences from ages seven to eleven.

Most anime that receives this treatment was never intended for younger audiences to begin with. The root of the problem is that companies like 4Kids fail to realize that animation can appeal to a wider adult audience, one that does not need to have every reference to Japanese culture replaced. Until production companies address these two crucial issues, they will continue to have difficulty dissuading anime buffs from switching away from fansubs.

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