

Gandhi shares message of non-violence and tolerance

Parker McAllister
Reporter

When Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, stepped up to the podium in the McCrary Theatre on Nov. 7, the audience listened intently to his soft but powerful message of non-violence and its relation to terrorism.

Gandhi said that non-violence is often misinterpreted as being anti-war and anti-violence. He affirmed that these ideas were true, but that the idea of non-violence is much deeper.

Violence occurs first in one's own mind, he said. This violence can be thinking badly of one's self. Also, violence can occur when a person thinks badly about someone else. He called this type of violence "passive violence."

Gandhi also explained that violence occurs within the mind as it becomes violence manifested in words and actions. He said, if people can control the violence that occurs within, this will reduce the violence that occurs outwardly.

"If you make the right choice, you can save this world from destruction," Gandhi said. "You can create a world where peace and harmony prevail."

Terrorism was also a topic of discussion during the evening as Gandhi explained how immediately after the attacks on Sept. 11 he wrote an article calling for Americans to step back and observe why the people of Al-Qaeda attacked the United States.

None of the news stations Gandhi approached agreed to publish the article but sent reporters seeking revenge instead of coming to peace with the terrorists.

Gandhi said that if the United States had taken a step back to analyze why Al-Qaeda attacked, then America could have resolved the situation in a more diplomatic and less violent way.

Gandhi then said that it is U.S. foreign policy that help other countries as long as it is in America's best interest. He said that the process of acting in one's self interest is violence, which then leads to more violence.

"Our foreign policy in the United States is based on what is good for the United States," Gandhi said.

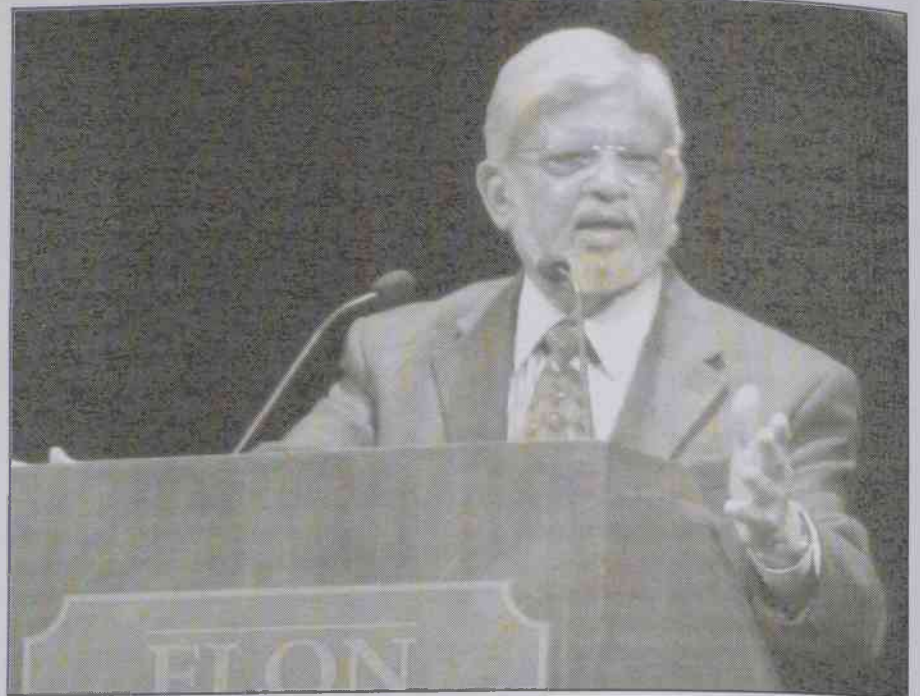
Gandhi also pointed to history to explain some of the issues we face today. In the 1970s, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and the United States backed Osama bin Laden with military arms and intelligence support in order to contain socialism.

Once the Afghani's held off the Soviets, the United States completely dropped support for bin Laden and ignored his further needs. After this, the seeds of violence were planted within bin Laden to eventually seek revenge against the United States, Gandhi said.

Gandhi also said that if the United States had followed a path of non-violence, the Iraq War would have played out differently.

Gandhi expressed his concerns regarding terrorism on an ending note of optimism, saying that we should seek to communicate openly with our enemies and admit our mistake about the War in Iraq to the international community.

"We may not be able to have a perfect society," he said. "But we can substantially reduce the amount of violence today."



File Photo

Arun Gandhi said that America consumes 45 percent of the world's resources but makes up only 4 percent of the population. He said this disparity leads to acts of terrorism and violence.

theBRIEFS

2006 Elon Alumni missing

Kyle Fleischmann, a 2006 Elon graduate, went missing after a night out with friends Friday. He was last seen leaving Buckhead Saloon in uptown Charlotte at 2:15 a.m.



Kyle Fleischmann

Before visiting the bar, Fleischmann was at a Dane Cook show with a group of friends. He is 6-feet tall, 180 pounds, with green eyes and brown hair.

He was last seen wearing jeans, a black T-shirt and black dress shoes. Fleischmann had no money on him nor his vehicle.

A Facebook group was created by Elon graduate and friend of Fleischmann, Daniel Scagnelli and is growing. As of Monday night the group had more than 3,500 members.

A missing persons report was filed with Charlotte-Mecklenburg police.

If you have any information about the situation call the Charlotte-Mecklenburg police at 704-336-7600, or contact your local police.

Play Wii to help Open Door Clinic

Event Planning and Management, a service learning Leisure and Sport Management course, is hosting WeePlay, a Nintendo Wii Competition.

WeePlay will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Nov. 16 in McCoy Commons, Room 221. The admission price is \$12 for teams of up to four people. Dominoes pizza and refreshments will be provided at no cost for those who register. There will also be FreePlay, which allows individuals to pay \$1 to bowl on a Wii.

All proceeds from the event will go toward the Open Door Clinic, a medical services provider for the uninsured of Alamance County.

The interactive tournament will consist of three Nintendo Wii Sports games — bowling, baseball and tennis. Prize baskets will be given to the first place teams.

Elon Graduate receives Fulbright Scholarship

Jennifer Romano, an Elon alumna, recently received a Fulbright U.S. Student Grant for post-graduate international studies. She is the first person in the school's history to receive the grant.

The Fulbright Grant, which was established by Congress in 1946, is meant to increase communication and understanding between the United States and other countries. Romano will travel to Argentina in March 2008 to teach English for eight months through the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Grant.



Jennifer Romano

Romano, who was an Elon Teaching Fellow, graduated in May and went on to teach English at Williams High School in Burlington.

In September, she received the news that the State Department would endow her grant to travel abroad.

During her time at Elon, Romano spent a semester in London and also led a service trip to the Dominican Republic.

When she returns, Romano may focus her career on teaching English as a second language.

Annual Multicultural Dance Party

The Multicultural Student Council will host their annual Multicultural Dance Party from 8 to 10 p.m. on Nov. 15 in McKinnon Hall.

Carol Smith, professor of physical education, and students will perform and teach international folk dance.

Rekha Ananthanpillai will perform and teach an Indian classical dance known as Bharatanatym. The Ballroom dancing club and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. will also perform and teach. Each group will present the background and cultural significance of the dance. The event is free and open to the public. Food will be provided.

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