

Nationalism threatening

Two years ago I had an elementary education class that required me to assist teachers at various grade levels in a local elementary school. As President's Day drew near, the school building reverberated with patriotism. Kindergarten, like Betsy Ross before

of foreign peoples and ideas, thus strengthening the walls which prevent world peace.

This condition, of course, is not peculiar to the United States. Children all over the world are indoctrinated with the "Chosen People" status of their society and the divine right of their nation. They grow up believing that they are different from people who live across an ocean or over a mountain from them, and that the people over there want to take what is rightfully theirs. So they arm themselves and prepare to kill.

Such beliefs were probably necessary for survival at one time, when food was scarce and competition for it was high. Now, however, we have enough food, clothing, shelter and land for all the inhabitants of our planet, so that survival need no longer be a question. Yet we continue killing each other.

We are all humans, regardless of race, religion or geographic location of birth. Our self-perpetuating militaristic nationalism and ethnocentric paranoia threaten not only our individual survival, but the very existence of our species.

No longer should we raise our children to love only their flag and the guns that purportedly preserve it. No longer should we teach them that a flag gives them the divine right to take another's life.

For your own sake, ask not what you can do for your country, but what you can do for your fellow man.

Christopher Burbach

them, fashioned U.S. flags that would stir the heart of any redwhiteandblue blooded American.

The children sang songs about loving the best country on Earth, which God had blessed as His very own, then listened to a record which sought to teach them the greatness of their nation with glorious hymns of battles won and songs of praise for fallen heroes.

"Remember the Alamo!" the record clamored, and Teddy and his Rough Riders charge up San Juan Hill.

"Ah, what a great and mighty country America must be," I thought, "to have conquered in so many crusades."

Rubbish

What are we teaching our children? Nationalism, patriotism, ethnocentrism and a wonderful "My country is great because it can blow everyone else away" attitude. Those beliefs and that attitude perpetuate fervent pride in state and army, and fuel an acute paranoia

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Other staff members will write editorials throughout the semester. They will carry the author's name after the final sentence.

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