

Editorials

Trash Dump Must Still Be Cleaned

Senate and Student Life Overstep Their Bounds

You are a sophomore. Therefore, you cannot be president nor student defense counsel of the study body. The Student Senate is also in the process of restricting other positions to only juniors and seniors as they revise the Saltire.

For the sake of a smoothly operated student government, the Saltire indeed needs revised. But restricting certain positions to only two classes inhibits the student government.

The most recently placed restrictions should never have been passed, and the restrictions on the office of president, part of the Saltire for years, should also be lifted.

The basis for this is fairly simple. Regardless of the reasons that the Senate and Student Life Committee members may have for wanting these restrictions they should realize that setting restrictions on who may be elected should not be within the realm of their power. Setting election procedure (which is, and should be, within the realm of their power) should be an attempt only to devise the best possible system to reflect accurately student

preferences. By placing restrictions, Senate and Student Life Committee members have gone beyond that power to the manipulation of election results by excluding certain members of the community.

For instance, students, not the Senate or the Student Life Committee, should determine whether or not a candidate for office is mature enough to administrate an office in the student government. It is indeed possible that in the near future a sophomore will come along who displays the characteristics of a good administrator, yet she or he will not be able to hold a particular office because the Saltire states that she or he is "not mature enough."

And indeed this was reasoning offered by the Senate when it passed its latest restriction concerning the Student Defense counsel. The minutes of the debate read, "perhaps the level of maturity may stand in the way of a rising sophomore dealing with the responsibility." I agree that perhaps that may be the case. But what happens when it is not?

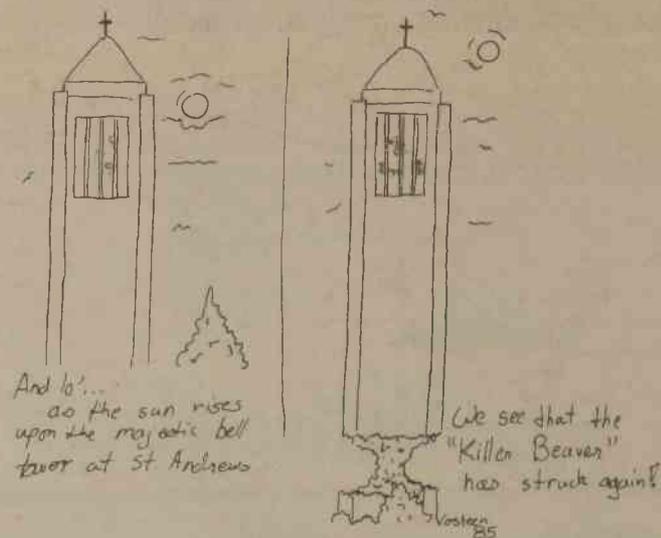
Let the voters decide.

Trash Clean-Up Day, scheduled for Tuesday, has been the cause of an interesting debate on campus. Interesting, because the debate has not been over whether the dump should be cleaned, but instead over who should clean it. There is general consensus that in the interest of ecology and for our own enjoyment the dump must go.

The most popular argument against the student effort is that since students did not create the mess, students should not clean it up. Maintenance personnel should. Indeed, maintenance crews are largely responsible for the mess.

The fact remains, however, that maintenance crews will not clean up that mess. Also remaining is the fact that the mess should be cleaned up. Therefore, since a coordinated and massive show of student power can easily and effectively achieve the goal of a clean environment, we should do it. No hesitation. Just do it — and show maintenance that we're serious about keeping our environment clean, and that includes prohibiting any further dumping.

Therein lies the ultimate goal of this campaign: the elimination of all present and potential trash in our college environment.



Killing Fields

A Special War Film

BY ALEXIS COFFEY

Review

"The Killing Fields" dramatically depicts the horrors of the Pol Pot regime in the Cambodia of the 1970's. The film revolves around the real-life efforts of Sidney Schanberg, a foreign correspondent for the New York Times, who exposes some of the "secret" United States bombing of the country during the Vietnam War.

Schanberg enlists the aid of a Cambodian interpreter called Dith Pran. Through the sharing of the same brutal experiences during the Kymer Rouge takeover the two men develop a close relationship. In one particularly tense scene Pran risks his own life to save that of Schanberg and his fellow journalists.

However, Schanberg, as a foreigner, is able to leave Cambodia while Pran must remain to suffer the awful consequences of a regime which commits unspeakable atrocities in the name of a communism. It is this stage in the film which holds the most poignancy. Pran is forced to work in a slave labor camp where conditions are so dire that malnutrition is the norm and death by starvation is commonplace. In one scene Pran almost loses his life when he is discovered sucking blood from the neck of a cow in a desperate bid to stave starvation.

"The Killing Fields" is first and foremost a film about the horror of war and the unbelievable suffering which Cambodia underwent during the years of the Kymer Rouge. Having said that this is not just another blood and guts portrayal of war as depicted from a left-wing perspective. Rather, it is an insightful film which, not before time, highlights the tragedy of Cambodia, a small nation which fell foul of global politics.

The most chilling aspect is to see the effect of Kymer Rouge indoctrination on the Cambodian children. Loyalty to the party runs so deep that children are compelled to spy on their parents and in many cases, betray them to the authorities.