

# Dramatic exodus: Saigon to Freedom

By Arthur Freund

What does one do when the Communist-Vietcong overrun a country and disposes its citizens of their inalienable rights? For Thai Quoc Chung, a Guilford College student, this action meant leaving Communist-run Vietnam for a country that offered more freedom, the United States.

Until the final Vietcong offensive in 1975, Thai's father operated his own export-import business in Saigon. Following the Vietcong occupation most of the private businesses including Mr. Chung's enterprise were expropriated by the "people's state," according to Thai. This event undermined any hopes that Thai had in the new Vietnam.

In May of 1976 Thai received a

draft notice from the government. At this point he realized that he must escape from Vietnam before the Vietcong launched their offensive into Cambodia. (Kampuchea?)

During this time Thai managed to find employment with a company which produced marine engines. Obtaining this job and ensuing events were all part of Thai's escape plan.

Through his business in the company Thai managed to procure false papers by a bribe allowing him to build a boat for his escape to Thailand. (The building of ocean-going craft was sharply regulated by the Communists who feared a mass exodus from Vietnam.) Thai had built a thirteen meter flat bottom skiff made of wood, the type of boat one would only use on rivers. This design would not arouse any

suspicious that he intended to use it in the ocean as it was less than sea worthy. The boat was equipped with a small auxiliary engine in the stern, although a large gasoline engine was hidden from sight by a wooden cabin.

With the intention of sailing for Thailand from the southern most tip of Vietnam, Thai, his younger brother and eleven of his cousins applied for and received permission to go to the city of Camau in August of 1976. In order to conserve gas for the journey, a commodity of great scarcity, Thai arranged for his boat to be towed from Saigon to Camau. To make it appear that their party was moving to Camau, they brought along some bamboo and wood planks supposedly used for the house construction. They secretly planned to use the bamboo for a sail and the wood planks to cover exposed portions of the deck from the onslaught of the seas. For protection they brought along a Colt 45, a Vietnamese pistol and a flare gun.

They started from Saigon in late August for Camau. During this three-day trip they put most of their gas in the larger boat in case the Vietcong boarded the boats. Three people travelled in the boat-in-tow, while the other ten travelled in the larger boat for appearances' sake.

Upon arriving in Camau's harbor, Thai's boat was moored directly opposite the marine police station. Fearing that their escape would be discovered they decided to lay low for four hours before heading for the open seas. To add to their problems the police had two captured American PFC boats which they used to patrol the seas. Luckily, these boats seemed in total

disuse.

At nightfall Thai and his party quietly slipped out of the harbor and headed down river to the open seas, using their auxiliary engine to conserve fuel. When they reached the delta of the river they had to skirt the beam from a light tower but their craft was so small that they passed unnoticed.

Away from the delta and its probing light, Thai turned on the main engine for the most difficult part of their journey. Then something unexpected happened: Thai hadn't figured that with the evening tide their boat would scrape bottom! The severity of the damage was not enough to stop their escape although they

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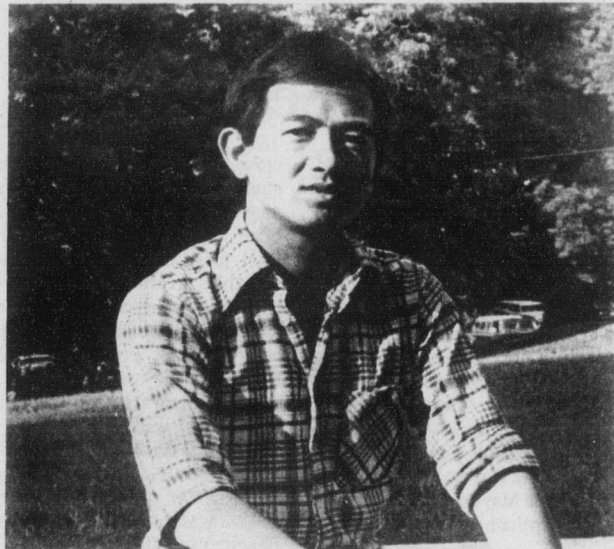


photo by Randy Rosenthal

Thai Quoc Chung escaped from Viet Nam to find freedom. Now, as a Guilford student, he brings us a new appreciation of the United States.

## Peace activist

### Radical Priest to speak out

By Bob Gluck

On September 29, Rev. Daniel Berrigan, Catholic Priest, author, and for the past fifteen years a leading activist in the American peace movement, will speak at Memorial Auditorium on the campus of UNC. September 30 he will speak at Guilford College at 3:30.

Since 1972 Rev. Berrigan has been involved in a campaign against nuclear proliferation. His continued demonstration of his opposition to Government policy through acts of civil disobedience has resulted in his being arrested twenty times between 1973 and 1977.

Berrigan was last arrested in September 1980 when he and seven other people broke into a General Electric plant in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, battered

two nuclear missile nose cones and poured blood on classified documents.

Rev. Berrigan first gained notoriety in the 1960's for his protests against the Vietnam War. He is best known for his protest in May 1968 when he and his brother Phillip set fire to files seized from a draft board office in Baltimore.

The Berrigan brothers were immediately arrested and in the ensuing trial Daniel was convicted and sentenced to three and one-half years in jail. Instead of serving a jail term which he felt was unjust, Berrigan jumped bail and went underground.

After eluding a massive, highly publicized manhunt by the FBI for four months, Berrigan was finally caught and ended up spending eighteen months in jail.

Rev. Berrigan is the author of

twenty-three books of poetry and prose on the subject of religion and war in addition to several autobiographical works. In an introduction to Phillip Berrigan's 1967 book *Prison Journals of a Priest: Revolutionary*, Daniel Berrigan wrote:

"It is madness to squander the world's resources on lethal military toys, while social misery and despair rise around a chorus of the damned.

It is madness to create the illusion of political or social change, all the while standing firm for spurious normalcy.

It is madness to renege on one's word by activity which plays out the game one pretended to replace.

It is madness to ignore, with social savagry and determination, the viable and impassioned activists in our midst."

## "The Mother Country"



By Velencia Mack

Dancing to the Beat of "The Mother Country"

When the Chuck Davis dance company came to Guilford College, no one knew exactly what to expect. There was not the usual hand flapping, arm swinging, and foot stomping that is associated with African dancing. The dances the company performs "portray love of self,

and love of life" as they tell the story of African culture, says Davis.

Davis started the dance company in 1968 after seeing a Tarzan movie in which blacks were "represented in a negative aspect," stated Davis. The company, which consisted of only a few friends at the time, would help put an end "to the bastardization of African culture," stated Davis. At present, the Chuck Davis Dance Company is a combination of a twelve member chamber unit, and a seventeen member touring unit. The chamber unit is represented by students from Duke, Central, and Carolina. The touring unit has toured the United States, Europe, Africa, and South America.

The subject matter for the dances comes from "the mother continent" where Davis goes once a year to talk with and learn from the native Africans. He brings what he has learned back to the United States and from the folklore he creates his dances.

Davis will be back in Greensboro in February to teach a dance class at A&T State University.

**COLLEGE UNION'S  
HOMECOMING EVENTS:**

**Vim \* Days:**

**Hats "on" to Thursday: Oct. 1st**  
.....  
*Make LaCoste Cringe -*


*It's Tacky Day: Oct. 2nd*  
.....

**RWG-"Red, white, &  
Guilford": Oct. 3rd**

*Also -*

**Thursday Eve-Pie eating contest  
in Bryan dorm**  
.....

**Saturday Eve-Sock hop  
in old gym**



\*robust energy and enthusiasm