## Guil ford Life Guil

## On Guilford Pond

by Lara Ramsey

On Guilford pond, by Guilford pond or anywhere near Guilford pond, the fallen, blazen leaves can hardly go unnoticed.

My mother tells me that when I was four years old, I woke up one fall morning and announced, all faith, "King Midas came over night and used his magic touch to turn all the leaves into gold."

It happens to be a fact that the predecessors of professional science were the magicians of the middle ages—alchemists, who studied ore and, particularly, gold. Magicians considered themselves nature's assistants. The role of assistant became more like associate when the Merlins were replaced by scientists at the beginning of

the 17th century. Even the scientific explanation for the gold and red brilliance of leaves in their dying stages has a magical effect on me.

I read an article in Reader's Digest by Diane Ackerman, 'Where Fall Colors Come From' (Oct. 1990). It turns out that all summer long, trees have been feeding their leaves with chlorophyll so that they can process sunlight. The green pigment of chlorophyll camouflages the underlying range of orange hues until the tree begins to retract its nutrients for winter. As the chlorophyll supply is sent to the trunk and the roots, the green of the leaves begins to fade and the leaves begin to suffocate. The dark green of the stem is the last green to go, and fiery colors emerge gradually. At last the stem will be sucked dry and the leaf will fall, exposed and radiant.

Cool, sunny, dry autumns produce more anthocyanin, the pigment which makes

leaves, as well as apples, red. Carotene, the pigment which colors carrots orange and leaves gold, is not so dependent on sunlight and temperature. Exposure to these elements does affect the pattern of splattering, such as whether trees turn from top to bottom or from outside leaves to the interior. On a personal level, it's refreshing to think that the colors which emerge with the advancing of age have been undiscovered but inherent all along.

Midterms hover only one week ahead, and are inevitable in the season of our education. Many, many students are coloring leaves of paper with their ideas, their inspirations and their absolute best bull. Be sure that when you pack your trunk to go home for fall break that you retain the nutrients and energies which have helped you flourish so far. Leave the professors with your brilliant residue, but may the life-force be with you wherever you go.

## Germany

> continued from page 5

During its break from Communism, East German's economy collapsed, says Geisler. West Germany could therefore set its own conditions for reunification. East Germany effectively went into "receivership" and was taken over "lock, stock and barrel" by the West. Geisler is "concerned" that reunification may have "happen[ed] too fast" and that the process may endanger some of the positive aspects of life under the previous regime in East Germany.

An example is the question of abortion. East Germany had more liberal laws with respect to abortion than the West. Controversy over the conflict of laws infected the reunification talks. By a constitutional compromise, what used to be East Germany will keep its existing abortion laws for three years, after which the subject will be reopened.

Geisler, who visited East Germany in 1984 when the Communists were in power, says that despite "ubiquitous political oppression" under the Communists, East Germans enjoyed job security. This is now endangered. If, as some have predicted, three to four million East Germans become unemployed during the transition to capitalism, right-wing extremists may be able to exploit the situation. One thing Geisler fears in the event of "severe economic unrest" is hostility between East Germans and the millions of ethnic Turks and gypsies in Germany. If the economic situation stabilizes over the next two years, however, Geisler sees no reason to fear.

Germany may become "the major economic power" in Europe, says Geisler. He predicts "double-digit growth rates" in Germany by the last half of the 1990s. One advantage enjoyed by Germany lies in its economic links with Eastern Europe, links which developed before the collapse of the Communist regimes. Germany is "sitting pretty" to take advantage of the opening up of the East.

Geisler sees a significant role for Germany in Europe. Turkey and the East European countries are seeking to join the European Economic Community. They need to be brought up to "roughly the same level" of economic development as the older members of the EEC. Otherwise, freedom of movement among the EEC nations will result in an influx of workers from the less developed to the more developed countries. Germany, says Geisler, "will be asked to fund most of the programs" set up to integrate newer members into the EEC.

Geisler says that Germany's economic connections with Eastern Europe make German the "lingua franca" of that region. There is a great demand for German speakers. Geisler concludes that "German is not the worst language or culture to learn under the circumstances."

