

Cambodia

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escorted Prince Sihanouk on visits outside Phnom Penh, a duty once performed by Prime Minister Sen. It appears as if Prince Sihanouk has switched political alliances before a national election scheduled for 1993. If this is the case, the regent has moved his support from Prime Minister Sen, who is a moderate and a close friend of Transportation Minister Phan, to the more authoritarian Chea Sim.

The violence and political intimidation that have occurred recently in Cambodia are foreboding for several reasons, including the fact that the transfer of political support to the People's Party signals a new instability in Cambodian politics. The increasingly volatile situation in Phnom Penh has not gone undetected in the rest of the world; the United Nations is quickening deployment of a peacekeeping force of 10,000 troops to augment the 300 observers already in place in Cambodia. Although the purpose of this force is to maintain order, it is extremely

likely that unrest will result from the presence of the United Nations forces.

At this point, some apologies should be made by those, including myself, who predicted a peaceful and democratic Cambodia, resulting from the repatriation of Prince Sihanouk. Instead of creating a new political order, the recent events in Cambodia have reaffirmed the world's opinion that the changes the West desired will not come in the near future. Although the situation in the country is far from hopeless, one can hardly expect Cambodia to achieve political harmony when its leaders are trying to kill each other.

An examination of recent Cambodian history reveals that authoritarianism, political upheaval, and human rights abuses are a common theme. With the creation of the Free Democratic Society by Oung Phan, the opposition movement in Cambodia created the political turmoil that was always present since Sihanouk's return but was ignored by most Western analysts until the attempted assassination of Phan. If reforms of any sort are to be instituted in Cambodia, the Phnom Penh leadership must address the problem that Phan has brought to the forefront or face another long period of *coup d'etats* and autocracy.

Letters

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with the particular hall. We personally welcome the diverse and refreshing view that Toiya will bring to Hobbs from her experiences in other halls. Granted, the community in Hobbs is unique, but we must not narrow our definition of a "community" and make it synonymous with "sorority" or "clique." Only when we welcome other people into our community with open arms, without passing judgments based on misinformation and assumptions, will we realize our goal at this school and in our lives and be truly free from bias.

Cathy Canfield
Terri Salmons

Benefit turnout low

To the editor:

The Guilford African American Cultural Society attempted its first "party with a purpose," the Sarah T. Curwood benefit dinner and dance, formerly the Cupid's Cotillion. Although student initiative behind this event was overwhelming, community support was lacking. Curwood Committee Chairperson, Allison Crawford expressed disappointment at the low number of faculty and administration in attendance.

"Even if they were unable to attend, I had hoped to receive significant contributions from this group, because of the nature of the fund," said Crawford.

However, regardless of the low turn-out, those in attendance enjoyed an excellent catered meal by the Marriott Food Service and words of reflection and appreciation from Steven Curwood, son of the late Sarah T. Curwood. In addition, inspirational musical selections were performed by Richard Ford, associate dean of students, and by Sweet Diversion, Guilford's answer to En Vogue.

As an attendee, I found the event to be a

forthcoming tradition for the Guilford community. Hopefully, in the future this event will prompt more campus-wide support. Although over one thousand dollars was raised, the goal of reaching the Committee's \$50,000 bench mark necessary for endowment, is far from attained. However, it is not too late to make a contribution to Sarah T. Curwood Scholarship Fund. For all interested you can make checks payable to Guilford College (note: Sarah T. Curwood) at the Business Office.

Chantelle Bynum

Criticism considered slanderous, ignorant

To the editor:

I would like to respond to the letter of a certain Jason Smith (who wrote to you concerning the Gulf War panel), and in doing so, add a final note to the topic.

While active-duty army members receive their G.I. bill money after they complete their terms of duty, reservists are entitled to their benefits throughout, and after, their army careers.

It is interesting to note that Jason's slander-first-ask-questions-later style of commentary is very similar to the attitude that characterized much of the media during the Gulf crisis, and helped to proliferate misinformation.

It is ironic that Jason's aggressive and misinformed letter appeared in reference to the subject of war, for it is this sort of mentality that has led mankind into so many of these conflicts.

"The Dwarf of Reasonable Discourse"
Tim Holmes

Send your letter to the editor to
P.O. Box 17717.

On the life of Malcolm X

Richard Ford
Guest Writer

The tragedy of ignorance stems from not knowing there is a wealth of information that could liberate and enlighten. Black History Month attempts to bridge the huge gaps in our knowledge of African Americans. One of the prime examples of our ignorance is the life of Malcolm X.

The Autobiography of Malcolm X, written by Alex Haley, gives a stirring account of his life. The following is a brief segment of an interview with Alex Haley about Malcolm X, taken from the book *Voices of Freedom* by Henry Hampton and Steve Fayer.

"When I came first to know Malcolm, my perceptions were that most white people—probably nearly all, from the exposure I had—ranged from being very, very apprehensive about Malcolm to hating Malcolm, the image of Malcolm which had been purveyed by the media, of course. That was not too far afield of probably the majority of black people also. Nowadays you might hear a lot of people talking about how they followed him and so forth, but my perception at the time was that the large majority were fright-

ened by things Malcolm said. They were so extreme, it seemed, and so radical by comparison with what others were saying. But there were those who were empathetic with the Nation of Islam, or were feeling they had felt or which they wished somebody would say. So the blacks' reaction was a mixed one, from some who were terrified by what he was saying to those who cheered and applauded when his name was mentioned, let alone when he came into sight.

"My own perception of Malcolm bordered on fascination, because I was looking at him and reacting to him as a subject. I was a young writer, most part, and finally was beginning to get assignments. I saw him as someone who was hard to top as a subject. I like to say of Malcolm he was just simply electric. Almost everything he did was dramatic—and it wasn't that he was trying to be, it was just the nature of him."

If you want to know more about Malcolm X come to a discussion on his life in the Walnut Room of the Cafeteria on Sunday February 9 from 5-6 p.m.

Richard Ford is Associate Dean of Students

Run for Senate or Union!

Petitions to run for the 1992-1993 Senate and Union Executive Offices are due by midnight, February 11, 1992 at the Information Desk.

Elections are on February 25, 1992.



For more information, call Katherine Schnorrenberg at 316-3196.