Touch of Thailand Comes to Meredith



Poonsarb Buranakarn of Thailand joins the sophomore class at Meredith.

By NANCE RUMLEY

When you meet Poonsarb Buranakarn, Meredith's new sophomore from Thailand (204 Infirmary), you might keep in mind that there are some questions to avoid — namely, some of the very ones we nosy Americans want answered. To queries about Vietnam, men and American music Poonsarb tactfully hides a shy smile behind her hand and glances away, embarrassed, and may change the subject to the beautiful full-length dresses of Thai silk she brought with her. She may even offer you a delicate handkerchief from Thailand — anything to keep from offending. It makes you stop and think about our great American image.

But if you want to bring her out, ask about her home and observe. She loves to show pictures of Thailand's gold and red temples and fat Buddas. And she will be glad to tell you about her family's rice factory where she will work when she graduates. Notice the jeweled finger of her right hand. Poonsarb is tiny, dark and very femine - quite possibly she can teach us a thing or two. Her one class in math will leave her plenty of time to acquaint you with the mysterious Orient where girls are decorative creatures and some families still make ar-

ranged marriages. Wouldn't we be a little self-centered, Americanstyle, to ask only to have our national egos inflated when there is so much we can learn, while Poonsarb is here, about Thailand?

Rupen Foresees World of 1988

Professor Robert A. Rupen spoke Monday, September 30, 1968 to Dr. Rosalie Gates' contemporary affairs class, predicting the world of 1988 by reviewing the world of 1948 and 1968. Dr. Rupen, professor of political science at U.N.C.-C.H., has traveled widely through the communist world including a recent trip to Czechoslovakia. In this light his predictions are very encouraging for the continued existence of the world.

Although Dr. Rupen does not forsee "one world" by 1988, he does expect more U. S.-Soviet collaboration with the Russian and American economies moving closer together. Some of his other hopeful predictions are that the Vietnam question will be decided although indecisively; Communism will be dead in western Europe; and India and Indonesia will be economically and politically viable but not as strong as China. Dr. Rupen still anticipates many international problems and he admonished that "The Chinese dragon fire will burn for

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the rest of the twentieth century.'

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Flying High

(Continued from page 3)

sary equipment. She reports that she flew for the first time when she was eight days old, and that her aerial acrobatics haven't slackened since then. Both she and her brother learned from her father, whose teaching methods consisted of "at first letting you hold the stick when you're in the air, then later making you think you're landing when you really aren't!"

Although she has been flying almost since she could walk, Marianne didn't get her pilot's license until this past summer — a process she describes as consisting of a written examination, various flight tests, plus the logging of some 50 hours of flight time. Why did she wait so long to get her license? "I was lazy," she admits.

Marianne can only speak as one who has grown up learning how, but she insists that flying is not al! that difficult, even for a novice. "They fly themselves in the air," she explains. "The only hard parts are landing and taking-off. But basically it's very easy." Of course, she adds, "If you're starting from scratch, it takes a little work."

How do Meredith's own Amelia Earhart and her flying cronies use their abilities? "Mostly we just fly around the house," she laughs, and recalls the time her father would only allow them to fly their plane around a pasture so they could land quickly in an emergency. "It was just like a go-cart track," she explains. "Around and around!" But the plane has also travelled away from the homestead with Marianne at the controls, "mostly between here and the coast," she says.

Marianne recalls some of her more interesting experiences with flying, such as the time she and her father, flying in his plane, were "buzzed" by fighter jets from nearby Fort Bragg. Her father was delighted, she says, when the two original planes disappeared, and returned with four more jets and a bomber. "We landed right then and there," she says. "That was enough for us!"

She has also had several "close calls," she admits, one of which occurred the first time she flew her "lovely little plane." On that occasion she neglected to activate a certain mechanism designed to prevent ice formation on the engine.

Her favorite part of flying, she says, is indulging in loops and stalls, especially stalls. "You float!" she says, explaining the process of pulling up steeply, then dropping the nose of the plane suddenly. "But you have to close the window," she laughs, "or everything not fastened down will float out!"

What's in the future for Marianne's flying? "I plan to keep it up," she says. "It's really handy — you can use it just to play or for making trips." And, she adds with a mischievous grin, "It'll be great for making a flying get-away for a honeymoon." To any friends who might consider writing slogans like "Just Married" on her Piper Cub, she exclaims, "I'll kill 'em!"

So there's no mistaking Marianne's intention if she says, "I'm going high up in the world." She means it — quite literally!

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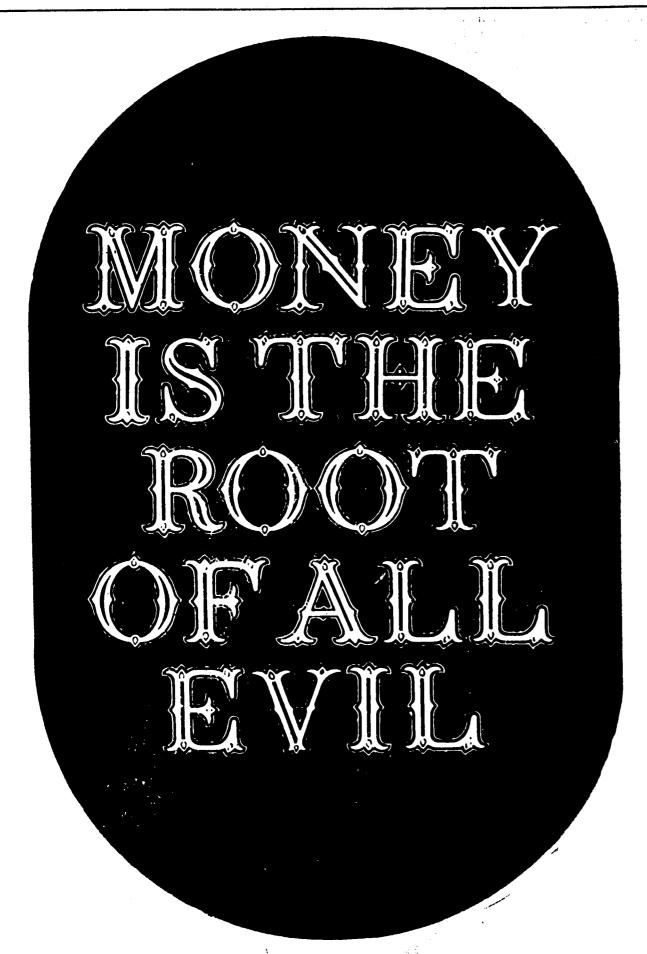
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