

INSIDE BANGLA DESH:

AN INTERVIEW WITH A GUERRILLA

by Lasse & Lisa Berg

(Lasse & Lisa Berg have travelled widely in Asia, with extended stays in Japan, and recently, India. Correspondents for the leading Swedish newspaper, Dagens Nyheter, their newest book on Asia will be published in the U.S. this winter.)

Bangla Desh:

"At 10:30 in the evening the West Pakistan Army came out of the encampment with their vehicles and arms. As soon as we heard the news we knew that something important was up, but we never expected that the mass killing, this genocide, would happen. We never thought of the possibility. But by 11:30 on March 23rd at night, when it all began, they surrounded the houses of our leaders and arrested and killed everyone they could find."

Mustafizur Rahman, who described this to us, is a Bangla Desh (East Pakistan) guerrilla fighter. We met Mustafizur in the "border areas" between India and Pakistan. He belongs to the Mukti Bahini, military arm of the exiled nationalist Awami League whose foremost political leaders have all fled to India. Only "ordinary" people, like him, and some of the more radical East Pakistani politicians, such as members of the Marxist Toha group, stayed behind to organize and fight.

Mustafizur and others who have done the real guerrilla fighting in the country's interior have become more politically radical from the experience. It is anyone's guess what will happen when they meet up with the moderates of the Awami League now re-entering Bangla Desh on the coat-tails of the Indian Army. But what has already happened to change his life is clear enough. Mustafizur explained these events to us, starting with the first bloody attack that President Yahya Khan's PAK (West Pakistan Army) forces made on the East Pakistan Independence movement last March 23rd.

"We put up a volunteer corps to save the lives of as many people as possible. We went around warning as many people as we could about the PAK attack. But we were not prepared to do any fighting that first night. There were a few East Pakistan Rifles (originally part of the Pakistan national army under Yahya Khan) or police who were aware of what was happening; they were in their barracks. They were not attacked until two days later, at 10 AM. The police resisted the attack that time. But the next day the PAK army returned with modern weaponry and the whole police force line was massacred. By 4:30 PM they had killed 250 officers.

"By the 26th many of us gathered and agreed that there was no other way but to wage a long-term war to liberate our East Pakistan from the West. On that day we could not decide whether to engage in a direct fight or in guerrilla operations. But after the police massacre, we began to make very concrete plans. It was at this time that the police and the East Pakistan Rifles came over to our side.

"In the beginning we had no modern weapons whatsoever. We were forced to get them through guerrilla actions—to steal them from the PAK army. On the 28th, the full-scale terror against

us and our people began: they started using napalm. In one hour the PAK army burned down 500 houses near us. During the first two weeks of April they burned down 10 villages in my area and left more than 10,000 people homeless."

Mustafizur paused, and then went on: "That was several months ago. Now, many of us act as though we are just normal civilians during the daytime. But, actually, many of us are full-time guerrillas at night against the West Pakistan forces.

"Because of the terrorist tactics of the PAK army, people are learning what is wrong and what is right. Now, almost everyone inside Bangla Desh is in favor of the war of liberation. They support the guerrillas and give us all the food and shelter which they can.

"During October and November we have been trying to restrict the movements of the PAK army by destroying roads, railways, and other communications systems with mines. In early October we attacked one army position, killed thirty soldiers, and got their arms, ammunition, explosives--everything. On October 23rd, we blew up an important bridge. It was very well constructed, 70 feet long and made wholly of re-inforced concrete. There were forty razakars (East Pakistanis working for the West Pakistan army) guarding the bridge. When we were five hundred yards away they opened fire. We also opened fire and charged them. We killed 20, wounded 10, and the rest ran away. We also got their weapons."

Mustafizur went on to explain the razakars: "They are mostly old members of conservative Muslim parties, like the Muslim

League and the Jamaat-I-Islami, and they are always led by non-Bengal Muslims. But since they are plundering and looting the people, they have received very little support; while the Mukti Bahini, which never oppresses or tortures anyone and is helpful and cooperative, is very popular.

"The PAK army demands that each village fill a quota of young men to serve as razakars. If a village fails to do so, there are repercussions. But slowly the PAK army is being squeezed out of the countryside. They have been forced to concentrate and regroup in a few strongholds, digging their bunkers and strengthening their positions.

"Each of our camps has a political training program. Here we teach the history of Pakistan and Bangla Desh, and the history of other movements of national liberation like Vietnam, Cuba, and Algeria. But there should be no confusion about the stage of the struggle that we are now in; it is still a purely nationalist struggle. It is not a struggle like in Vietnam.

"About 70% of the young fighters in the Mukti Bahini are students, with strong nationalistic feelings. The rest come from the peasantry and the working class, although more and more peasants are joining us. Most of the soldiers are still very unconscious of any class struggle. This is to come. Now, they just want Bangla Desh to be free of the hordes of Yahya Khan. There is a strong anti-imperialist and anti-American feeling among them, since the US has given all that help to Yahya. But they are also very disappointed with China, and they are anti-Chinese because even the Chinese support Yahya Khan."

Words From The Other Side or

If God Would Have Registered Here He Would Have Died of Old Age

by Gregg Crescenzo

Good morning fellow Land of Disney dwellers. Now that we have all arisen from our magic dust slumber, let us return to the days of yesteryear (I would still like to know what the hell a yester is—please address all your responses to the "What In The Hell Is It Contest" c/o the CAPITOLIST), say about sixteen days ago when the sometimes Slygh Wizard-elect introduced all of his citizens to a brand new ride.

We in Disney have been supplied by our Wizard with many lands to choose from, each with their own highly rides. For example, we have Humanities Land, El. Ed. Land, Business Land, Engineering Land and Social Sciences Land, which upon entering then takes you for the ride of your life. The new edition to the Land of Disney far outshines any of the most popular rides yet to be offered in any of the Lands. That's right, the mean Old Wolf ride in Humanities Land was far out. And not taking anything away from that teeth gnasher-lip bitter ride you're given on the Core Courses in Social Science Land, which is somewhere between farout and inhuman — it is very close to a WOW!

But the "Wait Ride", wphewwww! Registration Land got it together this time. It far surpassed anything Engineering Land could ever dream of building. Registration Land was so exciting, so dynamic so . . . (I find myself lost for words, my eyes fill with tears of Awe just thinking of . . .

it's no use I can't go on).

Well, before the doors would open to Registration Land, people were lined up as far as the Middletown Town Line; the turnpike was backed up to Germany, at least; and poor Ohio, Jesus what a mess. But Registration Land was ready. No one would leave unsatisfied this opening day — they took everybody for a ride.

After such a successful opening, the Land of Registration blushed in its genius, reveled in its glory, for never before have so many been shafted by so few for what. Seems as though the purpose of Registration Land is to sell admission tickets to the Lands we Disney dwellers wish to visit for awhile. This ticket then entitles us to all the rides within that Land. The great philosopher and existentialist Mr. Dumpty once said, "Y'a "Yah don't nevah git nothin' for nothin' -- Y'all always give somethin' fuh nothin'."

Well once again the man of greatness was right on target; admission to the Land of Registration was your ass — and not to cast a shadow on the bright and beautiful gloom born that day in the Land of Registration — it seems as though the visual abilities in Registration Land are very poor. I thought it was the admission tickets to the different Lands which were not to be spun, bent and punctured.

the dynamic "Wait Ride" in Registration Land. WOW! Was that somethin' else. I thought

U. of Chicago Starts New Program

Chicago, Ill.—(I.P.)—The Community and Family Study Center at the University of Chicago is sponsoring an experimental Master's Degree Program in Communications.

"This program is designed to train specialists for managerial and planning positions which have as one of their goals the acceleration of social change via persuasion, behavior change, or attitude change on the part of the receiving audience," according to Donald J. Bogue, director of the Center.

The need to train experts who can promote the adoption of family planning, and thereby reduce population growth in developing countries, is an important factor in this orientation, Bogue noted.

The program has been organized along four distinct lines: (a) academic training in basic theory; (b) practical experience in communication programming; (c) practical experience in communication research and evaluation; (d) development of new approaches.

The Master's Degree in Communication will be awarded by the Division of the Social Sciences upon the completion of: nine units of academic courses, three courses in applied communications, a Master's paper that represents original

research, and a comprehensive examination.

The new program, according to Bogue, is intended to serve persons who plan later to enter fields such as health education, antipoverty programs, race relations and civil rights programs, adult education, and political campaign planning.

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Students With A Handicraft Read This

Students, faculty, and maintenance men, the bookstore is going to be MORE helpful to you. I know this is hard to believe because Mr. Kistler does such a wonderful job in making students feel welcome, but it is true.

Among the numerous committees here at Capitol, the bookstore has formed a committee also. If you said I wonder if the name is "the committee on bookstore activities" you are right. This committee has been organized to help the student body.

The committee has made suggestions to Mr. Kistler and some agreements have been reached. The bookstore will be remodeled slightly. New cases are on order so more merchandise will be on display. The paperback books will be sorted and put into categories—examples—literature, history, and psychology. This will aid in finding a book more easily. So look for these titles when you go there.

The final improvement will be the STUDENT CORNER. There will be a few tables set aside for the display of student merchandise. Anything made by a student will be displayed. Candles, leather goods, handmade jewelry, clothing, paintings or drawings, or

anything you have made and would like to sell. The purpose of the STUDENT CORNER would be to display these articles—you would have to make the final transaction. Your name and phone number attached to the article would do.

I hope more students will take advantage of our bookstore—it is our bookstore, you know. Any suggestions you might have to improve the service or merchandise, please contact Prof. Frey, the chairman, or student rep., Rudi Witzel—my number is listed. You might even talk with Mr. Kistler, he's a friendly guy if you get to know him.

A WALK IN MIDDLETOWN

Visit Middletown's
Landmarks on Sat.,
Jan. 29 - 10 to Noon

Dr. Richman will be
the Tourguide

The Group Will Meet
At Main & Union Sts.
At 10 A.M.

Optional Lunch At The
Colonial Inn Follows