

National journalist discusses civil war, strife in Sri Lanka

By Tracey Merrill

Last Wednesday the Middlebury Armadillos sponsored a lecture with Bill McGowan '79 who is currently writing a book about the civil war in Sri Lanka.

McGowan, who has lived in Sri Lanka, as both teacher and reporter, relayed a sense of urgency to his audience, explaining the ethnic upheaval in Sri Lanka in not an isolated incident, but what he feels parallels the identity crises erupting in other parts of the world.

Amid the tropical beauty of Sri Lanka rages a bloody civil war. This war has claimed an estimated four thousand lives in its five year span.

The battle which has torn the nation is not easy to define as it involves elements of intense nationalistic and religious divisions between the Tamil Hindus and the government backed Sinhalese Buddhists. The fundamental battle however, revolves around the Tamil quest for a homeland carved out of the island. The struggle includes a quest for cultural identity.

McGowan explained that much of the cultural confusion which has added to the tensions can be traced to the nation's colonial past.

Formerly known as Ceylon, Sri Lanka was once a colony to both

Great Britain and the Netherlands. Their history, argues McGowan left the Sinhalese "insecure" with their own identity, unable to make the transition to a modern industrial nation.

The Buddhists are even more resistant to the Hindu movement which has claimed a homeland carved out of the northern tier of the island, which the Hindus have already named Elan. This is where the battle lines

McGowan explained that much of the cultural confusion which has added to the tensions can be traced to the nation's colonial past.

are presently drawn; a Hindu cry for a homeland juxtaposed with the anti-Hindu racist policy of the Buddhist-Sinhalese government.

The book McGowan is writing focuses on the aspects of cultural identity which fuel the fighting and the contradictions inherent in the conflict.

The elite set, for example sit in Colombo, the capital, playing at the casino tables and sun-bathing on the white sands while the Tamil Tigers, a rebel suicide terrorist group, lay landmines or engage in mortar exchange with the government forces in the

College mailroom loses over \$350 to theft

By Todd Capute

One hundred dollars in cash and approximately one thousand stamps were stolen from a safe at Middlebury College's mailroom. The theft occurred sometime between the morning of Saturday, October 14 and the following Monday.

According to Mailroom Supervisor David Larose the theft took place during normal working hours, when

the safe is left open for the convenience of the workers. Security Director Pete Chenevert said that the robbery was most likely committed by a mailroom employee. Chenevert said that Campus Security is working in conjunction with the Town Police Department in questioning individual suspects.

Larose has since tightened security in the mailroom.

"Students will not be allowed to sell stamps any more," said Larose. "It's not that we're blaming students for this, but for security purposes, only full time employees will sell stamps." Also the safe will be locked in the future when it is not supervised.

"We've always left it open [during working hours]," said Larose. "This time we got burned."

The policy of the government and of the Buddhist majority is one of reaction, a return toward more traditional dress, diet and customs to reinforce the anti-Hindu policy.

McGowan spoke of a universal message in the events being played out in Sri Lanka, pointing out what he feels to be a foreboding theme in relation to other multinational states of the world. He cited the Soviet Union and Ireland as two examples of similar problems.

McGowan sees the situation in Sri Lanka as deteriorating before it improves because nationalistic and racist sentiment outweigh that of egalitarian philosophy.

test to preach defiance and themselves have perpetrated acts of violence against the recently deployed Indian troops.

The fact that the traditional guardians of Buddhist ideology and what McGowan refers to as a "repository of Buddhist pristine sentiment" are contributing to the nationalistic fervor and in turn more bloodshed, is indicative of the chaos and uncertainty in Sri Lanka

All the unrest and political turmoil, including the 1987 assassination attempt on President Junius R. Jayewardene, have caused serious economic problems. Poverty and food shortages are rampant. Many of the universities and public institutions are now closed.

Buddhists and Hindus in hospitals or refugee camps. The Tigers, the only organized resistance group, consists mainly of teenagers, many of whom wear cyanide capsules around their necks.

McGowan spoke of human rights violations which have crippled much of the population. Another larger contradiction the war has brought to the surface is that Sri Lanka, which previously regarded itself as the guardian of sacred Buddhist tradition, has strayed from basic tenets of Buddhist philosophy. Clerics have abandoned postures of peaceful pro-

Hearing

(Continued from page 1)

presented "being kept in the dark by the [Middlebury] administration as to the official word on Paul's retirement and what was going on."

"Bread Loaf is a community-oriented place and the whole community was affected in one way or another," Mr. Coyle said. In discussing Mr. Maddox's remarks, he said "In terms of the college I would hope that those lines of communication would be open as well."

While the administration attempted to keep the hearing and its implications quiet in order to protect those involved, in a least one case, the endeavor proved ineffectual.

Said one of the four students who testified, "I trusted in the administration of Middlebury College, and I guess I'm naive. I trust and I respect and I felt like the Committee on Reappointment was going to take care of the situation. I felt a little humiliated by Olin Robison when I spoke to him asking to know what the outcome of the hearing was."

The student added, "I still don't know, other than personal satisfaction, if coming forward did any good."

He expressed his dissatisfaction with the college's sole offer to supply him with ten hours of counseling at "the psychiatrist or therapist of my choice."

"I thought it was really ridiculous. I wrote a letter to Olin Robison saying that you can give my ten hours to Paul Cubeta."

"DEVASTATING" CONSEQUENCES

College Chaplain John Walsh said of the case "the first thing I asked Old Chapel was what they were doing for the individuals. I wanted to make sure they had all the support they wanted or needed."

"Sexual harassment," he said, "as the result of an experience with a faculty member can be devastating in a person's life. That's why we need to teach out aggressively to any individual who has been the victim."

(Continued on page 5)

A&A TAXI
BEST IN TOWN!
388-6384

HAVING A PARTY?
CAN'T AFFORD THE STONES?
CALL
BLOCH AND BLUES
WE DELIVER!
(802) 775-3546 ANYTIME

BUSY BEE CLEANING
-DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL
-RUG SHAMPOOING
-UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
FULLY INSURED FREE ESTIMATES
SUE DORAN LARAMIE 1-265-3309
TAMMY DORAN 1-265-4976

LEARN TO FLY



INTRODUCTORY FLIGHT:
\$25

CAMPUS CONTACT:
RICK JENKINS, CFI
MILLIKEN x4645

A.F.O.
MIDDLEBURY STATE AIRPORT
(UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT)
BILL "W.C." KOLB, CFI
388-7921

Now open!
Brenda Fay's
Fall Collection Featuring:
Calvin Klein, Nisha Knits, LA Seat
Covers, Ambience, Nicola etc.

We carry a full line of jeans, sweaters, skirts, tops, dresses, pants, jewelry, and hair accessories.



We Accept
Master Card
& VISA

Lay-Away
and Gift
Certificates
Available

Open
7 days
a week!
453-5512

Located on Rt. 116 3 miles south of Bristol Village. From Middlebury take Seminary St. to Quarry Rd. to the intersection of 116. Turn left and continue 4 miles. Located adjacent to Big Wheel Variety.

SOUP 5¢



Shrimp
and salad bar
included with all entrees!

All
soups are
homemade!

FOR LUNCH, OR DINNER...
order our salad and bread bar (6.95 at lunch or 7.95 at dinner) and we'll throw in the soup for just 5¢. Remember, there's shrimp on the salad bar. Where else can you dine so well for so little. Visit us soon!

Make your
Christmas
Party
Reservations



Closed
on
Mondays

26 Seymour St.
Middlebury

Fire & Ice
Restaurant 38-7166