

Role of women underestimated

Author defines Guinean plight

By HEATHER McCLENAGHAN
Of the Emerald

"Unity and Struggle," the motto of the Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau (PIGC), typifies the spirit of Guinea-Bissau's new women, says author and researcher Chantal Sarrazin.

Sarrazin presented a slide show and lecture to a small audience on campus Thursday.

Calling the 500 year old rule of Guinea-Bissau by Portugal "total oppression," Sarrazin described the aims and successes the PIGC fought for in their eleven year fight for independence.

According to Sarrazin, the tiny West African nation was left without any technological development when the PIGC threw off the Portuguese colonialists in 1974. With an illiteracy rate of 99 per cent, high infant mortality, an agricultural economy and a history of exploitation to combat, the new people's government is now engaged in nationwide reconstruction.

Focusing on the role women play in the new Guinea, Sarrazin explained the long double oppression women in Guinea-Bissau have faced.

"Women in Guinea were oppressed by colonial exploitation for 500 years, as well as struggling against the society's male domination," said Sarrazin, noting that the Portuguese are gone but the problem of sexism in the society is still being worked out.

"The women's struggle is part of the overall struggle for socialism and for a non-exploitative society. These people are part of the same society we live in and fight the same enemy we all face — imperialism," she said.

Sarrazin explained that although there were no women's army detachments or female soldiers in the revolutionary forces, women were instrumental in the overthrow of the Portuguese.

"I was struck by the women's physical strength," Sarrazin said, recalling her amazement at seeing the African women carry 70 pounds of goods on their heads without tiring.

Sarrazin pointed to the victories of women in other Third World countries and hailed their successes as a significant contribution to worldwide social change.

"We should learn that these women in Guinea, Mozambique,



Chantal Sarrazin

Angola and Vietnam were not only fighting colonialism, they had to fight a bigger enemy. The international ruling class is our enemy and we have to bring the struggle home," she said.

Questions await graduates

Ann Fagan Ginger, author or editor of more than a dozen books on constitutional law topics, will address the University Law School commencement exercises Saturday.

The public ceremony, at which 146 candidates will be presented doctor of jurisprudence degrees, will be at 2 p.m., in the south plaza in front of the law school. In event of inclement weather, it will be in the Erb Memorial Union ballroom.

And, although law school graduates may have thought they were all through answering questions until the bar

exams, they will be in for a surprise when they get their diplomas during commencement.

The University has decided to ask its graduates questions about their academic experience. Graduates will be asked how many times they have changed majors, to evaluate their satisfaction with instruction, whether or not they would choose the University again, about job prospects, and their rating of various University services.

Graduates also will receive a prepaid envelope to return the questionnaire to the campus and a letter from Uni-

versity Pres. William Boyd congratulating them on graduating and asking them for their help by filling out the questionnaire.

Bob Bowlin, dean of students, says the questionnaires will provide "exciting and helpful information for the instructional and service departments of the University."

The surveys also will be handed out during the University's June commencement and some 1976-77 commencements. The sampling will be repeated in several years to obtain comparative data.

Vague rule dropped

Election rule 5.6 — the controversial rule that drew an elections court reprimand for ASUO presidential hopeful Jim Davis — has been dropped by Kirby Garrett, ASUO vice-president in charge of elections.

Criticism from both presidential candidates and the elections court prompted the decision, Garrett said.

"It's a really ambiguous rule

in the first place and the interpretation found by the court emphasized this," he said, "All the ASUO rule is doing is inhibiting the candidates from reaching the people."

Garrett said article 5.2 of the ASUO constitution, which delegates responsibility for ASUO elections to the vice-president, gives him "the inherent responsibility ... to drop the rule on my own."

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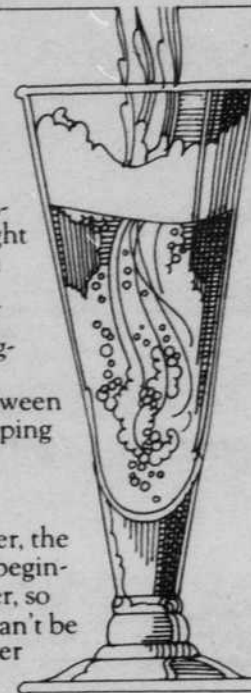
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Picket planned

The Revolutionary Student Brigade (RSB) is planning a picket line and mini-rally for the mock Democratic Convention outside Mac Court at 7 tonight.

Emphasizing that the demonstration is not a picket of the students who are participating in the convention, a spokesperson for the RSB says the demonstration has been organized in order to raise the issues surrounding the election of candidates.

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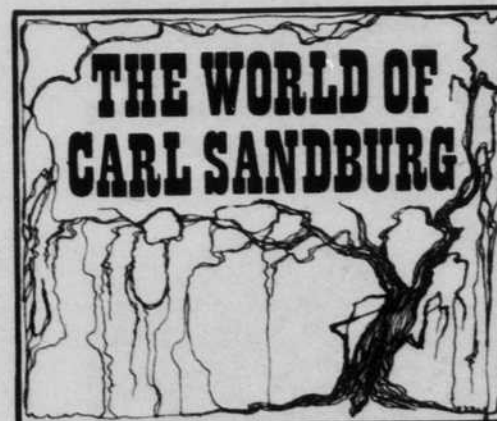
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