

Cambodian story fabricator confesses sham

NEW YORK (AP) — A free-lance writer has admitted that he fabricated a story he wrote for The New York Times Magazine about a trip inside Cambodia with Khmer Rouge guerrillas. The Times reported in its Monday editions.

Writer Christopher Jones, located at Calpe, Spain, admitted to a Times editor and two of its correspondents after three days of questioning that he had not been to Asia last year and had written the article for the magazine's Dec. 20 issue without leaving Spain, the newspaper said.

"It was a gamble — that was it," The Times quoted Jones as saying. "Unfortunately, the gamble was too big, and wasn't sufficiently researched, or tied down. The gamble was a mistake."

He said he made up the article, using his imagination and material he said he gathered in two 1980 visits to Cambodia, because he couldn't afford to go there, The Times said.

In his article, Jones claimed to have spent a month in southwestern Cambodia where the forces of former Prime Minister Pol Pot are resisting Vietnam military pressure. He described his travels, individuals he supposedly met, and a battle between Khmer Rouge forces and Vietnamese using tanks and helicopters.

A.M. Rosenthal, the Times' executive editor, said in a statement:

"We checked his reputation and were informed by a publication for which he had worked in Asia that he was a reliable

journalist. After his piece came in, it was put through checking procedures. ...

"But in this case, these procedures failed to uncover the clues in the text that would have led us to doubt the veracity of the piece.

"We do not feel that the fact the writer was a liar and hoaxer removes our responsibility. It is our job to uncover any falsehood or errors."

Rosenthal added: "I regret this whole sad episode and the lapse in our procedures that made it possible."

The Village Voice on Jan. 13 noted that a passage at the end of Jones' article, describing a blind Cambodian minstrel, appeared to have been plagiarized from Andre Malraux's "The Royal Way," a

novel set in Cambodia.

The Times said that following that charge, it wrote to Jones demanding an explanation and cancelling an assignment for another article. Repeated attempts to reach him then by telephone were unsuccessful, it said.

The newspaper said that after questioning at the Mediterranean resort town of Calpe, Jones admitted he had plagiarized the Malraux passage, saying "I needed a piece of color."

The Times said Rosenthal ordered a full investigation after The Washington Post reported last Thursday that a Khmer Rouge official in Bangkok had said Jones had not visited the guerrilla enclaves in 1981.

et al.

MEETINGS

The **University Circle K Club** will meet tonight at 8:30 at 1653 Agate St. (behind ROTC building). Circle K International is the world's largest collegiate service organization. All interested students are welcome to attend.

The **University Marketing Association** will hold a meeting today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 337, Gilbert Hall. Topics will include the American Marketing Association seminar and current topics.

The **International Studies Association** will hold a general meeting today at 4 p.m. in Room 337, Straub Hall. Everyone is welcome.

SPEAKERS

Poet and writer **Alex Kuo**, an English professor at Washington State, will talk about poetry and the private sector today at 2:30 p.m. in Room 138, Education Building. He will also give a reading of his works tonight at 8 at the Homefried Truckstop, 740 E. 14th St. Both events are free to the public. For additional information call 686-3944.

FORUMS

"The Scripture and Mental Illness: A Continuing Dialogue" is the topic of a forum today at 4 p.m. at the Wesley Chapel, 1236 Kincaid St. Members of the panel

will include John Crumbley, graduate student in counseling; Alice Knotts, United Methodist Campus Minister; Brian Nelson-Munson, United Methodist Minister from Veneta and member of the Mental Health Advisory Board; and John Sherwood, University English Department and member of the Mental Health Association.

SEMINARS

"Financial Planning Careers," is the topic of a career seminar offered to students and faculty by IDS Marketing Corporation on March 2 from 1:30-3 p.m. or from 4-5:30 p.m. in Room 101, EMU. Space is limited. Sign up in Room 246, Susan Campbell Hall.

INTERVIEWS

Sign-up for interviews begins on Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in Susan Campbell Hall. A resume must be turned in at the time you sign up.

March 1
Union Pacific Corporation (Accounting)

March 2
Boise Cascade Corporation — Building Materials (Gen. Bus./Mkt./Lib. Arts majors with Sales Interest)
Floating Point Systems (Computer Science)

March 3
First State Bank of Oregon (Bus. Admin.) and Internship (Freshman or Sophomores)

NCR Corporations (Business Administration)

March 2-5

Peace Corps (Any major)

March 4

The GAP Stores (All majors)

March 3-4

Saudi American Bank (Bus. Admin./Mkt./Fin./Acct./Math./Econ./C.S.)

March 5

Frito-Lay, Inc. (Business/Marketing)

Pacific Gas & Electric (Prefer Indust. Rela./Second Choice — Human Resource Mgmt.)

Precision Controls (Computer Science)

University of San Diego, Lawyer's Asst. Program (Any major)

Newport Bay Club (Physical Education)

Group meetings and information sessions being held during the week of March 1-5 are as follows:

March 3

Peace Corps — 3:30-5 — Forum Room, EMU

Saudi American Bank — 7-8:30 — Room 108, EMU

March 5

University of San Diego, Lawyer's Assistant Program — 9-10 a.m. — Room 240, Susan Campbell Hall

Please sign up immediately if interested in interviewing with the following recruiters:

Feb. 23

Bishop Hawk, Commercial Real Estate (Any major)
Ungermann, Bass, Inc. (Computer Science)

Feb. 25

American Graduate School of International Management (All majors)

FILMS

"The Pinks and Blues," a documentary film which has been aired on television, will be shown at Lane Community College's Women's Program brown bag lunch today and Wednesday at noon and Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building. The film depicts the different treatment of girls and boys from birth. Call 747-4501, ext. 2353 for more information.

MISCELLANEOUS

Questions about whether you can receive unemployment compensation will be answered tonight from 7-9 by People's Law School. This free class will be held at Patterson Community School, 15th Avenue and Polk Street. No registration is necessary.

Sociology majors: The sociology peer advising program is now accepting applications for peer advisors for Spring term. If you are interested in helping others, gaining valuable practical experience and upper division credit, stop by our office at Room 709, PLC, or call 686-5012 or 683-4978. Ask for Dave.

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