

T H E H O U G H T O N STAR

February 21, 1998

Vol. 93.7

Shen's New Parking Lot

Ward Mesick

With the new music building coming, possibly within the next two years, the college has had to face another problem that many people would not think about. The problem is parking. Jeff Spear explains that we will lose nearly thirty parking spaces as a result of the new building. And, he says, we already have serious parking problems.

"Anyone who's tried to park on campus at 9:00 in the morning knows that we have a problem." He also says that there is a problem with parking for events such as games and concerts. "We

have a gym that can hold many people but we have no where to let them park."

The proposed solution for the problem is to take at least part of the Alumni Field in front of Shenawana Hall and convert it into a parking lot. Spear knows that this is a major decision and he says that it is not an easy one but it is felt that if the school is going to reach out and hope to get more attention in the sports conferences then it is necessary to make certain changes.

So what exactly will happen to Alumni Field? Spear says that they are trying to be as flexible

as possible. They are attempting to leave it open feeling that it appears tasteful and all of the field might not be used. The end near the old baseball diamond might stay open so that sometime in the future another dorm could be built there.

So what will happen to the track? If the plan is approved a new regulation track will be built by the soccer field where it will be lighted well enough for evening running. The new track will be much more manageable and will allow Houghton to host games, an activity we cannot do with the current track.

Mr. Spear realizes that the decisions that are being made are tough. He lived in Shenawana for two years and he enjoyed the opportunity to walk out the door and have a large field to play soccer on. However, he feels that the new plans will benefit everyone and he is careful to stress that these are all still plans that have not been approved. They are still before the board at this time. He feels that our athletics programs are a great drawing point for Houghton and hopes that this will help to bring talented students who might have otherwise passed us by.

SGA REPORT

Seth Taylor, SGA Commissioner of Communications

The Student Government Association, the student's primary advocacy and support organization, has been busily working on a variety of projects to serve the students. Many of our recent successes have been publicized in the Now You Know! information sheet, so I won't report in detail on the new phone in the library, the free loaning of ping pong paddles from the Info Center, the four class information boards, the SGA BookShelf, the Technology Information line, Free Coffee Tuesdays, and many others. Instead, I will report on some of the projects that the SGA is currently working on:

-Dorm washers and dryers: In conjunction with the Dorm Councils, the SGA is investigating complaints about the cost, reliability, and temperature of the laundry facilities in the dorms.

-Recycling: Senator Teresa Winship is spearheading a push to improve the recycling policies and facilities on campus.

-SGA Web Page: Seth Taylor is designing a web page for the SGA that will provide information to the students and, in the

future, many useful services.

-Winter Weekend: Kristen Cook is working with the Winter Weekend Committee (chaired by Beth Wester and Jileen Herman) to plan a fun and exciting weekend to relieve the winter doldrums.

-Lantern Constitution revision: Seth Taylor is working to review and revise the out-dated Lantern constitution so as to avoid a recurrence of the literary magazine's unfortunate demise last year (which was followed by a timely, SGA-sponsored revival).

-Now You Know! publication: Lynda Aaron and Kristen Engnell produce this biweekly publication in an effort to inform the students about issues that particularly concern them.

-Student Health Advisory Committee: The SGA is resurrecting this defunct committee. It will serve as a liaison between the campus Health Center and students.

-Snow Plowing: Senator Jim Roberts is investigating complaints about snow plowing patterns and schedules.

-Leader of the Month: Kristen Cook is devising a sys-

Con't on next page

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Professor O'Connor

"Kiss Me, Baby!"



NEWS



Top Dog Barks

What does it really take to run Houghton College?

Kristen Engnell

Most obviously, running our college takes money: in fact about \$57,794 a day. The annual budget of \$20 million pays for 250,000 photocopies a month, electric bills, salaries of faculty and staff, water bills, and insurance. Houghton relies on many sources for this funding. Over \$1 million comes directly from the federal government in the form of grants and work study. An additional \$1 million is received from the New York Tuition Assistance Program. Last year, 3,700 alumni and friends donated over \$800,000 for the annual fund and student scholarships. Faculty and Staff also contribute yearly, many making automatic deductions

from their paychecks! These sources and expert financial management have kept Houghton financially stable for decades.

Yet, Houghton is made of more than money.

As students it is easy to forget that for 115 years people have dedicated their lives, resources and energy to running Houghton College. Mary Boomhower retired last spring after 45 years of working here. She came in 1951 to be the assistant dining hall manager and 27 years later became the secretary of three departments.

Upon her retirement Dr. Stevenson, for whom she had typed over 1,400 letters in 15 years, said this "As Mary's years of service increased, she grew

increasingly identified with Houghton's mission, to the point that I do not know of a more loyal Houghtonian. . . . I have said for years that I have the absolute best person working with me. So, Mary leaves her mark upon this institution . . . we hope it pleases her that her faithfulness to the Lord and Houghton have brought fruit and serves as an encouragement to others."

It requires over 275 full and part time staff members like Mary Boomhower to keep Houghton running from day to day. Some have the difficult job of finding the best ways to spend our daily \$57,794, others make sure we have that money by recruiting students and donors. Houghton employees also heat

our bedrooms, make our meals, provide mentors, employ us, pay us, advise us on our futures, challenge our minds, cash our checks, and mop our floors. At the minimum, our 83 full time faculty members work 3,320 hours a week preparing for class, serving on college committees and doing research.

As we try to make it through each stressful day at Houghton, it is easy to lose the big picture. We forget that while students come and go every four years the faculty and staff remain for decades. Houghton was not created for us, nor will it disappear when we leave. Many faculty and staff will continue to give their lives to pay the bills and challenge the students of Houghton College.

SGA Report Con't

tem of honoring one student leader per month who serves the students well, but in a capacity that does not normally get adequate recognition.

-Student Emergency Fund: Jason Leininger and Justin Dumont are running a Penny War between the four classes (the jars are in the Info Center) in order to raise money for this fund, which can assist students with unexpected emergency needs (such as money to travel home for a loved-one's funeral).

-\$48,000 Student Projects Fund: This fund, which was designed to allow students to initiate large projects that benefit students, is soon going to be allocated by a committee which includes the four class presidents.

-Name Drive: Speaker of the Senate Laura Judge has been involved in advertising and promoting this drive to get names of prospective students for the Admissions office.

-Pencil Sharpener for the Campus Center Basement: As a service to students, the SGA has ordered and will be installing a pencil sharpener for students in the basement of the campus center.

-Faculty Appreciation Week:

Kristen Engnell, Christine King, and Karen Swedrock are planning for a week of, well, appreciating faculty. Details of how you can participate in appreciating will be available soon.

-Prayer Calendar: Justin Dumont is creating a monthly prayer calendar featuring people in leadership positions on campus.

-Coin-operated photocopier for the Library: The SGA has been working for some time to find an alternative to the infamous copy card and to make the copier more usable and accessible.

-Money for student organizations: The Senate will soon be allocating over \$4000 to various student clubs and organizations.

As you can see your Student Government is actively serving you in many diverse ways. If you would like to get involved in any of these projects, would like to make suggestions, or would like to join the SGA next year, please hurry down to the SGA office in the basement of the campus center. Our regular office hours are 10 AM to 2 PM, Monday through Thursday, but we are in the office at many other times.

Donald Lawrence Speaks at Chapel

Jen Crawford

On Monday, February 9, 1998, Donald Lawrence returned to chapel stage in Wesley Auditorium for the first time in three years. He once again spoke to the student body, but this time as an alumnus, not as a fellow student.

Lawrence spoke about revival, more on a personal level than a corporate one. He challenged students to "live every moment as though it was our last," and illustrated that we must repent before we can be refreshed in our spirits; repentance comes before revival.

Lawrence taught that repentance is not simply being sorry, but it is "a changing of the mind about and towards God." Also, repentance brings Christ-like-ness. It is dissimilarity that creates distance from God, and nearness to Him that creates Christ-like-ness. Lawrence

summarized this point with stating, "If you feel you are far from God or God is far from you, repent."

"Revival is not when the world gets right, but when the church gets right," said Lawrence. Revival brings a deeper sense of God, and that must first happen on a personal level. Revival happens through grace; "Grace is not only merited favor, it is also the empowering presence of God giving himself to you to be all that He has called you to be and do all that He has called you to do."

Lawrence's hope for both personal and corporate revival is that God's presence will "be made manifest at Houghton."

Lawrence graduated in 1995 with a Bachelor's degree in both Educational Ministries and Bible. Currently, he is employed at Robert's Wesleyan as an Admission's Counselor.

Houghton Hosts a Wedding: "The Marriage of Figaro"

i don't know

When many of us hear the word "opera," images of Viking women and broken windows often spring to mind. While understandable, given popular culture's depiction of the art form, it is a good bet that Dr. Ben King, director of the Houghton College Opera Workshop's upcoming production, "The Marriage of Figaro," winces every time he watches a cartoon diva shatter glass with a high "C". In fact, in producing the famous opera, the Workshop hopes to break some of these misconceptions and bring a new appreciation to the often misunderstood musical style.

The opera opens at the Houghton Academy Tysinger Auditorium on April 22, and performance dates run through the 25th. In addition to Dr. Ben King, the production is conducted by Dr. Jean Reigles, and the double-size cast, which will take turns performing on alternating nights, includes more than 27 singers. King decried the production of this particular opera "a huge undergraduate task" and said "This is the most demanding show I've ever been a part of."

The Opera Workshop, a re-

quired course for all voice majors, has produced a variety of shows in the past, including the musical *Carousel* and the operetta *The Mikado*, by Gilbert & Sullivan.

However, while some times performing scenes from various operas, the Workshop only attempts an entire piece every four or five years; though in recent years more full productions have been mounted. This year's opera, considered one of the most difficult for undergrads, is made possible, according to King, due to the current number of capable and diverse singers. In addition to directing, King, a professor of voice, also sings in the performance, along with Kelley Hijleh, who also teaches voice at the college.

Another difficulty was the necessity of translating the 400

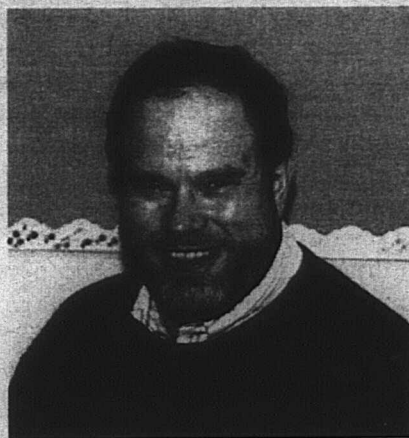
plus pages of Italian script into English. King undertook the task himself after becoming dissatisfied with the available English translations, which he

considered too archaic for easy comprehension by a modern listener. Even during rehearsals, King and the cast continued

ability to capture the nuances of character and emotion in music combined with the excellence of the story insured the opera's eventual characterization as a "masterpiece."

Taking the form of a classic comedy, the story contains slapstick humor and ends with a wedding. While the humor makes for an interesting story, King emphasizes that more levels of meaning can be found in it. The tale chronicles a feudal lord's search for power and his wife's determination to win him back. King states "[The play] is fundamentally about the redeeming power of human love," stressing that "for me, [that] is the most important element for the modern viewer."

Overall, King says the show is going well, emphasizing that he is "so proud of the men and women in this task." His overall goal in the production is to contribute to the cultural knowledge of the community, but he stresses equally that the opera performance is designed to educate those involved. Considering the tremendous time and effort already put into this production, the result should be rewarding indeed.



to improve and clarify the translation, with the goal of making the words intelligible.

"The Marriage of Figaro," written during the time of the French Revolution, is the second of a pair of plays by the Frenchman Pierre-Augustin de Beaumarchais. The two plays, the first being the equally recognizable "Barber of Seville," gained infamy through that turbulent period, eventually attracting the attention of Mozart, who set "The Marriage of Figaro" to music. Mozart's

Report on the Middle East Studies Program, Cairo, Egypt

Carolyn Roy and Miriam Koch

Ahlan wa sahan (welcome)! We are sitting in our room trying to sum up the past 2 weeks that we have had here in Cairo. From hearing the call to prayer at 4:30 every morning to galloping the Sahara Desert on horseback, it has been a whirlwind of new experiences. Though we have 6 hours of Arabic on top of regular classes each week, we don't just sit in the dorm and study- Cairo is full of things to do. We have visited the Pyramids, seen one of the oldest mosques in Cairo, tried lots of new food, sailed along the Nile, bargained with vendors at the bazaar, and risked our lives in taxi rides. There is rarely a dull moment!

One of our requirements for the Middle East Studies Program (MESP) is a service

project. Once a week, we go to the poorest parts of Cairo to help out with various programs. I (Carolyn) am teaching English and being a "big sister" to teenage girls. It is challenging because I am still just beginning

hold and play with babies and toddlers who rarely get any sort of affection; I feel a strange mix of joy and sadness seeing a baby grin at my broken Arabic phrases. God is definitely using these experiences to teach

changing us on the inside as well. We are having a blast, but we do miss Houghton- especially when we think of all the snow we're missing out on (just kidding). Be ready for some crazy stories when we come back...ma'a salaama (goodbye)!

The Middle East Studies Program is a unique Christian learning experience provided by the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities. Students participate in a rigorous academic program, along with opportunities to experience life and service around Cairo, greater Egypt, and other countries in the Middle East. For

more information, please contact Dr. Paul Shea in the Off-Campus Study Programs office, or the CCCU headquarters at 329 Eighth Street, N.E., Washington D.C. 20002; (202) 546-8913



in Arabic, but it is rewarding to see what God's love can do in a child's life in just three hours of my time. I (Miriam) help out at an orphanage run by the Sisters of Charity. For a few hours a week, I have the chance to

us more about his love and power.

As you can all see, we are having a hard time capturing in words the flavor of this semester. We aren't just having new external experiences; God is

Death of a Salesman



Alison Bixler

Liz Nies

Senior Alison Bixler may best be known around campus for her many drama performances, both in plays and musicals. Before coming to Houghton, Bixler had acted in *Wizard of Oz* and *Greece*, and has since filled other various roles in community performances such as *Snoopy*, *Annie*, and most recently Bixler filled the role of Maria in *The Sound of Music*. As for her performances at Houghton, Bixler started her career off with a bang as a freshman when she acted as the Mother in *Flowers for Algernon*, and as the Baker's Wife in the musical *Into the Woods*. Her sophomore year Bixler was Martha in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and her junior year she played the role of the

Witch in the musical *Hansel and Gretel*.

As for her character in *Death of a Salesman*, Bixler plays the part of Linda Loman, wife of the Salesman Willy Loman. At the start of the play she is a docile woman, very patient, very loyal, and very submissive to her husband who is somewhat verbally and emotionally abusive. Willy is a salesman, feeling run-down and depressed, and returns home from his trips exhausted, frustrated and somewhat bitter toward his wife. Linda tolerates this to an outstanding level and lives solely for her family; she is the glue that holds them all together. Her love for her sons is evident and she is always quick to present Willy to them in the most positive light, protecting him, despite their negativity and skepticism.

As the play unfolds, Linda becomes a stronger and firmer person, especially with her sons. She is, in a sense, escaping an oppressive life, breaking free from the overpowering restraints of her husband which have bound her for years.

Look for Bixler in her upcoming musical performance *Marriage of Figaro*.

Faith Journey Chapel Nigel Fabien

Liz Nies

The chapel service on Wednesday, February 4th presented the opportunity to be introduced to, or further acquainted with senior Nigel Fabien. Many of us knew him simply as a soccer player, but if you were in chapel on February 4th, you now see him in a different light.

The service began with this year's Heirborne group singing three selections. Performers consisted of Brad Swenson, Julie Wise, David Fox, Sarah Oblender, and John Novak. Coach Hornibrook then introduced Fabien as a unique and respectable man of character, just before saying a prayer.

Fabien began by giving a background of himself; he comes from a family of nine children, of which he is the last. His mother died when he was six years old and his dad was the principal of an elementary school in Trinidad where they lived. Because of this, Fabien had the opportunity to receive good schooling, but his life was lacking in spiritual education. He had developed a hobby, playing soccer, which got him into an excellent Catholic high school. Here Fabien was exposed to many of their prayers and other religious ideals which he would remember for quite some time, but not apply to his life right away. Rather, it was still soccer which brought him popularity and had become his dependency.

After high school Fabien ventured out on his own, away from his home, and went to live with a sister. He was unem-

ployed, didn't have any money and got involved with the wrong crowd. During this time of crisis, he recalled the Catholic prayers from his high school which led him to pray to God for help and direction, "What should I do, God?" Very shortly after this prayer, Fabien saw an advertisement in the newspaper for an airline that was in need of flight attendants. Only 25 out of 400 applicants would be accepted but after a second interview, Fabien got his answer to prayer; he got the job. With the start of this new lifestyle, Fabien traveled to many countries, earned lots of money, and forgot all about God. He even toured with his brother doing stand-up comedy acts, and did many advertisements for TV, newspapers, and radio. He owned his own car, his own apartment, and had many women. However, he recalls feeling an incredible void in his life and wasn't happy. It was another time of crisis in Fabien's life, so he turned to God and prayed. Once again, God shortly answered his prayer. Coach Hornibrook recruited Fabien to Houghton College to play soccer. Fabien was granted a study leave from his job and has been at Houghton College ever since. Fabien closed with the advice "Do not know Christ in a crisis" and read Psalm 100.

The chance to hear Nigel Fabien open his life and heart up to the student body was a touching experience. This man's life is one of many experiences, many opportunities and much to offer.

Women's Soccer Team Goes Down Under!

Jen Greggo

During spring break many of the members of the Houghton College Women's Soccer team will be making the long journey to Australia. While this trip is sure to provide an incredible experience the women will remember for the rest of their lives, it is not just for fun! These women are going to share the gospel to other soccer teams as well as anyone else who will listen to their message!

The team is going as part of an outreach with the organization Missionary Athletes International, affiliated with the professional soccer team, The Charlotte Eagles of Charlotte, North Carolina. While MAI has been leading women's tours to Europe each summer for several years now, this is the first time an entire women's team will be traveling together and the first

time the tour heads to Australia.

While in Australia, the women will minister through the game of soccer. Several matches have been set up against some elite Australian teams. During half-time several songs, a testimony, and the gospel message will be shared for the other team and spectators. After the game the women will be able to share on a more personal level with members of the other team during a post game meal.

Please keep the women's soccer team in your prayers! Many of the players still have significant finances to raise before April. In addition, you can be praying that God will be preparing the hearts of both the Houghton players as well as the hearts of those they will be meeting during this ministry!



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Death of a Salesman



Eric Williamson

Liz Nies

To enhance the magnificent performance of *Death of a Salesman*, an incredible set has been designed by none other than the stage manager and set designer Eric Williamson. Williamson has committed endless hours to the construction of stage sets dating all the way back to his freshman year. He has designed and headed up the

stage crews for every single drama performance at Houghton College since the first semester of his freshman year. This includes the sets for *Into the Woods*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Thurber Carnival*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Carousel*, *Harold and Maude*, and now *Death of a Salesman*. This job has required much dedication since at times he was responsible for designing and constructing two sets during a single semester.

When Williamson sets out to design a set, he reads through the play and then sketches his idea but leaves room for the inevitable changes that will arise. This is what he did for *Death of a Salesman*.

He considers this set to be the most challenging thus far but has successfully rose to the

occasion with creativity and excitement. Williamson hopes to keep the set very stylistic, giving the appearance of a home set back in the 1950's. He described the most difficult aspect of designing this set to be the idea that he is actually building a house of sorts. It consists of separate rooms and has two useable levels with a functional staircase. This, along with Williamson's finishing touches will no doubt give the stage the authenticity he desires.

Williamson's crew consists of approximately twelve people who have dedicated many Saturdays to the set's construction. They have been able to recycle lumber leftover from the set of *Carousel* and they have yet to paint and wallpaper. Williamson is very pleased with the progress they have made so far since they are somewhat ahead of schedule and have encountered no major problems.

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In Response to...

This letter is in response to the article written by Jim Roberts in the February 2 edition of the Star. This is not an angry letter as Mr. Roberts expected, but I do feel the need to set the record straight on a few points.

First, Mr. Roberts assumes that most evangelical Christians are offended by the homosexual lifestyle. He is correct about that. It is right and proper to be offended by that which offends God, and the Scriptures are clear that homosexuality is very offensive to Him. Leviticus 18:22 in the Old Testament and

Romans 1:26,27 in the New Testament use the words "abomination" and "shameful" to describe this "alternate lifestyle," as Mr. Roberts calls it.

I have worked with homosexuals in the past, and they are often very nice people with good qualities about them. But that does not make their sin any less evil in God's eyes. And the Christian response should be our way with everyone who is without Christ, no matter what his or her particular sin is. Remember the words of Jude, vs.

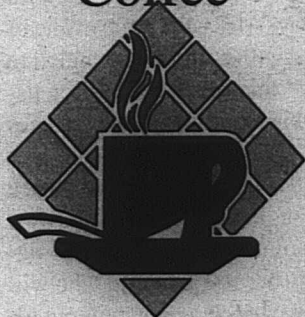
22, 23, "There are some doubting souls who need your pity; snatch them from the flames and save them...hate the very clothing that is contaminated with sensuality." It is right and proper for us to hate sin; but it is wrong for us to hate the sinner, especially since none of us is without sin.

If I was offended by any single point in Mr. Roberts's article it was that he put his own opinion ahead of the Word of God. He wrote, "I don't consider homosexuality a sin." If a Christian's opinions differ from

what the Bible clearly teaches, then that person would do well to reconsider his opinion. To hold an opinion that openly flies in the face of what God has revealed is to try to stand on a slippery slope. The only way to go is down, down into fruitless, worldly behavior and hollow spirituality.

Mr. Roberts is right that many Christians have a "knee jerk" reaction towards homosexuality that is without love. But Christian love must be balanced by truth.

Thoughts Over Coffee



Jen Crawford

"And they who fain would serve thee best are conscious most of wrong within."-David Brainerd

I have a friend who believes she has been driven by guilt most of her life. I believe that, since I have been a Christian, I have been driven by fear, not of God, but of what I have been and what I still could become if I revert back to those ways and that thought. Also, I fear who I now am, and the path it could take me down lest I change.

I choose to remain aware of the failures, not to dwell in anguish and self-pity, but to ward off complacency. With the past in sight, I remain focused on the future. Remembering the failures, I stay ever aware of my possibilities in Christ, serving Him in that hope of righteousness.

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Maris' Vision: Faggedabodit

Jim Roberts

Homosexuality is a sin. I'll say that again. Homosexuality is a sin. That statement directly contradicts what I said in my last article. I don't need to justify my belief that homosexuality is a sin, you've got a concordance or you can get your hands on one, you can find the verses without me handing them to you. The important thing here is that I lied.

A lie is a pretty terrible thing. Now that I've contradicted myself, you're bound to doubt any of my opinions because you can never again be

entirely certain that I'm actually telling the truth. The fact of the matter is, though, there's really no sensible reason why you believed me in the first place. A lie is a break of trust, though, and a harsh one. The deception involved can make the person who's been lied to feel like they're less of a person, that they were duped and made to feel foolish.

We've all been lied to and we've all given forgiveness for lies. We're also all guilty of the same sin we've forgiven. So why, if it's such an easy sin to

forgive, is it almost impossible to forget? There are people who have lied to me only once and I distrust them to this day. How can I get past that? The natural evangelical reply is "only through the blood of Jesus." It's a beautiful metaphor, but it's difficult to apply to the very real problem of forgetting that someone lied to you.

The honest fact is that there is no easy way to forget that you've been lied to. There may not be a way. God can toss the memory of our sins into the deepest ocean but we'll still dig

it up and relive it. The only way I can see is to make it a daily effort to forget. Every morning, wake up and pray to God that you forget the cruddy things people have done to you. It may be that the only way to recover from a lie is to make recovery a life-long goal.

I talked before about forgiveness being a walkway without resolution and I think that recovering from a lie illustrates what I meant. The most important thing, I suppose, is to remember that everyone's on the same road we are. No one's perfect.

Thorns and Thistles: Celebrating Black History Month

John Osae-Kwapong

It is the month of February and for how many years now which I have no clue, this month has been dedicated to the celebration of black history. As soon as I was served with this reminder by a Caribbean sister, because I had almost forgotten about it, I began to wonder how as a black man from Africa, I wanted to celebrate this year's black history month. I cast my mind back to the year 1997 where in my school in the Big Apple, I attended a series of very interesting lectures. There was a lecture on some very prominent black politicians who had undoubtedly left an indelible mark on black history. I even heard a lecture on the way black women are portrayed in movies here in the United States. But as I thought of the celebration of black history month for the year 1998, my second opportunity to be part of this celebration, because in Ghana I do not remember any such celebration, I wanted something different from what I did enjoy last year. However I

knew all across the US it was still going to the same old story of lecture series etc. Then I realized that to have something different I needed to create one myself and so I did. I began a sober reflection of the past history of the African continent and made a comparative analysis of African history as it stands today. It was so heart breaking to find the sharp contrast between the past and the present. Not so long ago my fellow Africans looked to the future with hope and confidence always knowing that soon African was going to enjoy her rightful position in the world order. This feeling of positive creativity has given way, in this present age, to a feeling of despair and a loss of confidence in the whole continent. Today I do not think I will be far from right in saying that my fellow Africans do get cold shivers down their spine when they try to still have hope in the once great continent which now seems to be so close to total collapse. At this point, I was drenched in tears. I know our fore fathers are turning and

twisting in their graves and with this generation helplessly looking on, having resigned themselves to fate, as if fate has it that Africa should become a dark continent some day, it also occurred to me that posterity might find it hard to forgive us if we allow some self conceived notion of Africa's fate to take its course. So this is how I decided to celebrate black history month. I closed my eyes and with firm belief that God was all ears waiting to hear what I had to ask from Him, I prayed for Africa. "Lord God please save Africa" were the very first few words I said. But as if God did not know what was happening on the continent, I heard myself saying "maybe I need to inform God about how trends have changed since the attainment of independence." Political leadership was the first issue that came to mind. To cut a long story short, by way of having to recount the acts of each African president and the atrocities he had committed, I gave God a brief summary with this very simple description

"the pimps, gamblers and prostitutes capture the imagination of the press as being the criminals in the society but the real hard core criminals are Africa's corrupt rulers who have pursued their own narrow self interest at the expense of the whole African society" and instantly I knew God had the picture alright. And with bad political leadership has come various sufferings and I could have given God a long list ranging from very devastating civil wars to severe economic hardships. The more I kept going on with today's Africa the more my heart bled with sorrow. I struggled to say "thank you Father for listening to me." I opened my eyes and became positive sure that God will certainly save Africa through the election of His own appointed ones and sister nations across the world who will give a helping hand without ulterior motives. Someday Africa will regain her lost glory. Celebrate this occasion with me by also praying for Africa. Stay alive and keep reading.

Funnies

Social Commentary

David Johnson

I know a place. A wonderful place. It is a land of untold pleasures, some exotic, many forbidden. It is where milk and honey, and, more often than not, draft beer flow like sweet, sweet nectar from on high. This place of wonder is where I find my origins. It is known everywhere by one word: Utica.

Utica (at that time it was called Nevada) was originally settled by a colony of Dutch taxidermists seeking religious and culinary asylum. In 1723 a small band of Taoist extremists revolted against the rule of Sir Germaine San Pablo, the Prime Minister at that time. Led by Corporal Lieutenant Willis Juicebone, the small band of freedom fighters killed Prime Minister San Pablo, set his mansion on fire, threw sticks at his dog, walked through his freshly grown tulips, and pillaged his chickens. For two weeks the town of Nevada was engulfed in raucous boozing and overly abundant free love. The British eventually invaded Nevada, killing all the rebels, except for a small group of orphans, and a ventriloquist who has absolutely no bearing on this article, except for the fact I need more words. In 1814, four years after the War of 1812, Nevada realized its independence from Britain. Though it had been given to them following the

American Revolution, the inhabitants were too drunk to realize it until later. When the Industrial Revolution swept America, Nevada became inundated in technology, mainly textiles. Nevada quickly became the center for bed-sheet production, and in 1836 changed its name to Sheet Town. Unfortunately, this name was often mispronounced, implying negative connotations for the city, so, through the random selection of Scrabble tiles, a new name was found: "Utica" (which by the way means "the sores on the flipper of a male walrus" in Hebrew.)

Utica truly has a fascinating history, yet it is not as well-known as say, Chicago or the Moon. Nestled in the Mohawk valley (named after the hairstyles of the "Mistertees," the Native American tribe that widely populated the Adirondacks before the coming of the white man, i.e., Ed McMahon), Utica is surrounded by luscious trees, picturesque hills, chortling rivers, and lots and lots of small stones.

Unfortunately, Uticans are unaware of these sights and national treasures as they are too busy slamming Old Milwaukee and vomiting on their Labrador Retrievers. You see, Utica, statistically speaking, has the highest burn-out ratio in the country. Transla-

tion: Every night, the entire population of Utica is reduced to a slew of unconscious, drooling organisms, stewing in their own stomach contents.

But why, you may ask, are Uticans so enthralled with liquor? Perhaps if you worked 12 hours a day at some of the jobs Utica has to offer, you would head for the keg as well. Allow me to let you peer into the thought processes of a typical Utican as he/she/it embark on their daily travels:

8:00 am: Wake up. Find out the name of the person lying in bed next to me.

8:30 am: Have a quick drink (e.g. a six-pack)

9:00 am-9:pm: Work at either a) a gas station mini-mart, b) a grocery store, or c) city hall.

9:00 am-9:00pm: Think about drinking.

And so on. In fact, a majority of Uticans drink themselves silly before, to keep up a potential drunken stupor throughout the work day. In this respect, Uticans are like alcoholic camels.

Dave, give me a break, there has got to be more things to do in Utica. Oh, of course there are. Utica has a fine museum, a decent zoo, and a gor-

geous museum. Of course most Uticans would rather have red-hot poker inserted into various body orifices than attend anything with even a smidgen of culture. Besides, Uticans can relate anything to alcohol:

"Hey, Buck! I went to this museum today, and some painting buy a guy named Jackson Pollock looked just like your puke last night!"

"I checked out the library today, Loretta! You're right, that white-out does taste like Absolut Vodka."

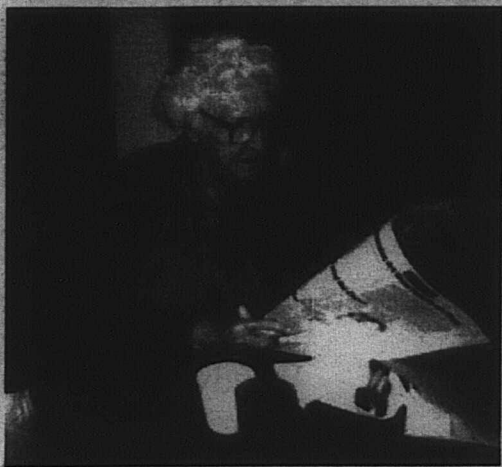
"Holy Cow, Mike. Me and Gary went to the zoo, and I saw the same snakes that were crawling up my arm on Tuesday night!"

Where else but in Utica are 12-packs considered "cocktails?" Where else but in Utica are cops frequently pulled over for DWI's? Where else but in Utica do local churches skip the bread and have the wine twice? Yes, in Utica, the atmosphere is filled with dismal feelings of gloom and despair, cultivating in a palpable mist of hopelessness. So, if you want to visit, bring your sense of adventure and fun, and be prepared to enjoy all the sights and sounds Utica has to offer!



Picture of the Week

Leeta Rannells, 102 years old, Dunlap, Iowa



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I thought the food was bad!



Professor Black- "Take me home,
country road..."

The Audience- "Please, some-
thing take him home!"



Play
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Showgirls,
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Sarah Marcum, Rhea Reed,
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Wendy Baxter