

BLOOD & THUNDER

Opinions expressed in Blood & Thunder, Opinion and Spectrum are not necessarily those of the Brunswickan, its editorial board or its publishers. We reserve the right to refuse any submission deemed unfit for publication.

IN SEARCH OF AFRICA THE MYSTERY LAND

BY ATO EGUAJUN

AFRICA NITE '94

W.E.B. Du Bois once wrote: "AFRICA is at once the most romantic and the most tragic of continents." Africa is also said to be an ancient stage on which the earliest human dramas took place.

According to renowned geographers, AFRICA was the heart of the super continent Panagaea, which subsequently broke apart, creating a continent that is larger than any continent except Asia. That was two hundred millions years ago. A common feature of the African landscape is the rocky plateau covered by grasslands and fringed by coastal escarpments; huge interior lakes feed rivers such as the Nile, Volta, Zaire(Congo) and Zambesi.

Humankind is believed to have evolved in eastern AFRICA although the exact time is still under debate. Most scientists however, put the estimate at between three to five million years ago. The first great civilization in AFRICA arose 6000 years ago on the banks of the lower Nile. The world owes a lot to Egyptian science, philosophy and culture which gained roots throughout the Mediterranean and the Kingdom of Kush on the Upper Nile. There is no doubt that Egypt's interaction with the great empires of Mesopotamia, Persia, Greece and Rome contributed to a flowering of human development.

It is against this impressive background of AFRICA that the African Students present 'FACES OF AFRICA' as a

theme for this year's Africa nite celebrations. The essence of the theme is to draw the attention of the general public to the fact that AFRICA has faces other than what is normally portrayed on TV. The common error referring to Africa as if it was one country is a point of correction here. Africa consists of fifty-six countries with over 800 languages. The cluster of different cultures from these countries make AFRICA, a land of rich cultural diversity.

It is not uncommon to see Africa associated with illiteracy, poverty, disease, civil strife and economic dependence. The tragic aspects of Africa can be attributed to unfortunate natural disasters like lack of rainfall, which in most cases result in parched lands that are not capable of supporting agriculture. Most wars that we hear about are a result of disputes over territories. The creation of boundaries without regard to ethnic groupings has been the major cause of such disputes. Needless to say, Africa is not the only continent with such disputes. Our screens are filled with similar reports from other parts of the world with each passing day.(eg. the current war in Bosnia).

On the brighter side, AFRICA is populated by a happy people who are proud of their rich culture. No matter what religion they ascribe to, Africans share two characteristics that define their indigenous traditions: a closely knit extended family system which con-

fers specific rights of kinship and the religious idea of ancestral mediators between humans and a Supreme Being.

Part of this rich culture will be on display at AFRICA NITE '94 in the sub cafeteria. Patrons will be treated to a variety of indigenous African dishes. Please get a taste of the *African Mune* dish and you will never be the same. For your eyes only will be a display of authentic AFRICAN costumes modelled by the members of the African Students Union.

A line up of traditional dances from the regions has been planned for the night. My favourite is the *SWAZI DANCE*. You must see this chiefly dance to believe it. A bit of concentration will carry you across the Atlantic, over the SAHARA (The Earth's Largest desert) to that tiny country lying comfortably within the boundaries of South Africa. If you cannot afford the airfare to visit AFRICA, this could be your only chance of tasting a part of AFRICA with only a token cover charge!!!

Ngadla, is a creation that will be performed by talented African students for the first time in the Atlantic Region.

Ever witnessed an African naming ceremony? Well, you must see a mock naming ceremony that will prepare you for such an event anytime you happen to be in AFRICA. Of course there will be, by popular request, 'THE DRUM BEAT' performed by big brother Charles. The Oldman will also be on hand to present a folktale, which is a trademark of the AFRICAN oral tradition. The most interesting aspect of this year's folktale is that the Oldman has gone HI-TECH. Parents should expect handouts from the hospitable Oldman for their kids at home.

The night will be crowned with a party. Those who will stay after the show, will have the rare opportunity to release some of their hoarded energies by dancing to real African music. There will also be music specially prepared to satisfy all tastes.

Overall, it should be an exciting evening, not only because of the food that will be served, but also because of the exposition of AFRICA'S cultural diversity. The night should prove to be as thrilling an experience as AFRICA nites have always been.

The following are the questions for the quiz. Please response to these questions, sign your names and drop them off at the gate tomorrow night. The first three correctly answered quizzes to be drawn will each WIN an

AFRICAN HERITAGE T-SHIRT. Winners will be announced during the night's proceedings. Prizes will be given to only those who score all the questions. African students and Africans within the community are AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE QUIZ:

1. Name the countries and water bodies that border the Ivory Coast.
2. Sassandra, Bandama and the Camoe rivers can be found in which African Country?
3. Felix Houphoet-Boigny was a President of the Ivory Coast who passed away a few weeks ago. How long did he rule this African Country?
4. Which countries and water bodies border Mozambique.
5. The highest altitude in Mozambique is 2436 metres. Name this altitude.
6. What was the former name of Burkina Fasso?
7. A citizen of Canada is a Canadian. What are the people of Burkina Fasso called?
8. Which countries and water bodies border Burkina Fasso?
9. The great pyramids can be found in Kenya, True or False?
10. Nelson Mandela is the current President of South Africa, True or False?

OPINION

BY STEPHANIE TOUSSAINT

CAN THE UNB ADMINISTRATION STOOP ANY LOWER?

Honour thy mother and father that thy days may be long on the land." (Exodus)
The action by the UNB administration to charge seniors who are students full tuition and other fees is a demonstration beyond any reasonable doubt, that the moral and ethical fabric of this university is being "flushed down the tubes".

This action smells of the highest level of disrespect and insensitivity towards the challenges facing our senior citizens in this community. Every civilized society has accorded its elders

(seniors) a place of privilege and honour. In every religious tradition, Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Native, Hindu and Buddhist, to name a few, this universally recognized principle of the respect and honour given to seniors has been amply demonstrated throughout the ages. The administration of the University of New Brunswick has shown a blatant disregard for this most sacred of universally recognized principles by the removal of this courtesy of free tuition to seniors.

As if this insult and disrespect to seniors was not bad enough, the UNB

administration proceeded to tell the university community and the public how much it costs to afford our seniors this courtesy which they damn well have earned! For Heaven's sake they have given us this country! Can we compensate the senior citizens of this community for the generations of sweat, toil, and tax paying which they have done to give us what we now have? Have they not fought in wars to save this democracy and those of the west? They have given us the freedoms and good quality of life which we now enjoy and often take for granted!

Is anything sacred to this university administration? If the aim as stated is to save money, why not reduce by ten percent the fifty percent free tuition given to the spouses and dependants of faculty members of the administration, faculty, and staff of UNB? Unlike most senior citizens who are on a very low and fixed income, with high medical, home care and other expenses, the members of the administration, and faculty, in particular, can afford to pay for the tuition fees of their spouses and dependants. The fact that they, the faculty staff and administration, have a powerful union and legal support, which is not the case with the senior citizens, is no justification for this outrage!

The UNB administration has demonstrated its moral ineptitude by "jumping where the fence is low!" The UNB administration has lost any respect for the dignity and humanity of senior students and the sacred principles upon which this noble institution was founded. The student union and the Canadian Federation of Students have stood by and allowed this atrocious act to occur. What a shame!


CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OR APPLICATIONS

Dr. James Downey Student Leadership Award

FIELD OF STUDY:	Unrestricted
VALUE:	Approximately \$500.
NUMBER:	One
DURATION:	One year(may be received more than once)
CONDITIONS:	Awarded on the basis of "outstanding contribution to student life" to a student who is a member of the UNB Student Union (i.e. paid the Student Activity Fee). The recipient must be in good academic standing.
NOMINATIONS:	Nominations or applications to be received by the Dean of Students.
AWARDING AGENCY:	A Committee formed by the Dean of Students to include representation from the Undergraduate Awards Office
TIMING:	Intended for presentation by the Dean of Students at the annual Student Union Awards Banquet.

Nominations and applications must be in writing and described in detail that person's "outstanding contributions to student life". While past accomplishments are significant, recent contributions will be of particular interest to the Selection Committee. To be eligible, the nominee must have been a student at UNB (i.e. paid the Student Activity Fee) this year. Consent of the nominee should be obtained by the nominator. All nominations and applications must be received at the Office of the Dean of Students, Room 8, Alumni Memorial Building by 12:00 noon on Friday, March 4, 1994.

The Attic On King



Bands play from 10 pm til 2 am
Friday & Saturday Night
February 18 & 19

AFRICA

Monday, February 28

Andrew Cash

THE ATTIC 377 King St. Fredericton
OPEN 1pm - 2am DAILY

The Home of Rock 'n' Roll