

International Students Choose ACC

By: Rosa Morrison

Some international students may encounter more difficulties getting an American education than others. Such is the case of John J. Ogonu from Nigeria.

The Nigerian government requires that everyone become educated. Ogonu, having earned his high school diploma, decided to apply for an education and admission into another country. Many forms must be filled out and presented to the appropriate embassy, including a certificate of eligibility, some countries demand a minimum of one year, proof of financing, a passport, and a health certificate. The forms are examined and approved by the Administrator of Education.

During this time, Ogonu investigated his opportunities, gave much thought to his choices, and selected America. Some of the reasons for his decision are: by 1982, his country's system of education will be exactly like America's, the American Embassy is the biggest and most popular in Nigeria, and it is the closest in relationship.

When he approached the American Consulate various universities, four year colleges, and community colleges were discussed, but the advisor repeatedly came back to Michigan. Finally, he admitted he was from Michigan! The consulate then advised a community college because of the smaller teacher-stu-

dent ratio. The student would be "under less tension and have room to cover more ground," said Ogonu, "by having a lesser number of people to learn to deal with in different situations and new surroundings."

Another of Ogonu's reasons for choosing Michigan is that one of his brothers attends a university here. Ogonu has a deep interest in human rights and wants to pursue this field of study. Because of his vocational choice, he is here under private funding which, in itself, could have difficulties connected with it. The government wanted Ogonu to major in Mechanical or Automotive Engineering. This being contrary to Ogonu's desires, he went to the guidance and Counselling Office. After much deliberation, he, at that time, decided upon public Administration. (He had applied to his government for an award, however, an award can be politically affected.)

After getting his degree here and returning to his country, Ogonu may still face some problems. His chances of employment and fair wages do not pose a problem. Discrimination may surface when he decides to further his education and go for a higher degree. The universities or colleges in Nigeria may decide that he does not have an adequate education and may require him to take one or two years of study before starting

his studies for an advanced degree.

The other international students may not have experienced the same degree of difficulties as Ogonu. They are George Odoi, from Ghana, Africa, which is approximately 250 kilometers from Nigeria, Sharokina Arsenus from Iran, Avelino J. Bello, Jose Gonzalez, Jose A. Maldorado, Miguel Rodriguez, and Odraude Vera, all from Venezuela.

Vera, who is married, has a son 1½ years old, and lives off campus with his family in an apartment house. His wife and son are living in the south for the winter months as they find our weather very difficult to tolerate. Another difficulty for Vera is the unfriendliness he encounters living in an apartment with local residents. At the University of Illinois, even though he and his family had an apartment, there was still the common ground of "student relationship" which Vera finds totally lacking in the present circumstan-

ces.

Vera is studying metallurgy under a grant from his government and chose ACC because the program offered "is not too much theory . . . very practical . . . meets my needs," he explained.

Max Lindsay, Dept. of Student Aid, said there has been a slight increase in number of international students because of more money due to the increase in oil findings, so oil producing countries are granting more scholarships for government interest studies. Bigger colleges and universities are more difficult to enter as the criteria for international students is very strict. Also, they are more expensive.

"Why do they pick ACC? The truth? Many students choose ACC," Lindsay said, "because they use a college directory and we are listed first. Sometimes it's word of mouth; a student may have a good

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Students Lose Scholarship Opportunities

A missing link exists in the U.S. between available college scholarships, grants and financial aid, and the people eligible to receive them.

"Money is going unclaimed, because people don't know where to find the funds, or they think they don't qualify," says the Director of the Student Assistance Council of America.

According to Robert Freede, author of *Cash-for-College* (Prentice-Hall), "People believe the myth that all scholarships and grants are based only on a student's financial need . . . class standing . . . or test scores. It's not true!"

"More than \$100,000,000 of school aid has gone unclaimed and unused because it has not been matched up with the proper students. Students don't bother to apply because many parents don't believe their children qualify for

financial aid," Freede says.

Yet millions of dollars in aid are available to people regardless of need or academic excellence. Total dollars available to students for college are some \$500,000,000. "Substantial amounts of money are hidden behind strange eligibility requirements, little-known trust funds, public and private grants," says Freede.

"Since you must apply to be considered, the trick is to find out about these funds. Matching scholarship sources to qualified individuals isn't a job for amateurs, as a computer is required. Even student counselors can't know more than a fraction of the over 250,000 available source items."

Scholarship Search, an arm of the Student Assistance Council, provides personalized research by computer that matches a student's

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The Wizard

By: Sharyn Owens

First of a three-part series



He came from nowhere in particular, with no apparent destination, but before he left our company, he'd changed the lives of everyone he'd known. His methods were subtle; he didn't try to draw attention to himself, yet his impact was undeniable.

His name was Sam; a drifter who claimed to have mystical powers. Indeed, all the children called him "The Wizard." I am no judge of wizardry, nor am I familiar with the occult. I can only report what I witnessed.

It was the third of August, an angry sun scorching the landscape, when Sam entered our lives. The monotonous routine of our village recoiled at this stranger's appearance; visitors never came our way. Most of the tourists preferred the modern cities that had developed along the interstate, 15 miles away.

The last time someone had stumbled over Etonville, he'd been a bank robber running from the law.

Sam parked his rustin, rattlin pickup in front of Mabel Johnson's diner, and went inside, taking in the entire restaurant at a glance, he opted for a stool near the door. Mabel shuffled her hulk over to take his order.

Midafternoon at Mabel's place is never very busy, but the eyes of all four customers, as well as those of six kids starin through the window, focused on Sam. Takin no notice of this, he ordered coffee and a ham sandwich in that slow, carefree drawl we were all to become so familiar with.

Takin my usual corner, and proppin my feet up on the juke box, I measured him carefully. If this fella was lookin for trouble, I figured me and the boys could handle him. He was about five-foot five, with broad, muscular shoulders, curly black hair and flashin black eyes. He was stout, for his size. Put me in mind of a prize bull at the county fair.

Mabel put his lunch in front of him, burstin with curiosity. Like I said, strangers are a novelty in Etonville. Even Mabel couldn't think of anythin to say to the man. As she turned away, he spoke, in a suprisingly musical voice, askin where the nearest lodgins could be

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