

# Student collects used clothes to sell in Ghana



SCOTT MILER, NORTH TEXAS DAILY, U. OF NORTH TEXAS, DENTON

Akwasi Botang collected 16,000 articles of used clothing to sell in Ghana, West Africa.

By Leslie Hueholt  
 ■ The North Texas Daily  
 U. of North Texas

A U. of North Texas graduate student has purchased 16,000 articles of used clothing to sell in Africa.

Akwasi Botang will be on his way home to Ghana, West Africa, to accomplish his mission of selling clothing in an impoverished country.

For more than a year, Botang visited garage sales and searched for unclaimed clothes in laundromats. Botang's findings have left him with enough clothing to make a difference in a place that is close to his heart.

"I've been thinking about doing this for a long time because when I first came here (in 1983), I noticed an abundance of waste. I grew up in a society where there was so much poverty. Here, people throw away usable stuff on a daily basis.

"Incomes are low in Africa and many people can't afford to pay even \$15 for a pair of jeans," Botang said.

"I saw what Goodwill stores were doing. Goodwill is a multimillion dollar industry and it survives on used clothing. I figured inexpensive jeans would make it big in the African market," Botang said.

Botang's clothing collection consists primarily of blue jeans, he said. "I think there's a market for jeans everywhere. A friend of mine goes all over Texas and gathers large amounts of jeans (3,000 pairs) for me."

Botang said he hopes to return to West Africa this summer with five or 10 times as many articles of clothing as he has right now. He said his luck in finding inexpensive deals and contributions

should improve during the summer.

"Spring and summer are the best times to go to garage sales because the weather is good and people like to clean and get rid of old clothes during these times," Botang said.

Botang has received several loans that help him maintain his business and transport the cargo to Africa, he said.

"I borrow here and there and my student loan helps. I don't even know how I'm going to pay my rent next month because I put everything into the business. I'm a student and I have little savings."

Transportation of the clothing is the most expensive part of Botang's business.

"It costs about \$4,000 to ship the clothes to Africa. I'm paying an average of 22 cents to ship each pair of jeans."

**THIS  
IS  
NOT  
A  
MARKER.**

But It  
Applies  
Vivid  
Color.

## Work Abroad

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Britian" program is co-sponsored by British Universities North America Club and the exchange.

Northern Arizona U. freshman Kerry Ann Chapely discovered the BUNAC program when she was searching for a job overseas. She was primarily interested in living and working in England.

"I looked into a lot of different opportunities before I decided on the BUNAC program," she said.

After working in Northern England from July to December 1988, Chapely said, "You experience a whole different perspective by actually living and work-

ing there than you do just traveling" in England, a participant earns as much as a British worker would for performing the same task.

A former Michigan State geography major, Ann Callanan, went to London last June for six months through the Council on International Educational Exchange and found a job in two days.

Students should obtain passports in advance because they sometimes take as long as eight weeks to process. Council Travel, a travel division of the exchange, helps students obtain I.D. cards, airline tickets and reservations. Student I.D. cards provide additional discounts.

"My I.D. card came in handy," Callanan said. "Especially in Ireland and Italy. I used it for discounts on my

rail tickets on the continent and ferry tickets to the islands.

Chapley worked in Northern England, a depressed area. Most people who worked in London made two to three times more money.

To apply for work in countries where English is not the primary language, proof of language proficiency must be demonstrated before students are admitted to the program. The process usually takes three weeks.

Each country has specific time periods in which work visas may be issued: West Germany, Costa Rica and Jamaica begin June 1; New Zealand begins its program in the spring. All four countries' work visas expire October 1.

In Great Britain, students can work for six months at any time during the year.

## Cowpatties

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run lights, milking machines and motors costs \$400 to \$500 per month.

Lehman estimated the process will save Mason approximately \$30 per month.

While the biogas helps shrink energy

bills, another product of the process helps grow plants.

The sludge left after the biogas has been siphoned off can be further separated into a liquid and a solid.

The liquid part of the sludge is a high-grade fertilizer, which Lehman said is actually better than raw manure. Changes occur during the breakdown which make the nutrients in the liquid

sludge more available to plants.

The solid part of the sludge is a rich foamy material that can be used for animal bedding or potting soil.

Lehman said that since the solid still has some nutritional value, it can also be used as a feed supplement for the cows.

Although this may not sound very appetizing, the cows don't seem to be offended by the broken-down manure.

**FRAZZLED**



**COLLEGE LESSON #27:**  
WHEN LOOKING FOR SYMPATHY...  
PLAY TO THE PROPER AUDIENCE!

DAVE PETRONI, CALIFORNIA AGGIE, U. OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

