

Northeast Today



MONDAY, Aug. 2, 1982

HAPPENINGS

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 4

7 p.m. "Close Encounters of the Third Kind,"
Aud, BH

SATURDAY, Aug. 7

9 a.m. Campus Run

"CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND," will be shown at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Baldwin Hall Auditorium. The movie is sponsored by the Student Activities Board. Admission is \$1.

A **CAMPUS RUN** sponsored by Four Seasons Sports in conjunction with the Summer Recreation Program will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday. The run is 1.7 miles long. There is no entry fee and a gift certificate from Four Seasons Sports will be awarded as first prize. Participants should meet at Stokes Stadium at 8:45 a.m.

"**A TIME FOR REMEMBERING**" Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be sponsored by the World Peace Organization and the Wesley House at 3 p.m. Friday at the fountain in front of the Student Union Building. Everyone is welcome.

VEHICLE PARKING STICKERS for full-time staff and faculty members (including TPTA's) are now available at Safety and Security. Remember that you will need your license number.

SUMMER RECREATION softball and volleyball schedules for this week are listed below. Volleyball games are played in the Pershing Building.

SOFTBALL

Monday:
5:30 p.m. The Hawks vs. Sluggers
7 p.m. AKL vs. Stein Club

Wednesday:
5:30 p.m. AKL vs. Sluggers
7 p.m. A.G.P.A.T.T. vs. The Hawks

VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday:
5:30 p.m. Mass Confusion vs. Jammers
6:30 p.m. Roof's Woofs vs. Uno Setters
7:30 p.m. A.G.P.A.T.T. vs. The Nets
8:30 p.m. Witte's Wonders vs. Individuals

Thursday:
5:30 p.m. Mass Confusion vs. Individuals
6:30 p.m. Roof's Woofs vs. The Nets
7:30 p.m. A.G.P.A.T.T. vs. Jammers
8:30 p.m. Witte's Wonders vs. Uno Setters

From Trinidad to Kirksville- Around the world in 30 years

by Deb Woodson, student intern

After catering to the whims of presidents and queens, answering the call of the books during finals week at NMSU may sound like a form of torture. But A.C. (Ming) Johnson heard that call and returned to Kirksville after seven years as aide to Ellis Clark, president of Trinidad, a small island off the coast of South America.

Now that he's back, Ming has found the Kirksville he remembered, and he likes what he's found.

Ming first arrived in Kirksville in 1949 and stayed five years to earn two bachelor's degrees and a master's degree before returning to Trinidad in 1953. After a career as a teacher, Ming joined the Trinidad Defense Force which was organized in 1962 when Trinidad declared its independence from Britain.

He chose to take a one-year tour of duty as a presidential aide and ended up serving in that capacity for seven years. "If you wanted to see the president," he said, "I was the man to see." He was in charge of making sure that all of the details in the president's life were in order.

Ming's stories of his life with the president sound like something from a novel. He recalls visiting casually with Queen Juliana of Holland after a large party. He found her to be charming and had little recognition of her royal title, he said.

One can't imagine traveling in style until he has traveled with a dignitary, Ming says. But traveling arrangements are one of the most difficult aspects of his job. The president must not be kept waiting too long at any one place so all trips to and from airports and motels must be timed beforehand.

Staying in the finest hotels and being pampered by everyone he met differed greatly from living in the dormitory and fraternity house on the campus at Northeast. Yet when Ming felt that he had "lost Ming Johnson, as an individual," it was to Kirksville that he came to find himself.

"The best years of my life have been in Kirksville," Ming says. "People accepted me like I didn't expect they would." He was, in fact, accepted in many circles at Northeast when he came here 30 years ago. He filled his hours with fraternity membership, Student Council, clubs and cheerleading.

Oddly enough, it was a game of cricket that brought Ming to NMSU in the first place. When he first arrived in the U.S. in December of 1948, he began school at Howard University, Washington, D.C. He joined a group of students who went to St. Louis to find summer jobs at the end of his first semester. One evening he saw a group of fellows playing a game of cricket. He soon joined in and made friends with them.

One of the boys was making a trip to Kirksville and invited Ming to go with him. It was on the steps of the Kirk Memorial that Dr. Walter Ryle found him and explained his

new foreign student program. Ming says he was convinced and came to Kirksville, not even returning to Howard for his clothes.

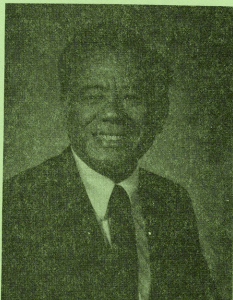
Because Ming did not have his own transportation in Kirksville, his world revolved around his activities on campus. "I never knew the town beyond the square," he said. At that time he felt as if he was missing something of the outside world. Now that he has returned to Kirksville and lives alone, he appreciates those days.

In some ways, Northeast is the same for Ming, but in many others, it is not. He remembers his days as pepmaster and emphasizes that everyone attended the basketball games and gathered to send the team off to out-of-town games with a cheer.

Because the college was so small, Ming knew most of the people he encountered on campus. He remembers smiling and talking to people as he met them on the sidewalks. He finds that same friendliness on campus today. It is in Kirksville that he finds "the last visage of people being able to smile."

Ming feels that he has found himself to some degree during his year in Kirksville. But, like many of his fellow graduates, he found himself unsure of his next step in May. He may go back and assume his position of presidential aide again. He misses his work with the president. "It was difficult to leave, but I had to," he said. Yet, now that he is here in Kirksville, he is not sure that he wants to return to Trinidad. He would like to earn a PhD. to complete his education.

Ming may continue to search for himself but he will probably always find a large piece of Ming Johnson right here in Kirksville.



A.C. (Ming) Johnson