

Africa

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whose cultures and wildlife remain exotic to many westerners. "I learned so much about the cultures, customs, geology and wildlife. These are only things I've read about and never thought I would see," said Rudolph who observed the instinctual banding together of certain animals. "The zebras travel in herds with wildebeests and impalas in order to protect themselves from larger and quicker predators. They have ways of alerting each other to danger." She also made acquaintances with giraffes and many baboons, which she thought, closely mirrored humans.

"The baboons were all around camp. They were hysterical because they were sort of like people," she said.

Her agenda resembled that of a touring rock band, leaving and arriving somewhere new almost daily. Her longest stay was a four day stint in South Africa. "We were running constantly, moving fast through the different countries," Rudolph said. "It was so exciting, I enjoyed every minute of it."

The travellers were transported mainly by a private plane. They had to travel very light, bringing only one suitcase and an overnight bag.

The "tour guides" on the trip included published anthropolo-

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Marilyn Rudolph
Back from Africa

gists, ornithologists and geologists who lectured on many aspects of each country or region they visited. These lectures often took place during the flights between countries. "The representatives not only pointed out all of the beauty, but also the desecration of land by the indigenous people of some countries," said Rudolph. "They don't understand they can't keep cutting down trees. There is a depletion in the population of animals. For example, many rare birds endemic to Africa have disappeared."

With some days beginning as early as 5 a.m., there was plenty of time to go see the sites. During her stay in South Africa, Rudolph visited the diamond mines of Kimberley. "It's a tremendously deep excavation and it was dug entirely by hand," she said. Mass diamond mining started in Kimberley in the 1860's.

Also in South Africa, she travelled on the Blue Train, a luxury train, from Pretoria to Cape Town. During the ride she saw countryside full of vineyards and beautiful fruit trees. While in Zimbabwe, in south central Africa she saw the Victoria Falls. The falls are on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe and descend 350 feet. "It was an exciting place, tremendous falls," recalls Rudolph, who stayed at the Victoria Falls luxury hotel.

But she wasn't always riding on luxury trains and staying in luxury hotels. One night just after dusk, Rudolph and some other explorers headed out into plains in the Cougar National Preserve in Sabi Sabi in a topless Range Rover. "In the moonlight we watched a lion pride hunting for dinner," she explained.

There were seven lions no more than 20 feet from the car. "I asked the guide if they ever turned on you. He said no, but we weren't allowed to stand or make any sudden movements," she recalled of her experience with the 450 pound animal. "The male lion didn't get his Impala, so I think he was very frustrated," she said with a giggle.

Although Rudolph said she had "a feeling of great wonderment" while seeing the lions, she couldn't come up with the words to describe her uncommon, adventurous and educational trip into Africa. But with the gleam in her eye and the excitement in her voice, she didn't have to.

Penn State holds lyric consort Feb. 29

Penn State Wilkes-Barre will present a concert by The Lyric Consort on Sun. Feb. 23, at 8 p.m. in the community room of Hayfield House at the campus in Lehman. The concert is free and open to the community.

The program by the eight-voice professional vocal ensemble, entitled "An Assemblage of Imperfections," will feature secular music of the Italian Renaissance.

The Lyric Consort, formed in 1993, is dedicated to historically informed performance of the a cappella repertoires of the 15th and 16th centuries.

Refreshments will be served following the concert. For more information, call the campus at 675-2171.



The congregation of Gate of Heaven Parish in Dallas is moving to replace the church that has been in use for more than 40 years. The present worship area is below the school.

Church

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project of the Scranton Diocese, but must be planned and financed largely by the local parish. "Our congregation will be very, very involved in this," Fr. Cappelloni said. Final plans must meet the approval of a Diocesan Building Committee and local zoning requirements.

In addition to the "Dream Team," a finance committee and building committee will be formed, each with members who have expertise in their fields. Fr. Cappelloni announced the plans to the congregation Feb. 9, and believes the idea will get a positive reaction. "I think we're excited about it. I know I am," he said.

Joseph Gilroy of Dallas is one of the congregants involved in planning for the new church. His family has belonged to Gate of Heaven for about 15 years. A realtor, he helped out with the purchase of the lot on Machell Ave. "I think you'll get more out of the services," in a more traditional church, he said. But he

Lake-Lehman

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upper level math course, a social science course, creative writing, and journalism. "These will be courses that can be transferred to any four-year institution," Price said. Price also said he believes the proposal would give more students the opportunity to take college courses.

Price also updated parents of middle school students on the district's efforts to deal with problems with the building. To deal with next year's junior high population surge, the district purchased used cafeteria tables and desks at reduced prices. Price announced that 50 additional desks were purchased at a cost of \$15 per desk. Cafeteria tables, which normally sell for \$800-\$950, were purchased for \$20 per table.

Price also said additional textbooks were requisitioned. The district has yet to settle staffing and space inadequacies, but Price believes staffing problems will be resolved through transfers and the hiring of long-term substitutes. Modular units have been put out for bid to solve space problems.

During the board's work session, Nancy Kohl, Regional Manager of Nutrition Inc., gave a presentation on a study performed by the company on the district's food service program. Nutrition Inc. has been working with the district since January 6. Kohl said, "Lake-Lehman has a solid basic food program," but she went on to explain that the district is in violation of some state and federal regulations and could use improvement in several areas.

One violation Kohl noted was "overt identification of free and reduced lunch students." Students who receive free or reduced lunches are given different color lunch tickets. Kohl said that this is considered discrimination.

Other problems that Kohl pointed out included an ineffi-

cient advanced ticket sales system and inconsistent pricing between schools in the district.

Kohl also explained that the funding. He listed improved acoustics, stained-glass windows and a properly-designed sanctuary as some of the improvements that can be incorporated into a new facility. "A new building will enhance our worship," he said.

The growing school had taken all of the parish's time and attention until recently. About eight years ago, it became a joint project with St. Therese's in Shavertown, Our Lady of Victory at Harveys Lake, and St. Francis Cabrini in Carverton.

The present church is situated on the first floor of the building, below a set of classrooms. On the ceiling, white foam covers thick steel beams that support the second floor. The choir is at the back of the room, while the sanctuary is at the front. Light floods the room through large clear-glass windows that look out on parking areas on both sides of the worship area.

The congregation will be involved in all aspects of the project, Fr. Cappelloni said, from the building's design and location to

school district's current food buying system costs the district 18-20 percent more than schools that receive discounts for buying in large quantities from one food manufacturer. Under the current system, the district buys each food item from a single manufacturer who offers the lowest price. Switching to a one food manufacturer system would allow the district to take advantage of bulk discounts and give the schools a better idea of when to expect certain types of foods.

The new building, while not a sure thing, is supported by Bishop James Timlin, who feels there should be a freestanding church in Dallas, Fr. Cappelloni said. What form that might take is not yet certain; it could be on the adjacent property or where parking lots are now, or even attached to the present building in some way.

If the church is built, the space it now occupies likely will be turned over to the school, possibly for pre-school classes, Fr. Cappelloni said.

Gilroy emphasized that the parish had only begun the project, and would need to obtain approval from Dallas Borough before proceeding.

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Dr. William Price
Lake-Lehman superintendent

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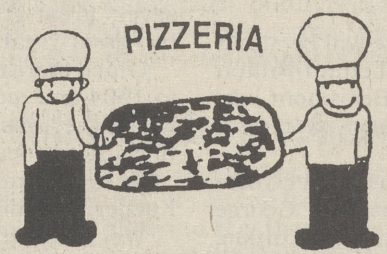
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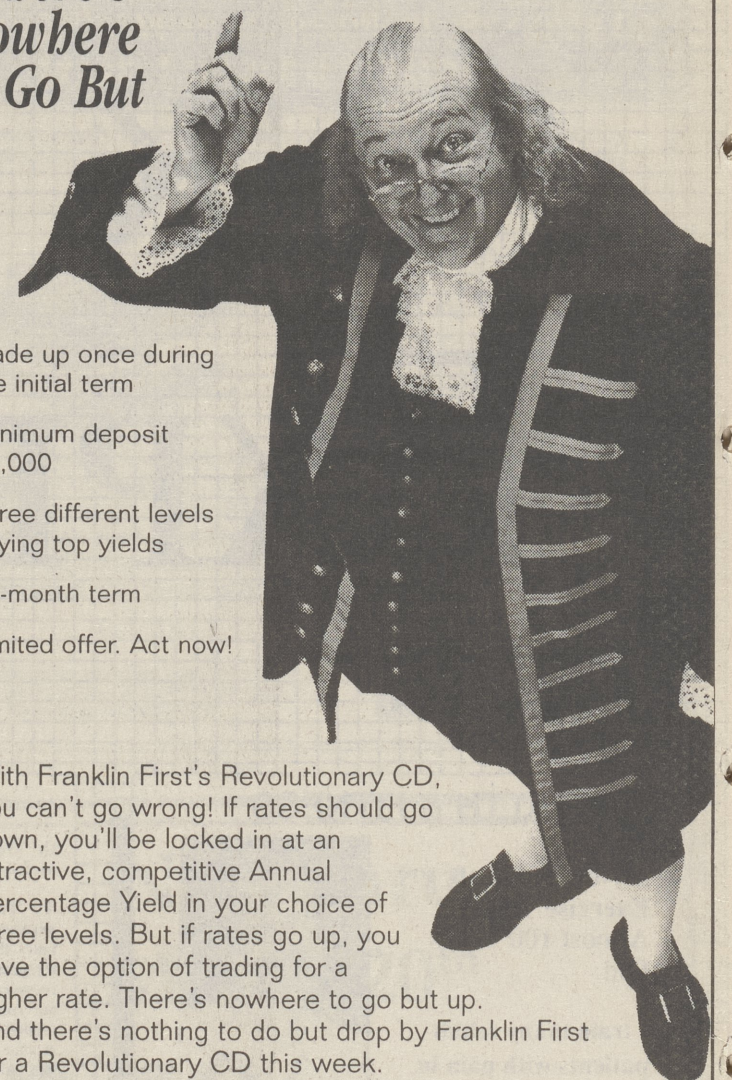
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