

Sad commentary on Ibo life in Africa

Okwonko is the main character in this narrative set in an Ibo village in Nigeria. Even though the story is primarily fictional, many of the incidents are based on truth. Achebe does a superb job of acquainting readers with Ibo rituals, traditions and events. In the back of the book is a glossary defining words and phrases used consistently throughout.

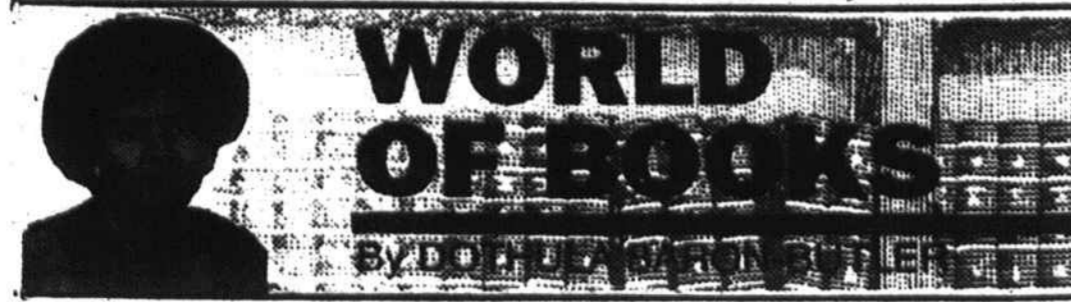
Things Fall Apart (by Chinua Achebe, Fawcett Crest, 1959) is an account of Okwonko's rise and fall from power in the Umuofia village. As a young man he had been the greatest wrestler in the nine villages. He became a wealthy farmer, had three wives (a sign of success), had two barns full of yams and attained two titles. This was especially significant because he had not inherited the land or the titles from

his father, who had been a lazy farmer. Okwonko worked his way up through sharecropping, which meant he got only one-third of the

to Okwonko in his quest for success and power. But this ambitious leader believed himself supreme, disrespected village customs, and

of the century. Even though Okwonko carries much of the blame for the fall of the village customs and traditions, the coming of the white man was the final factor which led to the downfall of the old ways.

This documentary not only raises strong emotion but also leads one to think intently about colonialism in Africa during this critical period and the recurring social statement made by western civilization with regard to Africans, African-Americans, and Native Americans at various points in history. Though attempts have often been made to destroy the spirit of these peoples, the damage has not been permanent, for the true spirit of a people can never be permanently damaged — it comes from the soul. It comes from within.



harvest. But rise to the top he did! Though in his fervor and respect for strength and power, he often abused his wives and children. He harbored mercy for no one. He abhorred weakness and gentleness in anyone. *Chi* is the Ibo word for personal god. Okwonko's personal god was obviously good; he said "yes"

offended the Oracle of the Hills and the Caves. During his last years he was banished from his village and lost his leadership to white missionaries and their westernized system of government. His life ultimately ended tragically. *Things Fall Apart* is a sad commentary on Ibo life at the turn

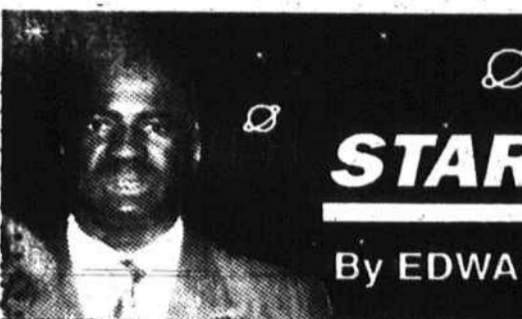
Physicist Albert Einstein and the bomb

I try to keep this article within the limits of astronomy as much as possible, that is, to present a general outlook of what astronomers have found to be correct and not correct in the past and present in their investigation of the heavens. Even though astronomy today is tied to

you attached to the essay on the history of our people (meaning scientists as a group). "One cannot avoid the feeling that one ought to do something to avert the threatening doom. Such action may possibly appear more promising to you than it does to me;

the Special Theory of Relativity. Once the theory existed, the conclusion also existed and could not have remained concealed for any length of time. As for the theory itself, it

owes its existence to the efforts to discover the properties of the 'luminous ether!' There was never even the slightest indication of any potential technological application."



STARWATCH

By EDWARD A. ALLEN

In many other subjects, this article is admittedly off the mark. A few weeks ago, I was within hearing distance of a debate concerning the physicist Albert Einstein. After half a century and countless books on the subject, many people still think Einstein had a part in the making of the Atom Bomb. This misconception derives its strength from two occurrences: the fact that Einstein signed a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Einstein's formula $E=mc^2$.

Space will not permit me to give all the details that prompted Einstein to sign his name to the letter, but it had become clear to a small group of physicists of the military possibilities of uranium fission. It was obvious that large amounts of materials would be required, more than any university laboratory could afford. Leo Szilard and Eugene Wigner conferred with Einstein and decided to appeal to President Roosevelt. Einstein did not even know a bomb was being built. I will enter this letter next week. First, I would like to give the letter that was the answer from Einstein to Professor Jules Isaac, a French historian that asked whether Einstein should not have had the foresight to predict the possibly dangerous "consequences of his equations" when he first published the Relativity Theory in 1905.

Albert Einstein's answer to Jules Isaac (February 28, 1955):

"I have read your illuminating pamphlet with great interest, as well as the straightforward letter which

for I live in one of the two prime centers of political fever. Things have reached a point where only a handful of people are left with whom one can enjoy a quiet talk. Fear, hatred, and petty personal concerns dominate the actions of everyone, driving nations and men, including scientists, toward the final catastrophe. One can no longer ascertain who does the driving and who is driven. Virtually everyone is aware that the alternative is either a secure peace on a supranational basis or universal doom. But when men are given even the slightest chance of acting in accordance with this knowledge, they fail to do anything; they are victims of the very social pressure to which they themselves have contributed. I suppose this has always been the case, but never before have the consequences been of such a global scope.

"Now you seem to believe that I, poor fellow that I am, by discovering and publishing the relationship between mass and energy, made an important contribution to the lamentable situation in which we find ourselves today. You suggest that I should then, in 1905, have foreseen the possible development of atomic bombs. But this was quite impossible since the accomplishment of a 'chain reaction' was dependent on the existence of empirical data that could hardly have been anticipated in 1905. But even if such knowledge had been available, it would have been ridiculous to attempt to conceal the particular conclusion resulting from

Mayoral staff review ends

Mayor Martha S. Wood, the Board of Aldermen, and administrative staff concluded a two-day workshop held at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum on Tuesday, March 26. The mayor, board and staff reviewed the work completed over the current fiscal year pertaining to four areas of priority identified a year ago. Those areas are economic development; drugs, crime, and public safety; budget, finance, and taxes; and working relations. Assistant city managers and department heads gave reports on the progress city government has made during the year on strategies set by the Board.

The Board then identified three additional areas of focus for the upcoming fiscal year. The new areas of concentration are: environment and solid waste, community development, and urban/regional planning and coordination. In Tuesday's session, goals and strategies were set to address these issues.

The Board also adopted a mission statement for city government — "The mission of the City of Winston-Salem is to provide effective and efficient municipal services which ensure the health, safety, and well-being of

its citizens with dedication to openness, integrity, equity and accountability." The purpose of this statement is to provide an instrument by which the board can measure its actions in setting operating policies for city government.

Their last item of business was to review proposed guidelines for effective Board and committee meetings. After discussion by Board members, city staff will make adjustments to the proposed document and will present it to the Board for adoption at a later date.

Mayor Wood said, "I feel very good about where we and staff have come in addressing those issues we identified last year. Citizens, government and businesses have begun to work together in an unprecedented fashion. We have a list of accomplishments of which we can all be proud." Wood added, "Our new areas of focus are a natural extension to last year's items. It is exciting to look forward to building upon a solid workplan for the community."

City Manager Bryce A. Stuart and his staff will now incorporate the three new areas of focus into the annual workplan for next year.



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MADE IN THE



Meet Miss America, 1991 at Belk

Marjorie Judith Vincent, this year's reigning Miss America, is a champion of the U.S. textile and apparel industry and you'll find nothing in her wardrobe that doesn't bear the Made in the USA tag.

This 25-year old, third year law student at Duke University has taken a leave from her studies to be the spokesperson for the Crafted With Pride In USA Council as Miss America, 1991.

We're proud to have her in our Hanes Mall store this Tuesday, April 9 from 12:00 to 1:30 for a MADE IN THE USA fashion show and autograph session.

Be sure to see the wide variety of MADE IN THE USA fashions at Belk. We're proud of our country and we support U.S. manufacturers and jobs for Americans.

April 6th - Sample homemade ice cream in the Housewares Department on Level II 11:00 AM - 1:00PM.

April 9th - "American Lifestyle" Fashion Show featuring "Made in the USA" merchandise. Show Time 12:00PM Level II in the Cosmetic Area. Meet Miss America following the Fashion Show.



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