

# ONE WAR

## *Different Perspectives*

Kathleen Frey  
Features Editor

*This section includes a letter sent from Michael Orleans, who lives in Cape Coast, Ghana. He is responding to an e-mail sent by an Elon faculty member.*

If you listen closely to the conversations around the gas pumps at the BP on Haggard Avenue, you might hear a few complaints about expensive gasoline.

According to a Feb. 19 article in the New York Times, national gasoline prices are hovering around \$2 a gallon. However, compared with other countries, gas in the U.S. is still a good deal.

Last March, a gallon of gasoline—or

petrol—in Ghana cost an equivalent of \$1.50 U.S. dollars and the price has since been steadily rising.

For Michael Orleans, a native of Ghana, this increase can impact every aspect of daily life.

Three years ago, Tom Arcaro, an Elon sociology professor, met Orleans during a faculty study abroad trip to Cape Coast, Ghana. The two have continued to correspond through e-mail.

In his most recent letter, Orleans writes about Kofi Annan, the U.N. Secretary General, rising petrol prices and the possibility of America going to war with Iraq.

Arcaro shared the e-mail with his sociology theory class.

"In general, students should be curious about what people are thinking around the world," he said.

Hello Mr. Tom,

Good to hear from you very soon. I hope you are doing fine over there.

Okay, all that you said was true that Mr. Kofi Annan is just at the top as U.N. Secretary General, but he is being controlled by the United States. They tell him what to do and he can't do nothing against their wish. And at the moment, the U.S. is more likely than the U.N. to control the world. They are more powerful among the superpowers, so nobody can stop them apart from God.

I'm much concerned about people who are going to lose their life and the petrol price, which is going to rise again because if something like that [a war] happens, we Africans are going to suffer. Even at the moment here in Ghana the petrol price has been increased to 100 percent, so what do you think if the U.S. goes to war in Iraq, what will happen here?

Now things are very hard here in Ghana because of the increase of the petrol price. And I'm really among those people who are suffering so we are all hoping that U.S. will do something about this issue because if the war really comes, we are going to suffer.

Well I will end here and hope to hear from you very soon.

Michael

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