

Looking for Lockerbie

TWO NEWHOUSE PROFESSORS
AND THEIR STUDENTS CHRONICLE LIFE
IN THE SCOTTISH COMMUNITY
FOREVER TIED TO SU

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY AND LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND, are eternally linked to that December day two decades ago when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard Pan Am Flight 103 in the sky over the Scottish community. Yet out of that heinous moment in history, a special relationship was forged between the two communities. Like many who lost family and friends in the incident, Newhouse photography professor Lawrence Mason Jr. was welcomed by residents when he visited the town and majestic countryside that had been turned into hell on Earth in 1988. He cherished the memories of his students who would never return home. But after that 1996 visit, Mason came to realize Lockerbie was much more than the site of a colossal tragedy. The community captivated him. He returned again and again, eventually deciding to create a project aimed at documenting Lockerbie and its residents. During the next decade, Mason worked with student photographers and writers and Newhouse magazine professor Melissa Chessher to produce *Looking for Lockerbie*, published last fall by Worldwide Orange Publications, [distributed by Syracuse University Press](#), and excerpted here. (Authors' profits from book sales are donated to the Lockerbie Trust, which supports two Lockerbie Scholars who study at SU each year.) Through a series of photos and essays, the book chronicles life in the Scottish community, from its historic roots to its Gala Day festivities, from the irrepressible headmaster of Lockerbie Academy to the last milkman, from the aftermath of that devastating December day to all that has come into being because of it. "Lockardians demonstrated grace and resilience through a horrific experience on a world stage, and they work, shop, and live their lives in a part of the world we have grown to appreciate and to love," Mason writes. "We could never repay their kindness, generosity, and hospitality. But we can share our affection with a world that knows only a small part of their story."

—Jay Cox





START AUDIO SLIDE SHOW



About 30 students ages 5 to 11 attend Applegarth Primary, a small, rural school, which means everyone learns—and plays—together.

PHOTO | LISA CASWELL



Moira Shearer and Elme Pringle are two of the washerwomen of Lockerbie who tended to the clothes of all the victims of Pan Am Flight 103.

PHOTO | ALICIA HANSEN

The Tower Fish Bar in Lockerbie, *right*

PHOTO | LAWRENCE MASON JR.

"It was a long day for Vincent. He started early, before noon, washing potatoes in the basement. ... His stamina impressed me. At one point, he waved to somebody outside. 'That's Gideon,' he said, 'down the pub for an hour and then back home. Should be in for a fish supper soon.'"

—Ryan Van Winkle



Headmaster Graham Herbert stands in the cafeteria during the lunch rush at Lockerbie Academy.

PHOTO | ALICIA HANSEN

“Inside the school, his secret weapon is the walk because these strolls occasionally yield evidence of the school’s naughties. Yes, that’s what they call disruptive students—the naughties, which is a rather perfect description of their acts (more Monty Python sketch than school lock-down material). In fact, I spent some time with the man who oversees students identified as ‘naughty,’ and he showed me a form from the Behaviour Support Project that identified 12 traits teachers must track. My favorites: needs nagging to work, plays fool to attract attention, and makes silly noises. Yes, they monitor silly noises.”

—Melissa Chessher

