DEAR EDITOR,

Your article explaining the speech patterns, pronunciations, and phrases which seem particular to Pittsburgh ("Voices Carry," by John Herbst, Winter 1996/97, page 147, 159) would have rung truer to my ears had you correctly identified the author of Jane Eyre. [See "Corrections" below.] It is a small mistake, but a glaring one.

Nevertheless, I am impressed by the efforts of the Historical Society to preserve the rich cultural legacy of the land of my birth. Had you seen the Pittsburgh of the 1940s, as I did, you would have experienced not only the "traditions of vernacular architecture" of Britain [a reference to the "Voices Carry" article], but its architecture of brick and stone, as well. Only after visiting London and Edinburgh did I realize how "British" Pittsburgh once was. Grime and soot were not the only things that vanished in the Lawrence-Mellon Renaissance [immediately following World War II].

My parents and I moved to California in 1955. When I return to Pittsburgh to visit family, I am struck most by its dark night skies. Never once in my early years did I think the orange fires of the Bessemeres would be extinguished and blackness returned to the valleys.

I look forward to my first visit to the Senator John Heinz [Pittsburgh Regional] History Center this summer. Good wishes for your continued success.

Dee Fratus
Larkspur, Calif.

Corrections

In "Down the Depression River," by Frank Dale (Fall 1996), the location for a photograph of the bridge, page 110-111, was incorrectly identified as the vicinity of the Sixth Street Bridge on the Allegheny River. In fact, the photo was taken near the 16th Street Bridge. In addition, according to reader Bill Metzger of Pittsburgh, the year that the photograph on page 109 of the article was taken can be determined more closely than "c. 1930," as the caption reads. Metzger dates the bridge as May or early June of 1927. In the photo, only half of the Sixth Street Bridge appears to be spanning the Allegheny. Metzger says that the first half of the bridge was removed in May 1927 and floated downstream to be relocated on the Ohio River between Coraopolis and Neville Island, while the second half didn't go down-river until June.

In "The Great Sneeze: James Vale Downie, Writer, 1883-1962," by Rex Downie Jr. (Fall 1996, page 132 and 128 respectively), it was incorrectly stated that Keystone Driller Co. of Beaver Falls, Pa., closed in 1931, and by Summer 1939 no longer existed. But according to Harold Ruttenberg of Pittsburgh, who, along with Thomas P. Johnson purchased the corporation in 1951, the firm operated through much of the 1940s. Ruttenberg says Keystone Driller remained in Beaver Falls until 1959, when it was moved to Springfield, Ohio, and later to Enid, Okla., where it was combined with Franks Machine Co.


In "The Creation of Allegheny County," by John Caldwell (Spring 1997, page 29), the result of a legislative vote was inadvertently reversed. A motion to take a "bill up by paragraphs" did not pass 33 to 23, as stated, but rather failed to pass by that vote count.

Finally, in "Leather Bound: Nineteenth-Century Leather Tanners in Allegheny City," by David S. Rotenstein (Spring 1997, page 33), the patriarch of the Groetzinger family leather business was incorrectly identified as Christian. His correct name was Christopher.