

# TSM

The Sunday Magazine



SUNDAY MAGAZINE VOL. 2, NO. 23, OCTOBER 21, 1990 Price: N5.00



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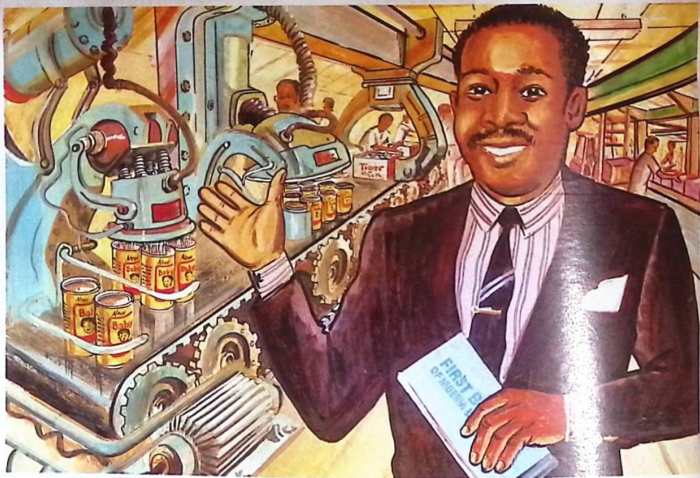
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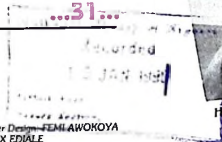
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Liberian girl



Hunter Clay...hunting for dollars



Cover Design: FEMI AWOKOYA  
FELIX EDIALE



People's Bank



Agbakoba...three years of CLO

## A letter from the Editor - in-Chief

s the Liberian situation continues to degenerate, more and more of the gory details are flowing out with the arrival of refugees. The story we have for you this week has all the makings of a best seller fiction novel. A theatre of war where wine, women and drugs flow freely, where the major characters openly indulge in the rape of young women for entertainment; where people are invited to a party and the host turns around to eliminate his guests one by one. It all sounds so bizarre and unreal.

Even more bizarre is a close-up on the dramatic persona: Prince Yormie Johnson.

Last week there was this story on how he killed the boss of a five-star hotel to woo his subordinate - a young beauty queen.

The woman involved, a former Miss Africa, identifies herself as Annie Brodericks. Earlier reports had called her "Julie." She's a woman who has crossed paths with all the major characters involved in the Liberian conflict - Doe, Taylor, Johnson and even Amos Sawyer.

Annie is a journalist who has worked on Liberian Radio, edited a newspaper, gone to Law School, functioned as Public Relations Officer for one of Doe's Ministers and lately became the Administrative Manager of African Hotel - the only functioning international hotel in Liberia. Annie is an interesting character. She's been around enough and seen things up close, close enough to make Doe and Johnson fear her.

Annie arrived here last week after smuggling herself into the Nigerian Naval Boat, River Uli. Her story told to TSM Editor is as revealing as it is confusing.

*Chris*

# TSM

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## That Ibrahim Alfa interview

Y our "Confessions of a Retired General" featuring retired Air Marshal Ibrahim Alfa made very interesting reading. However, Alfa goaded due to his over-militarized political reasoning. Of what use, if we may ask, is an election if elected civilians must, every morning, table each of their governmental decisions for approval at the military barracks before implementation? Is the army above the ballot box in Africa? Or was Alfa unwittingly confirming the suspicion that the Third Republic won't last a day? Alfa has raised more thorny questions in the minds of Nigerians by saying that those who are going to pilot the affairs of the country in the incoming civilian republic have to be "discussing with the military." He even added, "you don't make a red-carpet decision just because you are elected, without discussing it with those in the forces." Now, what does that mean?

If Ibrahim Alfa is indeed an apostle of Diarchy, as he remotely suggested, then he needs to have more private hours with Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe.

**Sarmi Ukaeng**  
66 Old Market Road,  
Onitsha.

## Calling Eno Eto

Y our story on the plight of Eno Eto (*TSM* Vol 2 No.3, June 3, 1990) was read with indelible concern. I would want you to find out if Eno or any of her sisters/brothers would agree to live with my family, to help alleviate their problems a bit. We are interested in their well-being if the Almighty gives us the grace to help. We shall say more about ourselves when we get a response.

**N.E. Uche-Ojukwu (Mrs.)**  
P.O. Box 1840,  
Bauchi.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Enquiries regarding  
don Mandaka St., Calabar.

## Musical chairs

T here is really nothing wrong in changing some governors, ministers and other top functionaries of the military government (Vol 2, No 17, September 9, 1990). Except that the changes turn out to be like the proverbial "Old wine in new bottle."

**Nwika Gbarale**  
University of Port Harcourt,  
Port Harcourt.

I n the preview advertisement of *TSM* Vol. 2, No 20 carried on the front page of *The Guardian* of Saturday 23rd September, 1990, you erroneously referred to the retired Air Force boss as AVM — Air Vice Marshall. Alfa retired not as an Air Vice Marshall but as an Air Marshal.

**Samuel Philip Nadro**  
Messrs Rickey Tarfa & Co.  
P.O. Box 393,  
Yola.

## Still on Doe...

S amuel Doe is a subject we all need to study. We should learn about how he came into this world via Liberia, what motivated him to bulldoze his way into the Monrovia Executive Mansion in 1980, why he had to kill so many of his own men to rule Liberia; why he dug graves of countless Liberians and pushed them in.

Doe was sued to the High Court of nature and he was sentenced to death by butchering. We would have erred had we planned his death long ago as proposed by Eiy Obasi (*Ticker Tapes* Vol 2, No 20, September 30, 1990). That Doe was allowed to fool himself for so long painful though it was says something about nemesis.

**Timothy Eregbe**  
P.O. Box 2657  
Warri.

he deployment of Nigerian soldiers to serve on the ECOMOG peace force is undoubtedly part of the regime's on-going restructuring in the armed forces. While several lucky ones were only retired, others are set to the war front to ECOMOG has no business in Liberia. In spite of Doe's death, peace will remain elusive in Liberia, unless the unpredictable Prince Yormie Johnson and Charles Taylor are eradicated from that luckless country.

**Enoch Annafa**  
General Hospital,  
Michika, Gongola State.

# A Sacrilegious Agenda

By Austin Madu

nce upon a time, TSM delved into the sacred sections of male reproductive organs. Some of her writers turned their pens into operational scalpels that reduced the revered male "powerhouse" into some experimental what have you. Castration became a subject of discourse — and come to think of it, some even advocated it. I thought that something terrible was going to happen. No.

Then came Ely Obasi, driving on the wheels of his *Ticker Tapes*. (TSM 30th September 1990) The late General (not Master Sergeant) Samuel Doe was the subject. And curiously Ely went down, dug his hands into the man's pants and pulled out the man's lifeless "powerhouse" (some people humanise it with names like "John-Thomas") for what looked like a literary autopsy.

Here the sacrilege began. "John-Thomas" which is better known for its nocturnal instincts and whose quest for privacy is hardly satisfied until a second zone of security, underpants, is placed over it, was extracted and spread out in the sun for the world (men and women alike) to see. So TSM, why always begin with "John-Thomas"? A note of warning is apt here. Playing with "powerhouse" is the same as loying with humanity. So, for any serious discourse on a Sunday morning for that matter, leave "John-Thomas" out of it.

To the more serious question of cruelty: "Why have we been

so cruel to Samuel Doe?" Or, starting from the more fundamental question of Who is Samuel Doe? Is he the little man with sparrer, who wanted to be an electrician but was suddenly shot into the seat of power? Methinks not. Of course everyone wanted to be one thing or the other, at one time or another. Shagari wanted to be senator, late took him to the Presidency. Obasanjo (*Not My Will*) was content at cowering under the huge shadow of a mightier boss until Dinka materialized on the scene. Corazon Aquino was all that a housewife could be until Benigno slumped at Manila Airport. Perhaps if *Ticker Tapes* had not changed his mind, he probably would be solving endless calculus in some obscure lab at one corner of this country. The point is that wanting to be one thing and changing one's mind, to become another, does not necessarily dwarf one's performance in one's chosen area.

So, once again, who is Samuel Doe? Imagine what would have been the difference in Liberia if world leaders had disassociated themselves early enough from the late Liberian ruler's misrule. Consider what Zaire would have been like if successive occupants of the White House had thought that Zaireans deserved the kind of liberty Americans enjoy at home.

Think of Africa and its burden of military rulers. Hardly any coup occurs on this continent without some support from either America, Britain or USSR. Yet none of these countries would accept an inkling of military dictatorship. Have you forgotten Patrice Lumumba, Salvador Allende and the blessed Thomas Sankara?

The truth is that the real Samuel Doe is not the little Krahn man who became head of state. The real Samuel Doe is that invisible hand of mischief that tosses up mistils and imposes and sustains them over their unwilling but helpless countrymen. Yormie Johnson, if you have seen him on the screen, promises to be such a mistil, and you know who is sponsoring him.

Therefore, assassination as a solution will be of no effect if your target is the poor Krahnman. Assassination as a solution will be useful if your target is that invisible hand that makes and twists the Samuel Does of this world. Iraq has chosen such a target, even if the wrong way.

## VOICES

## What should the minimum wage be?



Jimoh Haruna  
Unemployed



Charity Obasi  
Traffic Officer



Wale Adebayo  
Technician



Evelyn Godwin  
Ticketing Clerk

I AM a graduate applicant and I cannot see how I will manage with anything less than N500 basic salary a month. The cost of living has become so high that a job seeker has to be cautious of what kind of appointment he takes up so that he won't end up being a pauper all over again. Allowances will also have to be put at N500 minimum so that the worker can at least afford two square meals a day.

MY opinion is that N500 basic should be the national minimum wage, taking the school certificate holder as our average Nigerian worker. Even then that figure cannot guarantee much relief especially in a country that has no health insurance, no good transportation system and where inflationary trends make a mockery of the worker's pay packet in the market.

N250 basic salary should be enough as minimum wage regardless of the qualification of a worker. But then the crucial point would be the allowances which should be generous enough to enable workers meet the challenges of living today. Really, no amount can take care of the needs of the average Nigerian worker but N250 will be reasonable so as not to unleash another round of inflation.

THE basic take-home pay of an average worker should not be less than N300 a month. Another N300 will be needed as allowances to take care of transport and other social problems. But the minimum wage review should be done in such a way as not to further fuel inflation. If it is shouled from the rooftop, the good intention of making the lives of workers a little less unbearable could be nullified.

# A pretty girl at midnight

...and memories of the dead man



By Ely Obasi

She did the catwalk down the staircase at the dingy downtown hotel. And stretched out lovely, tapered fingers for a handshake.

Her fingers were those of a beauty queen, but about her face I wasn't so sure. Okay, her eyes still swam in the sockets, her head was still held in that regal way international models do. But her face, something had happened to it. Something called war.

She asked me up to her room, or rather to the room of her friend and fellow refugee, a guy called Mohammed. As we wound our way up the bleak stairway and damp rugs it got to her.

"This is not the best place to be," she said, "but this is war." It definitely wasn't the place to be, for a girl who had known style, for a lady who had known opulence.

Of course there was no war this starry midnight in Lagos Mainland. But Annie Brodenicks, (journalist, hotel administrator, ex-beauty queen, had come from a land bathed with the bright-red blood of warring brothers. She had fled Monrovia when the madness got more than she could take, when a prize was put on her head. But that war had followed her here.

There was no more the whizz of flying bullets. The war was now this relative squalor, and a future of torturing uncertainty.

I could understand why her face was no longer that of Bianca Onoh. Bianca would definitely have looked worse if she went through what Annie had these past few weeks.

I hate to imagine that in that boiling madness called Liberia a pretty girl like this had been taken repeatedly to the pace of that explosive, ruthless rustic called Yormie Johnson. And she had been compelled to stay nights there. Annie insists it didn't happen. And I believe her, at least for the sake of my sanity.

We talked for long that night, she and I and Mohammed, and later, TSM's Pius Ekpel, whose sleep we had to disrupt for a phlo session.

We tried to understand better what

had happened to this brother and sister, as well as millions of others. We probed to see a little clearly in what new directions the madness had veered. And whether there was a remote chance that sanity could return.

And of course, we tried to unravel why Johnson had as alleged, slaughtered a man, so he could look at these pretty eyes which swam in those lovely sockets. You will see when you read the interview that she says that's not at all what happened.

But there was an area we failed. An interview, especially one done at midnight, cannot become a sermon or a debate. So at the end she could not see it. Annie Brodenicks could not see how she (and her people) created the war in which she now suffers.

Annie is an Americo-Liberian. She's a great grand daughter of those Liberians who came back from slavery in America, set up Africa's oldest nation, and went on to enslave the folks who lived there when they came.

Their American swagger held sway over the land until that 1980 morning when the devil called Samuel Doe happened. The historical tragedy called Doe has been our companion in this column many times. Even his ghost is an unpleasant shadow.

Annie Brodenicks still sings the Americo-Liberian song that Doe was an illiterate, that he surrounded himself with people who were no better than himself, that all he achieved was sending the country on downspin towards an abyss.

Annie is right. But Annie is also wrong. There is a kind of self-righteousness which oppression breeds in the oppressed. And when this self-righteousness gets picked up by one with a messiah delusion, it does get quite dangerous. Doe knew he was an illiterate. Else he would not have bothered with the mockery of schooling he was doing even while at the Executive Mansion.

But Doe knew that his illiteracy and the ignorance of his people was no excuse for the deprivation that his

lory had been. As a matter of fact, he was sure that his safety lay only in the hands of his fellow illiterate tribesmen. That in fact the only way out of the pits was the total defeat of all those whose literacy had held him down. So the more they reminded him of his illiteracy the more he sought to hide his shame in cruelty, in these vain glorious things he hoped would prop his pride.

Annie Brodenicks kept reminding me that Tolbert, the guy Doe murdered to get into the Mansion, had started the integration of the indigenous Liberians. She was right. But Tolbert was just an unlucky guy. He was made to carry the can for what his predecessors had done. You may say he came a little too late.

Annie spoke so convincingly about how it was Tolbert who angered up a people who had become so lachrymose.

I think she's right, but I think she read the signals wrong. You see many a time when a people are hurt, they resist for a while and they subside. Then, everyone thinks they have been defeated. Sometimes they even think so.

But deep in their subconscious, the hurt, the pain, the anger, percolate. That quiet is the festering of the sore, it is the suppurating of the gangrene.

Then one day a tiny pin pricks the festering boil. Then Samuel Doe happens.

This week, history remembers the elimination of one of the best minds that visited the written word in this country. His name was Dele Giwa.

Out on the streets, people who cried so loud appear not bothered anymore, whether the police will ever solve the middle of that murder. But has the people's curiosity been defeated?

We shook hands a final time, the ex-beauty queen and I. I looked at those lovely fingers and that war-worn face again.

And strong memories came sweeping back.



# Why Nigerians have forgotten him

*Four years after his death, more people seem pre-occupied with life than in worry about the dead.*

**By Mackson Onyejekwe  
Comfort Obi**

**F**irst, the man heaved a sigh. Then, he shook his head. Looked at us and bellowed, "So, you want to revive Dele Giwa? Didn't anybody teach you anything about letting sleeping dogs lie. Dele Giwa's is a forgotten case."

Then, he changed his mind. Because he said he felt like telling us what he knew so that we could pass it on to our children. What he knew, he told us was gathered from a very

reliable source while he cooled his legs for nine months at the KiriKiri Maximum Prison. And before he started, he warned, "I'm not going to tell you these because it will help revive the death of Dele Giwa on but because, you've asked me."

The man was an ex-commissioner in one of the LOOBO states during the second republic. A couple of months ago in a discussion with TSM, he had claimed, and very loudly too, that he had the true story of the factors that led to the death of Dele Giwa that black Sunday morning of October 19, 1986. We didn't ask him then. As Dele Giwa's fourth anniversary drew near, we paid a visit to that man.

Pleading anonymity, he told us what we've heard before except that this time around, he mentioned names.



Fat names! It was the same story of Dele Giwa having travelled abroad and meeting Gloria Okon, the cocaine trafficker who Nigerians were told died in Kano while in detention.

The ex-commissioner said the usual. It is not true. Gloria did not die in detention. She was smuggled out to London. Dele Giwa met her while he was vacationing in London, befriended her, and drew sizzling tales about her cocaine connection and alleged death from her.

Dele Giwa thought he had a scoop, and scurried back to Nigeria. Only he got too smart with his scoop, demanding one thing after the other and so, was given the bomb treatment that day!

And Gloria Okon? Our informant had the story wrapped up. Gloria got knocked off a couple of months later in London.

This is one of the three stories that have been flying around since Dele Giwa's death. The others are connected with a story **NewsWatch** ran on wheat and a flour mill and that of an ex-mistress.

But all the stories are guesses. More guesses and speculations. None of these guesses or speculations have led anybody anywhere nor provided clues to the knotty question of Who killed Dele Giwa? **NewsWatch** had since denied the Gloria Okon connection.

For about six months after Giwa's death, Nigerians were naturally outraged. And for good reasons. Aside from Dele Giwa being a colourful and fine Journalist, the nature of his death was daslarly And that alone sent shock waves through Nigerians who couldn't understand that type of sophisticated death.

After six months and when clues were not forthcoming Nigerians did what they know best, forgot about the manner of death and left everything, to God Big deal!

If you don't believe how short the memories of Nigerians are, then ask them about Dele Giwa's exact time of death. Even tonight, hour **TSM** went to town asking questions and trying to find out what happened. And like the ex-commissioner, many Nigerians have moved on to more worthwhile pursuits. Survival.

John Oyindo, a Lagos based lawyer asked, **TSM**, "Dele Giwa, O yes, I remember. He was killed in 1983, wasn't he? And as we looked at him in bewilderment he mumbled, "Don't blame me. One is thinking about the present. Not the past. It is a long time now, and since the police has not yet come up with anything, the case is as good as dead."

**TSM** found out that this attitude was



shared by many people

A lecturer at the Lagos State University who pleaded anonymity said, "you have to understand human nature. Nigerians have forgotten Dele Giwa. New things happen everyday. Perhaps, if the killers were found by now then Giwa would still be in our minds. But what is new about him?"

Another queried, "For God's sake, people die everyday. The police should worry about Giwa's death. Don't ask us. Now, Nigerians are occupied with the strategies of survival."

Chris Omeben, the ex-DIG of police whose lot it was then to track down Giwa's killers didn't give much hope to stir Nigerians into remembering Dele Giwa again. Omeben told **TSM** "It is sad that the killers have not been found. All the leads we had yielded no results but these things take time. I don't think the police has given up hope or dropped the case for that matter. It needs hopes and prayers. When something comes up, I believe the police will tell the public. Of course, you know I'm no longer there but I can assure you the police is doing its best. May be something would come up. I hope so."

There the despair goes again. And even Dele Giwa's village people at Ugbeke-Ekpe have given up hopes and seem to have forgotten him.

Four years after, the gods have

either become impotent or have deliberately refused to disclose the name(s) of the evil doers. As far as they are concerned, "It is a forgotten chapter." Even though, they promised that his killers will be tracked down within three months.

Just like the gods, court actions have also failed. Gani Fawehinmi, the irreplaceable Lagos lawyer has since 1986 instituted one suit or the other in a bid to find Giwa's killers. He also has a N6 million libel suit hanging over his head, courtesy of his efforts. And in the past few months, Fawehinmi hasn't said anything about Giwa's death.

But Giwa's friends and colleagues at **NewsWatch** cannot forget no matter how many years have come in between. Mohammed Yakubu, Managing Director of **NewsWatch** told **TSM**, "How can we forget? We have not forgotten."

As part of the activities to mark the anniversary of his death on October 19, 1990, **NewsWatch** is organising a Dele Giwa annual lecture. Lateef Jakande, ex-governor of Lagos State is the guest lecturer. Like the past four years, October 19, is work free day for both **NewsWatch** and **Quality staff**. Until his next anniversary on October 19, Dele Giwa lies restless in his grave, wondering why his killers have not been found and why Nigerians have forgotten so soon.

# Law makers are the law breakers

— Olisa Agbakoba



Agbakoba: 'I like what I'm doing'

Three years ago, three young Nigerian lawyers set out on a crusade the aim of which was to sensitize their fellow countrymen to the need to take

a little more interest in human rights issues. The trail-blazing trio — Messrs Olisa Agbakoba, Clement Nwankwo and Mike Ozekhome — took off, as is the wont of youth, with a somewhat idealistic agenda. They sought to champion an ordinarily intangible cause, to assiduously campaign against human rights abuses, and, above all, to jar over one hundred million Nigerians awake to atrocities which many had long taken for granted. They raised "uncomfortable" questions about such otherwise routine transgressions as police brutality, child abuse, illegal detention, prison congestion and other enormities that fly in the face of the rule of law. They fashioned a platform for their campaign and called it the Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO).

It was a novelty in these parts. Not so much because other public-minded Nigerians had not earlier trod the same noble path, but for the singular reason that these young men put together a well organised network and thereby brought method into what was hitherto an ad hoc enterprise. The CLO embarked on a systematic campaign which made copious use of the press, its own publications, the courts and, of course, the law books. The result today is that the organisation, within so short a time span, has become a most formidable force in the struggle to safeguard and expand citizen rights. Recognition has not been slow in coming — both at home and abroad. Not many Nigerians can remember the fearsome Ita-Oko detention camp without recalling the role the CLO played in ensuring its closure. Not to talk of other less publicised activities in securing the release of suspects held for years on end "awaiting trial."

Next Saturday, the CLO marks its third anniversary and Olisa Agbakoba, 37, president of the organisation maintains that the CLO today remains true to its origins. The aim, as he crisply puts it, "is to promote the rule of law." And for him rule of law means that "everybody in society is governed by known laws that are existing universally in all democratic societies."

Agbakoba is worried that Nigerians still do not take much interest in their public rights as they do the private ones. But he warns that "if you allow somebody to frequently violate your

laws because you say you are not directly harmed, someday you will lose your life as a result of this violation."

Many of the CLO's arrows, as would be expected, are targeted at the authorities. It is ridiculous, Agbakoba says, that "people who make laws in this country violate them at will." A case in point, he says, is the controversial decision on open balloting. And he laments that Nigerians don't feel concerned about human rights violations "unless it affects them or their relations." Again, as would be expected, the CLO leader cites "harassment from the authorities" as one of the difficulties the organisation faces in pursuing its objectives. Yet he admits that the CLO has achieved more results in the area of government-targeted action than in gingering public response. He uses the recent spate of official activity on prison congestion to underscore this point.

Executive high-handedness is not the only obstacle the CLO has to contend with. Agbakoba is sad that judges like members of the executive branch, view the organisation as "confrontational." And this has resulted in what he calls "terrible decisions" by some judges. Which explains the CLO's newfound preference for international courts whose decisions, though not binding, could have immense embarrassment value for the government.

As the transition to civil rule programme revs into high gear, Agbakoba says his organisation is not exactly taking a back seat in the journey. "We have concentrated in the past three years heavily on prisons," he says. "We have concentrated on the rights to liberty," he declares. "Getting to election periods, we can begin to look into political rights and related issues."

The CLO's agenda for the coming year is not likely to send the law enforcement agencies cheering. The main theme next year, Agbakoba discloses, will be police abuses. "We will do a lot of work on the police," he promises. And also on the problem of children Nigeria, he says, behaves hypocritically at international fora. Agbakoba cites the recent instance of Vice-President Augustus Aikhomu whom he says went to the United Nations conference in New York "signing the rights of children whereas there are thousands of children back home

being abused."

Still, it has not been all smooth sailing for this three-year-old organisation. One of its founding members, Clement Nwankwo, has since broken ranks with the group. The CLO has had to fight off allegations from rival organs that its high profile campaigns have often been successful only because the authorities choose to look the other way a situation which they claim calls to question the genuineness of the organisation's credentials. Also, some have queried the organisation's preference for the law courts as opposed to a more "radical" approach. Agbakoba himself acknowledges that the road has been rough and promises to get even rougher unless Nigerians give the CLO more massive support morally and financially in spite of all the trials and travails. However, he remains confident. Active involvement in human rights campaigning, Agbakoba says, has taken its toll of what might have been a very lucrative legal practice. But he finds solace in the belief that "money doesn't give the same satisfaction that public service does."

"I like what I am doing," he enthuses.

# The Most Wanted Girl In Liberia

*Ex-Miss Liberia, the journalist/hotel staffer Prince Johnson allegedly killed 5-star hotel boss to woo. Now, Johnson has ordered that she be shot dead on sight.*



**Brodericks: Johnson wants me dead**

Some sources are assertive that it was that lady, a pretty girl who had won the Miss Liberia contest in 1983 and Miss Africa in 1984, who had squealed to Johnson. Which was why he rewarded her by making her president instantly.

Reports from Liberia had said her name was Julie, but when *TSM* met her during the week, she said her name was Annie Brodericks.

A few days after the incident Annie Brodericks fled Monrovia and surfaced in Lagos. When Yormie Johnson got word that she had left Hotel African he gave orders that she be found and shot at sight. A massive manhunt for the ex-beauty queen started immediately in Monrovia.

Why did Annie Brodericks flee? Sources in Liberia say when Johnson finally broke the safe, he discovered that the tip-off he'd got was wrong. Regretting the murder of the hotel staffer, he vowed to punish the girl for the deceit.

In a midnight interview in a downtown hotel in Lagos, Annie Brodericks, also an ex-newspaper editor who had been in the thick of things and who has a good knowledge of Liberians who matter, spoke on why she fled.

"Man may pass judgement," she told *TSM*, "but the accurate judgement comes from God. It is difficult to erase what people believe is true from their minds. So you leave them to their minds."

Annie Brodericks, a highly articulate lady, who said she cried when she won the beauty pageant, kept saying with vehemence, "I never told Johnson anything. And he never opened that safe. He had the keys in his pocket all the time. He only said that the accountant had another key. The man (Johnson) lies, he lies. But he didn't ever check the safe."

But how about the alleged romance she had with the warlord?

"He was not my lover."

"He never touched me. I went there three times for interrogation. It didn't get that far. Maybe if I had gone a fourth time."

But if as Brodericks had said, Johnson has the habit of abducting girls from the streets, how could he have let go a pretty girl who was totally at his mercy?

"He never touched me. Believe me." And she looked down on the table. And depression stood over that war-battered pretty face.

## The world

By Ely Obasi

Until two weeks ago Hotel African was a calm, refreshing oasis amidst the hot desert of Monrovia. On Monday September 24, between 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. Prince Yormie Johnson, the most mercurial of the trioka that have torn apart Africa's oldest independent nation, came to the Hotel African. The oasis evaporated. The sizzling, burning desert arrived.

Somewhere in his visit, Johnson asked his men to tie up three members of staff of the hotel. One of them was a guy called Michael K. Doe. This Doe was no relation of the despot Johnson had slaughtered some days before. But he was the acting president (Liberians call him the president-in-charge, and the real president, the President Proper) of the hotel. The other was the accountant.

Shortly after, Johnson drew a gun and shot both men dead.

The third person, a lady, who was the acting administration manager of the hotel, Johnson appointed substantive president, right on the spot. He then asked his men to untie her.

He turned to spectators of this gory drama and told them the reasons for what he did. Word had reached him, he said, that about \$52 million (\$5.2 million) was stashed away in the safe in the hotel. But that when he asked the accountant he was told what existed was only \$5,000 (\$500). He believed, he said, that the two men had colluded to remove the bulk of the money before he got there.

*Q: How did you escape from Liberia, and why?*

**Brodericks:** I left, or I was smuggled out on a Thursday. That night I slept with the mosquitoes on the floor. On Friday night I was smuggled on to the River Uli. I stayed on board until Monday at about 4:00 p.m. to be exact, when the ship set sail. But it was not that easy to get out. The only cars that patrol the streets are the cars of Prince Johnson and ECOMOG. That's where the difficulty was posed for me.

*Q: Did you say you slept with mosquitoes, and you were afraid of Prince Johnson's car?*

**Brodericks:** Oh yes, I slept with mosquitoes in one of the ECOMOG headquarters in the Freeport of Monrovia. And that was because I was being looked for and the Gambian ECOMOG forces had to conceal me from the men of Prince Johnson. And I stayed in there all day. In fact I left the hotel by 3:30 that afternoon on Thursday, 27th September. That night I was smuggled out from the hotel I couldn't come out all day. There was no food to eat. In the night the Gambians brought food and we all sat together and ate from a big bowl. And at about 11:30 that night, a friend who got away along with me, we had to take our bath in the open. We called it Adam and Eve, where male and female all take their bath together. They had to fetch us a bucket of water. The stench was unbearable but you had to bear it at the time you were there. After that first day all the men had gone out to work but we were still concealed there. So these men said they would find a means of getting us out to the ship and by 9:30 Friday night, we were smuggled on board River Uli. Again there was no food and we were hungry but they were kind enough to fetch what you call garri. We took it like that with water and that's all we had for the day. After we got on board the ship, we were told that Prince Johnson's men had come on board the ship after me. And coming after me they (ECOMOG) had to tell them, three of them, to come down. They didn't permit them to come all the way up. Fortunately for us someone kept us in his cabin. When he went out he locked the door. And if anyone knocked on the door we didn't answer because probably it will be the wrong person.

*Q: There's something I don't understand. You saw Prince Johnson's men with you into ECOMOG territory, into the ECOMOG ships, to look for people?*

**Brodericks:** Exactly! And kill people on the spot. In fact, they were looking for me, and he (Prince Johnson) had ordered that they shoot me on sight. The Nigerian vessel didn't permit him to get too far. But he had gone on a vessel which was enroute to Freetown, and searched the vessel. Finding out that I was not on that vessel, he went into ECOMOG headquarters and talked to the no-nonsense Nigerian general, and others around him, and asked them why



... ECOMOG can't hold Johnson

they were evacuating Liberians. But the no-nonsense Nigerian general told him that anyone who wished to leave could leave. That he had no right to stop anyone from leaving.

*Q: I want to get the picture of what ECOMOG is doing there. Are they not armed?*

**Brodericks:** ECOMOG is armed. But initially I think they tried to settle the problem of stopping Prince Johnson's forces from going out into the streets. It was trying to psychologically pacify them. They found that the psychology they were trying to use on them, at least to surrender, talk to them, and so forth, was not working. They then had to use force. But up to the time I left, Prince Johnson and his men were still armed, and I still believe they've not been able to take the arms away from them. They still go out in the streets killing innocent people. The war right now is not between Prince Johnson and Charles Taylor and the remaining of Doe's men. No. It's against the civilians, the civilians who have no arms and are just at the mercy of Prince Johnson can just do anything to anybody as he desires. He goes about moving in Doe's car Mercedes Benz, bullet proof car. And he stops a young lady — he's fond of mulatto girls and light-skinned people. If she refuses to go to bed with him he will bullet her down. There are several stories of people having gotten killed, young ladies gotten killed like that. When Doe died ECOMOG allowed some of his relatives to come to the boat. But Johnson will come to ECOMOG headquarters and to the boat, collect the people and take them to his base. He will rape the women and send them back, and kill the men. It continues. A lot of times. These are the things that have been happening. The women who refuse to be raped are killed. And then they kill the men. And we were told that 300 were executed, by Prince Johnson, and he would do the killing himself. Another incident, we didn't really know the story behind the killing of another 300 civilians who had gone into the port to look for food, because there's a lot of breaking of

warehouses at the port. And in this warehouse they had a lot of people. An eye witness told me personally that it was Prince Johnson who threw a grenade in that warehouse and everybody in that warehouse who was trying to fetch food that night died. Again that was 300. And that's at the headquarters of ECOMOG.

*Q: Which part of Liberia do you come from?*

**Brodericks:** I'm one of those who are referred to as Congo, the American-Liberians.

*Q: You're from Charles Taylor's area?*

**Brodericks:** No, the Prince Johnson area.

*Q: Why was he looking for you like that then?*

**Brodericks:** There's... It's quite a long story.

*Q: Tell me that long story.*

## Day Johnson visited

**Brodericks:** Em... It seemed there's a personal vendetta between him and the President of the hotel. The hotel is run, contracted by expatriates.

*Q: That was the African hotel.*

**Brodericks:** Yes, and he narrated that the president of the hotel was the one who had delivered Nicholas Podier who was the then Vice Head of State in the PRC government, and who was one of the instruments of the coup, to Doe when they were planning the November 12, 1985 coup attempt which was aborted by Doe. And he said that the President proper of Hotel Africa was involved, and how he had met him in Ivory Coast and he had Podier had come over. Then regarding the president-in-charge who was in charge in the absence of the President Proper, Michael K. Doe, who he killed, he said that this fellow was corrupt and that he too was involved in this deliverance of Podier to Doe. He also explained that Michael Doe was involved in an alleged fuel oil scandal with Larry Porter who he had killed earlier. Prior to those two incidents he had arrested the President-in-charge, okay, because he said this man was just a corrupt person. So there were three times before his final arrest. Early one morning he sent for both of us. And he said that this fellow was corrupt and so forth, and therefore he said he was making me president, and he was making this man vice-president, and he was putting his own man in charge of security. We came back to the hotel and we decided we would work normally. However on Monday 24th September, we got word he was coming. So we had to give him a good welcome. We decided that we would get the few remaining drinks that were in the store room for them to drink. We opened up a suite on the first floor. And once on the first floor — that floor had a crowd of about 25 to 30 persons — he inquired from the accountant (Flaber Miller, the supervisor of the accounts department) that how much was remaining in the safe? The accountant



Doe took power, at the time I worked with the national radio station LBS I had worked up until 12 midnight! My mother and myself lived together at the time. Around 3.00 a.m. my mother came into my room and told me Tolber had been jailed. And all I did was sit up in bed like this (she cups her bowed head in her two hands) and I found it unbelievable. Then I said to her in these exact words. That's the beginning of our troubles." Number one. It was very difficult. It will be very difficult to welcome an illiterate into the chair. You don't serve as a role model to them. The country continues to retrogress. This was the general feeling of most Liberians. However I continued my work as a journalist but I left LBS and joined a smaller radio station, as a news director. At the time of the Doe administration he gave one of our priests persona non grata to leave the country. I had to do an interview with the reverend father and the USIS then blew this interview out. I had to attend Press conferences and there were touching issues. I was not liked by him. Okay. Even at the time my life was threatened by Doe. This was in 84, 85. Even in 1983 when I won the Miss Liberia beauty pageant. I was never a pal of Doe and whatever money the government was supposed to give me at the time I never got. I went to London and won the Miss African title. Whatever car government was supposed to give me I never got. I did away with those things. The car was supposed to be a Honda Accord. I didn't really care much about such things but my brother-in-law had contacts with a lot of the officials there, who made it possible for me to get 2000 of this money which made it possible for me to travel to London for this contest. Later on someone came and told my brother-in-law, "Doe doesn't like the girl. She's a Congo girl". I used to attend a lot of Press conferences at the mansion (I played a prominent role in the media then). Some of the questions I posed to him brought further damage to me. Oh late in December, when I was the Editor of *The Herald*, a Catholic newspaper, again I published a lot of articles which were not pleasant to the Doe government. Like the increase in price of rice. There were others which didn't bear my name but the government people got to know. Then there was the case of the toxic waste, which had the involvement of five government officials. And so I was a target of government. Until a time someone confided in a friend of mine who was then at the law school and said to her, "look one day you are going to disappear from your apartment and no-one will know who look you from there". And then I had to cool because my parents were telling me to take time. One American who came there to lecture told us, "when you are reporting you give one hand to the navy and one hand to yourself. You have to be prudent". That always rings a bell to me. I had to be biting and blowing at

the same time. After I left as the editor of *The Herald* one of the ministers whom I had known a long time before he became minister said "Annie I want you to be my public relations officer". I decided I'll go on a part time basis because he really needed someone. One afternoon he came in and said to me Doe told him, he had employed an opposition. So I said to him "Bye-bye blue bird. I'm not going to be used as a scape goat". And just at that time there was an opening in Hotel African. I went in there as a personal assistant. You know as a journalist you can fit into a lot of areas.

**TSM:** Do you know you people might have driven Doe to what he became?

**BRODERICKS:** I don't understand.

**TSM:** You Americo-Liberians ruled the country since independence. Your people never thought to share power.

**BRODERICKS:** There's half truth in that. *Sometimes when people are subjugated they internalise the hurt, and go on booze and women. It looks like they've accepted the status quo.*

**How old were you in 1980?**

**BRODERICKS:** About 19, 20.



Taylor...as bad as the rest

**TSM:** The indigenous Liberians did not see themselves as illiterates. They saw themselves as part of the society. Illiterate or not. They felt you people were cheating them and they were going to hit back at that. When you began to write, you made Doe feel insufficient. He had to hit back at that which made him feel insufficient.

**BRODERICKS:** You would expect such a thing to happen to anyone who has little or no education. They would always feel intimidated by those who have education. It really was not meant that way. And we thought this was the time mistakes made in the past would be rectified. But instead of rectifying it we went ahead to make even greater mistakes.

**TSM:** Rectifying mistakes, in time of Tolber or the time of Doe?

**BRODERICKS:** In Doe's time. We be-

lieved that with the indigenous people coming in there would be a revolution for positive change. But it was a change of retrogression. I believe that had he, you see the media is government's friend it is unfortunate that not Liberia alone, but Africa, doesn't see it that way. Critics are objective not because we have personal vendetta against who controls power but because we can see what the people up there cannot see. But unfortunately it doesn't work that way in Africa. Doe listened only to the people he surrounded himself with. In the end those people deserted him. But when things were getting out of hand those people should have asked him to resign.

**TSM:** But even when they got around to doing that...

**BRODERICKS:** It was too late. They had all sat down supinely watching him become a god. You know he slapped the vice president when he went to tell him to resign. What were they doing all the time?

**TSM:** Taylor was a Doe man, until they fell out.

**BRODERICKS:** Yes, by that time Liberians wanted a change. Taylor came in. Everyone called him Chuckie. Oh Chuckie is coming. But Liberians don't like Charles Taylor either. He's a protégé of Doe. He served as director of GSA and he squandered millions of dollars from the country. People wanted a change, and at the time Taylor was coming he was talking about an interim government. But as God would have it, he began to show his own true picture. We didn't like him but we figured through him we'll be able to have free and fair elections.

**TSM:** Let's look at the three of them. Who's the worst?

**BRODERICKS:** Look, they are all the same. They have inflicted the same amount of atrocities on the people. Doe did his part with his death squad eliminating people. I was living five blocks away from the Executive Mansion. I may be wrong but I understand my name was on that list. Fortunately had a Sulle in the hotel. I hardly move around. Charles Taylor came in. We saw people fleeing from his area. They told stories of his own massacres. There is a story that the man is on drugs and he has to inject himself with heroin every morning. Even ECOMOG found some of his soldiers with the needle marks where he injects them. And when they come out they're wild. There's no control. We thought Taylor meant well the day he came to the hotel. There wasn't total calm in the area but there was relative calm. But Taylor suddenly threw everybody out of their rooms. There's this story about a businessman along Charles Taylor line who Taylor appointed in charge to distribute rice to people. But the man was distributing the rice to a lot of women. But this made a lot of sense because women have children. When

Taylor was told by some people that they hadn't got food. Taylor had the man turned upside down and was about to shoot him.

There's a woman who comes every morning to inject him with heroin. This woman cautiously pleaded with Taylor and then they untied him.

Then along the Johnson line anytime people hear he is out on the streets they hide. His own men hide from him. They are now taking off their uniforms. Many of them came with us on the River UI.

**TSM:** What created Johnson personality?

## Prince Johnson up close

**BRODERICKS:** Prince Johnson was created by Charles Taylor from what we were told. They were all trained in Libya. I cannot say exactly how they broke up but Taylor created the Prince Johnson monster. Charles Taylor became intimidated by certain people like the killed Jackson Doe Jackson Doe was the leader of the Liberian Action Party (LAP) and presidential candidate for previous election. He eliminated him. Also Glibb Johnson who travelled with him all the way from the states. Glibb Johnson lost an eye during the 1985 coup. But because he wanted an interim government, Taylor eliminated him. He was a trained soldier, trained at West Point. He eliminated his own boss, former commerce minister, who he served under. Charles Taylor created the Prince Johnson.

**TSM:** Is Prince Johnson the most dangerously of them all?

**BRODERICKS:** I can't say.  
**TSM:** Doe didn't exactly kill people himself.

**BRODERICKS:** Doe did that. When people were killed at the UN yard it was Doe who disguised himself and went in there and killed the people. He also personally killed the people at the Lutheran church. He wore a bracelet the day he did the killing at the UN yard, and next day when he went there to sympathise with the people, a woman recognised that bracelet and started shouting.

**TSM:** Prince Johnson appears to be the most cunning, the most extreme anti-mat.

**BRODERICKS:** Yes. I would say yes. The international world today doesn't have a clear picture of Johnson. All they believe is that Johnson truly wants to hand over power. But the man said in our presence at the hotel, "what makes the interim president believe that he Johnson, having come a long way will turn power over to him just like that?" And you know what he's playing on? He's going to try to treat the advance interim team properly only to get Amos Sawyer in. When Amos Sawyer comes in, he's going to eliminate all those people if ECOMOG doesn't do something. There will be no peace except all those factions are taken out of the picture. They are making stickers all over the place.



**Brodericks:** Sawyer is a good man

it doesn't tell you Prince Johnson is going to give up power. He remarked that if the president comes in and (excuse the expression) fucks up, he will gun him. And put the vice president. He said, even if I am not around, I will have my men do it.

**TSM:** Has the Liberian man become so brutalised that who ever you turn power to will do the same thing?

**BRODERICKS:** No. I don't think so. It's just that we have had the wrong people who want to hold power for some selfish reasons. Liberians have never been violent. When Doe created a government of his Khran tribe, he had to keep away those who try to share power. But I don't get the picture that whoever comes in will be brutal. Doe created tribal conflict by eliminating Quiomkpa.

**TSM:** How's Prince Johnson at close quarters?

**BRODERICKS:** He's the most unpredictable person. He plays on the minds of people. He goes out and gives things out and people call him a nice person. But he only does that to get you close and kill you. He kills people for no reason at all.

## Amos Sawyer

**TSM:** What kind of a person is Amos Sawyer, and what chance has he got?

**BRODERICKS:** Amos Sawyer taught me a course, social science. He was the dean of my college. Amos Sawyer is a straight forward person. On August 22, just before the 1985 coup, there was a leakage of an exam and Amos Sawyer made sure that every instructor that was involved in that leakage was dismissed.

He has principles. With him there Liberia can look forward to another era of positive change. At the time of Tolbert Administration, he was running for city mayor, he didn't succeed because of the play of politics. But he had the Liberian people around him. All who know him know that to a certain extent he is a principled man. In 1985 Doe had asked that he serve as vice president. Amos Sawyer didn't see himself transcending to that stage. He doesn't really want power. I figure he wants a good society. I believe that when he serves there will be a smooth transition period.

**TSM:** He's merely an academic.

**BRODERICKS:** I think he has a chance. I believe he can. Don't always look at him as being an academician, okay. He is a politician. And he's played a role in his political party. You can see that even in his minimal role as dean of Liberia college he was so cunning and knew when to get into government and when to get out. He comes from a tribal group which has played no role in this conflict. So he'll be able to bring people together.

**TSM:** How long are you going to stay in Nigeria?

**BRODERICKS:** I'm leaving Lagos tomorrow. My family is back home. Since the war I haven't seen them. They are in Monrovia. Some of my father, mother, brothers, sisters are along Prince Johnson's line. Others in Charles Taylor's line. I'll be here until the war ends and then I'll go back home. I don't know if my parents are alive.

**TSM:** If you're asked to participate in government of Sawyer will you accept it?

**BRODERICKS:** In every situation you find yourself, you have to be prudent. One reason I've not chosen to live abroad is I believe I can be of some value to my society. But I have to be very cautious. But I intend to play a major role in this whole electoral process. I'll prefer staying in the background to help. I still need a lot of experience and I need these people to mould me.

**TSM:** Perhaps as you grow more you might consider going into government.

**BRODERICKS:** My experience in the war. I told myself you know a wise man changes okay. But now I want to play a major role in the whole electoral process.

**TSM:** Are you married?

**BRODERICKS:** Not yet. I've had proposal. The reason why I've chosen not to marry is that I want to mould my career. I want to spend a lot of time with my children.

**TSM:** What are you going to be doing?

**BRODERICKS:** The only thing I have in my possession is my passport which has on it profession journalism. The uncertainty is so great. I might find some job to do. You can't depend on people. But I have nothing besides my passport to show.

By Mackson Onyejekwe

rebels have ripped Rwanda apart. The little East Central African State has witnessed its biggest blood-bath since independence as eleven Tala truck loads of about 12,000 Rwandese refugee-rebels, heavily armed with sophisticated ammunition attacked the country from Kakitumba, a border village with Uganda, where they began the massacre and desolation of nationals, while heading towards Kigali, the capital. Only few people, most of them mortally wounded, managed to escape into nearby Uganda, to recount the atrocities being committed by the rebels, mostly of the Tutsi ethnic group, led by a Rwandese exile serving in the Ugandan army.

According to Nizeimana Emmanuel, a wounded Rwandese customs officer who escaped into Tanzania, the rebels caught the nationals napping. They had crossed over in the early morning hours into Rwanda from Kajunzo in Uganda and began shooting, looting, maiming and slaughtering the people, men, women and children. In a nearby military settlement, over 80 soldiers were killed while many were seriously wounded. The number of civilians killed or maimed have not been ascertained.

Eye witness accounts filtering from the residents of Kaisho village in Tanzania smack of heavy shooting and shelling also along Rwanda-Tanzania border. The rebels are believed to be less than 50 kilometres from the capital, as they advance along the Kigali-Kakitumba highway.

President Juvenal Habyrimana of Rwanda has rushed to Zaire, his west-side neighbour for support and reinforcement, and Mobutu Sese Seko is reported to have responded with a 500-man special expeditionary force. Zairean Azep News Agency says the men were drawn from the well-trained and specially equipped presidential force. Calls for help have gone to Belgium, the former colonial master. The French government already Belgian and French troops are said to be guarding the airport in Kigali.

When TSM called at the Zairean Embassy in Lagos for further clarifications, Cloteyen Siamundele, the information officer said he has had to gather information on the developments through papers and had not got government's direct information to express. He also regretted not having received copies of dailies from his country to explain anything on the questions asked. Likewise attempts made

# Rebels Rupture Rwanda

*As the Liberian crisis tapers off, another African nation finds itself in the throes of a bloodfest*

taking place to reduce the number of suspected sympathisers and quell the attacks of the rebels.

It is not surprising that the refugee-rebels comprise mainly people of Tutsi ethnic group. For centuries, they had dominated the Hutus who comprise 90% of Rwanda's 7,000,000 population. The tension from that political disequilibrium reached a peak in 1959. Civil war broke out, and they lost power. With the result of a referendum the monarchic system was abolished. The republican 26,338 square kilometre Belgium-UN trustee area then called Ruandi-Urundi became independent on July 1, 1962.

In a July 5, 1973 bloodless coup Major General Juvenal Habyrimana ousted Gregoire Kayibanda who had been president since independence.



Map of Central Africa showing the trouble spot

through diplomatic hollies to reach His Excellency, Callixite Hatungimana, Rwandese Ambassador for West Africa at Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire, proved futile.

However, as neighbouring states rush to help Kigali, allegations emerge that Ugandan government is aiding the rebels to unseat Juvenal. But Erya Kalegeya has denied. He told Tanzanian President and others in that country attending Non-Aligned Movement's South Commission meeting that Ugandan government does not support the military offensive of the Ugandan based rebels. Tanzania is also harbouring some of them but reports say the government had deterred from engaging in activities to topple or undermine the government.

President Habyrimana has declared 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew and no long trips allowed. Kigali radio has announced that people could move during the day and only from their homes to nearby neighbourhood. The government has also intensified the search for rebels and their sympathisers. About 3000 people are feared being detained at a former football stadium, south of Kigali. Also several swift executions are believed to be

A plebiscite conducted in December, 1978 elected Habyrimana president for another five year term and a new constitution was adopted, stipulating an elected Assembly and one party, the National Revolutionary Development Movement. These developments have further worsened the political disquiet in that country as Hutus people dominate the society and the power structures, due to their overbearing population.

Liberals demand multi-partism, conservatives, especially the Tutsi people want back their lost position in the power balance of Rwanda. And these groups want Juvenal from the Hutus, out. In the face of continued oppression and constant terror from the government, they had fled to neighbouring countries of Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire and Burundi from where they reorganise and launch bloody attacks on the government.

The Rwanda government had been able to crush past rebellions with despatch. But the way the current assault on Rwanda is going, if President Juvenal Habyrimana must remain in Kigali, he sure would have to think and act in ways that are anything but juvenile.



# Life

By Mackson Onyejekwe

# Killing kids softly

*Parents unknowingly rob their children of their eye sight. As they abandon experts for self-medication.*

A highly educated parent (name withheld) in Victoria Island, Lagos was frustrated with her child's poor vision, which apparently resulted in frequent knocking over, she was disgusted with his poor school performance, though he sounded brilliant. She suspected it might have to do with his eyes, and took him to Choices Optical and Surgical Services, Ikoyi, Lagos, for an examination.

There she met Joy Oviemahada, an eye doctor who examined the child and registered her shock. "his vision was minus 16, the child was almost blind. You can imagine all the efforts he has been putting on his school exercise. Poor child, he thought everyone's else's eyes were like his, he kept quiet, going blind." She began to treat the child.

Felix Ezeabla, a doctor at Excellon Optical Clinic, Ikeja, Lagos had a worse experience. "There was this one-year-old baby they brought to our clinic. It had gone blind, though the eyes looked normal. I asked the mother some questions. She told me a rather long story, how the baby's eyes were always red and emitting small white substances frequently. She bought a certain eye drop from a chemist and started dropping it into the eyes of the baby. According to her, the eyes began to brighten, so she bought another bottle of the same eye drop. The solution ate up the child's eye structures which she thought was clearing. The child went blind. Some mothers are just useless, very irresponsible," he said exasperatedly.

"From the way she talked and answered my questions there was something about her that made me uncomfortable. I suspected something. I directed her with a note to our lab for test. You know what the foolish woman

*Continued on Page 20*



\* Protect the eyes of your children.

## A pail of goodies

Anyone who works hard like our executives deserves a leisurely lie-in at the end of the day. More so when it is known that some slug at their jobs for as much as 12 hours in a day. The saying 'all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy' has never been truer. Some executives are so busy making money that they neglect other healthier pursuits.

Like eating out

Music making. Video watch. You can have all these and more at Caripale or, Ogurilana Drive Surulere, Lagos. It's fast becoming the haunt of executives and other fun-loving people.

According to Ben Okoli, the outfit's proprietor, it was conceived to cater to the needs of Nigeria's yuppies. Those who work hard, have travelled far, and know the best things in life.

At a luncheon for select media executives penultimate Thursday, Okoli trumped his chest that his conveniences will not be allowed to go to the dogs. As is usual with a good number of hangouts in town.

## Many rivers to cross

If you are wondering how far the Nigerian woman has gone in 30 years, don't look too far from here. They now hold down plum posts in journalism, broadcasting, law, banking, government and insurance. Such women brainstormed recently at Commerce House, Lagos to determine the next line of action.

The line-up included Doyin Abiola, *Concord's* Managing Director, NTA's June Coker, Lola Fani-Kayode, an arty lady, Yemi Lewis, ex-*Superwoman* editor, Joke Silva, actress, Margaret Vogt, NIIA's Research Fellow, Pat Ederemoda, Co-ordinator of the discourse session.



## Making ar...

**Y**outhful Dotun Oki, an economist, recently took Tolu Odulola, a chemical engineer, to the altar of Archbishop Vin-



*Goings - On*



SUNDAY OBSERVER

## Early start

ning Memorial Church, Ikeja for a colourful society wedding Here, Mr & Mrs Oni commence their marital journey with broad smiles.



SUNDAY GAZETTE



Sociags - On

## Second time, twice as nice

**W**hat has music and beauty got in common? Let's, if you must know. Music elicits such beautiful thoughts, while beauty could invoke magic that's akin to good music. This was the case at the re-launch of shields deodorant in Lagos. Beautiful people, musicians,

media executives, industrialists graced its re-entry into the consumer market. Here Keji Okunnowo, CBS Managing Director confer with Duro Onabolu, Manager Public Relations at UAC and John Njokanna, Marketing Manager of AJ Seward.

## The young shall grow

**A** magazine for primary school children was officially delivered last Tuesday by Rebecca Aikhomu, wife of the Vice-President. As a mother herself she gushed over the arrival of such a medium for kids. Other shakers and movers at the launching were Rasheed Gbadamosi, a renowned economist, Molade Okoya-Thomas, CFAO Chairman, Bola Latinwo and Tunde Yusuf.

## EVENTS

An exhibition of paintings featuring Ben Nwosa will kick off on Tuesday, 16 October at *Didi Museum* in Lagos. If you are a lover of arts and royalty, then you should be glad that Aho nu Menuloye II, Oba Akran of Badagry and Muhammadu Maccido, Sarkin Kudu of Sokoto will be guests of honour.

Exhibition ends on Sunday, 21st October.

## Business and diplomacy

**A**ba Chambers of Commerce has added diplomacy to its business strategies. They recently threw their doors open to Ambassadors of France, Germany and Japan. A high-brow dinner party was held for the diplomats who all commended Aba technology.

Other guests at the bash included Francis Chukwuonye, Chief Executive of Chieme Industries, Nze Maduako of Aba Chambers of Commerce, Ndubusi Kanu, member of AFRC, Yasushi Korokochi, Japanese envoy, Leonhard Kremmer, German envoy.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAVEL



had VD (venereal) disease). That was the origin of the child's eye problem.

Oviemhada, herself a mother, agrees that most mothers do not observe their children. Some, out of ignorance, hardly notice signs of danger. Others, out of indifference, notice but take it lightly. When TSM asked for some of the eye problems and signs in children, she said there are basically two. Structural defect and ocular defect. Structural defect results in two major problems: one is refractive, and the other is defective or missing part of the eye. Many refractive cases (bad eye sight) are hereditary but not necessarily from the direct mother or father but somehow along the family line. It could also start on its own in a child.

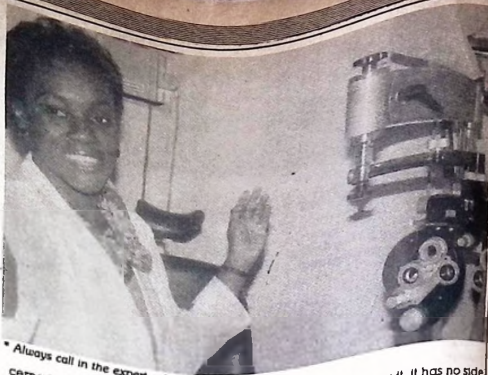
A missing or defective part of the eye, she added, may occur due to some drugs a woman might have taken during an illness, during pregnancy, or the child might have developed some infections, such as catarract. Many babies, she further said, develop red eyes after birth, due to bacterial infection from the child's canal. This manifests between the first and fifth day after birth. She however said babies' eyes and other parts of the body are usually checked at birth for treatment but she cautions all mothers to be watchful.

She further said that the first early months, are usually delicate that some deformities if not corrected can remain for life. One such case is strabismus or squint, commonly called 4 O'clock eye. According to her, from the third month, a baby's eye should be able to focus on each object intensely, straight ahead. If the eyes cannot focus straight at objects, something is wrong.

She also warns that: In some cultures in Nigeria, people say if (4 O'clock eye) would clear on its own, and that there is nothing wrong. This is not true. At the age of five, it is almost late to correct it, at the age of nine, it is permanent." According to her, Normally between four and five years is the period a child's eyes and vision attain full capacity. Some start at four, some start at five. But normal eye test must commence at the age of five, whether a child complains or not. At that eye test, the optometrist would check that everything is all right with the eyes.

She warned that it was very necessary for parents to take the child to test because only the doctor would know what was amiss as many children would never complain, thinking that the way they saw things was the way every other person's eyes saw.

The doctors have compiled these hints for all parents who are con-



\* Always call in the expert, when in doubt  
cerned about the eye sight of their children.

"Watch how your child looks at things or television. Does he go very close to look at things and almost try to stick his head into the television. It may not always follow but it often does. Watch out, it could be a sign of bad eye sight.

Does the child carry the book up, close to his eyes or bend his head when he's reading or looking at photographs? Does your child have watery eyes whenever he is reading? And every day after playing outside, does he come to complain of headache, whether serious or mild?

Your child's hand-writing could be a clue. Is it straight on the line, too crooked and disorganised? This is the result of both being unable to see the school board well ahead or see the lines in the notebook well, close on the desk. The child is seeing but seeing with much strain. At school, some children, very bright children, often times fail exams because they don't see well. And they keep quiet growing like that, because they think every other person is seeing like them. They fail, yet when you talk to them, you know they are very bright children.

Parents should stop their distrust for optometrists. It is wise to act fast if you discover a child's refractive fault, because the defect could worsen and even become resistant to any corrective efforts. As they noted: If you delay giving a child lenses, the child could develop amblyopia, — so if you put the correct glasses later, the eyes won't respond to it. No child is above wearing glasses. If a child has to wear it to

see well, let him wear it. It has no side effects. She herself started wearing lenses since form one.

Oviemhada explained that it is not in all cases that they give lenses, it is a disease an optometrist cannot handle, he would send you to an ophthalmologist or an eye surgeon if it requires that. Some children complain of headache, we examine and see that it is just what fixation exercises could solve, we prescribe that, it works great.

On the allegation that optometrists are only interested in giving glasses, she reassured parents: "Nobody can confuse a trained Optometrist. No child or adult can fool us into giving him lenses. We know how we do our tests to fish out those who want to take lenses for cosmetic reasons.

Both optometrists denounced self-medication. "Whenever you notice anything, the expert should be called in. They also suggest regular visits. After the first test when a child is five years old, it would be after every two years until the child is 16. Then, it would be only when there is a problem, but advisably, once in three years. When a person is in his mid thirties tests should be commenced after every two years."

For 'albinos', many parents expect optometrists to perform miracles. "We however try to help the children see better and feel more comfortable, sometimes with drugs but usually we give them lenses," they said.

"Eyes are very precious and delicate, which explains why parents should help their children to preserve them, for ever.

# Distributor of the month

In every enterprise, there is always a hidden person or group of persons that constitute the silent hands behind the wheel. They are the persons without whom the business cannot stand, without whose dedication the business stagnates. They are the people who make things happen.

In our business - Publishing - perhaps the least recognized and yet one of the most critical hands behind the wheel are the distributors and vendors. It is in realization of the crucial role they have played in the life of our magazine that TSM has decided to give due recognition to our dedicated distributors and vendors. Every month, we shall bring you our ven-



dor and distributor of the month, who will be selected on the basis of their hardwork and valuable

contribution to TSM

Our distributor of the month is MUSTAPHA ABDULAI, proprietor of OMOLA (Nig.) Enterprises, Kaduna. Abdulai has over 10 years experience in the news-paper and magazine distribution business. Through his outlets, Abdulai has made TSM a household name in Kaduna, Kafanchan, Zaria, Funtua, Gusau, and Sokoto. He has also shown a good record of reliability.

TSM is therefore proud to be associated with him and hopes he will not relent but rather push for even a higher performance level. Omola has been with TSM since its birth. We are proud to present him as the distributor of the month.

## By Yusuph Olaniyonu

Sheraton Hotel was at its usual bubbling best last Tuesday. Guests streamed in and out. Though that is not strange. But from the reception lobby, it was clear that something unique was 'cooking' inside the elitist hotel.

Yes, as the deep brown colour and fragrant smell of Chocolate reared the air, glittering lights dazzling the guests and gaily dressed men and women adding glitz to the arena, it was a flamboyant day for the domestic market in Nigeria. A day Cadbury Nigeria Limited added three new products to the ever-receptive Nigerian market to keep a promise made to its customers last June.

Dash chocolate flavour bar, chocolate spread, chocolate fudge and a newly refined pronto beverage are the latest additions.

**Chocolate Spread**, a milk based product with unique flavour and pleasant taste is meant for bread, cake, biscuit and ice cream eaters who intend to have an easy but satisfying meal. Also, **Dash**, a chocolate flavour bar with rich taste concealed in an exciting package is just what it is - a sweet - appeler. Like the

## Cadbury's Chocolate day at Sheraton

other two, **Chocolate Fudge** has an inner layer of fudge covered in milk and is an appeler too.

Again, **Pronto beverage**, a product that is as old as Cadbury itself wears a new garb, because 'age was beginning to tell on the brand'. So with additional nutrients, improved shelf life-span and improved packaging, Pronto has been reborn to enhance its success in the market.

However, with the parade of the society's high fliers like Insight Communication's (Blodun Sobanjo, Lintas Ted Mukoro, Cadbury's Christopher Kolade, Beauty queen, Binia Sukat, Twitale's Amaka Obiakunnu, Biola Owoyemi and some others, that Cadbury was able to bring together at the launching, the colourful ceremony surely will be a talk of the time for a while.

SUNDAY COLE-ABI



Cadbury delights

# Flirts have more fun!

Why bed-hop when you can have a life-time of eye-talk, longing and friendship.

By Mubo Okosun

The world will certainly be fun if more people discard their stuffy suits and put on the garb of flirts. Just like blondes are said to have more fun because of their flashy nature, flirts, too, can usually swing things in their favour.

Anyone would rather do business with someone who has a whacky sense of humour than a chap who takes himself and life too seriously. You can easily pick out a flirt in a crowd. She is the one with the languid stare, seductive smile or a ringing laugh. You see, she is in love with life that she can't let slip any opportunity to show it.

By flirting, I don't mean indiscriminate bed-hopping or an irrefragable urge to change partners as you change your undies. Why ruin a life-time of eye-talk, deep friendship with a dive between the sheets? Many women have ruined otherwise beautiful relationships (flirting) by injecting bedroom scenes into it. Only for them to find that the knight snores in his sleep, has smelly feet or grinds his teeth in his sleep.

Flirting here means a massage of someone's sagging spirits. More like bringing light into a dark room. Or kissing through a glass barrier. Flirting is like ice-cream after a meal - soothing, sweet and soft.

If you want to acquire the knack of flirting why not watch children at play. They are natural flirts as they have not yet acquired the artificial barriers adults pick up in their teens. A tiny tot

is only interested in attracting your attention when she flashes a coquettish smile or softly strokes your palms. She is not promising what she cannot give. You too respond warmly because of her sincere stare and wholesome looks.

Why can't adults be like kids? They surely have a lot to learn from them. Instead of jumping straight into bed with the first guy who smiles at you, why not flirt with him? The friendship(?) might be more rewarding than that one-night stand. It is better to be friends first before moving on to treacherous grounds.

Just like with any new device there are certain rules that have to be observed for a successful flirting. Don't flirt in plunging necklines or transparent clothings. On no account should you fondle your partner in crime. Mind you, we're rubbing minds not bodies. Flirt with your brain. Dig up those witty anecdotes, rare wisecracks and college jokes. Double him over with your wry sense of humour or your photographic brain. You can still pass on the message that here is an attractive, intelligent person without drooling.

Also, don't insist on flirting at every occasion. When there are so many 'dry' people around. Remember flirts gravitate towards each other. If you have not yet sighted a kindred spirit, it is better to keep your jokes for another day. Because, some people are just not good at flirting.

Especially, those who could misinterpret your friendliness to mean an invitation to nocturnal pastimes. Such guys usually perceive women as purely sexual objects that they can't waste time flirting with them. For them, women are either wives or whores. No in-between roles. If only they could take flirting at its face value they would add more years to their lives.

And acquire sure springs in their steps. Here's how to flirt lustily.

**Eye-talk:** Remember the saying that eyes are the windows of the soul. Eyes can travel faster than any facsimile machine. In a crowded room you can flirt successfully with your eyes. If you have spotted the right guy, turn away from him for about two minutes even if you can feel his eyes behind your back. Then turn around and give him the boldest stare. A brief smile, then switch off again. Repeat this several times and watch him slide towards you.

**Laughter:** It diffuses any dangerous situation. You are on your way to becoming friends if you can make each other laugh. Laughter is like a vitamin pill, in fact it is an anti-depressant! If mounting bills can't make you laugh with your partner, why can't you let down your hair with other people. You might even trade survival hints these 'sappy' times.

**Just friends:** It is not usually wise to extend your friendship into other areas. That interesting guy you keep running into could turn into a bore when a love affair is on. He could turn into a nag or a selfish son of a gun. Remain just friends and let him light up your life for brief moments.

**Go back to school:** Apart from children, other natural flirts are our celebrities. See how they play to the paparazzis. No matter their sagging derrieres, troubled marriages or larger than life problems they still find a smile for the lens.

Which is the message really, find time to flirt even when you are down and out! It is the cheapest tonic in the world.

Children are born flirts



## MILESTONES

**PASSED:** By the U.S. House of Representatives a five-year 500 billion-dollar deficit reduction package. A temporary spending bill has been approved to restart the government.

**STARTED:** Exchange of goods and services between Kenya and South Africa. Serious discussions on trade and investments are going on between industrialists and businessmen of the two countries.

**MARCHED:** About 2,000 people in the Pacific Northwest city of Portland, Oregon, in memory of an Ethiopian man beaten to death by 'skinheads,' and to denounce racism on the eve of a civil trial arising from the attack.

**CLOSED:** By Iraq Kuwait's airport to civilian traffic for 'technical reasons.'

**SATIATED:** A treaty which will return Germany to full official sovereignty. The treaty was signed by foreign ministers of the two German States and the four allied powers of Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States in Moscow.

**CONDEMNED:** To death, police sergeant, Eric Kolo for killing and robbing by a Bauchi firearms and robbery tribunal. He was found guilty of robbing and killing one Inusa Amadu of his motorbike in December 1987.

**SHUNNED:** By Governor Abdulkarim Adisa of Oyo State red-carpet reception. The Governor who is on a state wide tour of local government councils of the state warned the chairmen against wasting money on elaborate window-dressing welcome ceremony.

**INDICTED:** Libya and Burkina Faso by the Liberian Interim President Dr. Amos Sawyer for supplying arms to Charles Taylor rebels. The Libyan and Burkina support, he said, has put ECOMOG in a difficult position.

**RAISED:** By Presidential fiat the people's Bank loan for the poor by 150 percent to N5,000.00. At a People's Forum to mark the bank's one year of operation, president Ibrahim Babangida directed its national co-ordinator, Mrs. Maria Sokenu to increase the N2,000.00 loanable amount. The minimum amount remained N50.00.

**SACKED:** South Korean defence minister and military intelligence chief by the president Roh Tae-Woo. The sack was in a bid to calm public anger over military surveillance of politicians and anti-government activities.

**DIED:** At the age of 76 the United Arab Emirates Vice President and Prime

Minister, Sheikh Rashid Bin Said Al'Makloun.

**KILLED:** In boundary dispute are 11 persons with several others wounded. The bloody dispute was between the Jukun and the Tiv communities in Wukari local government of Gongola State.

**CHALLENGED:** By the Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO) the decision by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to conduct the December 8 local government elections by open ballot. The organisation is asking the court to stop the AFRC from giving legal backing to the NEC's decision by decree or in any other form.

**LEGALISED:** The controversial national guard President Babangida gave his blessing to a document establishing it warning that government is determined to head off further breakdown of law and order in the country.

## BIRTHDAYS



Adejumo....birthday cheers

● 51, on Friday is Jerome Ola Aina, Chartered Accountant, and fellow, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria.

● 51, also on Friday is Theo Vincent, Professor and co-editor of the book, *A selection of African poetry*.

● 52 on Friday as well is Ibiwoye Joseph Atolabi, Jurist, and Judge, High Court of Kwara State.

● 47 on Tuesday is Abiose Adenike, Professor, and fellow, Medical College of Ophthalmology.

● 44 on Saturday is Peter Edem Akpinyang, Administrator, and Director-General, Cabinet Office, Akwa Ibom State.

● 45 on Sunday is Babatunde Adewale Adejumo, linguist, educationalist and Life Patron, Nigerian Tennis Association.

## LIFE-LINES

*Life is an infinite succession of pros and cons.*

— Anonymous

*PEOPLE who have no faults are terrible; there is no way of taking advantage of them.*

— Anatole France

*To find a fault is easy, to do better may be difficult.*

— Plutarch

*HIS only fault is that he has none.*

— Pliny the Elder

*I LIKE a friend better for having faults than one can talk about him.*

— William Hazlitt

*DEMOCRACY is good. I say this because other systems are worse.*

— Jawaharlal Nehru

*DEMOCRACY is only a dream: it should be put in the same category as Arcadia, Santa Claus, and Heaven.*

— H.L. Mencken

*DEMOCRACY is a system of self-determination. It's the right to make the wrong choice.*

— John Patrick

*THERE is nothing I'm afraid of like scared people.*

— Robert Frost

*NOTHING in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood.*

— Marie Curie

*WHO fears being conquered is sure of defeat.*

Napoleon Bonaparte

*T HE only thing we have to fear is fear itself.*

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt

*IT takes all sorts to make a world.*

— English Proverb

*SAMENESS is the mother of disgust; variety the cure.*

— Petrarch

*VENGEANCE has no foresight.*

— Napoleon Bonaparte

*REVENGE is the abject pleasure of an abject mind.*

Juvenal

Compiled by Amanze Obi



# A triumph for common people

*People's Bank forum rolls out  
beyond anybody's wildest imagination*

**Stories by Chudi Okoye & Dan Onwukwe**

Nothing exalts like the celebration of success. In its one year of spirited operation, the People's Bank of Nigeria (PBN) appears to have made such success as no one dared hope for at its inception. Considering the untested credibility of its target group, as well as the residual uncertainty of the Nigerian environment, what would be-

come of the novel idea had been anybody's guess. It was therefore with a great measure of exhilaration that the bank's officials mounted its first year anniversary celebrations last week.

The invitation card had said this was going to be nothing other than a forum. Hardly anything in its cold print suggested the lantern attending PBN's bash last Tuesday at Tatarwa Balewa Square, Lagos.

There was a full complement of governmental presence. Everybody that mattered in government was there, apparently, to relish this moment of history. The president himself and his wife, Maryam, came in with all the flourish of their exalted realm. On the first couple's trail were several ministers, directors general and top notches of various state governments. Traditional rulers from various domains obviously as custodians of PBN's immediate constituency, were in majestic attendance. There were many other non-chiefly dignitaries, among them diplomats and staunchmen of the private sector.

It was clearly a moment of triumph for common people for whom the bank was created, and on whose behalf this occasion was arranged. They too rose quite stoutly to the occasion. There were delegations of PBN loan beneficiaries from all the states and Abuja. These beneficiaries had been invited to display products of their businesses which the bank's loans had enabled them put together. And they came in their numbers - artisans, farmers, petty traders, the real rump of society. All around the sprawling expanse of TBS their products stood in eager display - food crops, tools, and manufactured goods.

Throughout the duration of the official ceremony and long after the august entourage had departed, TBS thrummed with human motion. There was a huge dose of cultural colour as several dancing groups, asked in from



*The couple making the rounds at TBS*

ational states, thrilled the audience with their alluring moves. Bands of beneficiaries also drew peals of applause as they rambled past in march formations to salute the ac-tuators of their good fortune. When it was announced that the maximum loanable amount had been increased half as much again, the drums beat madly, the trumpets blared, and the common people leapt in an instant burst of joy.

But the forum (more appropriately

fair) was not all about pomp and revelry. There was also a heavy injection of commerce. Many beneficiaries who displayed their goods said they got instant business proposition. Others claimed they had made some sales. But without doubt those who gained most from the fair were vendors of food drinks and assorted items. They used the occasion to pull in tremendous business.

This was surely a day for common people. It didn't matter that hundreds

of them who journeyed from distant places to hobnob with the 'big men' were not allowed past the heavily guarded gates of TBS. It did not matter that many who came in the hope of making sales failed to attract patronage. Nor did it matter that some of the goods on display were not actually of PBN - financed enterprise.

All was fair and good on this day that common people had a peep of the grand stand.

## A burden of answered prayers?

*Some beneficiaries say it could well be!*

**N**early every Sunday for the past three years, Sylvester Eze has gone to church in Enugu. Each Sunday, he told *TSM*, that begs the parish that operates a credit facility for its members for a loan to set up his own business. Eze is a trained blacksmith. But the managers of the credit union are preoccupied with what they know how best to do (ot down the naira coming in and out and send handwritten letters to members about tardy payments. For those three years, he has borne with considerable poise and good humour a terrible burden.

But a few kilometers away in Chime Avenue, New Haven, Enugu stands a bank - People's Bank of Nigeria. Housed in a sprawling one-storey building, the bank processes transactions exclusively for the needy whose credit requirements are small and have no collateral to give for conventional bank credit. Eze quickly applied for N2,000 through *Otu Otu-Otu*, a 15-member communal group. His prayers were answered in November, 1989 when the bank granted him a loan of N700.00.

Though far short of his target, it was 'manageable' he says, to set up his own business. Last week Eze's efforts this past one year seemed resoundingly rewarded. He became one of the three most resourceful loanees of the People's Bank. And for maximally utilising his loan, Eze was presented with a certificate of merit to show for his efforts.

And in Mushin, Lagos the burden on Oialekan Yusuph seems more than words can adequately describe. Yusuph, 30, is disabled, but believes

he is not handicapped. Means of livelihood, he said, must be found through nonaurobie means without recourse to street-begging. Said Yusuph who goes on a wheel chair: "I don't want anybody to pity my situation. I believe I fit do something with my too hands."

Deciding on all available options for somebody in his situation, he opted for shoe making with the N800.00 he borrowed from the PBN. Last week,

*PBN co-ordinator, Sokenu*



'able' - Yusuph (for that was what many called him) beamed with smiles as he received a certificate of merit from Maryam Babangida as one of the three most resourceful borrowers of the bank's loan.

It seemed, it was all a burden of answered prayers for most of the recipients last week in Abuja. Aishatu Gamadi is holding forth on her occupation weaving. But you see, she's strapped for cash to make her business a 'double-digit' revenue yielding venture she has always wanted it to be. She explains to *TSM*, in pidgin English, "I don beg reach Kaduna and nobody gree borrow me money." But People's Bank 'bailed' her out of her financial straits. In May this year, she got a loan of N600 to supplement the one she already had. And one month after, she was able to complete the repayment, including the 5 per cent interest rate. And now, she shuttles from Abuja to Kaduna to sell her weaved cloths.

These are some of the 'rags-to-riches' stories *TSM* ran into last week during the first year anniversary of the People's Bank in Lagos. PBN, a product of populist moment is a borrowed innovation from countries like Bangladesh, India and Germany where it's operated as credit unions to serve workers who had difficulty obtaining loans from banks. Indeed in these countries 'People's Banks' are non-profit cooperatives that make small consumer loans to people with a 'common bond,' such as members of club or congregation who understand themselves.

In fact, when the first branch of the bank was opened in Ajejunle (Lagos) October 3, last year, its ability to address the problem of the needy was very much in doubt.

As President Babangida said last week in Lagos "such scepticisms about the bank becoming another avenue for corrupt enrichment worried me too." Which was perhaps why for three months (Oct-Dec 89) the bank operated merely on experiment basis with only 20 branches nation wide through a 10-member implementa-

## Answered prayers?

tion Committee headed by Tai Solarin as chairman. However today, the operation figures from the bank is still 50 short of its projected figure for 1990. As at last week, the bank has disbursed N100m as loans to 121,000 beneficiaries, out of the total N240 so far given to it by the federal government.

That, at least, for now is the success story of the bank. But the PBN, going by what TSM gathered from its recipients and managers, seems to have raised some troubling questions and problems of its own. The current weekly repayment is one area that worries the recipients. One of them told TSM, for the bank's new vigour to carry it farther towards lessening the burden of borrowers, the weekly repayment arrangement should be scrapped and in its place a monthly repayment arrangement. From hind-sight, said another beneficiary, the bank's officials don't carry a thorough investigation into a borrower's occupation - to see if he could pay back and when due. This lapse TSM understands, is partly responsible for the 13 per cent rate of default the bank claimed it recorded this past year.

As the bank stretches its lending rate to N5,000 00 (which we understand is part of the N40m earmarked for it this fiscal year), Bata Musa, the bank's coordinator in charge of Abuja, Niger and Kwara told TSM that the problem of mobility must be addressed by the bank if its goals must be fully realised. "From my own experience in these states," he said "many people who need the bank's credit facilities cannot be reached because there's no access to the remote village where they live."

That is not all. Beneficiaries also complain about the bank's requirement that calls for a minimum of ten people and a maximum of 15 before a loan could be considered. That requirement they say is often difficult to meet. The wish list of some of them doesn't stop there. Some still complain that the new lending liquidity of N5,000 00 is still inadequate to successfully carry out a viable business venture.

Bul Tai Solarin is unreceptive to such request. "That request, I must say is near impossible," he says, adding that the derisive sobriquet 'Nigerian factor' will make the bank look like a *father christmas* which it is not. "What we're trying to do here," he told TSM "is to help the poor who don't have the collateral to borrow from commercial banks to set up their own businesses with minimal financial discomfort."

## The dilemma of default

With the peculiar circumstance of its target group, can the People's Bank reduce default rate on its loans?

**B**y 1989 Jide Ogunmosu could no longer contain the anguish. He was thoroughly fed up with life, and was on the verge of doing some-  
thing really crazy.

Jide is a 25-year-old marvel. Right from his days at Adeola Odutola College, Ijebu-Ode, he had shown great talent for the esoteric science of electricity. While still in secondary school and while his peers exuberantly indulged their adolescent fancies, Jide was trying to unravel the mysteries of electrical energy. He would pick gadgets and for hours on end fiddle with the contending mesh of wires and receptacles. Jide was obsessed, and soon his efforts began to pay off. For in his final year of school, only barely emerging from his teen age, the boy had started to fabricate gadgets of his own.

After his secondary school, Jide was promptly despatched for apprenticeship in an electrical workshop. But it wasn't long before he realised that the crummy workshop in downtown Ijebu Ode was too small for his ambitions. And so Jide broke loose.

For a number of years, the boy kept exploring, experimenting. And constantly fabricating. He tried his hands at manufacturing or reassembling radio cassette players, stereo amplifiers, musical boosters, electric cookers, TV sets, lighting sets and a whole range of other electrical products. He successfully packaged a wide-range of products and was already thinking of his own invention.

But finance was a problem. Everywhere Jide took his case to he ran into an unyielding stone wall. All he got was enthusiastic acclaim and benign words of encouragement.

However just when Jide thought all was lost, President Ibrahim Babangida established the People's Bank. For many months Jide watched as people applied and actually got the loan. So he decided to apply.

One thing however bugged him. He had heard the maximum loanable amount was N2,000. Indeed, many of the beneficiaries he knew got no more than N1,500. Yet this amount was trifle for a venture such as he was into. So he talked with People's Bank officials. They were convinced his case was exceptional. In the end Jide was given N5,000.

First thing the boy did was to register his business, to shove off customs officials who had been at his neck for illegal manufacture. What remained of the loan, was thrown into actual production.

So far the boy has produced three units of what he calls All System Musical Set - an adaptation of the all-inclusive conventional set. He has also produced three sets of musical equipment comprising turntable, radio deck booster, amplifier and speakers. But now, Jide can't produce any more. He has run out of money. And worse, he can not even pay back the People's Bank loan.

Jide's problem is complicated. He can't sell his products in an all-comers market when he hasn't obtained a patent for them. The boy says he needs an additional N10,000 to explore further and secure patent rights. He has written the Science and Technology Minister, M.K.O. Abiola, Oluaba Michael Balogun, Ebenezer Obey and others. Not a word of reply has been heard except regrets from Obey.

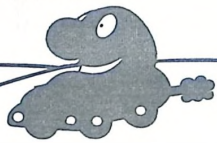
And yet, without additional assistance, Jide says he can't pay back the People's Bank loan. Already he is in default. He needs 50 weeks to repay on a weekly rate of N105. To date he has been able to pay for only six weeks, leaving a clear 44 weeks. With his maturity date coming up only 24 weeks away (March 1991) there's a clear case of default. And worse is that except something dramatic happens, the boy just can't pay.

At the end of its first year, the People's Bank recorded 87 per cent repayment rate on its loans. This puts default at 13 per cent. Although, as the national coordinator of the bank, Maria Sokenu, says, the 13 per cent is not completely lost, there is reason to worry, especially in light of the 150 per cent increase in loan ceiling, Sokenu says she believes peer pressure can help improve repayment profile, citing the example of how the peers of a beneficiary (who died without repaying) sold his cows to redeem the debt. Sokenu also believes that with the spectre of Decree 22 glaring defaulters in the face, there can be no cause for alarm.

Good enough, but the question is given the peculiar circumstance of the target group, as exemplified by Jide Ogunmosu's case, how far should the law bare its fangs?



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Arty stuff

# Ten tall years of show-biz

By Dan Onwukwe

Miller Mojekwu is excited and obviously pleased. The father and artistic director of the Mojekwu - five is elated that his

group has just celebrated a decade in the entertainment industry. "That we have survived a decade in show biz as one closely knit family" is something to celebrate, and I think it's an achievement in itself."

What's thrilling about the group is how the children have been able to combine effectively entertainment with their studies. In an exclusive interview with the group last week, TSM was let in to the secrets behind the thrill-

ier that has become the Mojekwu family, and what makes them stand shoulders and head above other families in Nigeria

Miller Mojekwu told TSM that he's a strong believer in teaching children to love music. He never, he says, pushes his children to follow his footsteps. A child, he says should learn music and acrobatics just as he learns writing and arithmetic. But three of his sons want to be musicians and two of his daughters say they want to be a pilot and a physician respectively.

The Mojekwu - 5 (as they are popularly called) told TSM that music is the most natural activity for a human being and it should be a part of everyday life. At their spacious residence on Oyelubo Street, Ikeja, there are dozens of wonderful musical video tapes for the children to learn from. And the children are learning and mimicking the dance steps and body movements of famous artists so perfectly. Take for instance, Chukwuma, the fifth in the Mojekwu family. Chukwuma dances very much like Michael Jackson and mimicks every footstep of the American megastar. No wonder he is called the 'African Michael Jackson'.

How is the Mojekwu-5 been able to combine their studies with their interests in entertainment? This is a question that agitates many minds. But Alam, the leader of the group tells TSM the secret behind their success. Says

Mojekwu - still strong at 10

the 19-year-old lad. "We don't allow our interest in show biz to interrupt our studies." Every day, he says. "We spend 7 hours on our studies and 2 hours in training and rehearsals. We don't see ourselves as extra ordinary people." Being able to combine studies with entertainment, he says is because "show business is in our blood and we owe it all to our parents, particularly our father." His role in the group he told TSM is to make the group a positive entertainment force in Nigeria.

It's easy to see where the Mojekwu-5 got their many interests. It was all in the parent's blood stream. Their father is a seasoned acrobat, dancer, fustler, singer and drummer who acquired his diverse skills during his 22 years sojourn in Ghana through association with various cultural and acrobatic groups, supervised by reputable experts in Ghana. And their mother, Mercy, a Ghanaian was an accomplished dancer in her prime. But mummy doesn't dance any more. Even if the Mojekwu family can't change the entire face of entertainment in Nigeria, Miller says he has shown that the family group can work wonders through their 'magical' performances on stage.

And like the saying that 'happiness is never complete until you share it with someone else,' their decade on show biz marked last Sunday was a celebration of their great experience in entertainment and a time to reach out to the needy.



SUNDAY OYELUBO

he little wee bird with a  
patriotic face perches on  
the Oak tree. With the pass-  
age of time, her environ-  
ment begins to condition  
her moods through a rich-  
ness of romantic creativity. She found  
she has a vision as well as a commit-  
ment to her society. She looks heaven-  
ward and says she needs nobody to  
tell her about what she has seen. She  
has been inspired. An inspiration to  
express herself and her society in con-  
crete forms. She decides to put them  
into paintings.

For six days on end last week, the  
main lounge of the Sheraton Hotel  
(Lagos) was as usual elegantly laid -  
sparkling glass, glistening silver, fine  
china - all arranged around wine and  
ham - a seasonal delicacy. But the  
people present paid scant attention to  
either setting or food. One thing rivet-  
ted their attention: the array of paint-  
ings. By an artist with fingers of Gold -  
Chinze Orji.

Chinze's illuminating collection of  
paintings is an inspiration which she  
says has grown with her all her life.  
Which is why she aptly describes it as  
*inspiration of the ages*. In art, of course,  
the field widens immensely as does  
the specifics of motives. For Chinze, art  
therefore becomes an expression of  
bottled up inner feelings which she  
says come from God.

Take for instance, the *minstrels*. *inspi-  
ration echoes from within, cultural ties* -  
all are outlets to express that inner vibra-  
tion and the engagement of societal  
realities. Her other works like the *pil-  
grims, communications, the politician*  
and the *rural woman* (Oh! one wished  
the rural woman was there) were bold  
attempts by the artist to restore the  
human dignity with a natural imagery  
via social realism. The result is Chinze's  
conception of herself and her society  
painted in concrete forms through her  
various media of used metals, wood  
backs, oil on canvass, moulding paste  
and acrylic on board.

Though the artist restrains herself  
from interpreting her different moods  
as displayed in her works, that, of  
course is deliberate. Reason inspira-  
tion is relative. Says Chinze, "every-  
man's inspiration is fixed to him and  
no amount of description will distort  
it, what you see is what you get."

Nonetheless, what could be  
gleamed and generalised from the  
artists work are the semantics of  
beauty colours, name and age. And  
her beauty, at least, speaks of her  
work. As she explains to TSM "what I've  
tried to do is to express myself in beau-

That restless drive made her to study  
Fine and Applied Arts at the University  
of Nigeria, Nsukka, majoring in paint-  
ing. While on campus she continued  
to keep the glow on when in 1985 she  
participated in a group exhibition that  
attracted a large audience. And since  
after graduation, she has gone places,  
having taken part in exhibitions in

## n artist with fingers of gold

Born with a silver spoon

...Chinze's 'Inspiration  
of the Ages' was her  
bottled up inner  
feelings and  
reality of  
society.

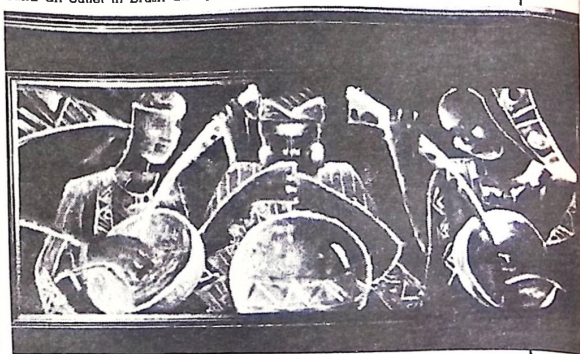
tiful colours and what you see is the  
beauty of me." That could be the art-  
ist's magic touch which she says is her  
insatiable lust to create, to find new  
outlets of expression. Even now,  
Chinze, 26, hopes to go into film pro-  
duction in the future. "I know that I'm  
good with the camera and I've this  
inner feeling that needs to be trans-  
lated into the screen. Each day, that  
inner feeling grows stronger."

It's easy to see where Chinze got her  
many interests. Her father's side of the  
family is steeped in the art. With a lot  
of artistic talent running loose, the artist  
discovered herself very early in life.  
As a child, Chinze was brimming with  
sketches with and an every available  
space, fashioning out things like ear-  
rings, bangles and simple jewelry from  
discused metals. It was an exhilarating  
moment of her life.

As she grew older, she started creat-  
ing patterns on dresses. Much later she  
found an outlet in brush and paint.

New York (1987) and Los Angeles  
(USA) in 1988.

By the time the 6-day exhibition  
ended penultimate Friday the dig-  
nitaris which include her parents, Eze  
U. E. D. and J. C. Orji, Moshood Abiola  
(Concord Press Chairman), Everest  
Oloegbu, (Chairman Namsa Group of  
Companies), Eric Opa, and G. N.  
Hamze, - all agreed that the little  
gifted bird is well on her way to the  
top. And the sky is her limit.



Chinze's music makers



## STARDUST



Ujoegbu... Father Xmas

**E**VEREST Ofoegbu may win an award this year. Not a national award in the sense you think. But an award for philanthropy, for everywhere the young millionaire goes he dazzles audiences with his limitless generosity. 'Anywhere work of art is organised, or a charity venture is happening', the *1st Bu Mba of Obubu* Umuahia told STARDUST, 'you can count on my patronage'. No wonder he's dishing out money and writing off bills like it will soon go out of fashion.

But we wonder who the committee to save Charity Agboku (the beauty queen who had an acid poured on her by her former boy friend) is grasping in the dark on how to rake in money to save the dying lady, maybe they have not yet got the ears of Everest Ofoegbu. Or is beauty reconstruction not a work of art?

**W**hen love comes calling, age, status, tribe, religious considerations fly out of the window. That is why we now have men and women coupling across the generations. Older woman, younger man, older man, younger man, rich man, poor woman. Layabout, female boss, work-shy girl, fanatical worker. Name it, we have it.

But you know *Stardust* can never fail to bring you the latest chapter in this on-going series. Well, our guy has left home, friends, family to pitch tent with his woman. Their new home is a classy hotel in Lagos. A high-brow fashion house is their body. They have abandoned journalism for this. Anyway, that's not the news. The gist is that he has now adopted his woman's religion.

Didn't we say that when love comes calling christian is the order of the day.

**W**HAT manner of man, if we may ask can at this *sappy* times spend N70,000 to fate media executives just on the spot, invest N150,000 in publicity blitz and over N200 million in a project he hopes to be the American Disney land in Nigeria, and yet get little patronage?

Go and ask Ben Ikeakor, managing director of Leisureland Promotions what was responsible for the low turn out at his independence music carnival last week. Was it high gate fee of (N20), sabotage, calibre of artistes recruited or sheer ill-luck? We advise him to go to 7Up bottling company for tutorial lessons on show biz.



Ortis Wiliki... music on deaf ears

**A**NYONE should think twice about attending any seminar, workshop, launching at Commerce House, Victoria Island, Lagos. The air-condition system is out of this world. It is chillingly cold. Even when you put on your woollen skirt suit you still get the goose pimples.

A good number of the guests at a recent workshop organised by "women Concerned" were so glad when breaktime was announced. You should have seen the long queue for coffee and tea. Everyone shunned punch, water and other cold drinks. Some merely wrapped their palms round their steaming mugs for huge doses of body heat.

Alas! If not for the line-up of fine papers many people would have disappeared because of the chill. So, when next an IV drops on your desk for a seminar at Commerce grab a top coat, you might find it handy.

**S**OMEONE should please educate Hausa, Funtua Mohammed about the job definition of a moderator. Perhaps the excitement of holding a microphone and being in charge got to her two Fridays ago. She kept on injecting her personal experiences and bored the audience to no end.

The occasion was the two-day discourse session on "Thirty years of Nigerian Woman". Hausa hugged the mike to herself when she should have only encapsulated the remarks of earlier speakers.

To others who are in the dark, a moderator's job starts and ends with the introduction of guests, speakers and the monitoring of the trend of discussions. In short, she chiefly moderates well! (apologies to member diet, Jerry Gona) not commandeer the occasion.

**D**O you know that Franco Afegbua, ex-selector, beautician, fashion pacesetter is a pounds millionaire. Remember we said pounds not Naira. Multiply that FEM style and you have millions of Naira. Affordable Afegbua herself declared her assets recently at Mandator's album launching.

According to her, the organisers should not badger her for donations as her presence alone is worth more than a million pounds.

She quipped that organisers should court themselves lucky if she decides to honour their occasions with her presence. We just thought you should know this so that you don't go carrying a tray where Afegbua is holding court.

Didn't they say somewhere that the haves will hold on to their bucks or take from the have-nots.



Afegbua... Millionaire



# Sporting

By Ochereome Nnanna

What has happened to him since he got that letter. This was the kind of letter he has waited for in 11 years but waited in vain. While he waited, Peter Konyegwachie, Jerry Okorodudu and Charles Nwokolo, returned from the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984, got their letters and took off to America in search of professional lucre. If these people got lucky because they were Olympians what about Joe Lasisi who, after scrapping around as a street boxer, got lucky and smashed Okorodudu? He went on to win the African Boxing Union light heavyweight championship held by Lottie Mwale of Zambia. Lasisi even got a chance to grab the world title, but flunked it. The dummy.

Even though he won the ABU welterweight title, defended it, relinquished it and went on to win the African middle weight crown in October 1988, a title he has defended several times and still holds up till today, Hunter Clay of Nigeria still failed to get anyone interested to help him go abroad to take a potshot at the world crown. Inamandi Moweta, Nigeria's US-based professional boxing promoter who took Lasisi away from local obscurity, has never even looked at him before.

What else to do? He went begging and the person he approached was

# My target is a million dollars

the Pillar of Sports in Africa himself, Chief Moshood Abiola, who, Clay claimed, is virtually his clansman Clay (whose real name is Tajudeen Odeyemi) hails from Agbole Arowo Eyin In Ogun State

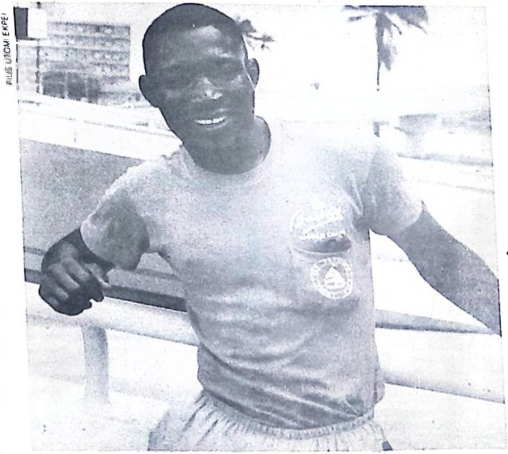
Having tried in vain to get in touch with the generous chief and failed several times, Clay stole into the reception train of the silver winning Flying Eagles of the Saudi '89 game to Chief Abiola's house. As the reception ended, Clay obsequiously inched for-

*Hunter Clay believes that only a white girlfriend can help him to win the world boxing title when he goes to America!*

ward into Abiola's presence and with a solicitous smile, introduced himself. *E le sir, I am Hunter Clay, Tajudeen Odeyemi from ...* The Chief, glancing impatiently at his watch cut in.

"Yes, I know you, but I have a very important appointment now", and left him to join his invited guests. Stung, Clay came back to resume his game. Unfortunately, no opponent of reasonable box-office rating has come forward in recent times to spoil for a fight, even when promoters are willing to stage a show, as they do once in a long, blue while.

Finally, Billy Famous, another Nigerian US-based boxer, was able to convince a boxing manager, Donald Harewood to take a chance on Clay. Harewood recently wrote Clay and proposed a 4 year contract, promising to send in money for necessary arrangements for the African champion



Clay: Now a no-go area for Nigerian girls



PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER

"Abiola shunned me"

to go to the USA. If Clay accepted the deal.

Since he got that letter Tajudeen's springing walk has become jauntier. Street urchins and touts who hang around the National Stadium now tag behind him, hailing him "wori champion" any time he makes a particularly heavy reference to his intended exploits in America. About seven of them stood around attentively as Clay poured his heart out to TSM Sporting just outside the boxing gym of the National Stadium.

As he unfolded his America game-plan, he sounded like a man in a delicious trance.

"When I go to America, I promise Nigeria and myself three things. I will win the world middleweight crown, make a million dollars and marry a white woman whom I will bring down to Nigeria!"

Let's examine this peculiar manifesto. Perhaps it opens a window into the internal psychology of the man making it, as shaped by his life experiences.

First of all, the world crown. Yep. That's the target of all sane sports people. Then, the million dollars. Also yep. That's the supposed logical consequence of being a world champion.

And then, the white lady. Where does that one fit in? Clay, in fact, said with absolute firmness that it must be a white lady, or at least a black American but never a Nigerian girl, even if she was born and bred abroad.

He is totally convinced that Nigerian women would rather bring you down a peg or two if you are a sportsman. According to him, his own personal experiences showed that his Nige-

rian girlfriends could partly account for his relative lack of upward mobility in his profession which he has practised for 17 years now. One of them, a Kehinde Ajakaye, whom he even made his manageress, made no impact on his job but a white lady, one Priscila Shaw, with whom he spent three months in London, helped him progress tremendously.

Those who say that women are bad for sportsmen are barking up the wrong tree. He says: "No sportsman can do without a woman, except if he is a homosexual", adding, "but the woman has to be ready to help the man to grow. With a good girlfriend behind me, I can smash a wall with my hands".

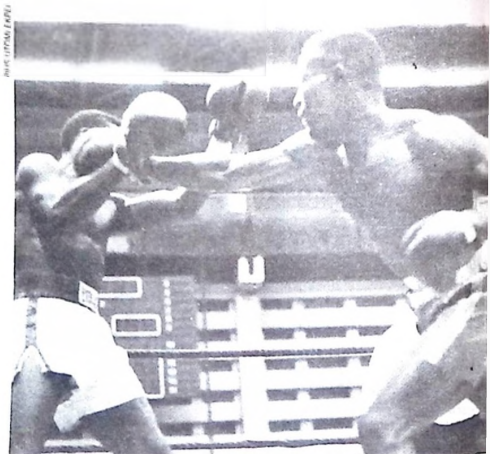
Hunler Clay is already living in the future and has mapped out how he would celebrate that glorious moment when he will arrive Nigeria with the world title. "When I return," he said, "I will present the belt to Peter Eruleya, the best sports promoter Nigeria has ever had. He is now a pastor, but he still promotes sports. He helped organize the recent female (Super League) football. He was the one who sent me to London during my commonwealth campaign. It was he who sponsored Bella Ogunlana (Nigeria's best known female wrestler) and that

white woman Rusty Blair. He started the Kakanjo Babes, now run by Simbiat Abiola. The team placed third in the female super league. "I will never forget that man Eruleya".

One good reason why the African champion is looking forward so eagerly to the million dollars is to wipe away the humiliating memory of Chief Abiola's open disinterest to his problem.

"I am the only Ogun State indigene who has won an African boxing title," he lamented. "My achievement is Chief Abiola's achievement. He gives help to people from other parts of the country, even foreigners. Imagine, he even gave money to Roger Mills, but his own townsman who is an African champion, he shunned. Anyway, I won't say anything now. All I know is that I am going to win for Ogun State and Nigeria what Dick Tiger and Hogan Kid Bassey won for their states and Nigeria".

Tajudeen is not bothered by his age which he puts at 27 years. It is not too late because I am the only one among my contemporaries who is still around. Even those who came after me have faded, and yet I am still the best in Africa. Nothing is going to stop me now".



Clay working over a Togolese opponent, Dara Dossou

# Don't help them

## The 1990 International Milo Marathon Final is strictly for pros!

By Ochereome Nnanna

All amateurs give way. The real marathon is here at last. The long, hard, dry kind of marathon meant only for those on whom nature favoured with the guts. No more spoon-feeding, no more pampering. After all, *Phaidippides*, who ran the first marathon of 150 miles over three thousand years ago didn't even drink Milo to achieve the feat, neither was he paid a single kobo. He ran barefooted, of course.

This time, all participants will not only don Milo T-Shirts they will be served the energy — replenishing drink, but only in strict accordance with standards that obtain internationally. After all, this is the Milo International Marathon Race finals.

In the past, participants had this unacceptable habit of branching off at any handy point to demand for water from members of the public who, out of sympathy, obliged them, thus helping in sustaining marathon misdemeanours. The Amateur Athletic Association of Nigeria (AAAN) could not take the necessary steps to disqualify them because athletes came in with accusations that the officially-sanctioned refreshment centres were empty of officials.

Many of them blamed the death of late Inspector Ladi Musa during this year's Mallonic Miler on this. But for her demise, Ladi would have been around to defend the female title she won last year when Milo marathon first went international.

This year, invitation has been sent to Ghana, Togo, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroun, Benin Republic, and Chad in the West and Central Af-

rican sub-regions. The East Africans (Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia) who are the grand Papa's of long races in the world, have also been invited. To ensure that they do come, the sponsors, the Food Specialities of Nigeria, is sending return air tickets to all African countries that accept the invitation for two athletes whose lodging and feeding expenses will be covered by the sponsorship. FSN will also cater for the camping of 10 top Nigerian marathoners selected by the AAA after the just concluded 7 — zone preliminaries.

The star prizes for winners are N25,000 and N15,000 for men and women respectively, N15,000 and N10,000 for second placers and N10,000 and 7,000 for those who come third in the two gender classes, respectively.

Various cash rewards will go to those who place up to the 20th position. There will also be bonus prize of N5,000 for every Nigerian runner who finishes in 2 hours, 20 minutes for men and 2 hours 40 minutes for the ladies. Chris Ogbeche, FSN's Marketing Manager, told *TSM Sporting* that this generous cash down-pour is aimed at

bringing out the best in all our runners since they will be competing beside the very best on the world of marathon.

Expectedly, the seed of awareness sown by last year's zonal arrangement grew into a towering iroko this year, because about 5,000 youths took part in the zonal preliminaries. Chief A.A. Bassey, the organizing committee chairman, told our reporter that AAAN, saturated with criticisms that fell out of the tragic end of Ladi Musa, went the extra mile, to ensure that all participants are declared medically fit for the 42 kilometre race by authentic medical practitioners listed in the register of the Nigerian Medical Association.

The AAA has already bought an up-to-date register of duly accredited medical and dental practitioners to check against fake certificates of medical fitness. In addition, there is a group insurance which, *TSM* learnt, was taken out with the Royal Exchange Assurance.

So, the stage is set for the November 11 International marathon. Beware!! It is strictly for people with lungs of steel!

PHOTO BY PUS UTOWE/MEPC



Marathon casualty, Milo female defending champ, Ladi Musa, Gone



Kinkin boy, Bazighe "It's the work of God"

# Africa's newest monarch

By Yusuph Olaniyonu

while setting another one at 72.93 metres. He thus became the only athlete to set a new national record at the one day open classics. Three months later at the Nigeria/Mobil Track and Field Championship, he set a new African record at 76.6 metres

**T**he main bowl of the National Stadium lived up to its name this day. Scores of athletes were busy sprinting, leaping and throwing. The scanty crowd was also there cheering. It was time for the 2nd Amateur Athletics Association of Nigeria (AAAN's) open classic meet and athletes from all over the country converged to test skills against each other.

But amidst the competing and cheering lot, he stood out. His spot of competition was far from the cheering crowd. At every throw he made, the crowd cheered. "This boy will definitely set a new record today", somebody from the crowd shouted. And he was correct. But Bazighe, the javelin thrower from Rivers State broke his old national record of 70.54 metres throw

beating Zakayo Malekwa's record of 76.48 metres set in 1986. This was the only African record broken during the open championships.

Average tall and Ebony black, Pius is a popular athlete among his fellow competitors and he seems to be revered by them. At least, the way his fellow competitors cheered all his throws attested to that.

Pius' initiation to javelin throwing was however accidental. His father loves fishing as a pastime. So at the ponds in Ajeunle, Bazighe senior found it more convenient using spear to pin the fish. And while he was doing it with Pius by his side, he was inadvertently schooling the boy accurately in the skill of javelin throwing.

But this skill was burging in Pius without a medium of expression until in 1986 when he participated in the Inter House Sports meet of his school, Dr

Lucas Memorial High School, Kirkin. There and then, one of his teachers took him to the Lagos State Sports Council where he was groomed for the National Schools Sports Festival held in Minna, the same year. There, the school boy placed fourth in his debut national competition.

I have my eyes on the All-Africa, Commonwealth and Olympic games because those are the avenues I can explore to put myself in world focus, the powerfully-built thrower added.

He might be right. His earlier attempt to prove this point came to naught. In 1989, Pius' throw of 68.96m could not meet the AAAN's 79 meter standard for the Commonwealth Games. Then TSM asked Pius about his plan for a professional career in Europe or America as is typical of Nigerian athletes. Expecting the obvious, the reporter was surprised when Pius said "I do not intend to live outside Nigeria."

## SNAPSHOTS

### Ernest Okonkwo Goes Home

The remains of late versatile sports commentator, Ernest Okonkwo, was finally committed to earth yesterday in his hometown, Nando in Oyo local government area of Anambra State.

TSM Sporting gathered that the burial ceremonies were delayed for over two months to enable the Committee of friends to ensure completion of a country home which Ernest started, as well as to put a bright face on things during the obsequies.

The funeral kicked off with a Christian wake-keeping at his residence, 39A Glover Street, Ikoyi, on Thursday. The following day, the body was placed in-state at the Sports Hall of the National Stadium, before being taken to the Cathedral Church of Christ, Lagos for a valedictory, commendation service at 11.00 a.m.

An hour later, the funeral party was airborne for Enugu where, after a brief ceremony at Nnamdi Azikiwe stadium, the convoy finally moved on to Nando.

### Bagco's Juvenile Super Classics

For the third consecutive year, the super-soldier people, Nigerian Bag Manufacturing Company Limited, makers of Bagco, threw their net into the deep sea of Nigerian intermediate lawn tennis, hoping to come up with raw talents hidden in the remote brooks.

The 3rd U-18 Tennis Classics, which begin tomorrow at the refurbished courts of the National Stadium, is setting the company back by N100,000, but its spokesman, P.S. Ogunkoya, says no sweat, because Bagco, as Africa's biggest sock manufacturers is big enough to foot the bill again and again.

The sponsoring covers two male and female players from all the states and Abuja, but the Nigeria Lawn Tennis Association (NLTA) is confident that over 200 boys and a hundred girls will be there.

**TOWARDS 1992**

**SDP NRC**

**1990**

**1991**

**1992**  
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**IS FOR**  
**REAL**

Civil rule is for real, come 1992 and here's proof — the formation of two political parties: the SDP and NRC.

Also, Party Officers have been democratically elected at the ward and local government.

Congresses and National Conventions of the two parties. No going back.

Civil Rule is for Real come 1992.



*Published by the Federal Ministry of Information, Lagos.*

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