

September 1977

DRUM

AFRICA'S LEADING MAGAZINE

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**No-nonsense
Oba Akinsanya**

**Sir Shina
storms in**

**How Terror
took title**

**African jazz
hits New York**

**Benson Idahosa's
big-time church**

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ke up Board

E drastic measures taken by the Price Control Board only must be commended. These people, who were jailed, were either fined or given what they thought was a slap on the wrist. But suddenly, the fire went out and the Board became a mere order and not bite. The profiteers are now roasting again. Could the board please start the prosecutions and put us back on the right track?

Alakona, Lagos
P.C.B. please wake up. — Editor.

We'll take a long time forgetting FESTAC, the reasons of course, was the number of beautiful people who came to Nigeria for the festival — like this month's cover-girl, snapped at the opening ceremony. See pages 26 and 27 for some sensational dancers!



demands of their goddess, and resorted to animal sacrifices.

We need protection!

LAWLESSNESS seems to be the order of the day in Nigeria, robbers and other thugs have taken over. It is now not safe to go out in the dark. There are daily reports of cars being stolen and of people being mugged.

Daring thugs raided the Barclays Bank in Benin during the day and two weeks later, another gang held up a firm and escaped with thousands of naira. Similar things are happening in other Nigerian towns.

Are we under siege? It is incredible that this state of affairs is allowed to develop in a country ruled by the army! The army and the police have pledged to protect us so God knows what will happen if we have an external attack.

Ojolupe, Lagos

Help Agu Owa fight the goddess

The report in DRUM earlier this year about the "Man-eating goddess of Agu Owa" is a challenge to Christianity and to the evangelists in particular.

That a "goddess" should still wield such influence over a whole tribe must accept from Satan. With the advent of Christianity the Agu Owa people could not live up to the

Christians does not only sacrifice but up human ways with heathenism. Since they cannot meet the demands of their man-eating goddess, they should discard the goddess immediately or she will continue to torment them.

If the Agu Owa people give themselves up to true Christianity, I promise them that disaster from the man-eating goddess can befall them and no herby call the evangelists all over the world to help get Bethel C. Nwanguma, Port Harcourt

Keep FESTAC alive!

AS THE name implies, the World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) was meant to preserve and maintain African culture. Being so, we blacks should strive to uphold our culture which we have demonstrated to the outside world. If no attempt is made to preserve and maintain our culture for which millions of naira were used, then the talk type in any African country becomes a wasteful exercise. I appeal to all Africans to be proud of our cultural heritage.

Mbadun, Cotonou-Benin
We agree with you. — Editor.

The rich can do without

In Nigeria, scholarship awards are given to many young men

and women from rich families. The irony is that the majority of the brilliant children from poor parents who are supposed to benefit from this scheme are thrown out.

This practice is wrong and dishonest. Children of rich people should be disqualified. Government should make it the Federal policy not to award scholarships to them.

Godwin S. Ejembi, Lagos

Re-unite the nationalists

THE front line African states, comprising Tanzania, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique, Botswana, are currently spearheading the fight for majority rule in Zimbabwe by giving their support to Patriotic Front of Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo. At the expense of Bishop Ndabandwe Sithole. Realising that these two leaders have for more than a decade fought for majority rule in their motherland, the attitude of the front leaders leaves much to be desired.

Just recently Zambia claimed a very strong attack against Mugabe and Sithole of white rebels in Zimbabwe because they refused to bow to Mugabe and Nkomo.

The front line states should seek a way of re-uniting the Nkomo/Sithole groups instead of sowing seeds of danger for the Zimbabweans. And the Lusaka government should stop its vicious attack on

Muzorewa and Sithole because that is not in the interest of peace.
Chattala, Minna
Good point. Over to the front line states. — Editor.

Kidnapping on the increase

THE rate at which people have gone missing in Nigeria is alarming. It has become a question mark on our national security. Kidnapping has become a means of living. The news of a missing Nigerian surveyor and N1,000 in Ondo State is very disheartening. People are no longer free to move about for fear of being kidnapped. What is the cause of this and who are the people responsible? We law enforcement agents should solve this urgently.

Dynamite Awee, Kwale enforcement agents alone. We must all be involved by reporting suspected kidnapers to the police. — Editor.

DRUM LETTERS

Oh Dolly, what a shame!
I WOULD like to comment on the careless way in which Dolly Cletus, captioned "Now she is expecting" in March DRUM. Dolly did not see anything wrong in a boy of 13 being in love with a girl of 13!

One would have expected young Cletus to the dangers inherent in his clandestine love should be studying. Dolly does not need to be told that moral decadence in youth should be condemned without mincing words.

Doc, Cletus want to become a father at 13? What a shame. Ade Omorin, Yaba
Well, Mr Omorin, you are entitled to your own opinion. — Editor.

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A begging menace

IT IS disheartening to see the streets of our big towns flooded with beggars, some of whom are foreigners.

To give economic and political assistance to neighbouring African states by tolerating their immigrants during a drought is all right, but we must not allow them to become a menace.

I suggest that the Government set up rehabilitation centres where they can be engaged in helping themselves and the country. Farm settlements, handicraft centres and the like can be set up in suitable places for those who are not physically handicapped. This would help greatly in eradicating this menace.

Francis Offodile, Umuabani
Could the authorities concerned please note Mr Offodile's suggestions? — Editor.

Thanks DRUM

but . . .

YOU are very reliable indeed. I have started to get your widely read magazine through your subscription department. Thanks. But I wish you would include more international news like how our brothers are being murdered in Shaba Province, Mr and Mrs Rabin's recent violation of Israeli law, Bhutto's failure to resign, and what the military men are doing in Pakistan.

Greg, Jos

Glad you like DRUM. As for your suggestions, they are well noted. — Editor.

I like your branches

THE proprietors of DRUM Publications Ltd. have taken the right step by publishing the branches of DRUM offices throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

This action is commendable in the light of the fact that those people who have been reading the magazine have had no access to attention as a result of lack of branch offices in their areas. But this problem has been reduced.

Perhaps your management could explore the possibility of establishing branches of DRUM in every local government area of Nigeria.

E. U. Otu, Ikom

Your request is noted. — Editor.

Help find my brother

PLEASE help me find my brother. We were living together when our father died in 1969. At that time we were living at Kawo in Kaduna.

When I was in primary school, he joined a group of musicians, who played at night clubs in Kaduna. Later they

moved to Kano and the other parts of the country. Now hear that he is abroad. Name is Joseph Masau Anam.

He left us when I was 10 years old, a year after our father died. Our mother and she wants all of our children to be near.

J. J. Anamson, Federal Government Teachers' College, PMB 40, Pankaj, Minna

I want my friend

PLEASE help me find my friend, Mr Samson Ezeudu, who worked with him in the Ministry of Works and Housing, Kafanchan between 1974-75. Since then we have not touched. Anybody who has his address please write to me. Prince Leo Njoku, A. O. 18, Nassarawa Road, Kaduna, Kaduna State

We need a census

THE Federal Military Government should use its great offices to eradicate any capable of plunging country into another disaster when the military retires to barracks in 1979.

Among such issues is a controversial national census of 1973. This census talked-about issue may breed new set of radicalism which may lead to catastrophes with the present administration.

Any situation that brings back the army after 1979 should be stamped out now. I appeal to General Obasanjo and his colleagues of the Supreme Military Council to consider the necessity of conducting national census before the term of office ends.

Adze S. A., Port Harcourt

What's happened to Radio O-Y-O?

I WISH to express my great concern about Radio O-Y-O. I always enjoyed their programmes such as Baba Sa requests in Yoruba and other programmes.

But for a long time now, don't normally get the station at Benin. When I am in rural areas I sometimes get by luck.

Is the station no longer existence? I wish the management of the station could do something about it before they lose most of their regular listeners.

Ishormhen Alekhioje, Benin City

Radio O-Y-O is still functioning, but its sudden disappearance from the air in certain parts of the country not unconnected with the creation of more states. I station lost its Abajon transmission to Ogun state management of the station doing something about it. Editor.



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35 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT NIGERIA

A visit to Imo State



NIGERIA'S Head of State, Lieutenant General Olusegun Obasanjo, recently visited Imo State. Here he is seen (TOP LEFT) on board M. V. Oguta waving to the crowd. At the Central School, Mgbidi (TOP RIGHT) he inspected a guard of honour mounted by the Fifth Infantry Brigade. He also met (BOTTOM LEFT) His Royal Highness the Eze Igwe of Oguea, Eze Nzeribe II. State dignitaries met Lt-Gen Obasanjo at Mgbidi, Oru. He is seen shaking hands with the State Chief Judge, Mr Justice C. A. Oputa.

How to get a croc by the tail!



GHANA is trying to tempt tourists with the delights of holding a crocodile by the tail. Of course it helps enormously if the beast's attention is distracted — in this case by giving it a chicken to chomp. The tourists are charged \$1 a time. Talk about cheap thrills!

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No-nonsense

DRUM meets Oba Samuel Akinsanya, Odemo of Ishara

NIGERIANS will always remember Oba Samuel Akinsanya, the Odemo of Ishara, not only because he is a traditional ruler, but also because he was one of the early nationalists who fought relentlessly for the independence of Nigeria.

Oba Samuel Akinsanya did not have the type of education that most Nigerians enjoy today. In fact, he did not see the inside of any secondary school or university, yet he is today one of the brains that must be reckoned with in Nigeria. Samuel Akinsanya can rightly be regarded as a self-made man. He developed and trained himself to the extent that even graduates in English language concede the

BY FAR the most controversial traditional ruler during the political crisis before the Army took over Samuel Akinsanya, the Odemo of Ishara. Even in intimidation and humiliation, he did not bow his head. Oba Akinsanya (ABOVE) had a heart-to-heart talk with DRUM's Olaseinde Lawson at his Ishara palace.

Pictures by Matthew Fajii

mastery of the language to him. Once a stenographer, a trade unionist, and a politician, the Oba is now a traditional ruler. DRUM went to Ishara, in the Remo Division of Ogun State,

to talk to the 79-year-old Oba about his activities, before and after Nigeria's independence, his opposition to Akintola's government, the Agbekoya episode, and what he thinks of the present generation and the

draft of a new constitution. DRUM's people in Nigeria are developing their reading and writing skills.



CONTINUED

liked me and I worked for several firms, including the old British Bank for West Africa. The secret of typing and shorthand is in practice.

Today, I am still very good or whatever I want to write. I just insert papers and carbons into the typewriter and off I go. But the highest I earned as a stenographer was N40.

The same goes for my other successes. I made myself I read anything that came my way, if it was written in English I am very high. I love and I emulate them. It is a pity during the Abegboya crisis. My books covered the four walls of the library.

I do a lot of reading and writing. I was a freelance writer for the *Spectator*, the *Times*, the *Daily Service*, etc. in those days and I was a very powerful orator. However, I panned a lot when I was a stenographer. Particularly from Mr. A. B. Henderson, who was the general manager of a Nited Bank for Africa. I was his secretary, so when I took dictation from him or when he gave me a draft to type I always admired his way of writing and I tried to emulate him.

So, as you can see, my secret is in reading. Up till today, I still read. There is no end to learning. When you read you

enjoy and acquire a lot of knowledge.

As for me being the source of inspiration for people who want to be self-made, well, I won't deny it because I too like to emulate people who I believe are good, and I am easily inspired by them. For instance, I adored Sir Winston Churchill and others who never saw the inside of any university but who were geniuses in their lifetime.

DRUM: *Kabisiye, besides being a stenographer, what other jobs did you do?*

ODEMO: I was a trade unionist. I organised the first trade union in this country, the Nigerian Motor Transport Union. I was the Secretary General. In 1937 I organised the first strike in Nigeria. For five days there was no public transport in what was then called Western Region. We were fighting against what we regarded as double licence. The authorities regarded some motorists as competing with the Nigerian Railway Corporation and they were trying to blame the transporters for the losses of the railway, which were chiefly due to bad management. However, we resolved the crisis after the fifth day. I also organised the Nigerian Produce Traders Union and we had many achievements to our credit. I cannot remember them all now.

DRUM: *How did you come into politics?*

ODEMO: The Nigerian Youth Movement was founded by J. C. Vaughan. He was president and I was the first secretary. Other founding members were Ernest Ikoli, H. O. Davies and Victor Kayode, father of Chief Rami Fani-Kayode. Primarily, the Nigerian Youth Movement was not a political organisation but when it became increasingly impossible for us to press our policies in the Legislative Assembly, then we turned it political.

For instance, the Yaba Higher College was established to train assistant medical officers, assistant engineers, and so forth. We thought we were ripe enough to have fully fledged doctors and engineers. In order to fulfil our desires, we decided that we should have our own men in the legislature. It was difficult. This was because the political scene was dominated by the late Herbert Macaulay and his men. Almost all the people we approached to contest the elections were afraid of

I will not bow where it is not necessary for me to bow. I stand for justice and truth.

Herbert Macaulay. But at last we got three candidates.

One thing which was in our favour was that we had very powerful speakers (I was one of them) and the people liked our lectures and campaign. In fact, after I had spoken, the crowd would disperse because I was the one they liked to listen to. So we decided that at each gathering I should speak last. At the elections, we won the three Lagos seats in the legislature and were able to fulfil our plans. Thereafter, Nigerian scholars went to both foreign and local universities, engineers, architects, etc.

That was how I became involved in active politics. We were the boys at the front: Ernest Ikoli, journalist; Nnamdi Arizeke, also a journalist; Julius Ojo Cole, schoolmaster; B. B. Salami, schoolmaster and later a journalist. We fought the colonial masters tooth and nail.

DRUM: *Kabisiye, later you became a traditional ruler and you were a member of the House of Chiefs in the old Western Region. You were actively involved in the government of that region from 1958 to the last day of the civilian regime. That is before the Army took over. What do you think of that government, particularly shortly before the military took over? Not forgetting, of course, that you were one of those traditional*

rulers whose salary was reduced to one kobo a year.

ODEMO: The Western House started well with the Action Group — all the obas in the

The Nigerian press is not free. You just have to toe the line or you are out.

Western Region at that time were consulted and the government had a way of unfolding its plans to the traditional rulers as a kind of soliciting support. Before any bill was passed in parliament, every clause would be explained to the obas — even in the vernacular. The government did not hide anything. It confided in the people through the traditional rulers. There was no trouble until there were rivalries between the leaders of the Action Group.

Chief Awolowo was the party leader and head of government when he was Premier, but when Chief Akintola became Premier he was only head of government.

As a matter of principle, the party leader has a right to know government policies, particularly if the party of which he is the head is the ruling government. This is regardless of the fact that he is not a physically part of that government. Akintola did not like Awolowo's interference in his government. There was crisis in the party and consequently there were uprisings in the Parliament.

Well, I am a man of principle. I will not bow where it is not necessary for me to bow. Secondly, I stand for justice and truth. Thirdly, I prefer the devil I know to the angel I do not know and worked with Chief Awolowo for several years before the Western crisis. He is a man I admire. Indeed to change all of a sudden would be derogatory. I thought it was wrong for me to say yes and no at the same time. My decision not to toe Chief Akintola's line was personal and it was a matter of principle.

There was offered money, but I refused it. I was intimidated and humiliated on the floor of Western House, but I did not budge. How could I follow such people when I believed honestly within myself that they were wrong, and false in their claims? I did not show me their programmes. They put their cards face downwards and asked me to follow them. I was too principled a man to be influenced with money, or to submit to incompetent and big gamesters were punished innocently.

I stuck to my principles and my convictions. You know what happened to those who went to the other side. They all

crashed together. I would have crashed with them if I had submitted to intimidation. I had loved money and if I had had no willpower. Those were the times that tried men's soul, and only men who were men survived. I thank God that I am among the lucky ones.

As for the kobo-a-year salary, nobody paid me one kobo a year. What happened was that the local authority then, which was a caretaker one, stopped my salary. It was one of the measures designed to make me bow my head, submit to an unpopular government. Money is necessary, but it is not important to me. Some of those who enriched themselves illegally at that time are still around and they are not better off. In fact they are worse off. There was no law which empowered any local authority to stop the salary of a traditional ruler. But at that time nobody did anything according to the law. However, I took legal action against the local authority caretaker committee at the Shugamba Chief Magistrate's Court and I won, with N60 cost.

DRUM: *You are one of the most outspoken and fearless obas in this country. Do you hide under the immunity of the institution of obaship to criticize any government or person who does not see eye to eye with you or is just your way of life?*

ODEMO: I don't know what you mean by immunity of the institution of obaship. My outspokenness is not an official call. It has nothing to do with my being a traditional ruler. All those who have reason to have worked with me or be associated with me over the years, have known me to be forthright as a matter of fact, it was for my forthrightness that most people admired me. I am always frank and sincere in my

The constitution which provides comfort, food, shelter, medical care and good education to the people of this great country is the one to be adopted.

dealings with anybody. In the Nigerian Youth Movement, I was known for my outspokenness. As a trade unionist, my union members admired me for my fearlessness. Well, it is my way of life to be frank, sincere and outspoken, regardless of whose ox is gored. **DRUM:** *You said that the Abegboyas burnt your library which was full of books. How many books do you estimate were burnt and why were you involved in the Abegboyas crisis?*

The crocodile goddess of

AN expatriate, Mr Raymond, had been married to a Nigerian for years without his wife having a baby. Word reached him that there was a crocodile goddess in Agenebode who could answer his desire for a child. Desperate for his wife to have one, the man went with her to the goddess and made his appeal. A month later his wife became pregnant, and when the baby came it was a boy.

Another expatriate did not believe in the goddess and whatever her shrine stood for.

He went to her river bank, caught some fish, and made himself a good meal. Within 24 hours of eating the fish he was reported dead.

This, say the locals, is because the fish that play in the clear water where the shrine is situated are the exclusive property of the goddess, and it is taboo for anybody to kill or eat them.

If a woman is suspected of adultery, and has a baby, the child is taken to the shrine and put in the water. The woman then appeals to the goddess that if it is true that the child is not her husband's the crocodile should eat it.

But if she has not cheated on her husband, the child should be spared.

It is said that the crocodile has eaten some babies where the mother committed adultery. But those whose mothers were falsely accused had their babies spared.

During the civil war it is said that although the rebel forces shelled the area extensively, not a single house was knocked down in the area where this goddess is worshipped.

When Federal troops were engaged in clearing Bendel State of rebel occupation, the area also came under heavy shelling. But nothing happened to lives and property.

It is believed that the crocodile goddess was responsible for protecting the town during the crisis.

Not only that, the goddess it is said, could also grant the request of anybody who believed in her.

From all over the country people who have heard of the goddess come to seek her help. The goddess, her shrine at the river by which the shrine situated are known as Ise.

Ise was a woman said to have migrated to Ekwosore, little village 12 kilometres from Agenebode in the Bendel State of Nigeria, from Yoruba land.

She was known to be powerful herbalist who helps the natives cure most illnesses.

The bank of this river used to be her point of operation. When it was time for her death she changed into the crocodile, and still lives in the water.

Because of the good which this woman did to the people

A WHITE man who did not believe in the goddess died 24 hours after eating some of these fish.

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ON THE BANK of a river at Ekwosore, near Agenebode in the Bendel State goddess called Ise. This goddess is known to be so powerful that she can even make a childless woman have a baby. DRUM's OLU OBAFEMI what the goddess is said to be capable of doing for those who seek her assistance.

Agenebode

of the village, the villagers decided to worship her as a god. This is the story of how Ise came into being.

Since then, whatever the villagers wanted they asked the goddess. Besides granting the wishes of the people, she also protects them, they believe, in times of disaster.

Ise, the priests of the shrine claim, does not accept anything before helping anybody. But most people make a pledge of offerings should their requests be granted.

However, if after a request has been granted and the person has not kept his pledge, Ise can cause a reversal of the person's original situation.

The expatriate who sought a baby from the goddess pledged that should his request be granted he would build a little house at the entrance to the

shrine for the goddess. He did, and the baby lives.

After building the house, the expatriate returned to Ise three times with offerings in appreciation of what the goddess had done for him.

Even if the request being made is to have one's enemy eliminated, it is believed that on condition that the person making the request is innocent of any wrongdoing.

Should the person be guilty of a wrongdoing against a supposed enemy, any request could boomerang on him.

If someone suspects that he or she is the victim of an evil force, or any evil person for that matter, whatever request is put to this goddess is granted even if the person suspected is one's mother, father, brother or sister.

This is why the priests officiating at the shrine advises that one must first give deep thought to whatever one intends to ask of the goddess, for she does not hesitate to grant any harmless request.

Every day of the week, except Saturdays, people stream to the shrine with goats, chickens and all sorts of offerings, asking some form of aid from the crocodile goddess.

Why do they do it? The struggle to escape everyday problems could lead people to seek solutions from almost anywhere, and to believe anything.

Ise, the crocodile goddess of Ekwosore near Agenebode, is one of the many resorts to a lot of people have gone to in a bid to solve their problems.



THE OFFICIATING priest of the crocodile goddess prepares a supplicant's request.

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Among the leaders of the Christian revival in Nigeria is the Rev Benson Idahosa. But his very success has attracted the critics. DRUM looks at the enigma.

HE HEADS a church known as the Church of God Mission Incorporated, whose headquarters are known as the Miracle Centre. But his critics say the biggest miracle is the rise of the Reverend Benson Idahosa, aged 35, one of the most controversial religious figures in Nigeria today.

There are people who allege that he has used religion as a front for making himself very rich, and others don't believe that he has anything to offer in terms of sound, basic Christian religion. The critics claim that many of what he exhibits as miracles are stage-managed.

But there are many others who believe just as strongly

**REPORT: OLU OBAFEMI
PICTURES:
ADEOYE ABE**

that he is a genuine religious crusader and healer.

These speculations are undoubtedly fuelled by the fact that less than six years ago the reverend gentleman was not as rich as, apparently, he is today.

He is aware that many people are sceptical about the funding of his church, but has an answer to their gossip. The mission, he says, is funded entirely by its members and friends who contribute generously to keep the work going. It is from such contributions that the church

THE APPEAL of the stylish Benson Idahosa (ABOVE) draws many students (LEFT) to the Christ for Nigeria Institute.





THE MASSIVE main hall complex (ABOVE) of the Church of God Mission in Benin, built with half a million naira in gifts from church members and friends.

Big business church

maintains its full-time workers and numerous other activities. The church has no other source of income.

To confirm the size of the contributions Mr S. A. Iredia of Mesu Fish (Nigeria) Limited built a church and a block of four flats, at the cost of N84,000 and handed the keys to the mission. This friend of the church also gave a new Peugeot 504 estate to the Church in October, 1976.

Another friend of the church, Mr S. I. O. Giwa Amu, donated the large piece of land on Airport Road, Benin City, on which the centre is located, and in addition gave

the church N5,000.

Of the half million naira used in building the main assembly hall of the Church \$45,000 US was received in aid from Christ for the Nation Institute (CFNI) in Dallas, Texas. Every other penny was raised by donations from members.

In the Centre itself there is a students' hostel estimated to have cost N100,000, and an octagonal structure, intended nearing completion, intended for the office of the Rev. Idahosa, is said to be worth N40,000.

Idahosa himself undoubtedly lives in style. His house is

a mansion in the government reservation area in Benin City and he rides in one of the larger models of the Mercedes Benz range. And if you are looking for a well-dressed man in the most modern fashion, he can be second to none.

But perhaps the strongest evidence of the wealth that surrounds this man and his mission is the hour-long television programme which his church pays for every week on NTV Benin. This programme alone costs about N1,200 a week.

But his apparent affluence

PLEASE TURN OVER



HUGE crowds in Ghana (LEFT) testified to the universal appeal of the young Nigerian evangelist.

THE LAND for the church came from friends, the Rev. Idahosa told DRUM's Olu Obafemi.



The church of big business

CONTINUED



has not driven away what is one of the largest religious followings in Nigeria, and the growth rate of his Church of God Mission is astonishing.

Who is the man behind this gospel empire? Benson Idahosa was on the staff of a shoe manufacturing company in Nigeria in the early 60s when he started taking an active part in religious activities. The Lord appeared to him in a vision and he accepted the Lord's challenge to give up his job and was then 26 years old. Christ. He

Idahosa went to train in Dallas and returned to Nigeria in 1972 to take up full time ministry. Since his return from the States, Idahosa has been linked with the CFNI.

Despite the size of local contributions, Idahosa's Church has 2 very strong American connections. The mission now runs a school called Christ for Nigeria Institute, the same initials as the Texas body.

A little over half its tutorial staff are white expatriates who enjoy free accommodation and feeding. They are not on the

payroll of Idahosa's Church and admit that they get regular financial assistance from their "various churches and friends back home."

The Rev Idahosa acknowledges partnership with at least 20 prominent American evangelists and the continual inflow of foreign pastors, visiting and working, strengthens the belief that his foreign contacts are significant.

In terms of Biblical interpretation of God, Christ and the world, he has nothing to offer which is drastically different from what Nigerian

Christians have been used to. But he has a clear idea of what his Church of God Mission stands for. According to him his Church should be seen as an umbrella for all other churches, because it is purely evangelistic and breaks through all sectional differences. He does not criticise anybody's interpretation of the Bible for, as he puts it, "the interpretation of the Bible is given to each according to his education and standards."

What has helped the Reverend Idahosa to capture so many minds is his claim that

he has the ability to summon God's power to heal. He has often spoken on television of making the lame walk, the blind see and the dumb speak. You name the disease and the reverend gentleman will claim he has been instrumental (during special assemblies or at crusades) for its cure.

What cannot be doubted is the Rev Idahosa's charisma and success. His very large following includes society heavyweights whom one does not expect to find in such a church.

Besides the Miracle Centre, there are ten other branches in Benin City. Each of these branches record an attendance of between 3,000 and 10,000 worshippers every Sunday. The Miracle Centre itself has a larger crowd and at times overflows with worshippers. The Church claims to have about 500 other branches of its mission spread throughout the country.

Now this young man is breaking new ground in places

CROWDS of worshippers pack the Benin church every Sunday to hear the Rev Idahosa preach.

like Ghana and Kenya. In Ghana, for instance, since the last crusade Idahosa has been running an hour-long Sunday redemption hour on television, similar to the one screened in Nigeria.

The Rev Idahosa is a hard worker whose working day starts as early as 7.30 a.m. and ends at 11 p.m. with a two-hour interval for lunch between the hours of 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. The son of a Benin chief, the reverend gentleman also travels widely.

He makes little secret of his worldly success. As one observer put it: "That guy is not an ordinary Reverend. He is a rich, psychedelic man of the gospel." It is certain that the mission's few years of operation give credibility to the widely held opinion that the church has become big business.

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THE BIBLE lends itself to many interpretations, says the Rev Idahosa, and his church has a place for them all.



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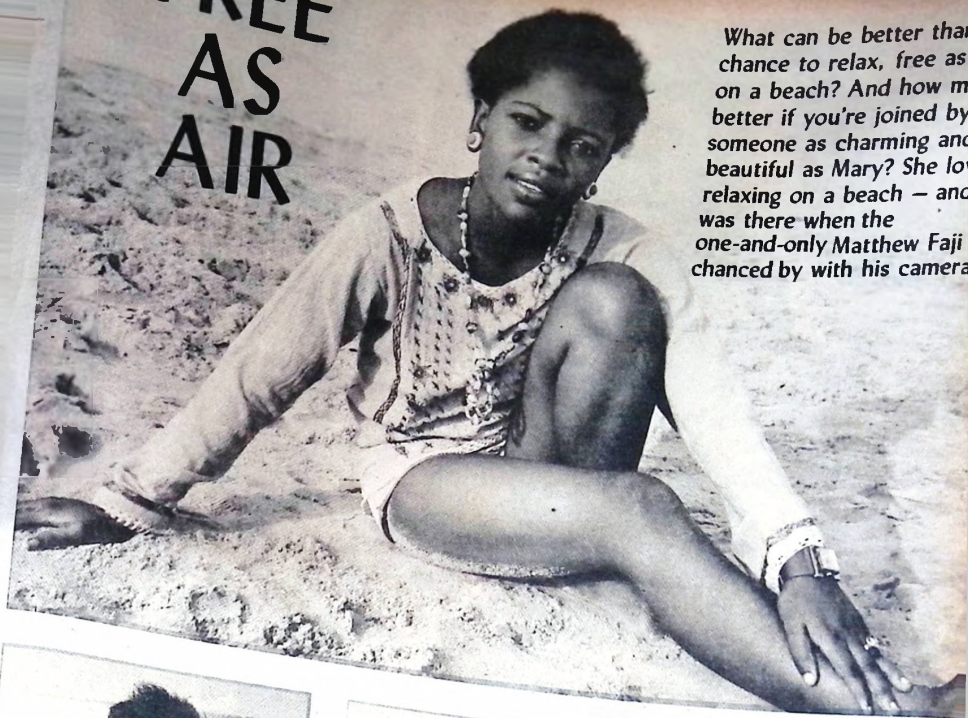
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FURIOUS FIGHTING UNTIL THE FINAL COUNT



THE title fight between Britain's Allan Richardson and Eddie Terror Ndukwu, of Nigeria, was one in a million. First, the fight itself was preceded by a legal tussle almost as fierce as the boxing. Clumo Star International Promotions wanted to handle the show, but another promotional group — Apprimps — claimed that they were the rightful impresarios.

The Nigerian Boxing Board of Control decided in favour of the former group. Apprimps took the NBBC to court but the court ruled in favour of the Board. While all this was going on the Commonwealth title fight was postponed several times.

Secondly, Nigerian boxing enthusiasts were not treated to the usual pre-fight boasting from both challenger and defender. Both men are soft spoken and neither believes a fight can be won outside the ring with words.

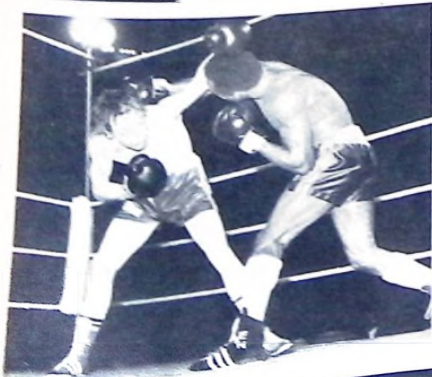
Said Eddie: "I don't under-rate any boxer. We decide who the better fighter is in the ring." Richardson, too, did not make any predictions — but did just assure the fans that he did not come all the way from London to play around.

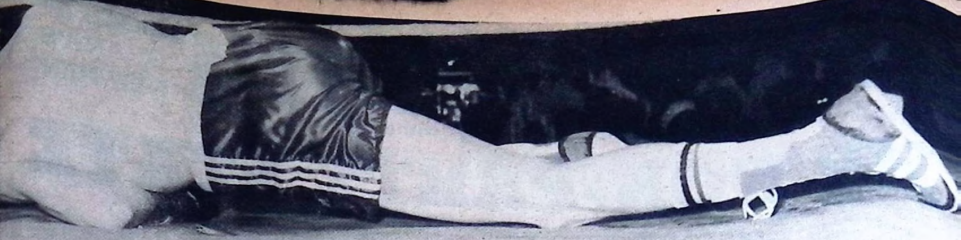
When the fight itself arrived

With a big tilt at stake, Eddie Ndukwu was facing defeat. Then he fourt a killer punch DRUM caught the action in words and pictures.

it proved the best that boxer fans had seen. It was professional and clean, but gruelling.

The rivals have many things in common. They are both former Commonwealth medalists. The 27-year-old Richardson was the bronze medalist in the featherweight class during the 1970 Edinburgh Games. He was also the junior champion of England, Scotland and Wales. Richardson had 120 fights when he was an amateur and won 100, with 35 inside the distance. Boxers who will





TERROR TAKES TITLE

remember his devastating punches with regret include former British champion Vernon Soffas, Jerry Duffy, of Scotland, and John Mitchell, of Wales.

Eddie Terror won the gold medal in the featherweight class three years ago at the Commonwealth Games in Christchurch, New Zealand. He had 136 fights as an amateur and won 117.

About 2,000 Nigerians defied a heavy downpour to cheer their man to victory. But they had nothing to cheer as the British champion punched,

jabbed and hooked their man. By the eleventh round British referee Roland Dakin had Richardson ahead 107-105, and Nigerian judge Howard Jones had him leading 109-108.

But then Eddie found a deadly right-hand punch which landed on Allan's chin and sent him to the canvas. He couldn't get up and Eddie Terror Sdukwu became the new Commonwealth featherweight champion, bringing back to Nigeria the crown formerly held by Hogan Bassery.

The fight had started well

with both boxers moving aggressively. Until the fourth round both men were at par. Richardson was jabbing consistently with a fist that moved like lightning, but Eddie was replying with heavier punches.

But after the fourth round the tide began to turn against the Nigerian. The points started piling up for the Briton and Nigerians in the main bowl of the National Stadium were quiet as their man took more and more punishment.

But credit must be given to Eddie. A less experienced boxer would have kissed the canvas before the eleventh round, but he was tough enough to absorb the heavy punches.

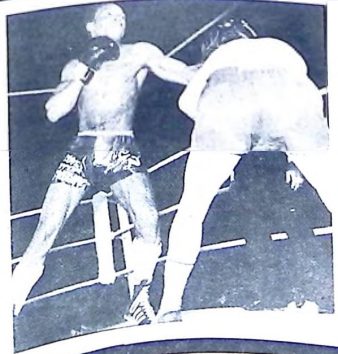
Then he came in with a killer punch that landed on Allan's chin.

But like the gentleman he is, Richardson admitted that it was Eddie's day. "That was the greatest punch that ever hit me. It came like a flash. I saw it coming, but I couldn't prevent it. It was a great punch — short and accurate. He is a good fighter. I love the way he is boxed with skill and power." A warm tribute from a great champion to his worthy successor.



Report: OLASEINDE LAWSON

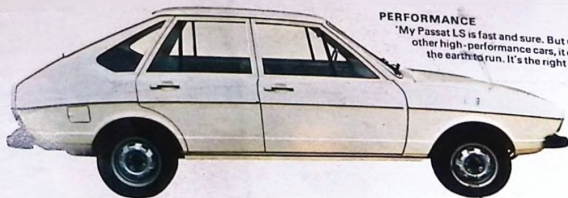
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SIR SHINA PETERS, that it is his theme. Remember him? He was the young chap who got our Campunkle's months ago. Like any other Supersonic Sounds young man, he did not determine to quit his job until he got him down. Coming in with the bus, he got his own bus. He had the ability to do it himself. Sir Shina's band and called. Sir Shina's colleagues and urged them to get the opportunity for the young men accepted his advice and rallied round Shina to form a new group. Today that decision because taking it has afforded them not only the opportunity to be masters of themselves, but it has also enabled them to assert themselves with a force that has enabled them to see themselves as originators, not as imitators. Sir Shina's band has enabled guitarists, and second-rate drummers and vocalists in someone else's

band. The road to fame was not as rough as they anticipated. Their sudden success astonished not only the boys themselves but also the more experienced musicians. The day Sir Shina and the new Super-Stars International made their first public appearance at the Railway Recreation Club will remain for ever in the minds of music-lovers of this country. All the big shots were there to see what the new boys were up to. Some were sceptical of the ability of the boys to impress the crowd be-

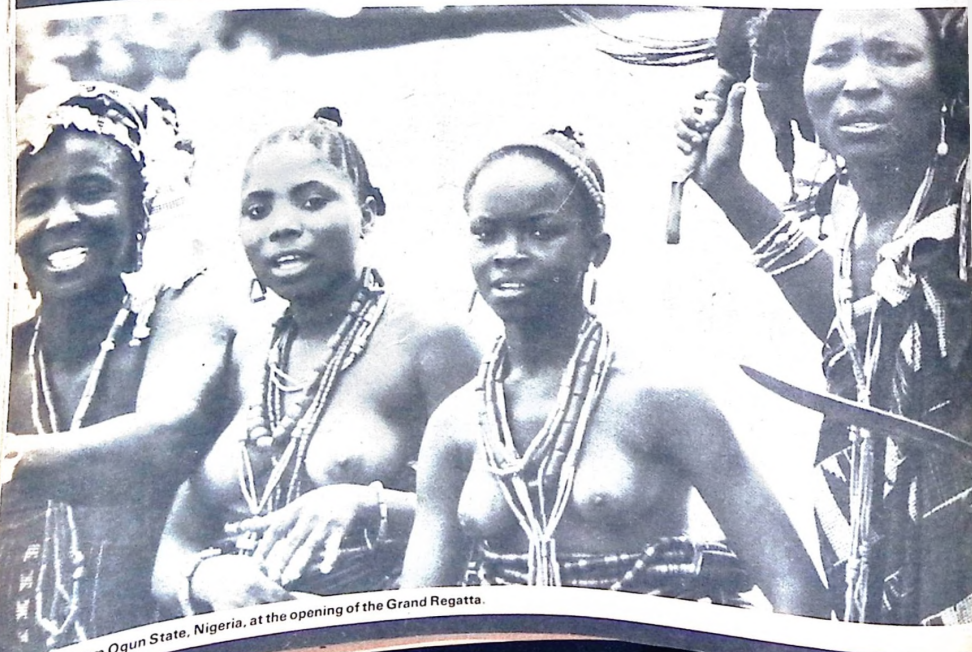




AT THE Grand Durbar, the ladies of Gongola State of Nigeria showed their paces.

FESTAC DANCES

DRUM's chief photographer, MATTHEW FAJI, brings you more unforgettable scenes from FESTAC — when the nations of Africa danced for the world.



GIRLS from Ogun State, Nigeria, at the opening of the Grand Regatta.



SUDANESE girls were among those who graced the closing ceremony.



THE Ivory Coast was well represented

girls were there too.



OBA Adebowale Oyegbade, installed as the Olowu of Owu Abeokuta (ABOVE), proudly wears his cap of office.



Leaders of warriors

ALL Yoruba tribes in Nigeria are from Ile-Ife and are descendants of Oduduwa. The crowns worn by various Obas in Yorubaland today were first given to them by Oba Oduduwa. But the question is: who got his crown first?

The Olowu of Owu, Abeokuta, Oba Adebowale Adedokan Oyegbade, who claims that

his ancestors got the crown first, tells the story to DRUM.

"Olawunmi was the first daughter of Oduduwa and she was married to Oshinkola and they gave birth to Olowu. When Olowu was a child, he was taken to Ile-Ife to meet his grandfather, Oduduwa. When Oduduwa took Olowu from his mother, Olowu wanted to remove the crown from Oduduwa's head. Oduduwa placed the crown on Olowu's head.

"When the greeting was over and the visitors wanted to go home, the crown was removed from little Olowu's head to be returned to Oduduwa. But the child started to cry.

"When all efforts to stop him crying failed, Oduduwa gave him the crown as a present. That was how Olowu, the founder of Owu, was the first to receive his crown from Oduduwa, the father of Yoruba.

Today, the slogan in Owu is "Owu Lakoda," meaning Owu was the first to be created. Oba Oyegbade, whose coronation took place recently at Owu

Abeokuta, was the first Oba from the Akinjobi ruling house to ascend the Owu throne since the Owus settled in Abeokuta in 1830, the last do so. The earlier settlers include Ake, Ibara, Gbagun and Iro.

His ascension therefore marked a turning point in the history of Owu chieftainship. Talking about Owu people, Oba Oyegbade said: "We are warriors by nature. In fact, we were the Owus who saw Abeokuta from Dahomey terrorism during Dahomey war with the Egbas."

Oba Oyegbade was, before his installation, a locomotive power officer with the Nigerian Railway Corporation. He served the corporation in many capacities and in various parts of the country for about 20 years.

He had three wives before his installation and does not intend to have more. "I am a modern Oba. I have no domestic commitments to any other person. I am all right with three wives," he said.



OBA Oyegbade, locomotive power officer at the Nigerian Railway Corporation headquarters before he was made Olowu of Owu.



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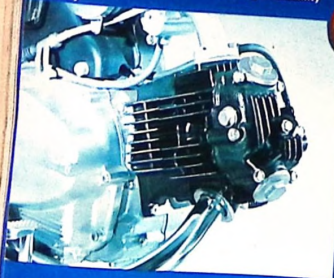
...experience unsurpassed total performance. The Benty Super boasts a wide range of features. Sturdy rear shock damper springs well-padded seats absorb the big bumps. Large-size brakes provide extra stopping power. Special magneto ignition

enables quick starts and prolongs battery life.

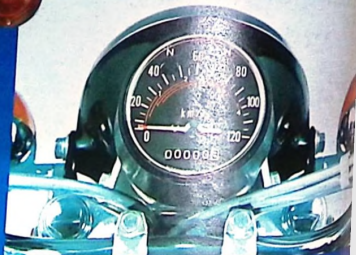
Service is super easy. Thanks to design refinements such as extremely-efficient canister air cleaners and large side covers for tools

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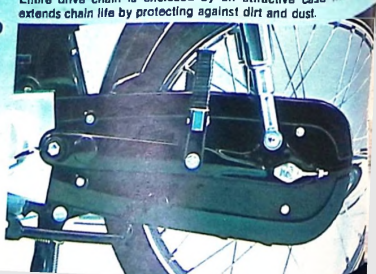
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HONDA

An open-door policy



NIGERIA maintains an open-door policy in international economic relations and welcomes genuine investments into the country.

Delving the depths for food

IN SPITE of an increase in the world catch last year, renewed efforts must be made to increase the total amount of food resources from the sea, especially in the developing regions. This can be achieved through transfers of technology, improving the fishing techniques and training in coastal developing countries.

These are among the recommendations of the Committee on Fisheries of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. Exports from 70 nations recently stressed the role of joint ventures in fishery.

The Committee pointed out that great opportunities for increasing the supply of protein from the sea now lie in the so-called "unconventional" resources. These consist mostly of species living beyond the continental shelves: squid, mesopelagic fishes, and krill. It was agreed that the potential was very large, but would require considerable technological advances in catching, handling and processing.

This was stated in Lagos by the Federal Commissioner for Economic Development, Dr Omoniyi Adedokun, when welcoming the Hungarian economic delegation. The leader of the delegation, Mr I. Szekacs, said that although his country had signed an agreement with Nigeria in 1963, they had come to renegotiate with the country on a wider scale.

Mr Szekacs stressed that his country would be of assistance to Nigeria by sending experts and offering scholarships to Nigerians who would wish to study in his country.

Replying, the Commissioner said the visit of the delegation would go a long way to strengthen the bonds of co-operation already existing between the two countries. He said Nigeria would welcome the assistance of Hungary in the training of manpower, particularly in the fields of medicine, agriculture and civil engineering.

Trade gap with France

THE FEDERAL Commissioner for Trade, Major-General M Shuwa, has expressed concern at the present trend of trade between Nigeria and France. The Commissioner observed that while capital imports of items like sugar and general merchandise showed steep increases (particularly vehicles which represent up to 45 per cent of Nigeria's total imports

THREE Federal Commissioners carried out an official inspection of the November International Trade Fair site along Badagry Road to assess progress. The picture shows (in the front row) Major-General Mohammed Shuwa, Federal Commissioner for Trade, third from right; Mr S. O. Williams, Communications, fourth from right; and Mr Odera Ariyibah, fifth from right, being conducted round the Lagos site.

(from France), Nigeria's exports to France in the non-oil sector had been declining.

The Commissioner added that there had not been any significant increase in the quantity of Nigeria's petroleum exports to France, even though, due to increases in price, the overall value showed an upward trend.

The leader of the visiting French trade delegation said that the French Government was planning to send an economic mission to Nigeria in the coming months to identify areas in which French capital investment could be channelled through the establishment of new joint ventures or expansion of existing ones, with a view to reducing the imbalance in the trade account between the two countries.

PLEASE TURN OVER



THE Federal Military Government signed a contract in June at the International Affairs Institute, Lagos, for drawing a master plan for the new Federal Capital Territory. The photograph shows Mr Ajose Adegoke, chairman of the Federal Capital Authority (second from right), with (far right) Mr L. J. Ebov, the executive secretary of the authority, two members of the International Planning Associates (LEFT) signed on half of their company.

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would include chicks mash, growers mash, layer mash, broiler starter mash and broiler finisher mash. Others are pig breeder mash, pig weaner mash, and pig fattener mash

After the drought

DROUGHT and poor grain harvests last year are now resulting in severe food shortages among a number of West African states. International relief organisations are beginning to send emergency shipments to the region.

At least ten sub-Saharan African countries are already trying to deal with massive grain shortfalls resulting from drought conditions last year. Some of them — like Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda and Tanzania — are not considered Sahel countries, but some Sahel countries, such as Mali and Niger, appeared to have been spared the worst effects of the drought.

The region affected in West Africa now is considerably smaller than the Sahel drought area of 1974, when a wide belt of human suffering stretched from Eastern Gambia all the way to the Sudan. The drought is now believed to be limited to a smaller area, which includes part of Chad, northern Nigeria, and southern Niger, the northern part of Ghana, Benin and Togo and most of Upper Volta.

Support for ECA

NIGERIA has great confidence in the Economic Commission for Africa and ardently supports its aims and objectives in the interest of continental co-operation and development.

This was the pledge made to the Lagos conference of plenipotentiaries of African governments by the Chief of Staff, Brigadier Shehu Yar'Adua. He said the ECA was a regional organisation of African governments whose development programmes and priorities were established by African governments.

It was therefore natural, he said, that these governments should give full support to it to enable it to implement its programme for the total economic emancipation of Africa.

Nigeria called on all African countries to take up the challenge and give adequate support to the ECA, which had long been dependent on the developed countries and donor agencies for its extra budgetary support.

Road-side petrol depots attacked

AN OFFICIAL investigation has been ordered into the existence of road-side petrol dealers along the Regina-Kontagora road. The order was issued by the Nigerian State Commissioner for Trade, Industry and Co-operation, Dr Shehu Alhaji Bida, during his recent visit to Kontagora.

The Commissioner expressed concern to see that while the approved petrol filling stations were empty, the roadside dealers along the road were well-stocked with fuel.

The Commissioner also expressed profound disappointment that the construction of grain stores, which should by now have been completed, had not even started. The Commissioner expressed satisfaction, however, over the supply and distribution of petroleum products in Bida.

Another release from the Ministry said 16 road-side petrol dealers in Minna, who were selling petrol above the controlled price, were arrested by the police and charged in court. Nine of the accused were fined N100.00 each.

Fighting inflation

THE FEDERAL Commissioner for Trade has re-emphasised that the Government's efforts to fight inflation could yield appreciable results if everyone co-operated, exercised greater self-discipline and showed radical change in our consumption patterns and values.

The Commissioner made this point while addressing the conference of commissioners responsible for trade and industrial matters in the country at Ibadan.

General Shuwa recalled that the Government had, for some time now, attempted with ever-increasing vigour to stem the rising tide of inflation and reduce the increases in the level of prices to an acceptable level.

He stated that some achievements had been made in this regard but regretted that they were by no means satisfactory.

The Commissioner also reviewed the line-up of activities in his Ministry which included the promulgation of Price Control Decree No 1 of February, 1977, the inauguration of the Export Promotion Council charged with the responsibility of advancing the course of export trade in Nigeria; to suggest policies for achieving this objective and identifying export-orientated industries and setting export targets for various commodities.



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T HAS been said of mathematicians that they are fond of using very simple and everyday words to describe extremely complex and abstract ideas. Words such as sets, groups, lattices, fields, functions, rings, and space are used by mathematicians to mean something completely different from their usual meaning. A layman is a place where children play; a "space" is what we need to relax and "rings" are used in weddings. But these words also describe concepts which, to mathematicians, are entirely different.

The layman has every right to feel a little shy of delving into the meaning of many mathematical words and these are only the single words. Persons like myself, with only the basics of mathematics, should be even more contriving by the possibility of phrases that are used.

When I wanted to write this about the possibility that a mathematician might mean much more than I thought it to find out from different people and sources what a "functional analysis" there were many answers. None of them were comprehensive or comprehensible.

Some reference books discussed this subject in other terms which are even more mysterious and confusing. Mention was made, for example, of the theory of distributions, the analysis of linear and of non-linear functions. It appears that functional analysis also deals with spaces that are locally convex, and the duals of these spaces. There is also mention of calculus of variations and the theory of critical points.

Of course, I did not try to read further. I decided instead to ask some people to give me a brief resume of some of these topics. Here too, I did not find much comfort. Those of my friends who have some engineering background can vaguely remember some aspects of Fourier Series and Transformation and the use of what they called Orthogonal Functions. My friends in other disciplines such as physics and mathematics were also speaking in terms which did not help in my understanding of the phrase "functional analysis."

Not wanting to give up, I decided that it would perhaps be more useful if I could find out what uses we could put a few words of advice to my listeners. Though I did not have much luck in identifying meaningful methods by which functional analysis could be put to everyday use, I know that there must be many applications of this subject.

THERE HAS been considerable controversy among Nigerian mathematicians on whether to teach "modern mathematics" rather than traditional mathematics in our schools. An international symposium on Functional Analysis and its application was held recently in Ibadan. At the symposium, the Federal Commissioner for Education, Col Ahmadu Ali (BELOW), made the Federal Government's stand clear on the issue.



Old vs. new in mathematics

The Federal Government has recently decided that modern mathematics should be abolished from our primary and secondary schools. Since this announcement, there has been a lot of comment and controversy in the educational circles. Some felt that there is no mathematics which is modern as against that which is not. Others thought that modern mathematics is an inevitable progression from the traditional one. There were even some who felt that a modern mathematics was made in announcement because there was no clear understanding of the issues involved.

I would like to stress that the Federal Government's main concern is the basic language for the sciences, should be well taught. At the moment we do not have teachers who have been trained to teach the so-called modern mathematics properly. Even the tradi-

tional one is now poorly taught due to confusion created by the unplanned introduction of modern mathematics.

My understanding of the difference between the two is that modern mathematics emphasises mathematical concepts, whereas traditional mathematics teaches mathematical techniques.

Thus, in the traditional methods, children were taught how to add, multiply, divide, extract square roots, etc, whereas modern mathematics is meant to deal with these topics from the point of view of the concept of sets, operations and the rationale for such operations and comparisons.

The criticism of the traditional mathematics was that it was mere rote learning; that even though our children could learn how to perform mathematical operations, they run the risk of being handicapped later, because they do not know why they perform these

operations. This criticism appeared valid in the middle 60s and new books were written with the objective of introducing children to those concepts such as sets, number bases, etc, which would enable them to appreciate the why of mathematics.

Nevertheless, like all good things that are done too quickly and perhaps in excess, the benefits of the approach were overshadowed by the enthusiasm of its prophets and in no doubt about the fact that the Federal Government and my Ministry are not opposed to any ideas and methods so long as they eventually result in an overall improvement of the teaching of mathematics.

One thing you must all remember is that mathematics is a commodity which we are selling to the Nigerian public and if the consumers are not satisfied with the way the commodity is presented, then

6 The Federal Government is not opposed to any ideas and methods so long as they eventually result in an overall improvement of the teaching of mathematics.

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PLAY OF THE MONTH



WALE OGUNYEMI, the writer.



TAIWO AJAYI plays Mrs Tayo Ajao.



JIMI SOLANKE plays Sanmi Ajao.

HOW DIVORCE SWEPT THROUGH LAGOS . . .

WALE OGUNYEMI again took Lagos by storm when he presented his play — **THE DIVORCE**. DRUM report by Olaseinde Lawson.

FOR A LONG time to come the people of Lagos will remember **THE DIVORCE**, a play written by Wale Ogunyemi. The play, which took Lagos by storm, ran for a week at the National Theatre. Sanmi Ajao (Jimi Solanke) and his beautiful wife, Tayo Ajao (Taiwo Ajayi), were happily married, but the happiness was short lived as they had no children.

Both of them were executives in their jobs and Mrs Ajao thought it would be degrading if she held a master's job at her office and be a servant to her husband at home.

Not only did she become master at home, she even took the liberty of sleeping out without her husband's permission.

Well, Mr Ajao, a typical African man, was not the type any woman could fool and get away with it. He decided to call his wife to order. However Mrs Ajao was not the type of woman to be

called to order easily. Chaos was inevitable.

What made matters worse was that a long lost brother of Mrs Ajao — Michael (Taiwo Obileye) — caused trouble when his identity was not immediately known. He was mistakenly thought to be the other man in Mrs Ajao's life, while a schoolgirl whom he had made pregnant was mistakenly taken to be the other woman in

Mr Ajao's life.

The stage was set for a divorce. Patrick (Ikem Emodi), the old steward who had served the couple for a long time, tried to interene — but to no effect.

"The Divorce" illustrates what can happen to a couple who have been brought up in an alien society, and who then try to impose their new standards on their mother country.



RALPH OPARA, director of the play.



SECRETARY Rita adjusts Sanmi's tie.



TROUBLE brews for the "other man" under the chair.



POLICEMAN Dabiri has a quick one.



POLICEMAN Dabiri tries to stop yet another argument.



SANMI and Tayo — another row.

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Bokassa's to Cost

JEAN-BEDEL BOKASSA of the Central African Republic has gone a further than Idi Amin of Uganda in bestowing titles on himself. The former French Army general who rose to the rank of lieutenant and later general 12 years ago. But Bokassa felt the need to measure up to the length string of medals awarded himself. He pronounced himself emperor and his Republic emperor. His coronation,

planned for December 4, will cost him N10 million. The magnitude of the event cancels out the lunacy of the original concept. Eight white horses imported from Belgium will draw his coach, which will have a gold roof and sides. Bokassa, who has ordered a flowing red robe touched with ermine and gold thread for the occasion, wants the event to be televised live to the world by satellite. Such megalomania needs a solid base, so Bokassa is having a golden throne made in Paris, in the shape of an eagle with a wing span of 12



LITTLE and big men... Amin welcomes friend Bokassa (LEFT) who was the first head of state to visit Uganda since General Amin took power in 1971. The public punishment criminals in Bangui is still a favoured practice (RIGHT).

Real lady

our MATCHMAKER.
Kindly introduce to me an lady, who will be of my life partner. She must be black, of good height and looks. Her age must not be above 25; education not below Government class 4 (G4). She must also be reasonably ambitious.
My hobbies include reading, films and tennis. I am 27 years old.
Buck, c/o Matchmaker

Light and quick

Dear MATCHMAKER.
I am a technician and 21 years of age. I am light in complexion, of standard height, with good qualifications. I want to get married before December 1977, but I have not come across a girl of my choice.
Interested girls should write with a full-sized recent photograph. My kind of girl should be light in complexion, light-hearted, beautiful, social, kind, loving and should be between 17 and 18 years of age. She of Cross or Imo State origin. She should have at least Government Class 4 certificate. My hobbies are music, reading, photography, and clothes.
Sunny, c/o Matchmaker

Beautiful
Dear MATCHMAKER.
You say you can help people if they have any problem about finding a partner. I want you to introduce someone to me who will marry me. I am 31 years of age.
The trouble is that I previously had a girlfriend who loved me for a short period only.
I really need a lover. The girl I would like to marry must be beautiful, educated, and she must be the one who will take care of me. I am a handsome and quiet man. Please help.
Thanks.
Nwaeze, c/o Matchmaker

Quiet boy

Dear MATCHMAKER.
Thank you for providing this column which I believe will be of great help to me. My problem is that I have never had a girl to love me.
I am a handsome, quiet boy of 25 years and a stenographer with a leading insurance company. A beautiful and well-behaved loving girl of between 14 and 20 years could be my choice (whether or not working). A recent photograph would be appreciated.
Please help.
Mony, c/o Matchmaker

Malaysian girl

Dear MATCHMAKER.
I am a Malaysian girl loving to DRUM. I'm a great lover of African people and as

LONELY HEARTS

Match maker

such I want to marry an African. Will you please help to find the right man?

I want my man to be a doctor or any highly qualified professional. He can be of any age or religion. All replies will be answered. I am aged 24, tall, with long black hair. My complexion is brown. I work as a clerk in a firm.
I hope you will help me and please convey my greetings and love to African people and to the entire staff of DRUM Publications Limited.
Tisa, c/o Matchmaker

Graduates

Dear MATCHMAKER.
I am 18, very beautiful and in form four. I want someone who will marry me after my studies. He should be between 24 and 29. He must be a graduate and must be of excellent character. His State of origin should be Anambra, Imo or Lagos.
Any interested man should write to me through Matchmaker, enclosing his photograph. He took on his graduation day.
Bene, c/o Matchmaker

Difficult

Dear MATCHMAKER.
I am pleased with your lovely hearts column and I lonely heart will help someone of my hope you to have a future problem is because I find it difficult to approach girls. I get a girl of my choice. A Yoruba girl, age between 15 and 17 years old. A fine looking, kind and loving girl, am 24 years old. My hobbies include magazines.
Please help me find a girl who will never let me down.
Ola, c/o Matchmaker

From Canada

Dear MATCHMAKER.
I read your column with great interest, and as a regular reader of many years. I am magazine for my help, now in need of your help.
Please get me a decent, beautifully attractive, well-educated and very courteous

Everybody passes through lonely times. Most people find happiness when they meet a partner with whom they will spend the rest of their lives. But for some, the magic spark of compatibility doesn't occur. For these DRUM publishes this column. Our MATCHMAKER will help you find a match if you want. Write to Lonely Hearts, DRUM Publications (Nig.) Ltd., PMB 2128, Lagos, Nigeria. You won't regret the few minutes you spend writing to MATCHMAKER.

girl of good personality and family background as a friend. The friendship will eventually lead to marriage if we are compatible. She must be modern and fashionable, clean and presentable, and in excellent health.
I am a Nigerian, studying in Canada (Toronto), and I am from Western State of Nigeria. I am 36 years old, slim in stature and very handsome. I am courteous, social, considerate, accessible, responsible and reliable.
Your immediate action in getting me a lovely girl will be highly appreciated and esteemed. I am optimistic that I will succeed with my request through you.
Willly, c/o Matchmaker

Handsome
Dear MATCHMAKER.
If it is possible for you to help the lonely hearts, please help me because I am one of them. I am only 21 years of age and working in a prominent Ministry here in Lagos. I am quite handsome, but my problem is that I have not got the type of girl I really want. Therefore I would appreciate your help. Please help create your help. Please help me find a girl who is tall, beautiful, well-mannered and not more than 20 years of age.
Aweda, c/o Matchmaker

Shy bachelor

Dear MATCHMAKER.
I am a Nigerian bachelor from Yoruba. It may sound strange to you that since I was born 28 years ago, no girl has ever loved me. I just cannot guess a good reason for this. This unhappy situation bothers my mind a great deal.
All I know is that I am shy and I am a pretter and I am staying at home. But one important aspect of my life is important always very kind, that I love and friendly, once I loving a person, I wonder how you will be kind, whether you will be kind enough, and I would like you to find me a wife. I love colour, find me as swimming, such things as swimming, music, dancing, travelling, movie, watching football matches, table tennis and photography.
The girl of my dream should not be more than 35 years old. She must be good-looking and good mannered

She must also be Christian like myself. Her height must not be less than 5ft 2in, and not more than 5ft 9in. She could come from any part of the world. I am prepared to settle down with her in her own country there is need for this (in case she is not a Nigerian).
I am 5ft 8in. tall and light in complexion. I am employed and I like my job very much.
Iku, c/o Matchmaker

Ghanaian guys

Dear MATCHMAKER.
I was happy when I came across your section in DRUM

and I hope that you would help me solve my problem. I would like to have a partner, someone like whom I can befriend before marrying. My age is prior to 27. I am an NCE tutor at a school in Kwara State. I am a son of a Nigerian father and a Ghanaian mother. My father is a native of Kwara State and I was born and bred in Ghana where I had all my education. I arrived recently in the country and I sought the teaching job which was offered.
My future partner should be between the ages of 27 and 35, should be tall, well educated, and preferably a graduate, or somebody who has lived in Ghana before. In fact, I could meet a better happy if it could be a Ghanaian. He should be a Christian, should not be tribal marks and should not be from Kwara State. My interests are pop music, dancing, films and photography. Needless to say, I am not bad looking and I am pretty sure whoever comes forward will accept me.
Liz, c/o Matchmaker

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DRUM AT THE



Africa made a big breakthrough on the international jazz scene recently when the MALOMBO, the top exile group from South Africa, appeared at the Newport Jazz Festival in New York. DRUM's jazz correspondent, AL COOK, went to this, the biggest event in the jazz calendar. Here he reports on Malombo's success.



CARNEGIE HALL: Expectant crowds throng the sidewalk before MALOMBO take them by storm!

THERE IS a joke known to all New Yorkers. It concerns a musician, carrying his instrument, who stops to ask a tramp the way. "How do I get to Carnegie Hall?" he asks. "Man," says the tramp, nodding at the instrument, "you got to practice." Yes, there's only one way — you've got to be the best. Carnegie Hall is more than just a venue. It is an international seal of approval.

For years, only the world's finest classical symphony orchestras and chamber music ensembles were invited to Carnegie Hall. Then it was decided that other types of cultural activity should be permitted too, provided that the artists reached a high level of quality. Thus in 1928 the "King of Jazz" of the time, Paul Whiteman, played there, to be followed ten years later by the "King of Swing," Benny Goodman.

Other jazz musicians to have performed there include Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Miles Davis. In all cases, appearances at Carnegie Hall went with world fame.

So when the organizers of the Newport Jazz Festival in New York invited the Malombo group from Africa to appear at Carnegie Hall it was more than just another performance — it was a giant step for Malombo, and a historic moment for African music as a whole.

June 25, 1977, 7:30 p.m. Some of the lucky ones to be attending this event climb into the daylight on 57th Street, Manhattan, their cars still ringing with the shattering din of the subway trains. Across 7th Avenue you can see Carnegie Hall — but the street has still to be crossed. The intersection at 57th and 7th, like every other intersection in

New York City, is a battleground. Nobody is prepared to wait their turn.

The traffic lights glare red: DON'T WALK. But the people can't wait, you are pressed from behind, taken with them; we push forward into the road, walk, run, dive frantically back to the sidewalks as a wave of yellow taxis comes from nowhere howling headlong at us, hooters blasting at us like Tommy-guns firing from the hip.

Skyscrapers of concrete, glass and steel soar dizzyly into the sky, so incredibly high that you feel a pang of something like fear as you bend backwards to see the tops. "Skyscraper" — that's a good name: when you look up at such a steep angle your balance is slightly disturbed, and the

buildings seem to be moving, scraping the sky.

Backstage — the Malombo group have no time to stop and think. Life has been a continual whirl: Press conferences, rehearsals, performances — they are in the thick of it. Night before last there was a jam session at Warner Communications, their recording company.

Yesterday morning there was a press conference at Warner, followed in the afternoon by a rehearsal at the Village Gate nightclub, where they will be playing next week; tomorrow they will be performing at Giants Stadium for the New York Cosmos vs Los Angeles Aztecs soccer match.

And every time there is the nightmare of transport, as the

MALOMBO! Phillip Tabane, Gabriel Thobejane and Beki Mseleku — the guys who make up the music.



African jazz hits the high spots...

THROUGH!



PHILLIP TABANE makes his guitar moan and chant like the spirit of his ancestors.

group has no van of its own and must rely on hired cars and taxis.

The nightmare centres around Gabriel Thobane's *malopo* drums. There are nine of them. They are carved from solid tree-trunks, covered with cowhide, and are tremendously heavy and bulky, yet at the same time vulnerable to cracking and breaking. The largest, nearly five feet high and two feet in diameter, is carved from a baobab tree. It has been handed down through the generations for 300 years and must be handled carefully.

Just to keep track of all the instruments is a full-time job — apart from Gabriel's drums, he has a jaw harp and a *dipela* thumb piano, as well as a spear which he uses in his act, and his mallets for the drums. Then there is still the leader of the group, Phillip Tabane, with his guitar, and his six flutes and penny whistles — a total of 19 items, not counting the mallets, or the electric piano. Heki Maseku sometimes needs to be tore along — all this has to be shifted and lugged to and from every performance, in and dripping with heat that is New York in June.

Now, waiting to go onstage, the musicians are drenched in sweat, yet the dressing room glares red from two powerful electric heaters — needed to keep the humidity.

"The Newport Jazz Festival in New York presents Malombo — the spirit of Africa!"

The beat suddenly fills the domed space of the hall, the 300-year-old baobab from Africa booming, throbbing, threatening like distant thunder as Gabriel's mallets flicker across the drums. Phillip's guitar moans a chant that sounds as if it comes from the spirits of his ancestors, plaintive chords from Bek's piano embellish the sky. You can feel the music the way clouds embellish the sound starting to dig the Roars of strangeness, then from the applause they roll from the audience as Phillip and Gabriel indulge in a musical "fight" on their instruments. There is only one dissident in the audience, a crude white South African come to hear the Pointer from Johannesburg. He has come to hear the applause from Johannesburg. He has sisters, who are the phrases in Malombo. As the phrases mount, he shouts *Kaffir*, the obsessive slave language used by whites to give their orders to blacks in Southern Africa. Eventually he can no longer bear Malombo's popularity, "ya, hamba which means 'Go away, hamba which means 'Go away' — but the way he shouts a salutation which means 'well!' — but the way he shouts it it's a curse. He leaves. The

Newport Jazz Festival will not miss him.

Malombo are interviewed the following night, after their appearance at the football match. They are ecstatic over the performance of the Brazilian superstar Pele, who scored three goals for N.Y. Cosmos, bringing them a 5-3 victory over L.A. Aztecs. Gabriel, however, is downcast over the performance of fellow South African Jomo Sono for Cosmos, which he feels was below par. "Don't worry, man, he'll find his form," assures Phillip, "it's only his first match, remember."

Phillip tells where Malombo came from. The name means "spirit", and comes from a sect of healers who used music, drumming and clapping in their treatment of illness. The present group see their music too as performing a kind of healing.

After the interview we walk down to Brooklyn Promenade and look out over the East River at the lights of the Manhattan skyscrapers — an awesome spectacle. A welcome breath of cool breeze flutters our clothing.

It's a long way from the shadowy black townships of Pretoria.

NEXT MONTH: Don't miss Al Cook's next report from New York on the Jazz Festival of Newport. EXCLUSIVE IN DRUM!



PHILLIP plays six flutes simultaneously.

BEHIND the closed door of his room, Emmanuel was staring into nothingness, trying to convince himself that it had not happened! But in that terrible duelling that fantasy and reality were between winning. He was getting ready to sob and sob and sob until his grief-stricken body or drove him insane.

He was mumbling in his daze: "No, no, you are still with me. You are still here..."

"No, my child, she has gone," a voice interrupted. Emmanuel swung his face round sharply, catching his breath in an enormous gasp. Sitting on the folding chair by the shutters was Chuka! — regarding him with a look of deep sympathy.

Emmanuel squirmed, gaping at him in terror. "Do not be afraid," Chuka said with quiet reassurance.

"How on earth did you get in?" Emmanuel exclaimed, his heart in his mouth. He shot a glance at the door. Yes, it was closed.

"I did not come through the door," Chuka said quietly. "I know that if I knocked you would have been broken to open up."

"But how did you get in?" Emmanuel said at the point of believing that this was no human being he was looking at.

"I am a human being, child," Chuka confirmed.

"Then answer my question," Emmanuel insisted.

"To you and others who can find no logical explanation for psychic phenomena, my child, I appeared in this room by the way you like to style juju," Chuka said.

"But ask me how I am able to perform such a feat and I will tell you that it is because I have a 100 per cent in harmony with nature."

Emmanuel frowned. "I do not understand."

"I would not expect you to, my child, because your whole way of life has been such that you have scarcely developed any appreciation of the ways of nature. People like myself are rare on earth. For such people, any desire for material possession is non-existent.

Their minds are spared the tortures and frustrations that desire for glory brings. Their only idea of time is day and night, and their only responsibility is to live hand-in-hand with nature on the earth that God created and occupy their minds with nature's way. They develop an intense appreciation and reverence for the natural creation — the very things under their feet, the fields, the stars, the sky, the trees, the sun.

"They have studied the living creatures around them — the plants, the trees, the animals — and they appreciated them, their fears, their mysteries, and discovered how these creatures could be of use to man. They study nature with minds untainted with any desire for wealth and glory and, as a result, their humility

WHEN arrested by the police for raping Comfort Uche, Romanus Nwokedi makes a bid for freedom and is killed by a bus. Within hours of his death Comfort becomes possessed by his ghost and is driven to her death under the wheels of a bus. In this final installment of Dillibe Onyeama's JUJU, the mysterious Chuka appears to Comfort's grief-stricken husband and makes some bizarre revelations about the supernatural which leaves ajar the door of hope that Comfort might be brought back from the dead. Read on!



and reverence are rewarded by the gift of performing feats which people call juju.

"The extent of these powers varies from individual to individual; my child; with some it is slight, with others it is marked; with some the powers manifest themselves occasionally, with others they are permanent. It depends entirely on the extent of one's devotion to nature. Unless one's attention has been exclusively devoted to nature, one's powers will be limited."

The old man paused for breath. Emmanuel surveyed his wrinkled features, noting that his eyes seemed more sunken and bloodshot, with a sad, resigned expression on his face as of one who has suffered too much for too long.

"And could you not have saved my wife's life with your gifts?" Emmanuel asked in a repressed but accusing voice.

Chuka shook his head regretfully. "No child, I could not. I did everything in my power to try and save her, but to no avail. I have exhausted all my energy in my efforts to save her. The truth is that no human being can resist the will of the Mighty One — not even the most powerful juju man in the world."

Emmanuel frowned. "The Mighty One?"

"The Mighty One is the Devil," my child."

Emmanuel felt a stab of fear in his guts.

"And you call him the Mighty One?" he asked in a whisper.

"Yes, my child, because he has a greater following on earth than our Creator Himself. There is more evil in

the world than good. Most people readily succumb to the wiles of the Tempter."

For a moment Emmanuel did not speak. Then —

But Chuka had read his mind. "No, my child, the Devil is not more powerful than the Creator. The ultimate power is in the hands of God. He allows the Devil the same amount of freedom he allows mankind. Like any human being, the Devil is capable of destroying whomever he chooses — but he cannot personally destroy the whole world; not by himself. The Creator has left it up to the individual whom he wishes to follow. Himself or the Devil. The Devil will triumph in the end. He will use people to destroy the world that God created."

"When will this destruction of the world come?" Emmanuel asked.

"It will occur towards the end of this century, my child."

Emmanuel pondered over this revelation, recognising that there was every possibility he might still be alive at the time he would be the host of questions he craved to fire at the old man — and began with the most nagging.

"How did the Devil prevent you from saving Comfort?" he asked.

"To the Devil, my child, life is a comedy, a game. He has innumerable subtle ways of permeating the world with evil, and nobody on earth can anticipate what methods he might employ. It was my resolution to be in the servants' quarters on the morning of the rape with the knowledge that my presence would thwart Romanus Nwokedi's intentions. But on waking up that morning it had all slipped by my memory — until I was out cutting the grass. I only remembered when I became aware of the intensity of the heat; it was then that the truth

hit my consciousness like the mocking laughter of the Devil, mocking me with the reminder that I had forgotten what was to happen and that he was using his heat to prevent me from saving your wife from being raped. The heat intensified to the extent that I was virtually paralysed, my child, and all I could do in the circumstances was to stare at the sun and appeal to the wondrous nature of the Devil, if he had one."

Emmanuel was lost in frustrated thought. What could he do now for his having listened to Chuka?

"Do not blame yourself, my child," the old man said sympathetically. "Very few people can resist the temptations of the Devil. Nobody can resist his absolute will. So you have nothing to feel guilty about, and I know all along that I was fighting a losing battle, but I was banking on hope and the possible help from the Creator."

"What is life all about, Chuka? What will happen after the destruction of the world?"

"There is a heaven, my child, and there is a hell; and there will be a judgment day, presided over by the Creator Himself. The destination of every individual will be determined by the sort of life he has lived, and as evil dominates the world, it is not difficult to imagine the final destination for most people."

"But how can one determine what is good and what is evil? Is there a universal way for measuring the two? Surely that what may be acceptable to one person may not be acceptable to another? Who is to say which of them is right or wrong?"

"A man's conscience is his secret judge. So tell me then, Chuka, how do you explain ghosts? Romanus Nwokedi died and

came back to earth again in an invisible form. Has he gone heaven or to hell? What was done to bring him back to earth?"

"Egocentricity, my child, led human beings to spend time as a one-way stream of life to fit everything about them into three dimensions — something that cannot be defined. The result was that a child, as existent as his parents, is concerned. A man dies only on our everyday experience of time; but in another condition of time-consciousness, another dimension of the life of that dead man, he lives with us. Most haunting manifestations of people who have died in circumstances of violence or terrible suffering and their return to earth is to satisfy a need to heal the psychological wounds caused by unresolved conflicts.

"Death is only the freedom of the consciousness inherent in every living creature from the material world, if its freedom did not come naturally for any living form then the form can still reappear in this world of space as time."

Emmanuel considered this with astonishment. It sounded so simple and obvious. It reflected on the possession of his wife by the ghost of Romanus, and wondered how phantoms were able to create physical harm to people, especially as they did not possess material forms and could not therefore, communicate physically with human beings.

He asked Chuka, and the old man said: "A ghost can inflict any physical harm on an individual that does the harm. But the possession of your wife was entirely the doings of the Devil. The speech you hear from the lips of Comfort was not Romanus' — it was that of the Devil. A ghost can return to haunt, my child, but cannot harm and it cannot speak.

"But after death everybody is reallocated to another dimension. To the human dimension, it is the fear of a poor condition of neglect, while the souls will remain until the annihilation of mankind — until Judgment Day. Contrary to the fears of most people, my child, departing from this dimension does not mean the end of life."

There was yet another lapse. Emmanuel was aware of Chuka watching him intently, reading all his thoughts and questions through his mind.

"What you have not thought of asking me, my child," he said, "is how I will be involved in all this. In particular, should consciousness with your wife's welfare to the extent of coming all the way to Lagos to take employment again after having retired from active occupation? Why I should try to 'save' your wife in particular?"

"Tell me, Chuka," Emmanuel said. "I tried to do it more for me."

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not ask questions. Just follow me to my room."

Without another word, Chuka got to his feet, and led the way out of the room. Emmanuel followed in a state of stricken numbness. Nothing else existed in the world at that moment except himself, Chuka and the phenomenon he was thinking he was about to witness. **OH GOD, LET IT BE TRUE! IT HAD TO BE TRUE!**

Inside his room, Chuka took out the little wooden box in which he kept his life savings. He extracted the bundle of notes and held it out to Emmanuel. "Please do not ask questions, my child," he said gently. "Just take this money and leave Lagos with Comfort at the earliest opportunity. She needs to go home to her people. You can forget everything that happened tonight as a bad experience. None of it will ever happen again. The Devil won his game, and is satisfied. He will now be searching for his next victim to use in a similar game. He will not bother your wife again."

But Emmanuel hardly heard the last few sentences. Unconsciously taking the bundle of notes, he was whispering in awed stupefaction: "Comfort? Comfort?"

"Go, my child," Chuka said quietly, a rumble of emotion thickening his voice. "She is waiting for you in your room." Emmanuel's breath swayed like fire from his nostrils as he stared at him, wondering which of the two of them was mad.

"She is really there, my child," Chuka said, the tears rolling down his cheeks, "as human in the flesh as you and me. Do not be afraid."

Emmanuel was indeed afraid. How could a girl whose head was crushed beyond recognition by the wheels of a bus come back to life again? There had to be an explanation. But Chuka placed a finger to his lips before he could speak out, saying again: "Please, my child." He started to push him gently towards the doorway. "You must go now; my body needs to rest. Read the newspapers tomorrow morning and you will understand."

Without another word, Emmanuel stepped out and marched towards his room. The old man had to be insane! Age was beginning to affect his mind!

At the threshold of his room, he felt his heart-beats ceasing. His eyes were riveted to the naked figure of his wife lying with her back to him.

Then he felt himself edging into the room, as though impelled by some unknown force, a walking zombie. He felt himself close the door. He heard himself say in a cautious voice: "Comfort?"

His wife turned in her rigid state of fear, her face wet with

would like to talk now about your dead wife, child."

Emmanuel sank back in grief and bowed his head, realising that all the revelations he had heard, staggering and illuminating though they were, could not bring his wife

back from the dead.

"I want you to come to my room with me, my child," Chuka said with sympathy.

"Let us go and talk in there."

"No," Emmanuel murmured here. "I will be all right alone now. I just don't want to be here. In fact, I want to be alone now. I just don't want to talk about Comfort." His eyes started brimming with tears.

"Come with me, child, and you will see your wife alive again!" Chuka said, the outraged universe, stopped, wrenching a great squirm out of him! He gaped at the old man as though he had gone raving mad. "What is this you tell me, Chuka?" he whispered.

"You heard me, child," the old man answered. "Please do

sake," Chuka said, his voice suddenly vibrant with feeling, with sadness. "You see, I was Romanus's uncle."

Emmanuel stared at Chuka in rigid disbelief. "His uncle?" "Yes, my child," Chuka said. "I was the twin brother of Beatrice Nwokedi. My real name is James Nwokedi."

Emmanuel could not believe a his cars James Nwokedi's and household names in Ngwo and neighbouring villages and

seen destroyed by his twin till the end of the world. The same James Nwokedi whose feat with the soldier ants had been told and re-told in every compound in Ngwo. The same James Nwokedi every body had

same sister, Beatrice. The same here in his room, very much alive. He had lived like an ordinary man under the affectionately known by all as "Chuka."

Then, like a sudden eclipse of the sun, Chuka said: "I

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tears. "Emmanuel!" she cried, and scrambled sobbing from the bed. She flung her arms around him, burying her face in his chest, her body shaking violently as she sobbed. "Emmanuel, he came back!" she cried. "When you went to the villa, he came back from the dead. Romanus came back!"

But Emmanuel's mind was in another world — the whirling world of disbelief, mesmerised horror. His eyes were fixed into space, enormous great saucers they were... He felt himself patting her consolingly on the back. He heard himself saying: "He has gone now, he has gone now..."

He felt the silent tears streaming down his cheeks. Emmanuel was up early. Draped in his wrapper, he knocked on the old man's door, his heart ready to burst with joy. Surprisingly the door was ajar and, receiving no answer, he entered, calling Chuka's name softly. He switched on the light. But Chuka was not there.

Emmanuel looked in the latrine and shower-room. But no sign of him. Perhaps he was already up watering the lawn, he thought, and hurried over to the villa and looked around the grounds. But no Chuka.

A little bewildered, Emmanuel returned to the quarters. Perhaps the old man had gone out, he thought. As he entered the quarters, he saw the chickens relaxed in their run in a semi-slumber and the dog lying by the kitchen, looking up at him with lazy eyes. All was calm and serene this morning, and he felt fine and on top of everything.

Presently Obama's door opened and he looked out cautiously, as though some unknown danger might be lurking nearby. He saw the dog and the chickens, and his face registered real surprise.

"Morning," Emmanuel greeted him, beaming radiantly.

Obama did not return the greeting. He showed a flicker of surprise at Emmanuel's apparent self-composure.

"What's the matter?" asked Emmanuel.

"How is Comfort?" was the question.

Emmanuel was startled. "All right. Why?" he said, feigning ignorance.

Obama's puzzled expression deepened. "It's all right," he said, "there must be something wrong with me."

"What is the problem, my brother? Tell me..." Emmanuel was nursing a sense of despair. He did not want anybody else to know what had happened.

Quietly, trying as best he could to sound rational, Obama recounted his experiences of the night before. When he finished, Emmanuel was shaking his head pretending to be puzzled.

THE

"Comfort is in perfect health, my brother," he said, and as you can see, the dog and the chickens are happily resting in their places. If you want, I can wake Comfort as you can speak to her yourself..."

"Oh no, no, no, it's all right," Obama replied with a note of urgency. "Don't mention it to her, I must have been mesmerised or something, so please let's forget it." "I will, my brother," Emmanuel said with relief.

The driver went off towards the latrine. Emmanuel looked at the dog and chicken, recognising that their return to the quarters clearly signified the withdrawal of whatever had scared them away.

There was still no sign of Chuka by the time Emmanuel left for the market. He had not forgotten the old man's suggestion that he should read the newspapers for the explanation he sought, and this preoccupied him as he cycled to the market. He was worried. A dreadful inner voice kept announcing that his beloved friend was no longer in the world, but he stubbornly refused to accept it. Only when he began to wonder why Chuka should suggest he consult a newspaper did he recognise, with a sinking heart, that the news of some terrible tragedy involving his friend would soon reach him. After all, could not Chuka himself have explained what he wanted to know in the morning? Why the necessity to find it out from a newspaper? — unless for some reason Chuka was not going to be around to explain it.

The first newsgenet Emmanuel came to, he bought several papers. Oblivious to the hurly-burly around him, he stood outside the shop and began to scan the pages of the *Herald*, his nerves taut. On the third page, his eyes caught the headline:

TWO DIE IN MYSTERIOUS

BUS ACCIDENT

He began to read the report. Police are investigating a mysterious accident in Ikoyin which a naked elderly man was crushed to death under the driver beaten to death by his passengers.

Emmanuel's heart gave a violent thump. He did not read on. His eyes returned again to the chilling words — in which a naked elderly man was crushed to death under the wheel of a bus.

The words screamed again and again with a high-pitched hideousness in the reeling orbit of his mind.

THE END

Shyness

I am nervous and shy. Can you send me any medicines to get over it?

Peter, Lagos

I am afraid there are no medicines that will cure shyness. There are drugs which can alleviate a nervous disposition, better than all of which would be for you to take part in social activities, sports and games, and I am sure, in time, you will have both your hands up.

Doctor Drum

If you have a medical problem, DRUM'S doctor may be able to advise you.

Write to Doctor Drum at P.M.B 2128 Lagos, Nigeria

from the edge of my hairline down to my ears. Can you please suggest any medicines that can fade away these hairs?

Suzi, Nanyuki

The best and the most natural cure for your hair is electrolysis. If there is somebody who does it in Nairobi, you can certainly have it done there. If not, visit a beautician who will certainly help you.

Marry!

I indulge in a lot of masturbation. I am scared of getting married because I fear that my wife will discover my habit. What do you advise?

W.D., Kumas

You should get married. Marriage should stop the need for masturbation.

Deodorant

I am 19 and I am ashamed of my bad odour. I wash twice a day and change my underwear but this does not stop the problem. My friends tell me that I must have a deodorant.

T.K., Ibadan
Bad odours have nothing to do with venereal disease. Your sweat is responsible. There are many deodorants in the market.

Whiskers

I am 17 and have one problem. I have hairs on my face which are like male whiskers and they run

OUR ENTIRE idea of the world around us depends upon our sense of sight. Think of anything and immediately we form a visual image of it in our minds. We have grown so accustomed to the use of our eyes that we tend to forget how dependent we are on their proper function.

Close your eyes and try to picture the EXACT position of objects around you. Difficult, isn't it? Think how much more difficult it would be if you were in strange surroundings. The complex structure and function of the eye is one of the marvels of the human body.

We do not all need to know exactly how it works, but we should all guard normal eyesight with care. After all, we would not be careless with a new, expensive camera, and the eye is a far more valuable and complicated instrument than any camera that has ever been designed.

Besides, you can always buy a new camera.

Eyes do not always function with 100 per cent efficiency and often glasses are necessary to correct some visual defect. One of the commonest of these abnormalities is "short sight", when it is difficult or impossible to see things clearly at a distance.

The cause of the trouble is basically an overgrowth of the eyeball. Normally, the eye has nearly reached its full size at the age of four. If the eye continues to grow too rapidly after this, it becomes too long, and images do not fall on to the retina, where they should.

The result is "short sight" or myopia as the doctors call it.

The condition usually runs in families, so if mother and father wear glasses, it is on the

Look after your eyes

cards that the youngsters will need specs also. All sorts of theories, with few facts to back them, have been spread around.

Like the idea that myopia is caused by too much reading. People tend to regard short-sighted people as "book-worms." This is probably true, not because too much reading has caused near-sightedness, but because the person with short sight begins to live in a closed-up world and depends more and more on books for his recreation.

In fact short-sighted people can work better than others at close quarters. Just ask that four-eyed cousin of yours to thread a needle — you'll see what I mean.

What does one know when it is short-sighted? Often it goes unnoticed in mild forms, and is only discovered when a doctor tests the eyes. Otherwise, a person may suddenly realise that he cannot see so well at a distance.

There is the classic story of the man who whistled and

Parent fear

I have venereal disease. Should I let my parents know or should I see a doctor without their knowledge?

Charles, Kitale

See a doctor to get cured of this disease. Whether you should let your parents know about it, depends on how you think they will take it.

Alarming

I am 18. Unfortunately, I still wet my bed at night. What is wrong with my habit. What do you advise?

Joseph, Lagos

There is nothing wrong with your sex ability. To stop urinating in bed, stop taking fluids after 6 p.m. Make sure your bladder is empty

bood at the movies for the projectionist to focus the film. The usherette showed him the dome (which he could hardly see) and a week later the doctor showed him that he needed glasses.

Suddenly your friends may think that you have become a snob. "I walked right past him and he didn't greet me," they will say.

If that happens, you need your eyes tested.

One myopia has been discovered the only way to correct it is to wear glasses. There are different strengths of glasses for the various degrees of short-sightedness, so it is no use wearing your aunt's old spectacles.

In fact it may do harm. There is no hard and fast rule about when to wear glasses. You may wear them all the time or you may only wear them when you feel you need them.

Up to the late teens, myopia may get worse, but after that it usually remains constant, and may even improve in later years.

Some people, specially women, do not like to have that studious secretarial look that glasses give one. For them, as well as sportsmen, there are contact lenses instead of glasses. These small lenses, no bigger than a fingernail, fit directly on to the eye, so that they are not even noticeable. But they are still expensive.

If you think that you are short-sighted, then there is no point in walking round in a blurry haze.

You will miss all the good sights in life. Have your eyes tested and wear glasses if necessary. Then you will realise what you have been missing. Seeing is believing.

before you go to bed. Get an alarm to wake you up every two or three hours so you can empty your bladder.

Weight worry

I am a young man but I am very thin. Please tell me why?

Billy, Accra

I cannot say why you are not putting on weight. But I can assure you that you have no other you that, being underweight is complaints, because underweight is not really a problem. It may be hereditary. But as you grow, you will probably put on weight.

Warts

I have got urethral warts and in spite of many medicines from my doctor, they cannot be cured. Is there no other treatment? Will they make me impotent?

A.B., Accra

Urethral warts can be removed by an operation. They are not known to cause impotence.

Skin trouble

For three years I have had skin trouble. Some parts of my body have rashes and in spite of using many ointments, I cannot get rid of them. Can you please advise me? Kiambadi, Meru

It is difficult to surmise the cause of your skin trouble and to suggest a remedy without seeing you. A visit to a skin specialist in either Nairobi or Mombasa should give you a permanent cure.

Sleeper

I have just come to Mombasa to stay with my brother for a few weeks. I do very little work but I sleep excessively. I go to bed at 9 p.m. and sleep soundly until the p.m. and sleep soundly until the afternoon. I am worried if my tiredness is a disease.

Raphael, Nyeri

You are enjoying a rest. Some extra sleep at the coast is natural for people who go from a high-up place like Nyeri.

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Dear Dolly

They've spent money on another

A.M. 25 and my girlfriend is 17. I love her dearly and intend to marry her. But my problem is that my parents found another girl on whom they have spent a lot of money, even though I don't like her. My brother went to consult Babalawo who said I should marry the girl love, she would not be productive. Please help me, Dolly. I am confused.
L.D. Noble, Lagos
Don't herd whatever Babalawo might have said, marry the girl of your dreams. That is my only advice. Your change your mind about the girl you really love. Nothing will happen to your dear girl if you have faith in God. Good luck!

I can't find a boyfriend

I AM 15 and very unhappy because I have no boyfriend, whereas all my friends have up to six or more boyfriends. Please, Dolly, help me: what shall I do to find one?
Worried Girl, Ibadan
At 15 you should not bother so much. The right boyfriend will come when you are of age. What should bother you now is how to attain the top in whatever field you are pursuing at present.

Her parents keep her in

I AM 19 and I have a girlfriend who said she loved me. But whenever I come to their house she tells me her mother won't allow her to come out to see me, and what do you Dolly, do you think she loves me, and please do advise I should do?
A. Abiodun, Kaduna
She is still young and cannot disobey her mother and you should not encourage her to do so. My advice is that you allow her to make up her mind as to what is best for her or you find a more secluded place to play your card.

Her parents are not at peace

I AM a schoolboy of about 17 years, in love with a girl of the same age. We love each other dearly. And this will hinder our future plans. Please, what shall I do, Dolly?
Worried Boy, Aikpo
The problem is a simple one. You will be surprised how you should advise I should do? Your future plans may unite the two families. As of now, you should not encourage her to do so. My advice is that you allow her to make up her mind as to what is best for her or you find a more secluded place to play your card.

He now befriends my friend

I AM a girl aged 17, deeply in love with a boy of the same age. We picked a quarrel one day and since then we have not talked to each other. What bothers me now is that this boy now befriends one of my friends and I cannot bear to be without him. My advice is that you call him and talk to him. With careful handling he will come back to you.
Worried Girl, Kano
He is merely testing your love. My advice is that you call him and talk to him. With careful handling he will come back to you.

I want my ring back

I AM a girl of 14, in love with a girl of the same age. I loved her to the extent of giving her a ring, but now I want to stop loving her because she has refused to love me. Please, how do I take my ring back from her?
Lex Boogie, Bendel State

It's childish to have thoughts of taking your ring back from someone you once loved just because she refused to make love with you. I am sure the girl loves the more passionate of such love-making and seems more mature than you? Wait till you've grown up a little.

My father is a Witness

I AM a girl aged 18, in love with a boy aged 19. We love each other and come from the same town. The problem is that my father does not want me to marry this boy because he is a Christian while my father is a Jehovah's Witness. Moreover, my mother said we are related. Please advise me. I am really in love with this boy.
Dolly
Dupe, Ikole Ekiti
Religion should not be a strong barrier between two people who are closely related. I would advise you to forget that boy and look for another, but if the relationship is a serious one, why not go ahead?

She pays my bus-fare

I AM 17 and she is 16. We go to school together and she pays for my bus-fare and for my school fees. She loves me and also buys things for me. Does it mean she loves me? How do I show my love? Write her a love letter? Please, Dolly, advise me.
Omogun Ajayi, Ikoje-Surulere
Definitely, she loves you! But I don't think she knows how to express her love. You can now help her by telling her how much you love her or, if you are shy, write her a simple letter and wait for her reaction.

I love my second girl more

I AM a boy of 22 and I fell in love with a girl aged 19. During our courtship another girl of about her age fell in love with me but I really love the first girl more than she is now. Then my first girl got to know and she is annoyed with me. What shall I do, because I don't want to love her?
Dixon, Accra
It is simple. Leave the second one and face your old one. She will surely come back to you if you are honest.

My sister wants to ruin my chances

I AM 15, in love with a boy of 19. We hope to marry in the near future. My problem now is that my sister is fond of reporting me to this boy, and the boy has now picked a quarrel with me. Please advise me, before I lose him.
Nike-Gunua, Lagos
Your sister needs to be told to mind her own business. Please call her or report her to an elderly person in your family who will put her in her right position. Then let your boyfriend know that you are not the quarrelsome type.

I can't describe my love

I AM a student aged 18; the girl I really love is 17. We love each other dearly and the love is beyond what I can describe here. But during the last Christmas holidays we discussed certain things which later developed into a quarrel. Since then our love has ceased to be what it was at the beginning. Please help me to get her back, Dolly.
Come-See, Owo

Your girlfriend is still immature. I don't see anything wrong in two lovers disagreeing on a point. She should Anyway, since you really love that day in good faith, lose her, my advice is that you call her and talk to her. If she is adamant, send your close friends to her. If they come back to you, she will soon regret it and get back to you.

She does not want to compete

I HAVE a girlfriend, but I intended having another one. My girlfriend refused. I love this girl and I don't want to lose her.
O. O. A. Adisa, Ibadan
Don't be a third! Make up your mind as to which of the two you love and pick just one. No girl likes to compete with another when it comes to love affairs.

He lied about the other girl

I AM 20, deeply in love with a boy aged 24. We are both in the same university. My problem is that this boy appears to be unfaithful because I met a girl in his room last night who said she was his girlfriend. I was shocked because I visited him and when I asked him to explain this, he said he was lying. He said he was her boyfriend but whenever she visited him he sees her off either to the bus stop or her house. Do you think he loves me, Dolly?
Shola, Oyo State
Men really are flirts. It is very difficult to find out their sincerity. My only advice is that you keep finding your own card in a modest way and at the same time have your wits about you. When both of you are ready to settle down, the truth will emerge.

This man keeps pestering me

I WAS 15 when I had my first boyfriend whom my parents advised me not to marry. Another man in our compound proposed to marry me and my parents agreed. We have now been together for five years without issue. What bothers me most is that this man pesters my life. He nags at every man I talk to, saying they are my old boyfriends. Please, I am confused.
Dolly
Mrs E. Odidi, Warri
Men are like that, my dear. You just have to bear with your man. As for the childlessness, only God knows best. Keep trying and your own luck may strike one day. Have you seen a doctor?

Should I agree to make love?

I AM 16 and I have a boyfriend aged 21. We love each other and intend to marry in the near future. My problem is that this boy wants to make love to me but I refuse because I don't want unnecessary pregnancy. But I love him and I don't want to lose him. Please help, Dolly.
Lin Lawrence, Ibadan

If you are not mature enough to know, the way out, please don't heed his words. But if you need to try it at all, please consult your doctor for proper advice first.

Her sister is adamant

I AM a boy aged 19, in love with a beautiful girl whom I intend to marry in the near future. The problem lies with her sister, who is my senior brother's wife. She said she would not marry anyone from her husband's family. Please, Dolly, help me. I am really in love with this girl.
Motora Boy, Surulere
Her sister has spoken well. You should please find your own sweetheart somewhere. After all, you should know that it is not proper for you and your brother to marry from the same family.

She is too eager to marry

I AM 16, she is a standard two girl. She is ready to marry me at the end of the month but I am still not prepared for marriage because I want to further my studies. She has now seen another wealthy man and she blurs me whenever we meet. Please, Dolly, how do I take her back?
Yaro Doguwa, Kano
Why do you cry over spilled milk? She is ready for marriage and you are not and she has seen the man she wants. Why do you want her back again? Leave her to her own devices.

When I try it fails me

I VISITED my girlfriend some time ago with the intention of making love to her but unfortunately, when I got to her house, my organ failed me. I tried again the next day with the help of my girlfriend, but it was the same story. Please advise me, Dolly. What has gone wrong with me?
Jen's, Kano
Please consult your doctor who knows best. It's not an insuperable problem.

