

Can I afford to marry?

MAY I express my view on Mr Emeka Okonkwo's letter on "selling daughters".

I doff my hat to Emeka for having pointed out this evil. I appeal to the Anambra State Government to look into this matter to minimise the increasing prostitution in the state. Emeka mentioned four towns, but it is not only these that indulge in this practice but the whole of Anambra State.

In my own town, for instance, which is about 10 kilometres from Onitsha, high bride prices are at their peak. A girl of elementary six is offered for N550.00 payable on the spot, excluding the native customs which takes another N200 to N300. Someone will give N1,000 to marry a girl whom he will then feed and maintain. A church marriage will take hundreds more naira. Now how much is left for their living?

Parents should reconsider their stand and reduce bride price to make it possible for men to get wives without tears. I am afraid because I am not yet married and the cost of living is going higher and higher. When I am ready to marry, the bride price may be twice that of today.

Let the bride price in the areas affected be controlled, with immediate effect, by our State Government. I suggest a minimum of N60.00 and a maximum of N100.00 for illiterate and literate girls respectively.

Tony Dakota Iwe, Uke Idemkili, Anambra State
A good point for parents in Anambra State and the State Government to consider — Editor.

Young men should look elsewhere

SO MUCH about the high bride price in Imo and Anambra States — so much that the former East Central State Government had to peg bride price to a maximum of N60.00. Recent reports suggest that the price has now risen to an all-time record of N1,000. I do not blame the old men who charge high prices for their daughters.

We're sure you'll join us in wanting to see more of this month's marvellous cover girl. Her name is Yana and she's been modelling since she was a mere sweet six years old. You can see how she's grown by just turning to page 5!



I see all the blame, and nothing to admire, in the young men who tie themselves down to marrying in these two states. Girls — beautiful and dutiful girls — abound in other parts of the country. They have good education and could even be better housewives than girls from Imo and Anambra States.

My advice to young men in these states is that they should forget about the girls in Imo and Anambra States, and go to other states to marry. In the Yoruba speaking areas, N1,000 is enough for your dowry, wedding and to give your child a good nursery school education.

What is the wisdom in getting married only to live the life of a pauper? If young men heed my advice, then the old head will be forced to beat down the bride price or keep their daughters.

If young men from Imo and Anambra states can marry Anambra men, from Yoruba, Hausa, Edo, from Fulani or Efik tribes then Nigeria's unity would be fostered. **Ogbonna, Ibiata Imo and Anambra State bachelors, can you come out to marry?** — Editor.

Bring the whip to Ibadan

SINCE the whip was introduced for road traffic offences in Lagos, most Lagos motorists have learned that they should seek to the highway code and respect other road users. Anyone who is conversant with Lagos traffic jams will agree that the situation has been drastically eased. Some motorists need to be flogged before they can obey simple traffic instructions.

Ibadan, the capital of Oyo

State, is next to Lagos in traffic congestion and all efforts to ease the situation are proving fruitless. A major cause is the attitude of Ibadan taxi drivers, "danfo" drivers and a whole lot of other illiterate motorists.

These motorists stop at random in the middle of the road. They don't obey traffic signs, and they don't respect other road users. When you try to check them they abuse you in dirty language.

I think the only way to tame these people and to help the Ibadan traffic problem is to introduce the whip for traffic control. If they were dealt with on the spot with the whip I think they would sit up and take notice, like their Lagos counterparts.

Africa must save Uganda

RECENT events in Uganda are a poser for the Organisation of African Unity. One begins to wonder whether one of OAU's resolutions — not to interfere in the internal affairs of other states — is not now a licence for leaders of individual nations of Africa to trample on human rights. No African newspaper reports these atrocities in the way the Western press do. We are too bitter with the Western

press them us.

I Presid his fell will c present Wester has a body w astray greatest who ad friend.

Those who keep happen name of not love be justified must wake our fellow more, our people of Lagos

times we see the truth about that, if advised by others, he the whom he Some- going Afr- art, man best tow a poly- The social, tion b Eastern long be re-unifi speaking Camero over the speaking In both sectors economy t

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East is dominant. In politics, the people of the West are in bondage strongly tied to the apron strings of the Easterners.

The only way to defuse the ego of the latter is to allow the former their freedom of self-determination. The Government should conduct a plebiscite to ascertain the wishes of the West as to whether their continued re-union with the East is worthwhile.

Pascal Mbong Tumfong, Tikou, Cameroon

DRUM's voice of reason

I WOULD like to express my appreciation of the meaningful and straightforward DRUM Opinion entitled "Why must Nigeria kill her great leaders?" The opinion, in which you made a special appeal to the Nigerian armed forces and the general public for loyalty, dedication and hard work, is very commendable. If all sections of the Nigerian press were to be as objective, constructive and impartial in their editorials, Nigeria would have been a much better society.

Well done, DRUM!
Ado Daudu Gagarawa, Kano
Thank you! — Editor.

How to minimise road accidents

FROM statistical data on road accidents it is crystal clear that most of the accidents are mainly a result of overtaking. According to these statistics, only about five per cent of the road accidents were from excessive speeding while the remainder were as a result of overtaking in wrong places.

Our thanks to the Ministry of Works and Transport which has helped in putting road signs in crucial dangerous places.

While praising the Ministry I would like to remind them that they have left out some important signs which could help greatly in reducing the rate of road accidents. On steep hills and bends, they should put "Steep hill and bends. Do not overtake." This is an experiment which could give a good result.

Felix Babafemi Faiusae Ifaki, Nigeria

Landlords need little sympathy

PERMIT me a space in your reputable magazine to comment on the article "Spare a thought for the Landlords" (IDRUM January, 1977). The article was written by the well-known writer, Mr Cyprian Ekwensi.

In a nutshell what Mr Ekwensi was saying was that the Government should abolish the edict which sought to control rents. His reasons were that landlords have a right to use their houses as they wish and that costs of building a house are very high.

The landlord has the right to use his house as he wishes in

the same way as an armed robber has the right to earn living as he wishes. If the landlord can "kill" unprivileged tenants with his exorbitant rent because he was given opportunity to build a house on an armed robber can't build a house on a landlord because he was given an opportunity to own a house.

The Government is doing in its power, gradually, course, to see that the cost building materials is greatly reduced. Unfortunately, some landlords who dig themselves as business to thwart the laudable effort of the Government.

It is necessary to re-iterate the fears of the masses, that landlords will apply means to ensure that the rent does not work.

My appeal to the various Governments is to remain steadfast in their efforts to rescue the unprivileged mass from the Shylock clutches of landlords.

Shanka, Warri

It is a little too harsh to equate a landlord with an armed robber. With time, a question of housing will be solved, with new measures being taken by the Government. — Editor.

Fuel shortage is a scandal

APPEAL to the Federal Government to find out the causes of the fuel shortage, Nigeria. We people of Ben State are the worst hit. In the past ten months it has been great time for the hoards who sell a litre of petrol between N1 and N2.

The petrol dealers set times to divert their supplies to the villages where they sell the "black market" at a higher price. Why is it that Bendelites bear the brunt of this situation while our states flow with oil?

Most motorists who get fuel have to use their money to get fuel while the taxi drivers manage to get fuel without exorbitantly.

Terry Joe, Sahongida-Ora
We hope that, with the additional refineries being planned by the Federal Government the situation will improve. Editor.

Drivers threaten pedestrians

IT IS disheartening to see traffic flows at a slow pace the construction areas Lagos.

For example, the Ma land Ketu Road and so other construction places to be problem areas but difficulties are aggravated drivers who have no patience. They add to the problems and threaten the lives of innocent pedestrians.

That is why I support a whip now being applied to offending motorists. Okpani, Ibadan

When Yana Francis was only six years old, she started her career as a model - and what a sizzling start it was too, as can be seen now - just a few years and a bit later - DRUM's covergirl Yana is modelling again. She's grown up well, hasn't she?



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Tradition dying fast in Africa. But in the village of Obimo the of the Ezugwu shrine still holds sw



ABOVE: Chief priest Eze Eyaka with a worshipper inside the sacred Ezugwu shrine.

BELOW: Priest Eyaka sprinkles an offering on the bloodstained sacrificial stone of the shrine.



IF YOU are a suitor wishing to marry a virgin girl, you will certainly find one in the Obimo village in North-western Nigeria.

This is because any young woman who loses her virginity before she gets married finds herself in deep trouble under the traditional law of the Ezugwu juju shrine which rules the area. A girl who falls into temptation and appears before the god of the shrine without a public confession and appeasement, which represents herself as a culprit in the eyes of the god, is liable to a sacrifice.

This same law is applicable to a woman who commits adultery and she may be banished from the village. These are some of the traditional laws instilled in the minds of the people of Obimo which have defied Western religion and civilisation. No matter what your status, if you are a native of the Obimo community, your allegiance to the Ezugwu shrine is regarded as being fundamental. Tradition and culture have reigned supreme.

Another formidable law of the Ezugwu shrine, which the worshippers believe, which the community from protection concerns the Nigerian civil war, is the burial of the dead. The chief juju priest, within the shrine, one for his body and the other for his body and any male member of the community cannot be touched by customary duty of washing the body and women have the grave inside the shrine.

History has it that a warrior known as Eze Edda, in the Northern invaders of Edda, fled from Nigeria many years ago and he entered into the service of Aserebe, who was the original and original father of Obimo.

Aserebe, who was the original and original father of Obimo, secured his territory, protect his Ezugwu shrine, and drew up his own laws. He gained the admiration of the people. Under his law, a woman citizen should not be guilty of adultery which is enforced by banishment and Obimo should be the people and law commands that the people should be. This is because...

Keeper of the virgin law

Ezugwu was fleeing from Edda, he lost his maize. But this aspect of Ezugwu law is restricted to the people of Ihekwoere, where the Ezugwu shrine is situated.

When his health was failing, Asebere abdicated in favour of Ezugwu who had already established himself. After the death of Ezugwu himself the house in which he was buried was converted into a shrine and worshipped by all the people of Ohimo as a mark of loyalty to a great warrior. The shrine used to be the scene of human sacrifice, mainly of offenders, before the advent of the white man. Such offenders, sometimes used to offer slaves in their places. But today the shrine accepts cows instead of human sacrifices. The sacrifices are made on the fifth and ninth month of every year. The animal is provided by offenders but if there are no lawbreakers the community contributes money to buy one. The head and the heart of such an animal is reserved for the chief priest, who has the power to communicate with the spirit of Ezugwu.

The Ezugwu shrine is the symbol of unity among the people of Ohimo. Through its chief priest it directs every aspect of traditional ceremony in the area. It binds married women to remain faithful to their husbands. It compels unmarried women to keep their virginity until marriage. One of the most stringent of the laws is against abortion for which the penalty was death. Now the Ezugwu god takes a cow from the abortionsist.

The man on whose shoulders the responsibility of the shrine now rests is 90-year-old Eze Eyaaka, the chief priest. He is the oldest man in the village and his great position is unquestioned.

He claims the power to communicate with the spirit and god of the Ezugwu shrine and says he does so twice a day, morning and evening. He conjures up the spirit by invocation at midnight inside the shrine enclave. If, for instance, a member of the Ohimo community is at the point of death, it is the duty of the priest to ascertain the cause of his or her illness from Ezugwu and possibly seek remedial measures.

The Ohimo community is ruled by a council of Ors titled-holders with the chief priest as the spiritual leader. He settles

disputes and maintains peace and order. He never leaves his domain and has junior spiritual leaders directly responsible to him.

By tradition, chief priest Eyaaka cannot spend the night outside his spiritual domain. He does not shake hands with anybody. He cannot move outside the shrine house except during meals. He does not eat gari, cassava, maize or cocoyam and feeds only on Yam all the year round.

When he dies, he must be buried inside the shrine along with all the past priests. Here again, the customs stipulate that no priest can be buried in a coffin. The juju priest's bare

body is placed inside the grave. This is to make it possible for the soul of the dead priest to undergo a process of spiritual atonement before it can qualify to see the god of Ezugwu. The belief is that if the body was laid inside a box such a soul would never see the god of Ezugwu with the result that it would haunt the living souls and plunge the entire community of Ohimo into torment.

Should the priest die on Afo day, the body cannot be buried until the following day. This burial must be accompanied with the sacrifice of a large cow. Afo, a traditional name for a day of the week, was regarded by Ezugwu during his

life as a holy and resting day. If this rule was disobeyed by any generation, it would spell doom to all members of the community. They believe the god of Ezugwu would attack the area with an epidemic.

Any member of the Ohimo community who dies within the period of the year during which sacrifices are made at the shrine cannot be buried until special permission comes from the chief priest. He has the power to inflict a social punishment on any member of the community who breaks his law. The priest may send the individual into exile for a limited period of time. What-ever measure the chief execu-

tive of the juju go take has to be to the elders of O, his cabinet but it for any member of the temple to oppose of the chief priest.

Chief Priest E remains in the private consulting room known as E late in the evening shrine house. After dinner, he stays in p.m., when he rec bedroom. He rem- up till this time timent be in bedroom nobody by custom to wake



Drum (Nigeria)

DRUM looks at the Nigerian States: this month, IMO.

Fertile ground for economic investment



COMMANDER Godwin Ndubuisi Kanu, then Imo State Governor, lays the foundation stone for the social welfare home at Ovuim. He is now Governor, Lagos State

IMO state is one of the two carved out of the former East Central State of Nigeria on February 3, 1976. Its sister state is Anambra. Imo is now one of the 19 states in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

With an area of about 12,689 sq. km., Imo State is bounded on the north by Anambra State, on the east by Cross River State and on the West by Bendel State.

The 1963 national census of Nigeria placed the population of Imo at about 3.7 million. This has since multiplied in 13 years of growth.

The State is badly hit by floods in the rainy season. The riverine parts are low while the rest of the land is relatively high plain which gradually fades into the rolling table land of Okigwe. Generally, Imo State is fertile for every type of economic investment.

Characterised by uniformly high temperatures and seasonal distribution of rainfall, the State is like most other parts of southern Nigeria. Primary forest throughout the State has been reduced considerably to

secondary vegetation and palm bush or low forest.

The wide-spread modification of the original vegetation is due to the population growth. The high temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall favour quick plant growth and the more humid the climate, the more luxuriant the vegetation.

Agriculture, as the mainstay of the economy, has priority in the development projects and provides employment for about 75 per cent of the population. The State's strategy of accelerated agricultural development aims at generating an appreciable increase in the income of farmers and enhancing the standard of living of the people through increased food production.

Industry is also one of the priority sectors of the state economy. In the 1976/77 fiscal year, the State Government appropriated the sum of N290,000 for industrial ventures promoted either by indigenous or foreign entrepreneurs. The Government has also set aside the sum of N500,000 to match grants for small-

scale industries in the same financial year. Small-scale industries play a major role in the economic development, hence the importance which is attached to them.

The Golden Guinea Breweries Ltd. in Umuahia, the Modern Ceramics Industry and the Aba Textile Mills Ltd. are the public sector industries operating today. However, these are jointly owned by Imo and Anambra States in partnership with foreign investors.

Road transport is facilitated by Imo and well-developed network which links all important centres of trade and industry and which connects it with the rest of the country.

Mineral deposits such as petroleum, natural gas, lead and zinc, salt, clay and fine-stone are found in various parts of the State.

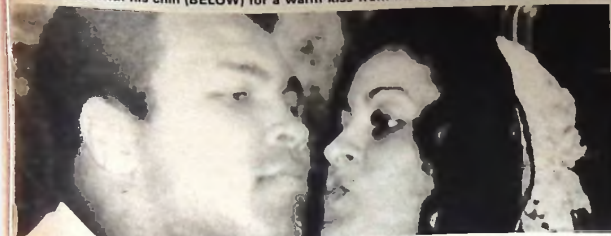
The Government of Imo State is vested in an executive council headed by the military governor, Commander Godwin Ndubuisi Kanu.



MRS Christine Kanu, the Governor's wife, presents the cup prize to the winner of the marching contest at the Government College, Owerri, and later visits the orphanage at Owerri.



WEST AFRICAN midwives — five from Benin and one from Ghana — were among visitors to the University of California in the United States. En route to a course in maternal and child health care, they visited Washington and (ABOVE) met the President's wife, Mrs Rosalynn Carter. Also in the US, heavyweight boxing champion, Muhammad Ali, led with his chin (BELOW) for a warm kiss from his new bride, Veronica Porsche.



FOCUS ON PEOPLE

LEFT: Head of State, Lt-Gen Olusegun Obasanjo, receives a special note from the envoy of Ivory Coast's President Houphouët-Boigny.



ABOVE: Editorial Director of DRUM Publications, Mr O Adetule, presents a certificate to one of the latest graduates of the Nigerian Institute of Journalism, the first of the country's training grounds for journalists.

BELOW: Popular sports' lover, Chief J. M. Johnson, discusses a technical point with a co-spectator at a recent boxing tournament in Lagos.



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Ecstasy as a two-year wait ends

STORY BY

OLASEINDE LAWSON

FOUR young students took a car ride to terror when they boarded a taxi on the outskirts of Lagos. They were kidnapped and spent two years at a mysterious forest camp. One of the two who survived, 16-year-old Ismaila Fawehinmi, concludes his story, and his mother describes her agonising wait during the two years.



MY mother came down to Abak-Ishaga to meet me. I cannot describe our reunion. She spent every kobo she had consulting oracle men, herbalists and all those whom she thought could help find me. She brought me down to our house at Mushin. There was a very large crowd of people who came to see me. I was overjoyed with my parents. People are still coming to our house to congratulate me.

My father, who works at Port Harcourt, was also there and was very happy to see me. He took me to Mushin police station where he reported my disappearance two years ago and told the police that I had been found. The officer told my father to come back later to collect my photograph which he had left with them.

I am now back with my parents and am happy and grateful to God for sparing my life. My only regret is that my colleagues at school who have finished their secondary education. Some will now be in higher institutions of learning while some will be holding very good jobs. But where there is life there is hope. The only thing is that my mind has shifted from formal education to craftsmanship. I want to learn a trade which I can carry out on my own.

MADAM Amaka Fawehinmi (LEFT) is the mother of the kidnapped student, also narrated her experiences to DRUM.

I AM grateful to God for bringing back my only son to me after two years. I did not lose hope of seeing my son again. This is because Ismaila is a gentle boy, and he is very intelligent. I am also a true believer in God. I never believe people will always reap what they sow. Since I have done no evil to other people's children, I believe that no harm will ever come to my own children.

I came back from Abeokuta, my home town, on that fateful day at about 6 p.m. to discover that my son was not at home. That was when I suspected that something serious had happened, because Ismaila never went out after that time. I had gone to

Abeokuta about four days earlier to join in the reception for some of my relations who had just come back from Mecca. It was while I was at Abeokuta that I dreamt that my son was in serious danger. So when I arrived at Mushin and did not meet him at home my suspicions were further aroused.

I asked the neighbours if they had seen him. Some said they had seen him and that he had said he was going to wash his clothes. Others said he was going to buy textbooks. At about 8 p.m. I went to his sister's houses to ask if he was with them, but he was not. It was well past midnight, so I returned. I did not sleep for one minute.

The following morning I went to his school at Ebutu Metta, but I was told that he was not at school. I broke down and wept profusely. Some good Samaritans brought me home. He was the only son of my two marriages. I loved him; so did all his sisters. So you can imagine how I felt.

I sent messages to all my relations both in Lagos and elsewhere, but no one had seen him. I sent a message to his father who was working at Enugu at that time. He quickly came down from Enugu, and went to report the boy missing at Mushin police station. The father broke down in tears because he loved the boy very much.

That was how my ordeal

... I could not sleep for one minute. I asked the neighbours if they had seen him. Some said they had seen him and that he had said he was going to wash his clothes. Others said he was going to buy textbooks. At about 8 p.m. I went to his sister's houses to ask if he was with them, but he was not. It was well past midnight, so I returned. I did not sleep for one minute. The following morning I went to his school at Ebutu Metta, but I was told that he was not at school. I broke down and wept profusely. Some good Samaritans brought me home. He was the only son of my two marriages. I loved him; so did all his sisters. So you can imagine how I felt. I sent messages to all my relations both in Lagos and elsewhere, but no one had seen him. I sent a message to his father who was working at Enugu at that time. He quickly came down from Enugu, and went to report the boy missing at Mushin police station. The father broke down in tears because he loved the boy very much. That was how my ordeal

"My only regret is that my colleagues at school will have finished their secondary education and gone to work."



offer thanks to Allah for protecting him from danger. The Government should be more stringent on this question of kidnapping. It is worse murder. If someone is affected by this, it is only one suffers when a son or daughter disappears mysteriously. Who knows whose name will be next to suffer the loss of a missing son or daughter?



'I did not know I was seeing my son — people asked me what they should do. I did no evil to my children. No one came to my rescue. Mrs Fawehinmi

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YOU CAN'T BEAT

KWAHUNSAABA, in Ghana's Eastern Region, is a small village of hardworking farmers. The district capital is Nkawaw, a few kilometers from where the people often do their daily shopping, do — by village standards — empty mini-supermarkets open all hours.

Until recently, like many small villages in Ghana, Kwahu-Nsaaba had not recorded any crime of disturbing significance. A quiet loving men and women.

But then came March 23, 1977. It was like any other day. As usual the men left their homes early for their farms. And, at home, the aged chatted about reports reaching them from Accra, Koforidua, and elsewhere about the high cost of transportation, the scarcity of foodstuffs and the attendant prohibitive costs of what one could find in the market places. The people in the big towns must indeed be suffering if the reports were correct that two small pieces of cassava — not sufficient to fill selling at one cedi. What a life!

But even as they talked about the much-publicised "Operation Feed Yourself," for rain to swell the ground elsewhere a man was engaged in an act that was as horrifying as it was heinous.

Seidu Busanga looked like a man who had endured a lot of the world's hard knocks. He had the build of an athlete — a boxer or a wrestler — heavy and sturdy. First it was only a few middle-aged women and some children who saw him on the outskirts of their village. He was armed — a cutlass in his left hand, and a gun in his right hand, while under his left arm-pit, securely held, was a human head. Busanga looked menacing enough to the women, so they reported what they had seen to some men in



Superman Basanga's six-hour shoot-out

He defied police bullets as they dropped off him as though he was a man built of stone. JOE MENSASH tells the incredible story of Seidu Busanga.

Soon all the able-bodied people still in the village started running "from something or to something," as an eyewitness later put it. Word had gone round that Seidu Busanga had been seen with a human head. And when the unbelieving villagers arrived at Busanga's hideout they saw him standing guard over what had now been identified as a human head; on either side of the head was a broom. Busanga was still firmly holding his gun and his cutlass. The villagers stopped dead. They eyes fixed on the man before them.

Presently, Busanga challenged any man to arrest him. The challenge was accepted by a man called Kumnipa. He dashed out of

the crowd to grab Busanga but was quickly felled by a bullet from Busanga's gun. Kumnipa died instantly.

Now grinning balefully, Busanga, standing aside his two victims, displayed a string of words to the police. "This is the source of my power, as long as I have can overpower me. Let alone come near me."

For the second time in the crowd to arrest him, but this time nobody accepted. Instead, someone managed to get the police to Nkawaw. The crowd waited in suspense, wondering whether Busanga would run berserk and start shooting indiscriminately.

However, a platoon of six unarmed policemen soon arrived. Their leader called to Busanga to lay down his arms, and go with them to the police station at Nkawaw.

Busanga retorted that he would not move without a fight; he challenged the police to arrest him if they could. The police boys realised that conversation, so they sent for rifles. With their rifles by their sides they warned Busanga against any foolhardy action down his arms. But evidently Busanga saw the call as an affront, an insult. After all both he and the police were men and must have felt, pretty certain that the string of

talismen around his waist would protect him. So he opened fire on the police. They returned the fire and the villagers ran for cover. And for the six hours that the police fired at Busanga he just stood there and scornfully returned the bullets from his body which some just dropped off him, though he had applied some sticky stuff to his whole body.

This was no ordinary man. A modern day Samson or a Superman. Ghana could boast of Busanga!

Police Sgt. Major Abingo Kusasi thought over Busanga's incredible performance and could not understand it. But Kusasi did not earn the rank of Police Sgt. Major by drinking *ptio* or palm wine. He sipped his man and warned himself that Busanga's powers — if indeed he had any powers — made him bullet-proof — most without doubt be in the strain of talismen around his waist. He was going to remove Busanga's leather string, he told himself.

Presently Kusasi, already wounded, waded into Busanga and a fierce struggle ensued. The onlookers, now out of their cover, cheered wildly, enjoying every minute of the encounter.

Kusasi wrestled the gun from Busanga — the cutlass was already on the ground — and found his chance. In one lightning flash he seized the leather strings around Busanga's waist. He heaved and pulled until the strings snapped, and Seidu Busanga instantly became as soft as boiled *ococo yam* leaves, he was overpowered.

The madly cheering crowd now saw their chance to avenge Kumnipa's death, and though the police tried their best to prevent them from lynching Busanga, they nevertheless succeeded in giving him a good thrashing before he was whisked away to hospital.

When it was all over a young man with bushy hair and baggy Afro trousers, summed it up: "Black power is powerful!"

What do you say to that dear readers?



THE conqueror . . . Sgt. Major Kusasi.



THE conquered . . . Seidu Busanga.

Snatched from jaws of death



The birth of triplets is usually something to be happy about. But to the people of Ezzah Agu in the Abakaliki area of Anambra State, it is something to be feared. Not only will the babies be killed, but a whole family could be wiped out. Mrs Nweke Aluna (ABOVE), who recently gave birth to triplets, tells DRUM's Innocent Ezeh how she saved her family.

A wife gives birth to twins in parts of Abakaliki in Anambra State of Nigeria, she is in for trouble. Apart from being subjected to deplorable social sanctions, the entire family may run the risk of being eliminated.

The twins will be killed and used to appease the gods. If a man and his wife resist attempts to kill the babies, both will die with their babies. Even after killing the babies, the couple will become social outcasts because it is an abomination to have twins or triplets in this part of Nigeria.

That is why Mrs Nweke Aluna, who gave birth to triplets at Ezza-Agu village, Ibibio division of Abakaliki, had to flee the village. She took refuge at the Catholic Mission in Emene near Enugu, in Anambra State. Her husband, Aluna Okagu, was taken to hospital after being injured while fleeing with his family into Enugu.

The Emene parish priest, Rev. Father Timothy Buckley, baptised the babies and provided shelter, food and clothing for the family. Here Mrs. Aluna, aged 25, whose husband was still in hospital at the time of the interview, tells of her ordeal.

"On December 20, 1976, in the night at EZZA-AGU, I gave birth to a boy and two girls. Some of the women of our compound rushed to help me. But two women, on observing that I had given birth to triplets, rushed back to alert their husbands.

"On seeing for themselves that I had three children, the men went to the village shrine to invite the chief priest to kill my babies on the shrine. It is customary to kill twins and isolate the parents so I had to flee.

"My husband and I took the babies and a few of our belongings and set out secretly through the bush for EZZAH AGU in Emene. For two nights we were wandering in the bush. The babies were carefully wrapped. My husband carried the boy and I carried our belongings while I carried the girls.

"We met kind people on our

way, farmers who gave us food, water and clothes. Throughout the night I trembled at the sight of sound but of anything in the forest. My husband comforted me saying that our flight was for the best of its kind, and no such flights had ever failed.

"After two nights in a clean jungle we arrived at a stream and decided to bathe the babies. At this time, we were miles from our village. As we were bathing the babies, we were offered cash gifts to passers-by offered for God's sake and protect us. And in to guide our community we came one small community very nice people.

"During the preparations for our escape, my husband, running in and out of our hut, dashed his head against some sharp objects. But he did not bother about his injury. What was uppermost in his mind was our escape.

"On approaching Emene we sat down under a tree to rest. The babies were crying and we were approached by Mrs B. O. Mwanama, who took us to the Rev. Father Buckley. The priest under the supervision of the Rev. Father Buckley admitted the babies were admitted and cared for. After about a week the babies were transferred to Mother of Christ Maternity Hospital at Enugu. While at the Catholic Mission in Emene, the Parish Priest baptised the babies, the girls Chiketa Aluna and Chinyelu Aluna, and the boy Chinsulu Aluna.

"After spending two months

at Enugu we left for EZZA-AGU in Emene village. My husband had already established a good relationship with the community so we did not

have difficulty in settling down as farmers. A few days later my husband became seriously ill following his head injury.

"In EZZA-AGU, my hostile

RELIGIOUS refuge: Rev Father Buckley baptises the triplets.



village home, if you give birth to twins or triplets, you are doomed. The belief is that parents whose record on triplets, so any woman surely face death if she fails to surrender her babies in ritual sacrifice. Even after her life and her husband's no longer be safe.

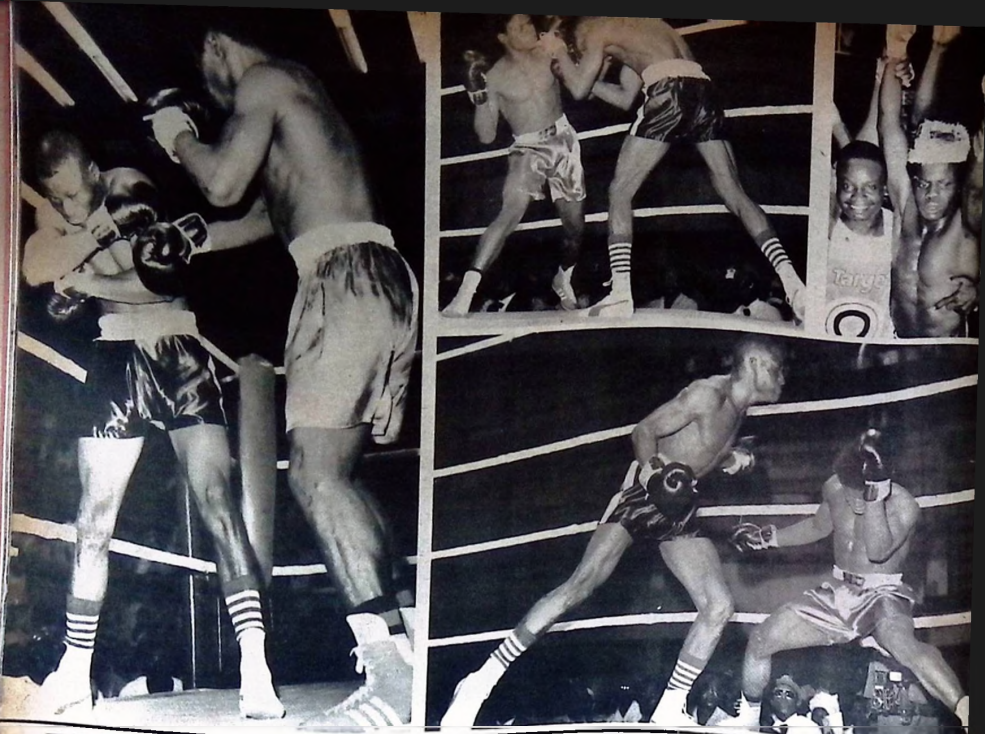
"Nobody in the community will want to associate with a family if they are walking in the opposite direction of the bush to avoid you."

"The killing of babies in public is not always a deal of secret. It has always taken place in public. For instance, any woman gives birth to a child in the day time, no action will be taken until at night. So if the father assistance of any religious person, before the night you have to spend money before you can will come.

"In the past, twin-kills were common. Both the babies and parents were killed. Grandparents, the children had come from God for sin committed in many public place were taken death. Their bodies dumped in a pit.

"My mother has fled from our village to EZZA-AGU and we have settled down. We can Agwu. We will live in this Emene village. It babies."

"Mrs Aluna received 00330 from Anambra State for The Catholic Mission. Emene has also done many other materials nearly 2000. She has come to her aid.



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HOGAN JIMOH, the Kwara Atomic Bomb, met his match when he fought Dele Jonathan for the Commonwealth title. The title slipped from grasp, causing the first in an otherwise brilliant

season after Jimoh's defeat. Nigerian Boxing Board of Control ordered that national championship holders should end their titles with a mediate effect. And a little-known boxer, Alhaji Rocky Mighty, was billed to face the Atomic Bomb. At the sound of the bell hearing in the first of the 15 rounds, Alhaji Rocky Mighty came out with such a fury that spectators thought the fight was in for a tough night. But Hogan Jimoh's experience was evident. He was cool and collected. He defended himself well against very punch thrown by the challenger. But for a cut which Hogan had on his right cheek, all the punches would have been regarded as ineffective.

Came the second round, and the Atomic Bomb had realized that his opponent was incapable of absorbing heavy punches... and that was the beginning of the end for the challenger. Atomic Bomb went for the kill, inflicting heavy left punches on Rocky Mighty. The punishment was great and Rocky Mighty could not even hit the Atomic Bomb once. He was hopelessly outmatched.

After exactly two minutes, ten seconds of round two, referee Blake Power stopped

Atomic bomb blast in a fist

THE KWARA Atomic Bomb, Hogan Jimoh (RIGHT) has a deadly left hook. He pinned the challenger, Alhaji Rocky Mighty, to the ropes (opposite, far left) and in two rounds was able to ring enough punches to hold on to his title. Mighty Rocky soon learned that his early rushes were futile.



**STORY BY: SEINDE LAWSON
PICTURES BY: ABIM OLADEJO**

in and stopped the fight to save Alhaji Rocky Mighty from further punishment.

Hogan Jimoh, Atomic Bomb, who failed to win the Commonwealth Crown, was able to hold on effortlessly to his West African lightweight title.

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Obey reigns still as king of juju

SEINDE LAWSON REPORTS.

CHIEF Commander Ebenezer Obey (real name Ebenezer Fabiyi) has dominated the juju music scene in Nigeria for some ten years. Few Nigerian musicians can boast of such a reign. His music, as well as his friendly and open disposition, appeals to people.

He gains more fans every time he releases a new album, and draws huge crowds every time he gives a performance. Recently, however, all the devotees of Commander Obey's music thought their shining star had faded from the scene.

That was because the Miliki Spot, the place where they go to listen and dance to his music and spray naira on his forehead, suddenly closed. Fortunately for the Commander's fans, it was to renovate the Spot, which reopened with a bang recently.

People poured into the expanded dancing hall all night and the place was still packed at 2.30 a.m. Everybody in the music business, it seemed, was there: man-about-town Olabisi Ajala, Ife Awosika (manager of Obey's Inter-Reformers Band), to name but two.

The master of ceremonies, Kehinde Adeosun, had little trouble launching the evening's entertainment, which turned out to be the show of the year.

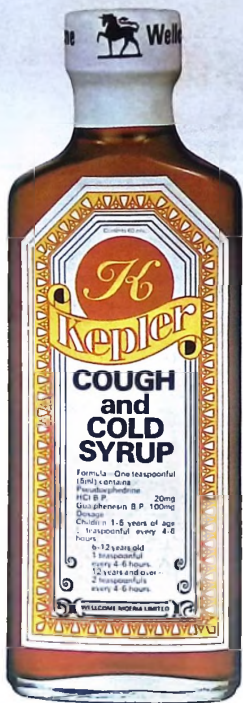


THE SWINGING SPOT: Fans dance all night to the sounds of Commander Obey (ABOVE), who really gets them going in the wee small hours.



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Japanese seal big oil deal

THE Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation has signed, on behalf of the Federal Government, an agreement with the Japanese firm — Chiyoda Chemical Engineering and Construction Company — for the engineering design and construction of the Kaduna petroleum refinery complex.

Col. Muhammad Buhari, chairman of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, signed on behalf of the corporation, while Dr Akiyoshi Tamaki, chairman and President of the Japanese company, signed on its behalf.

The refinery complex will process 100,000 barrels per day of both local and imported crude oils into gas for cooking, two grades of petrol, kerosene, gas oil, fuel oil, nine lubricating oil base stocks for the production of engine oil, industrial lubricants and greases. Other products to be manufactured include waxes and asphalt for road servicing. The total period of construction will be 36 months.

A project team comprising the corporation's project engineers and the consultants of King-Wilkinson, a Dutch consultancy firm, will



SIGNING the agreement for Nigeria's third oil refinery, at Kaduna, are: Col Muhammad Buhari, chairman of the Nigerian National Oil Corporation, signs with Dr Akiyoshi Tamaki of Japanese Chiyoda Chemical Engineering.

supervise the design and construction works.

Being an inland refinery, the Kaduna refinery complex will receive crude oils through a pipeline linked with the Warri refinery. As a short-term solution to the fuel shortage in the country, the pipeline has been designed initially to feed Kaduna and its environs with petroleum products from the Warri refinery when it goes into operation in 1978. The same pipeline will later be adapted for transporting crude

oil from the coast for the Kaduna refinery.

The output of the Kaduna refinery by early 1980, added to the production from the Warri refinery by 1978, will increase the present refinery capacity in the country by 320%. This together with the pipeline complex and product piped projects, on the strategic depot projects, which work has already started, will consolidate the long-term solution to the country's fuel distribution in the problems.

LITTLE or no progress has been made toward the day when developing countries "are treated as full partners in the world's economic growth, with a larger and fairer share of resources as part of a New International Economic Order," Edouard Saouma, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), told the 51st session of FAO's Commodity Conference recently.

"The crucial role of agricultural commodity exports for developing countries is self-evident," the Director-General said, "at a time when many of them face growing balance of payment deficits and a debt burden which is climbing at an alarming rate."

In this connection, he said, FAO had been urging as a priority greater investment in the commodity production and the processing industries of the developing countries as "the only way in which developing countries can derive full benefit from the new opportunities which should be opened up as progress is made towards a New International Economic Order."

Mr Saouma noted that a wide range of commodities such as sugar, coffee, cocoa, and tea were affected by and their instability. He said he spoke not only of the harm that depressed prices have on the balance of payments of developing

PRICES PROBLEM

countries, but of the opposite situations — excessively high prices that bring in their wake "the seeds of discord among trading partners and stimulate the search for synthetics and other substitutes."

The Committee on Commodity Problems will take up a wide range of commodity issues, including those affecting trade in hard fibres, livestock, tea and bananas.

In supporting the 1978-79 programme proposed by Mr Saouma, FAO's Council, the interim governing body, endorsed a proposed budget of \$206.8 million.

The budget proposal represents an increase of 23.8 per cent over the current biennium's budget of \$167 million. However, more than 70 per cent of the increase is itself, the Council noted, was a reflection of inflation anticipated over the next two years. The proposed budget goes to the FAO Conference in November for ultimate approval.

One of the programme's chief priorities is an increased emphasis on the reduction of food losses to increase the food available to the world's poor and hungry.

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Lister Motors is one of the leading dealers in Datsun cars, buses, and trucks.



Supply company doing a good job for the public

THE National Supply Company has been reasonably successful in making essential commodities available to the public.

The assertion was made by the Federal Commissioner for Co-operatives and Supply, Alhaji Umaru Mutallab, while briefing newsmen on the activities of the company.

For example, the Commissioner pointed out, sugar was now available all over the country at a controlled price, while sardines, salt and corned beef were also available at

reduced prices throughout the Federation.

In addition, he said, stockfish was being sold at reasonably low prices in the areas where it was traditionally most consumed — Anambra, Imo and Cross River States. Milk was available in the country and efforts were being made to increase the quantity being supplied, the Commissioner said.

Alhaji Mutallab emphasised that all these efforts were not only geared towards making commodities available, but also towards acting as a

deterrent to profiteers and hoarders.

He said that, at present, the company had warehouses and distribution centres in Lagos, Port Harcourt, Warri, Funtua and Gombe, adding that ultimately it was intended to have at least one distribution centre in each of the 19 states of the Federation.

Answering a reporter's question, Alhaji Mutallab disclosed that it was planned to publish the list of the appointed distributors of the company and to keep the list under periodical review.

On the problems facing the company, the Commissioner noted with regret that members of the Nigerian public were too brand conscious. As a result of this, he pointed out, they insisted on known brands, supplies of which were unfortunately limited from the manufacturers.

The ports, he added, also constituted a major problem to

the operations of the company. At any given time, said, there was a large number of vessels awaiting berth facilities. This tended to create artificial shortages apart from increasing the cost of operations.

The company is expected to be able to discharge an average of 8,200 metric tons of cement through the ports this year. Alhaji Mutallab said that discussions with a European consortium were successful, additional 1.2 million metric tons would be added to existing arrangements.

Alhaji Mutallab expressed the hope that just as the company had been able to bring down the price of sugar so would be able to perform a similar feat in respect of cement. He said that as far as Niger was concerned, cement supply was very difficult, arising from the phenomenal increase in construction work going on over the country.

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LABOUR SURVEY ALMOST READY

THE results of the nationwide labour force sample survey carried out in March last year by the National Manpower Board are being processed. The Federal Commissioner for Economic Development and Reconstruction, Dr. Omoniyi Adewoye, announced this in Lagos.

He said that 30,000 households in selected urban and rural areas of the country were affected by the exercise.

He said that plans were also underway for a nation-wide manpower study covering all the sectors of the economy.

The proposed study, he disclosed, was designed for the purpose of obtaining much-needed data on the stock and future requirements for the various occupational categories of manpower.

A number of economists in the universities are assisting in the planning and execution of the survey.

Dr Adewoye said that a major constraint on the effectiveness of the Manpower Board was the staffing of its Secretariat.

For the efficient performance of its duties, he said, the Board required a full complement of staff specialising in areas such as manpower research, planning and administration. He regretted, however, that since its

inception, the Board had not been able to build up such staff in the required number and quality.

The Commissioner expressed the hope that with the present effort to strengthen the staffing of the Manpower Secretariat and to establish a Manpower Committee in each State as well as a Manpower Unit in each State Economic Planning Ministry, the effectiveness of the reconstituted Manpower Board would increase.



WAFER thin sheets of new alloy called Facrollon — pressed into a shape like corrugated cardboard — coated with platinum — rolled up and inserted into a car exhaust system — will remove 99 per cent of all pollutants from a petrol engine. It will not break or corrode, and scientists confidently expect the device to outfit the cars in which it is fitted.

It is often believed that top businessmen are sharp operators who work close to the edge of the law. But one of Nigeria's leading entrepreneurs says that honesty is the true basis of any success.

HONESTY THE BEST POLICY FOR SUCCESS

Turn over for more Business News

If there is anything to which I can say I owe my success in business, it is honesty. I got to know about what honesty can do for me from my very earliest connection with businessmen, and in the first actual business transaction I made, way back in 1944 when I was a standard four student in primary school.

That is Mr Michael Olayo Adekeye, the Managing Director of West African Household Utility Manufacturers Company Limited, whose first taste of business was at school when he became friendly with a group of importers in Lagos. In his fourth year he joined the importers with £100 worth of bicycle spare parts. What he ordered for 2/6d (25k) a pair, he sold at £1 (N2). The business flourished until 1947 when there was business recession.

Mr Adekeye, however, persevered and continued in the business until 1954. He entered big-time business when he met a contact, Limang Chau, from Hongkong. Chau was interested in selling cement which had been run into ware in Nigeria, but had run into some local businessmen who did not look after his interests conscientiously. Luckily he met Mr Adekeye, who gave him some honest advice on how to operate in Nigeria. Chau listened and made a breakthrough. Mr Adekeye was taken into Chau's confidence and the business that followed eventually led into the establishment of WAHUM.

Without being honest, I could not have made this contact. I got the Okerimi Trading Company together and traded mostly in enamel ware. That was in 1958.

By 1959, my Hongkong partners were getting interested in establishing a factory here in Nigeria to produce enamelware. I was their major Nigerian partner and that's how my connection with

WAHUM became established.

"Today I can look back and say with a lot of pride that my business has been firmly established on the basis of honesty."

Since the indigenisation decree compelled his foreign partners to sell a major part of their equity, Mr Adekeye had little difficulty in buying the Nigerian shares and assumed the position of Managing Director.

WAHUM specialises in the manufacture of pots, pans, bowls, dishes, trays, plates and other household utensils. Since the establishment of the company, it has had a growth rate of 50 per cent annually, with little competition and a high demand for these utensils in the country.

"One very important factor that has been responsible for my success is hard work. I believe that without hard work, no business will get off the ground. This is the principle upon which I base my daily business life. Even today, as the Managing Director of this company, I still engage in my manual labour with my

Business Profile by Olu Abafemi. Picture by Abim Oladajo.

workers, carrying cases of imported raw materials which the company requires for the manufacture of our goods. I do this for two reasons. First, I believe that to make my workers as hard as possible, I should show an example personally. Secondly, I know from experience that a worker in the field is the man who actually brings in the money and it takes personal involvement in the supervision of these workers to get maximum production from them.

Mr Adekeye is managing director of WAHUM and its vice-chairman. Besides, since the early 60s, he has pumped

money into a chain of other companies. He is a director-shareholder in Safety Manufacturing Group, producers of matches, Battery Manufacturing Company Limited (BAMCO) — makers of flash batteries, Nigerian Electrical Development Company Limited, manufacturers of electrical cables, and WAHUM Pack Company Limited, producers of assorted cartons.


On April 1 this year — in partnership with another Nigerian — Mr Adekeye also put a steel manufacturing company into operation which he plans to make into one of the biggest steel works in the country.

Commenting on the Federal Government's indigenisation policy, Mr Adekeye said: "It has brought a most favourable atmosphere in business for Nigerians, and has checked the lopsided relationship between foreign investors and their Nigerian partners."

"But we might fall in the exercise if most of our businessmen do not work hard enough and invest more on industries rather than spend money on meaningless parties and unnecessary prestige projects that, in the long run, will not benefit our people."

Born 42 years ago, Mr Adekeye is the eldest son of the late Oba of Oro in Kwara State. Although he was supposed to ascend the throne at the death of his father, Mr Adekeye stepped down for his younger brother because he prefers to pay full-time attention to the business world. A very simple and approachable gentleman, Mr Adekeye is married to two wives, and has ten children.

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MICHAEL ADEKEYE: Hard work and honesty are the essentials for business success.

OR

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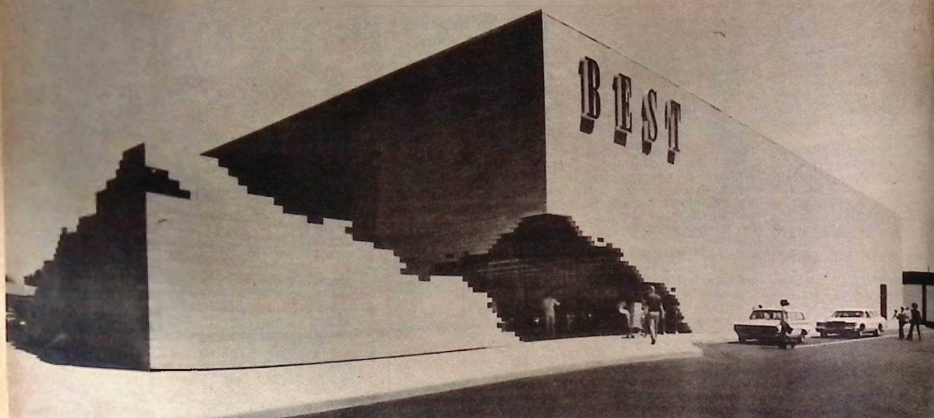
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DRUM



WHEN a building has no door, a 'wandering wall' provides a novel way of getting in and out. An American mail-order company has adopted the concept of incorporating contemporary art into its showrooms around the country. This particular one is at Sacramento, California. The wedge of 'wandering wall', weighing 45 tons, slides along rails into the building to close it up. Wholly bizarre!

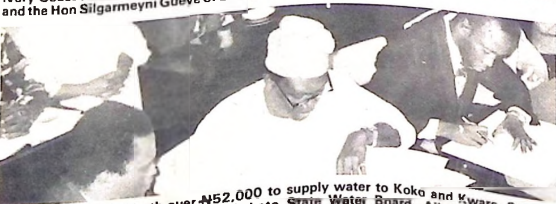
Business photo file



NIGERIAN Head of State, Lt-General Obasanjo (RIGHT), received Mr A. Diaby Quattara, the Executive Secretary of ECOWAS at Dodan Barracks recently.



THE agreement for the Ivory Coast-Nigeria section of the West Africa-Europe submarine cable system was signed by (from the left): His Excellency Buama Toun, the Ivory Coast Ambassador, Mr S.O. Williams, Nigerian Communications Commissioner, and the Hon Silgarmeyni Gueve of Senegal.



THE two contracts worth over N52,000 to supply water to Koko and Kware, Sokoto, being signed by the chairman of Sokoto State Water Board, Alhaji Aliyu Magajin Garin Sokoto. On his left is the Board's General Manager, Mr M. M. Hassan.



BRITISH Airways recently showed off its new uniforms for the airline's 6,800 hostesses. This particular design is in dark blue with a white pin-stripe. The short-brimmed hat is also in blue and the silk scarf in red and white. Other new designs have also been introduced.



TWO new electric arc welders are now available from Black and Decker, the world's largest manufacturer of power tools. Designed for use in garages, automobile, farming, marine and maintenance workshops, they can weld anything from thin sheets of steel, such as car bodies, to 3/8" thick steel in one run (heavier sections in multiple runs). The new units are air-cooled, built on a rigid steel chassis and are fully enclosed in a steel casing with top mounted carrying handles.

HOND.

Something New. Something Super

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Open your eyes wide. Take a closer look. The new Benly Super certainly deserves attention. You will see there is more than just streamlined, sporty styling. A great deal more.

Honda engineered this machine for action. The super-sporty kind of action. Whether you live in town or in the country, the Benly Super is built to assure you enjoyed every ride.

Positioned low, the 4-stroke OHV engine delivers power to spare. It is smooth, highly usable torque for quick acceleration. The low engine position improves handling ease and stability. This

simplified, single-cylinder design also reduces maintenance. Shifting couldn't be easier. Gear positions are N-1-2-3-4 for simple up then down shifting. You can go further too. Because the fuel tank holds a full 8.5 liters.

Like the chrome fenders, exhaust system and trim, versatility is dazzling. The pillion snaps on and off in seconds. You can carry a passenger or packages. With a passenger or heavy load aboard, the low center of gravity and wide handlebars make handling quite easy. The turn signals feature a return warning buzzer. The Honda Benly Super. The machine deserves your wholehearted attention!



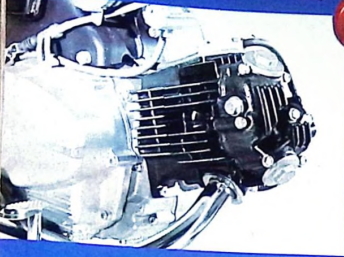
Advanced Features Assure Superior Performance.

You experience unsurpassed total performance. The Bently Super boasts a wide range of fine features. Sturdy rear shock damper springs and well-padded seats absorb the big bumps. Large-size brakes provide sure stopping power. The special magneto ignition

enables quick starts and prolongs battery life. Servicing is super easy. Thanks to design refinements such as extremely-efficient canister air cleaners and large side covers for storage of tools

and other items. The chrome gas tank cap locks with the ignition key and a fork lock adds extra protection against theft. These and other features are all yours. Ride the Honda Bently Super and you will agree—it's super!

Advanced 105-cc, single-cylinder, 4-stroke OHV engine. This proven design provides fast acceleration, high reliability and economy.



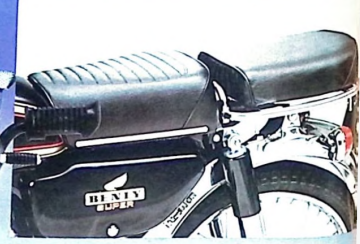
Large-size speedometer enables at-a-glance speed checks.



Large, bright headlamp, large turn signal lamps and side reflectors for greater safety.



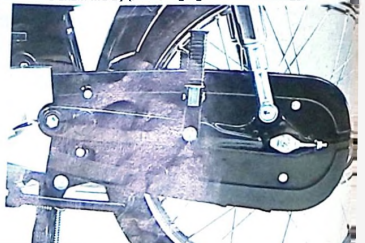
Pillion can be snapped on and off in seconds for riding solo or with a passenger.



Warning buzzer reminds you to switch the signal lamp off after the turn is completed.

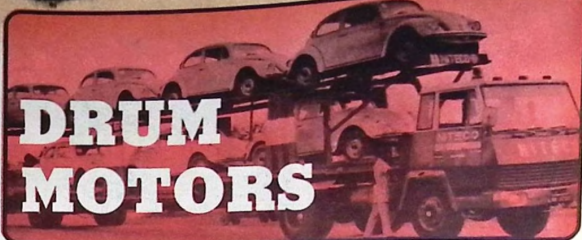


Entire drive chain is enclosed by an attractive case which extends chain life by protecting against dirt and dust.



HONDA

Reliable fleets put the goods into trucking



DRUM MOTORS

DRUM Motors takes a long hard look at the haulage business — and finds that quality of service and standardisation of components is all important for a big fleet owner.

COMPETITION on the (freight) market is governed largely by four basic factors which will affect a buyer's choice of vehicle. They are:

- The nature of the goods, covering weight, volume, potential danger, and sensitivity.
- The delivery requirements, including speed, temperature, packaging, reliable delivery times, delivery preparedness, flexibility, level of service, loading and unloading of equipment as well as general legislation.
- The costs, largely governed by direct freight cost, number of transshipments, risk of damage, special packaging, insurance, goods administration and delays.
- The alternative methods — air, road, rail or sea — of transport.

Choice of a vehicle can also be affected by quantity and quality.

In respect of the weight and volume of the goods there is little difference between road, rail, sea and air. The same quantity of oil or petrol can be transported by road as by sea, either over a longer period of time or by using several trucks.

However, with respect to quality, there are significant differences in transporting sensitive or potentially dangerous goods or those which must be kept at certain temperatures, or as regards highly reliable delivery times, flexibility, and low risk of damage.

These demands are particularly well satisfied by road transport. A good level of service is offered in that the driver can give advice on handling the goods and can take an active personal res-

ponsibility for the transport. Flexibility can be achieved if scheduled departure times can be extended or changed without disrupting the entire transport system, and if a route can be changed temporarily during a journey. Risk of damage may be kept down by limiting the number of transshipments.

The temperature requirement is easily met by modern refrigerated trucks. Temperature can be regularly checked during the journey by the driver. Onboard loading and unloading equipment makes the truck independent of external equipment.

But the advantages of the truck in the decisive quality sector are not something that can be taken for granted. The two most important factors, highly reliable delivery time and good delivery prepared-

ness, depend on the truck. Reliable delivery times can only be maintained if the truck is reliable.

If the proportion of trucks undergoing inspection and repair is high, reserve capacity, fundamental to a high level of delivery preparedness, will be harmed.

Reliability depends on quality in design and sizing and quality in production and inspection. These in turn depend on how well the designers assess the demands on a truck operating in heavy traffic. Scania, e.g. concentrates its activities on the transport sector that accepts the higher initial cost to obtain a high degree of reliability and price has steadily decreased in lower operating costs for reliable trucks.

To ensure reliability in production the material supplier carefully checks quality and strength. Many a manufacturer conducts his own quality tests by checking various components and units before they reach the production line for assembly in the vehicles.

Regular inspection work is also carried out during assembly, with notes of card which accompanies a vehicle truck from the beginning of assembly. The assembled chassis is tested directly in a chassis dynamometer, which reveals if the assembly line workers have used the necessary care.

Each engine is test run for five hours. Every part in the engine is checked and all exactly.

These components which influence the safety of the vehicle on the road are subjected to an even more rigorous inspection.

While a company may set its quality requirements at a high level, theory and practice must agree, so every third person engaged in the production of trucks at the world's foremost manufacturing companies is assigned to checking that the production results match up with the requirements.

All these quality requirements not only favour the vehicle distributors but also promote the competitiveness against other haulage sectors.

The essential of a truck which the concept of quality based is operational reliability which relies on four important elements. Only these can make the name of that truck synonymous with quality. They are:

- Advanced and quality design
- Proven strength and proven margins
- Efficient and careful production



THE fleet owner, whether he buys a long-distance tanker or a short-haul tiptruck, needs a reliable vehicle that won't ruin his reputation for delivery on time.

Continued on page 2

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Traffic jams back in Lagos

Quality is what counts

Continued from page 31

• Meticulous inspection of every component before and after assembly.

These quality concepts are a reality, as clearly substantiated by three important factors for which Scania-Volvo of Sweden and other top manufacturers are renowned. These are: low operating costs, long service life and high second-hand value.

Every owner of a fleet of trucks tries to attain the highest possible haulage capacity at the lowest possible cost. It must be possible to maintain the fleet with a minimum of different servicing and repair routines and with a limited stock of spare parts possible.

Many truck manufacturers now offer a wide range of models in which the number of components and repair routines are very limited. Every fleet owner should therefore place as much emphasis on the cost of the entire fleet as on the cost of each individual

vehicle. The best manufacturers now offer low costs for units and entire fleets.

Manufacturers should provide efficient field organisation to support distributors through extensive service, and their service personnel must always be well equipped and well trained.

Important development has occurred in the field of comfort and working environment. Trucks have become attractive workplaces for all those people whose daily work revolves around them.

There are, finally, three main questions which the owner of a fleet of vehicles should ask himself when faced with the choice of a truck:

- Which fleet of vehicles will provide the lowest total costs?
- Which service network can provide the fastest repair times, the shortest downtime and the most reliable supply of spare parts?
- Which make of truck will provide the employees with the most efficient workplace and the best working environment?

THE traffic edict promulgated by the Lagos State Government has been a subject of intense controversy. It orders that a vehicle whose registered plate number starts with an odd figure may not use certain routes in the Federal capital on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Only those whose plates start with even numbers can use the routes on these days.

The edict caused considerable debate when it came out. Some people said the Government had taken a very wise step. Others thought that the Lagos State Government was taking the shadow for the substance in thinking the edict could solve the traffic problem. At best they saw it as a palliative. While agreeing that it would reduce the traffic chaos for a while, they felt that all efforts should be made to provide adequate roads.

Has the measure solved our traffic problems? There is no doubt that the edict did reduce the road chaos in Lagos and around. But this impact was only short-lived. It was pronounced primarily to



SCENES like this are once again common in Lagos.

contain total traffic anarchy which would have befallen Lagos in the wake of FESTAC. Throughout the festival, traffic was so smooth that even the Head of State, Lt-Gen Olusegun Obasanjo, could not help remarking joyously that "a miracle has been performed."

But after FESTAC the roads clogged up again, little by little. Right now we are virtually back to square one. Why?

Well, one reason is that the traffic policemen and wardens have relaxed their vigilance. More and more vehicle owners are taking the risk of occasionally putting their "odd" vehicles on "even" roads and vice versa.

Another point is that the regulation only applies between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The roads become so clogged up between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. that you would think they are no longer the roads you know but some bizarre car market.

The third reason is that owning two cars has become the standard practice in town. And the thinking is, why suffer the traffic edict if you can own two cars?

To its credit, the traffic edict burned bright for a time, but now it has frankly burnt out. "Roads! Roads! Roads!" That is the slogan that needs all available backing from both the Lagos State and the Federal Government.

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heftiest passenger. No squeeze or crush when the family steps aboard! Add all this to the trustworthy VW 1584cc engine and you've got the best big hearted compact on the road. Right down to the year-long guarantee with no mileage barred. Strong, sturdy, swift and sure, the VW IGALA 'L' is tailored for those who want safe, economical motoring. Test drive it - then resist it if you can! ₦3250. Ex Lagos.



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6oz can ~~for~~ \$1.75



WHAT the protest is all about. The dustbin lid says it all.

Students win right to peaceful protest

Soweto students have won a victory, as Stan Motjuwadi reports.

Pictures by Alf Kumalo.

IT IS a year ago that South African children in Soweto, the Reef and Pretoria protested that they did not want Afrikaans as a medium of instruction. In the five-day mayhem that followed two whites and 140 blacks were killed. Damage to property was estimated at millions of pounds. What could not be calculated, however, was the damage to race, police-township and residents relations. Oh God, please not again. The prayer in Soweto which was the prayer in April 77 was the students decided against the students decided against the increased rent their parents have to pay. Our parents are groaning under the burden of seeing their kids get school and compulsory education, and complaining. The "please not again" prayer was answered. Handling a highly inflammable situation with tact and restraint, the final toll was three people shot. Brigadier J. P. Visser and his men diffused the whole thing

by rightly allowing the students their democratic right to protest. The day started with Soweto trains running true to form late. Hundreds of commuters returned home from stations as rumour spread that the student protest was a "stay-at-home" for workers. Wisely, headmasters at high schools dismissed the children and

pleaded with them to go home quietly. Just before 11 a.m. students verged on Elkhah Stadium. Armed police parked their vehicles discreetly a distance away as student leaders addressed the crowd. After a while two police cars drove towards the stadium. The emotions of the banner-

carrying children were building up. Anything could happen.

Three students broke away from the crowd making peace signs with outstretched arms and kneeling time and again all the way.

An unarmed Major Kobus Malan went out to meet the leaders.

Bending on the grass the

four had a short now-wow. The kids were asked to march peacefully to the Urban Bantu Council building in Jabulani for their meeting.

The reaction was most heartening. Students mobbed idols. In the jubilant melee of Police, lost his pipe. Chief pipe he so happily shared with the students.

Once at the UBC building the leaders asked the students to sit down on the grass outside.

As with any mob, some of the UBC building. Student leaders got on to the steps at the entrance pleading with them to stop.

A few minutes later a rowdy group attacked dustmen on their rounds with a tractor and cover and the vehicle was set alight.

The police opened fire with teargas to disperse the mob. There was some stone-throwing.

PLEASE TURN OVER



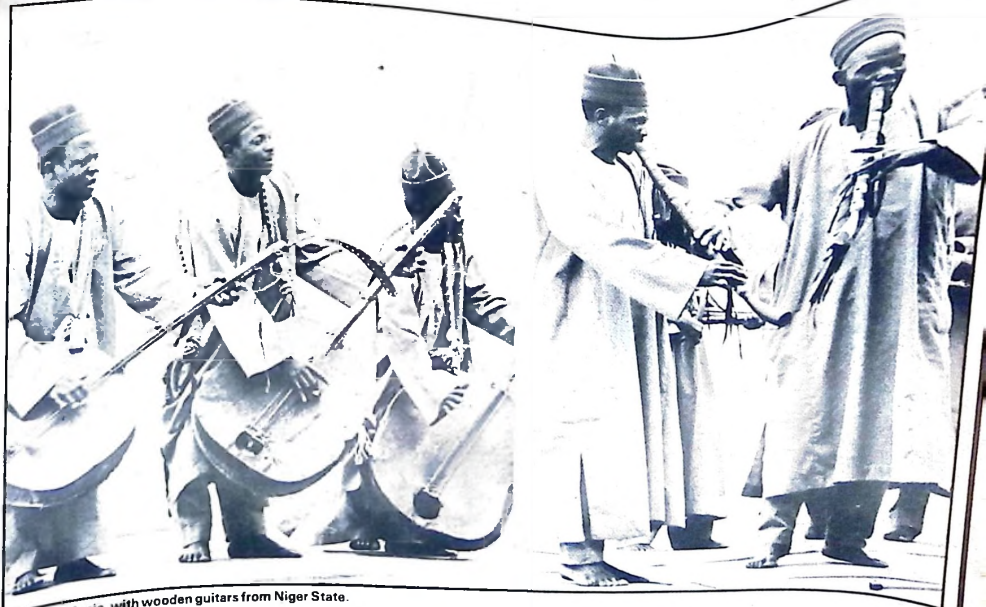
A wooden trumpet from Nigeria.



AN Ivory Coast wooden xylophone.

FESTAC SOUNDS

The diversity of African music and musical instruments was evident at FESTAC. Mathew Faji's pictures tell the story.



KABURU Music, with wooden guitars from Niger State.

FESTAC SCENES

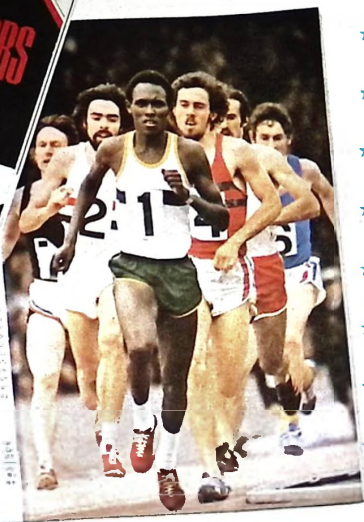
ONE of the sensational aspects of FESTAC was the performance by dancers from Cuba. Juliet Highet's special pictures capture the startling effect.



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player too in the speaker system that delivers all the sound. Large 16cm Carbon Wooler for rich bass matched with a tweeter that handles highs with remarkable finesse. Team up with the player that really packs the power. CF-485 is TV for victory everytime.

SONY



Supreme survivors

MUSICAL history was made recently when the Supremes played a farewell concert at London's Drury Lane Theatre. The concert was the last for the only remaining original member of the group, Mary Wilson, who is to quit after a period of 17 years as the world's top female act.

In a highly emotive and tear-filled concert she and the two other Supremes — Susaye Green and Scherrrie Payne — bade farewell to each other and demonstrated just why it is that they have remained at the top for a decade and a half.

The Supremes date from the time when three teenage girls approached the boss of the Tamla Motown record company, Berry Gordy, and begged for an audition. Gordy paid attention but sent them back to finish high school and signed them when they graduated. Very soon the three — Diana Ross, Mary Wilson and Florence Ballard, who died in poverty recently — were regular features on the charts.

Diana Ross's talent quickly emerged and she sang the most leads till the group were eventually billed as Diana Ross and the Supremes.

Despite the group's success, not all was well and Florence Ballard left to be replaced by Cindy Birdsong. One success followed another but there were still many changes to come. Diana Ross left to pursue a very successful solo career that would eventually lead her to the screen. After her departure it was never the same again with the Supremes and their run of hit singles and albums halted although they enjoyed great success touring and performing.

Several replacements for Diana Ross were tried but she had left a big void to fill. Her place was eventually taken by player Susaye Scherrrie Payne, the younger sister of Freda who had a big hit with *Band of Gold*. Last year Cindy Birdsong left the group to be replaced by Susaye Green who previously sang for Stevie Wonder. She added a new dimension to their music and it seemed as though they had found the formula for success.

Then came the shattering news that Mary was to go, that Susaye and Scherrrie have decided to soldier on and it seems a replacement but now it seems as though it is not the same. But that's show business and A.A. the show must go on.



SILVER CONVENTION
Greatest Hits (*Magne*).
The disco boom continues. While the disco steamroller rolls on, flattening all other music in its wake, virtually every country in the world has just about sums up music is about.

It does not rise to any great heights and remains in the realms of mediocrity. Silver Convention are a European-based trio of beautiful girls who are doing surprisingly well in Europe but would not make it in America.

SHORT SPINS

JACKSON BROWNE
Here Come Those Tears Again (*Asylum*).
A pleasant, ballad style of song from one of rock's leading singer-songwriters. It's easy listening any time and destined for great things round the world, by all accounts. A simple piano and organ accompaniment set off Browne's understated style superbly, with the standard girly vocals and over-loud guitar coming in later. ****

RUBY KEELER and DICK POWELL.
2nd Street (*United Artists*).
It was a bold move by UA to re-release songs from a 1933 movie, even if the sort of movie it was — a Busby Berkeley musical extravaganza — has regained a vogue in the 1970s. The production is tinny and the sound is thin, the voices are uncertain, and the crashing feet of the dancers comes through too much, but it's a great piece of nostalgia. ***

..... Rubbish
**..... Fair
***..... Good
..... Very Good
*****..... Superb

CANNED HEAT.
On The Road Again (EP) (*United Artists*).
Here's a collection of the four biggest hits from American "underground" group of the 60s. Ultimately, it's a collection of some of the biggest hits of the 60s themselves, including *Goin' Up The Country* and *Let's Work Together*, as well as the title track. ****

TOM PETTY and THE HEARTBREAKERS.
American Girl (*Shelby*).
One of those deep-throated singles with a driving rhythm that grips you, but finally the grip becomes boring and eventually painful. The lyrics are intentionally funny but the whole effort has only limited appeal. **

MICHAEL NESMITH.
Rio (*Iceland*).
Change of style for this country troubador of America. His shaky, whimsical voice is one of the nicest soft sounds around these days, and his loose, ungethery music has survived into this jazzy, maracas-backed song. ****

BEN E. KING.
Supernatural Thing (*Atlantic*).
Your feet will just tick, themselves up and start grooving to this disco jive music before you're even aware in your head that it's playing. Within his very limited range, King really is king. ****



BOB Marley — the world of reggae at his feet.

Marley on top of the reggae world

THE undisputed king of reggae, Bob Marley, played a series of four sell-out concerts at London's Rainbow Theatre recently. The European tour in which he appeared, in virtually ever

Backed by his group, the singers Three he presented a breath-taking spectacle and firmly established reggae as a music form on the continent. The concert was also used as his latest album, *Exodus*, internationally. Marley as an superstar whose popularity must rank him with the top

Following last year's flop where pickpockets ran his concert the venue as switched and the most have ever seen were put into operation. In their doing, which spirit of love and peace which concerts are supposed to

Marley was his normal self, as were his

musicians, and the only criticism that can be made is that he did not speak to the crowd, which left one with the impression that one was watching a practice session. That apart it was one of the best concerts that I have seen in a very long time.

BOB MARLEY AND THE WAILERS.
Exodus (*Iceland*).
Bob Marley's sixth album has done more to establish reggae as an international music form than any other artist.

Exodus is a brilliant piece of ethnic music and it captures the mood that his other albums have failed to do.

The contribution of ethnic musicians, particularly three female singers, significant, and full in his bass-man Aston "Mann" Barrett, who mixes the two like best as *track and Jamming*. Well done, Bob.



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YOU & YOUR STARS

Leo
July 21 - Aug 20

Increased prosperity is almost certainly on the way. Mental stimulation through work, or a hobby you are involved in, will make life more exciting. Love: The chances of Leo marriages, especially for those who are not so young, are much higher than usual. Short journeys bring romance for many. Money: Something which has been a drain on your resources for some time will cease to cost you so much. You enter a lucky trend

Virgo
Aug 21 - Sept 20

A jealous rival comes on the scene at work, or even perhaps nearer home. But you will be able to deal with this person so well that you should end in a stronger position than when you began. Love: Do not be too depressed if someone seems to be rejecting you at a distance. If you show more warmth yourself the atmosphere will soon improve. Money: Property, large or small, is going to occupy your attention. Your status can now be increased.

Libra
Sept 21 - Oct 20

Malicious gossip from someone in your circle causes you some worry this month, but you are unlikely to be the one who suffers. Librans feel thirsty for new experiences now. Love: A romantic friendship puts on a sudden spurt and you feel both happy and bewildered at the outcome. Money: Guard against being cheated if you buy or sell house furnishings. Health: Skin rashes, probably nervous in origin.

Scorpio
Oct 21 - Nov 20

Someone in the family circle seems to be leaving home about now, and this departure could leave you feeling happier and more settled. Your personal ambitions need careful handling. Love: A chance to meet someone who shares your own ideas and tastes. A promising new relationship begins. Money: You should avoid the temptation to seek a loan now.

Sagittarius
Nov 21 - Dec 20

More of the good things of life will be coming your way from now onwards. Many of you have broken with the past and will live your new homes and jobs more to your liking. Love: If you thought marriage was not for you, you may have reason to change your mind this month. You cannot avoid emotional involvement now. Money: A chance of a legacy for you or your partner.

Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 20

Read documents and letters carefully before you sign them. Hard work in your career is due, or some rewards and you receive guidance from someone influential. Love: A happy time emotionally, when a newcomer to your circle will admire you and offer you friendship. Money: You can strike a fresh source of gain, though not without effort, for

nothing comes easily to you. Capricornians Health.

Aquarius
Jan 21 - Feb 20

An item of news that has been long delayed will arrive to set your mind at rest. It may mean the end of an old problem. Legal matters work out in your favour. Love: Moments of gloom, offset by some particularly pleasant outings. Do not put off a serious discussion with a loved one. Money: A stroke of luck, and how you need it! Benefits for you or your partner in the near future. Health:

Pisces
Feb 21 - March 20

You have to fight off a feeling that everything is against you. Love: Look for a chance to settle a difference before the rift becomes too deep. Someone you care for is not being hard to win over to your way of thinking. Money: Cash is hard to come by, but unexpected factors may intervene later on.

Aries
March 21 - April 20

Interest centres on work, and prospects of promotion are excellent. Those in the electrical trades are especially favoured. Do not try to foresee situations, but wait and deal with problems as they happen. Love: Romance blossoms best in places of entertainment. Mr. Aries is in line for new loves. Miss Aries should now be able to attract any man in whom she takes an interest. Money: Chance of tax rebate, insurance or competitions working out well.

Taurus
Apr 21 - May 20

Be on the alert to avoid quarrelling with your source of income early in the month. Love: An on and off trend in close relationships. Getting out and about leads to romantic links now. Sudden ending to an unsatisfactory friendship is probable. Money: Unexpected gains. Etainid success for gamblers.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You find more harmony in a new sphere. If you are moving home or a job, be optimistic. The good trend applies to any changes you make now. Love: Someone who has been a disrupting influence in your life should be allowed to go without protest on your part. You will enjoy yourself with new friends as you go yourself on Money: A time of expansion with no major difficulties.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

An older relative or in-law is out to make trouble for you. If you do not act as peacemaker, no-one else will be inclined to do so. Travel is fraught with difficulties. Love: A notable point in love and courtship, or even marriage, if things have been tense. Money: A spending spree would be in order now.

LONELY HEARTS

by
Matchmaker

Everybody passes through lonely times. And often, even when two people are together, the magic spark of compatibility doesn't occur. DRUM'S MATCHMAKER will help you find the match you want. Write to Matchmaker, DRUM Publications (Nig) Ltd., PMB 2128, Lagos, Nigeria.

Education

Dear MATCHMAKER,
I will be very much grateful if you can help me finding a fella? I am 22 and a native of Ilesha. The type of man I want must be an educated fellow aged about 25. The last picture of this man must be enclosed in his reply. Thanking you in advance for your co-operation. Yemisi, c/o Matchmaker.

Devoted

Dear MATCHMAKER,
I would like to be put through to a very handsome man who would be devoted to me.

My hobbies include music, movies and reading. I will be 22 next October, am a working class girl in Lagos State, and am a Yoruba and a Christian. I am a big and very beautiful girl and I have a child, I am married to anybody at present. **Molade, c/o Matchmaker.**

Policeman

Dear MATCHMAKER
I am a boy of 23, fair in stature and with a good educational background.

My problem is, all my girls deserted me by the time I joined the police force. I could not help the situation, that was my only opportunity, as all hope of securing a job failed at that time.

I want a girl preferably from the four Yoruba states. She should be at least a WASC holder, fair in manner and complexion, at least 5ft 2in tall and not below the age of 19. **Fola, Ibadan - c/o Matchmaker.**

Married

Dear MATCHMAKER,
Through this column, Lonely Hearts, I would like to try my luck. I am very interested because I am one of the lonely people. I would like to hear from one of the beautiful birds. Actually, I am married with a few children, but my wife lives about 300 miles away. We get together only when I am on leave. I hope you will give me special advice.

Achwanya, Nairobi
*The special advice for your brother, is that you contacted the wrong department. We don't cater for married people.

THE problem of excess weight in adults seems to have overshadowed the subject of child obesity. It is now established that adult obesity in some ways is a result of eating habits acquired in childhood. Also, the changes in the blood vessels, especially of the heart, where excess fat usually deposits itself seem to occur at a very early age. Furthermore, being overweight as a child has its own problems.

A fat child is unlikely to take part in sports and athletics, and may be teased by other children. All this can lead to stress and anxiety, and the child may seek consolation in more eating — which will further aggravate his weight problem.

For all these reasons it is imperative for parents to realise that in stuffing their children — as parents often do — they are doing them a great disservice. As has been said in medical literature, a woman who overfeeds her husband is driving him to the grave. The same applies to parents who overfeed their children, or even

Doctor Drum

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



Write to Doctor Drum at PMB 2128, Nigeria

Overweight children

more so feed them with the wrong type of food.

The most important thing seems to be to change the quality of food and not necessarily the quantity. In this sense there is only the question of severely restricting starches, and amongst them certain types which are the worst culprits. Proteins are

good for health and do not seem to cause overweight. Fat as a rule is not a substance children relish on its own and therefore excess fat intake is not a danger.

Bread and sweets of every type are the main source of starch which children love. And because they are not expensive as proteins and fat-

containing items of food they are promoted by parents who cannot afford the expensive items. In the bread and sweet line, bread from very refined white flour and sweets prepared from very refined white sugar are the worst offenders.

An energetic, growing child needs an adequate carbohydrate intake, but white bread and refined sugar have had much of their valuable mineral salts and vitamins removed in the refining process.

It is a good thing for parents to cultivate in children the habit of eating savoury things such as eating eggs, meat, nuts, certain types of beans and salads. All are good for growing children.

The other problem with sweets is the dental decay they cause.

We can prevent it by seeing that our children do not get into the same eating habits, especially in relation to sweets, as they have in other countries. Foods that need chewing, such as apples, carrots and other fruits, are excellent.

Sayings of the wise

It is easier to do that which has not been done than to undo that which has already been done.

Nimezi, Fernando

An arrow which has been used for killing a man should not be used for cutting meat.

Kenneth, Nairobi

He who fails to prepare for success has prepared for failure.

Ekpe, Calabar

Man can score no greater victory than to conquer himself.

Adeniran, Ijoro-Ekiti

When crooks disagree, the law catches up with them.

Adeogun, Kaduna

A wise man never calls his neighbour a fool.

Kiwanuka, Kampala

Lost voice

I have been a school teacher for eight years. I am losing my voice and yet I am only 30. What's wrong?

Samson, Nairobi
As a teacher, you use your vocal chords so often that nodules may start growing on them, making your voice hoarse. It is a common problem with singers. See a throat specialist.

Watery eyes

I am 15 years old. My trouble is that whenever I read, my eyes start to shed tears. My doctor gave me some eye drops which did not help me. Please, Doctor, your advice is needed.

Joseph, Nairobi
You seem to have an inflammation of the eyes called conjunctivitis. See an eye specialist for treatment.

Smells

I am so worried because my mouth smells terribly. I have been to a dentist who did nothing for me. What can I do?

Ibrahim, Ibadan
Brushing your teeth is not his problem, then try to see a doctor for a simple remedy.

Growing

I am a housewife with six children. Since the birth of my sixth child, I have developed the habit of growing in my sleep. This annoys my husband. Are there any medicines?

S.B., Kite
I do not think this habit is connected with the birth of your last child. It is that you are snoring. I suggest you get your nose and throat examined. If there is nothing wrong there, I have to put up with your husband. Better in your sleep than awake?

Questions answered

Great pain

I am 21 and I have a child of three. For two years I have been trying to get pregnant but I have failed. Now I have constant pain in the lower part of my stomach. Doctor, the cause of my problem, Doctor, can I become pregnant again?

Jenny, Kaduna
You probably have a pelvic inflammatory disease which can be treated by any doctor. After adequate treatment you might be able to overcome your problem. If, after therapy, the problem still persists you must be investigated thoroughly for other causes of secondary infertility.

Constipation

I am a boy of 19 and I have been suffering from constipation for about two years. When I take vegetable laxatives, I stool only for two days but when the tablets finish I am back to my Doctor. I need your help, Doctor.

Idi, Enetebe
You need to be investigated by a physician for the causes of this chronic constipation. In the meantime, make it a custom to drink a glass of water first thing in the morning and last thing before going to bed at night. Also, eat plenty of fruit and vegetables.

Pimples

My face is full of pimples, and I have had many pills and creams but all in vain. Please help me.

Joyce M., Kankaraga

Pills and creams are often not much help. Controlling your diet is the best way to control pimples. Don't eat chocolates, sugar, cakes, etc., and avoid cold drinks like the plague. Do eat lots of fresh fruit and vegetables. Drink a lot of water.

Is it catching?

I have had staphylococcus bacteria for five years and I am told that it is the cause of pain while passing urine and whitish discharge. I am 28 and am worried that I might be sterile and I might pass this on to my wife.

Mwila, Iringa
This type of urinary infection is not venereal and to you need not worry. It hardly ever makes a person sterile and I doubt very much if it is catching. However, I suggest you get a culture examination done by your own doctor which will show what antibiotic drug will kill the germs. A full course of antibiotics might cure you.

No bleeding

I am a girl of 18 and my problem is that I normally miss my periods for a month or two. I have been to my boyfriend and I find that for the last two months I have not seen any bleeding. I am not sure if this is my usual irregular period or whether I am pregnant. Can you please help, Doctor?

Caroline, Kano
Signs and symptoms of pregnancy are as follows in the early stages: 1. cessation of periods; 2. wanting to pass urine more frequently; 3. sickness in the morning; 4. breasts become tender. These are the four signs of early pregnancy, and the abdomen starts showing pregnancy. It would be easier for you to get your urine examined for pregnancy and this will give the definite answer.

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THE DEVIL

THE story so far... Emmanuel Uche would not heed Chuka's ominous warning to take his wife, Comfort, away from Lagos. After the warning Chuka mysteriously fell ill. Comfort had another harrowing encounter with her rapist — she discovered that he was, in fact, Romanus Nwokedi, son of Beatrice the witch. Emmanuel called in the police to help. But it is too late, as Part III of this spine-chilling series shows. The Devil catches Comfort... read on:



AFTER Emmanuel got back from the police station he entered his room, closed the door after him, and seemed braced for a showdown with his wife.

"Now I want to know what you were doing by the road?" he demanded in a raised voice. "I ordered you to stay in this room with the door locked until I got back. Why did you disobey me?"

Comfort nervously told him everything that had happened from the moment she felt that urge to urinate to the moment the hen was run over and she recognised the taxi-driver Emmanuel appeared to acknowledge the validity of her reason but was still baffled. He looked down at the floor for some moments, remembering that two nights ago, after making love to Comfort, one of the reasons he had been against Chuka's request to lock the door from the outside was because of the possibility that Comfort might want to go and relieve herself.

There were, however, more serious thoughts troubling his mind. He reflected on the fact that Chuka had given the distinct impression that this danger threatening Comfort's life would manifest itself at the end of the time of Romanus Nwokedi's appearance outside the servants' quarters. Was Romanus the danger the old man had been worried about? Emmanuel acknowledged that there was every reason to suppose so. Romanus had tried to abduct Comfort in Ngora and would always be a potential menace to her. Given the opportunity, there was every likelihood he would try to harm her again. The opportunities had presented itself once and he had raped her. But that, evidently, was not enough for him. In view of the ominous warnings which Chuka had sounded, it seemed that Romanus's intent was to end Comfort's life altogether? The thought sent an eel of fear writhing through his bowels.

For him the dreadful puzzle was now locked together into an instantly understandable whole! Chuka's agitation that Comfort be locked in from the outside was clearly to avoid what would have been, for her, a fatal contact with Romanus.

But the door was not locked from the outside, Comfort had gone out and had come face to face with Romanus. It was surely only his arrival at that moment that saved her life.

Realising this, Emmanuel felt like kicking himself for not having heeded the old man's instructions. Clearly Chuka has foreseen Romanus as being a threat to Comfort's life. Why then had he been unwilling to tell him? Emmanuel supposed that this was understandable. Chuka was probably afraid that he might take the law into his own hands and do something he might be sorry for. In this he was probably right.

But what left Emmanuel aghast was how Chuka had foreseen all this? Was the old man a clairvoyant? He had to be! The only answer would be to tackle Chuka again and find out more.

He snapped out of his thoughts, ordered Comfort to start cooking lunch, and made his way to Chuka's room. He knocked on the door and called.

"Please don't disturb me now," answered Chuka's strained voice, "let me rest a bit more. I will be up soon, and we shall talk." Emmanuel went and sat on the steps before his room, and stared thoughtfully at the ground. All he could do for the time being was worry.

Inside Chuka's room, the old man was very much awake. His eyes were wide open, rolling from side to side, the only part of his body that was not paralysed. His fever was at its height, intensified by the heat of the perspiration that poured down his body, dampening the mattress under him. Such was his agony.

IN the next instant the door opened and, a lamp in her hand, Comfort emerged, naked.

"Why not kill me altogether?" he craved to cry out. "Why not kill me and end this cruel torture?" But he could not say it, for he could not open his mouth. The forces that all but terminated his breathing were determined to prevent his interference in the task which they were set to accomplish.

Time passed. The servants were in respite. Praying that any second now he would hear a police Land-Rover drive up the path with the urgent news that would set his mind at rest.

As it turned out, he did not have to wait much longer. But it was not a police car that brought the news. He did not even hear the approaching bicycle until it suddenly appeared round the corner into view. He was on his feet at once. The cyclist was a police constable, one of those he had

seen down at the station. Emmanuel greeted him expectantly and showed him into the room. Comfort had got up from the bed, the constable began haughtily: "Now we traced this man to an address in Yaba. He was not at home when we arrived, but we searched his flat and found the disguises he had worn when he assaulted your wife. We waited for his return. He came back and we arrested and cautioned him. He confessed to the crime, and gave every indication he would come quietly to the station. But then he suddenly made a run for it. In his haste to escape he did not look where he was going, and ran into the path of an oncoming bus!"

Comfort barely stifled a gasp.

"Was he injured?"

Emmanuel asked "Nobody could have survived that accident," the constable replied. "The tyre of the bus crushed his head like an eggshell."

Comfort shuddered, a gasp escaping her. Both she and her husband were dumbfounded. Their senses reeling. Romanus Nwokedi was dead! For several seconds the world seemed lost in limbo, and then hardly heard the constable say: "Well, I only came to inform you of the latest developments. Now I must go."

He looked at the speechless Emmanuel, waiting for some sort of response. It took several seconds before Emmanuel came to his senses and said: "Thank you very much, sah."

"Right," said the constable and left.

For a long time after he

CONTINUED

kitchen, braced to tear over to the servants' quarters, when he saw Boniface sitting composed in the pantry, waiting to carry out any duty the master might request of him. He asked Boniface what the noise could be, the edge of alarm in his voice. Boniface suggested that Obiama had thrown some object at one of the dogs that came to couple with Tiger. Emmanuel was pacified. He remembered that Obiama detested the sight of coupling dogs, and was forever shooting and stoning the dogs that ventured into the servant's quarters. By the sounds of it, the driver had dealt one of the dogs a blow so painful as to send the animal howling all the way down the path, terrifying the chickens out of their wits.

Acknowledging that he was simply on edge tonight, Emmanuel returned to the kitchen. After he completed the cooking, he informed Boniface, whose duty it was to serve the master and his wife the meals and wash up afterwards. His own duties were over for the day, but he was expected to stand by until after supper in case anything more should be required of him.

When he eventually set off for the quarters, he had almost forgotten the concern he had felt about leaving Comfort alone and the fear the eerie silence had instilled in him; he was conscious, instead, of a nagging hunger in his stomach. He was surprised to find his door a little ajar, thinking Comfort would have locked herself away from the unknown danger she was frightened of. It was an even greater surprise to step into the room and find steaming bowls of pounded yam and chicken groundnut stew waiting for him on the table.

But this pleasant surprise was swiftly replaced by outrage when he saw Comfort lying naked with her back to him, apparently asleep, her wrapper left carelessly on the floor. He was stunned: Was this the sort of precaution she took to protect herself from potential rapists?

As he glared furiously at her, he felt a longing to beat her close to death. What rankles most was the total oblivion with which she was lying naked with the door ajar.

He closed the door, and locked it. Then he turned to her, and in a repressed voice, asked: "Is this how your Mama taught you to be a wife, eh Comfort?"

Silence.

Without another word he furiously strode to the bed, got on it and grasped her shoulder. At once he cried out, pulling back his hand sharply. Her body was so cold that it had literally burnt him. As he knelt there horrified, he was suddenly aware that the tension which had enveloped the quarters earlier was back again, alive in the room, like a tangible thing. He began to shiver in fright, his eyes riveted down on his wife. She started to stir, turning to face him. When their eyes met, he felt fear paralyse him, turning his guts to ice.

The face of The Horror was contorted in a devilish grin of mockery. "Yes, go on, hit me then," it challenged. "Kill me! See if I can die twice."

Emmanuel tried to avoid the baleful eyes, but could not.

The Horror laughed diabolically at his fear. "You wanted to kill me in Newo. Well, here I am, here is your chance. Take your machete and slice my head into several pieces like you did to my mother. Or is it your so-called wife that you are afraid to destroy?"

But Emmanuel could not utter a sound. He was a frozen statue.

The face of The Horror suddenly assumed a grimace of dynamic malevolence. "Do not worry, you will not destroy her," it said. "That is a privilege that will be left only to me. The pig is under my control, and will remain so until she has died the same way as I did. She is a foul liar. Her lies were the cause of the death of my mother, your father, your brother and me. You Rullible fool! - I was the one she loved, not all this time into thinking she was happy with you."

The Horror stared at him in silence for several moments.

"Do not worry," it resumed. "I am not going to harm you. It is not you I came to destroy: it is this pig - and I destroy her I shall when the time is right. How lovely it would be to destroy you too; but that would be too merciful. I will let you live and suffer the torment of your wife's absence from this world. For the rest of your days I want you to suffer the haunting memory of the war she was destroyed in."

Aware now that he would come to no physical harm, Emmanuel felt his icy dread begin to thaw.

An observer in some fourth dimension whose interest had been accidentally caught by these goings-on, might, at this point, have looked from the servants' quarters at the bustling streets of Obalande, three miles away. There, three times that chugged obliterating the impossible its way through the slums of Yaba, he would have felt deep sympathy for the young driver, who would never understand why he embarked on the actions that were to cause his death that night. At what point



in his journey he made his about-turn is not known. It took some time before the passengers became aware that they were going away from Yaba - by which time the bus had begun to gather speed, taking turns recklessly, missing cars and pedestrians by a hair's breadth, the driver steering as though on a suicide mission.

As he accelerated and swerved madly at each turning he took, the terrified shrieks of the passengers reached a hysterical pitch. Had there been traffic-lights, the wretched driver would surely have taken a number of people to the grave with him, but with only one set of traffic lights in the whole of Lagos, he was

miraculously spared the tragedy of killing anybody - until he reached Ikoyi.

A split-second before the frenzy that possessed the bus-driver, the hypnotic eyes of The Horror had closed, its body going limp. Then Comfort began to whine and groan, her head moving from side to side in anguish. Miserably the electric tension in the room had vanished as though swallowed by a hole in the atmosphere. Emmanuel felt his terror rush out of him like air, and fell on his wife, unable to believe it was really her!

"Comfort, my wife, Comfort, my wife, Comfort, my wife..." was all he could say. He held her to his body as

tightly as he could. He intended to protect her or to immediately see if she was arms round his back, holding on for his love, for his protection, holding on for dear life. Her eyes were bulging with terror, and she began to shout fitfully screaming: "Emmanuel, please help me! Please, please! I don't want to die! Don't let him kill me!"

Emmanuel clung on as tightly. Not even God Himself could prise them apart.

"Please, God, please help us!" he cried. "What have ever done to you? I will not let him kill my wife, so help me! He will have to destroy me!"

Suddenly he felt himself thrown off his wife's body. He landed on the floor with mighty thud. He fell on his back, his right foot landing on the small table with an impact that broke it in two, throwing the plates of food on the floor and messily spilling the contents. He was more shocked than hurt, his weeping ended abruptly as he looked up at the face of The Horror that had been his wife. The unbearable tension returned, and it stiffened his body again.

The Horror sat on the edge of the bed looking down at him with a venomous grin.

"Why is your God helping you?" it mocked.

Fear sealed Emmanuel's lips.

Emmanuel felt himself as though some merciful lord were lifting his paralysed body to his feet.

"Neither you nor your God is going to save this pig!" cried The Horror. "I die under the wheels of a bus, and that how she is going to die, it see!"

The Horror jumped to feet, unbolting and opened the door, and tore out, slamming the door with a terrific force.

At that moment the driver of the bus approaching on I road was still trying to recon his senses, having come out his frenzy a bare 30 seconds ago. As he slowed down, terrified passengers began to forward to his seat with intention of stopping the bus before the driver went off his mind again. After the bus was brought to a halt, the driver had barely switched the ignition when the angry passengers set upon him almost fighting each other in their desperation to get it blow. The driver was thrust into oblivion - into death.

Seconds later, all the passengers had disembarked and stared at the naked figure lying sprawled with its crushed beyond recognition under the left front wheel of the bus. The figure lay young but was clearly that of a young girl. The night shrieks from a neighbor brought a stampered pair of men from servants' quarters in immediate vicinity.



Dear Dolly

I want her back

I AM 16 and she is 14, and very beautiful. We love each other very much. But each time I invite her to my place for sex she refuses. One night I saw her with a boy and no reply. I then reported her to the next day she gave me Now I have lost her to her mother and mine. How I have lost to her another boy. How can I get her back?
Emma, Nairobi
It serves you right. It was mean of you to have reported her to anybody. If you were good enough for her she still friends.

I am too shy to visit her

I AM 15 I write several letters to this girl whom I love but get no reply. I then sent my brother to her house. She told him that I could go to her house and say whatever I wanted in say. I do not want to go there and meet other girls with her. How can I get this girl to love me?
Kayode, Oshogbo
Go and approach her yourself. It may interest you to know that girls appreciate boys who are bold, so stop writing or sending people to her. Go and tell her about your feelings for her.

She saw me with other girls

I LOVE a student of 18 who is extremely jealous. One day she saw me talking with some girls and got annoyed. I explained to her that they were not my girlfriends, but she has stopped seeing me. I have written several letters to her but she has not replied.
Spencer, Argungu
Let her go. You will surely get another girl who will love you.

Her parents want her to marry well

I AM a handsome boy of 22 and am passionately in love with a beautiful girl of 20 who also loves me. There are other men who are bribing her parents just to gain her hand in marriage. Her parents now insist that she should marry me and marry a wealthy man, but my girl says that she would rather die than leave me. I am so confused.
Uwaguanu, Enugu
It is a pity there are still parents who try to force their daughters to marry rich men. You have to give your girl moral support and wait for the time her parents will give their consent for you to marry her.

She married another

WE FELL in love in 1972 and planned to get married. We even had our parents' approval but to my surprise I got a letter from her saying she had married another. To the best of my knowledge I have not embarrassed her. Please tell me what to do because I am offended.
Joseph, Nyeri
Try to forget her and look for another girl.

Her father came between us

THE FATHER of the girl I love has separated us on the pretext that our friendship will disturb our studies. I cannot forget this girl and I do not think I can find another.
Fela, Enugu
Her father is like every good father who has the interest of his children at heart. You too have to let go and gain from his advice. You should both concentrate on your studies. You may still come together when you are older.

Will our marriage work?

SHE IS 23 and I am 21. We are very much in love. We discuss our lives in each other. She has agreed to marry me. Do you think our marriage will work? Will people not laugh at us? My mother likes her.
James, Mombasa
It is your life, so do not worry about what people may say. Don't worry about the difference in your ages. The success of your marriage will depend on both of you.

Church people want to break us up

I AM 22, the girl I intend to marry is 14. We belong to different religious denominations. While her parents do not object to our association, some members of her church are trying their best to break up our affairs. What can I do to retain the love of this charming girl?
George, Kipiri
Do not think you have anything to fear, since you have the support of her parents. You cannot stop people from talking. The best thing for you to do is to ignore them. Continue to be nice and loyal to your girl and her parents.

How can I keep up the deceit?

I HAVE two girlfriends. I have made each of them realise that she is the only girl I am in love with. I am afraid they will discover my game one day and leave me.
Please, Dolly, tell me how to keep up the game.
Benjamin, Limuru
I guess you are not feeling comfortable because your conscience is already judging you. My dear Ben, you cannot keep up the game for long, so think twice and decide what to do.

I can't enjoy sex with him

I AM 20. I have three boyfriends, one of whom is my fiancé. I love him more than I can say. The problem is that I do not enjoy sex with him as much as I enjoy with the others. What can I do because I do not want to leave him?
Dolly, please help.
Grace, Thika
You are cheapening yourself by hopping from bed to bed. If you are really engaged to your future partner I would advise you to talk with him and let him know your feelings. You will help him and yourself by doing so.

Many boys want her

I AM a 17-year-old scholar. I have a steady girlfriend. There are a lot of boys who are interested in her. Please, Dolly, tell me what to do.
Martin, Nuna
Keep your fingers crossed and concentrate on your studies. You do not mention that she is attached to any of them, so you can hope that you may be the one she chooses after all.

She refuses when I ask

I HAVE a girl whom I love very dearly. I visit her regularly but when I ask her for sex she refuses. I was very desperate one day so I forced my way into the bathroom while she was there. She was angry and she pleaded with me to leave. I begged her to forgive me. Since then my girl does not talk to me. Dolly, please what shall I do to regain her? She is about 16 while I am 19.
Simon, Kisii

In your attempt to satisfy yourself you embarrassed your girl. I feel sorry for her and you should be ashamed of yourself. If I were the girl I would not have you back.

I want him to know I love him

I AM aged 13. I have fallen in love with a boy in my school who is in form five. I would like him to know how I feel towards him. Please, Dolly, tell me what to do.
Funko, Isadun
Be polite and helpful to him. You could give him small presents. Do not overdo things or he will regard you as cheap and not reciprocate your gesture.

I want sex but no baby

I AM a 19-year-old form four student. From the first day of my father I was given a wife who is a student aged 17. I would like her but her husband would not like her sex to be pregnant. Please Dolly advise me.
James, Buthe
The best method is to refrain from having sex. You will soon finish your studies so be patient.

How can I get her to bed?

SHE IS older than I am but I love her very much. She loves me very passionately, even to the extent of spending her pocket money on me. Despite her love for me, she refuses to go to bed with me. How can I persuade her?
Fela, Bari
It is a pity to spoil a good friendship with your selfish demand. I won't be surprised if you lose her.

My jealousy drove her away

I AM writing this letter with a heavy heart because of my lost love. She left me because I was extremely jealous of her. Her other reason was she wanted to concentrate on her studies. When I first observed her, her attitude was changing six months ago. I appealed to her several times to forgive me if I had been mistaken about her friendship with another boy in my area. I am jealous because I love her.
E.B. Alwansa
It is natural to be jealous but too much of it is bad. Now that you have lost your girl you should pull yourself together and look for another.

I am really in a fix

WHEN I was eight my mother told me I would not live long. She did not elaborate. I was afraid to my own life. Her other children I am now in form two and there is a boy who is deeply in love with me. I have told him everything about my life but he asks me not to worry. I do not want this boy to suffer.
Mary, Kaduna
Make the best use of your time. You do not seem to be doing badly. It is only God who knows what is destined for everybody. Enjoy your life, but do not do anything foolish.

Help before I go mad

SHE IS 16, I am 22. We are both students. We used to be happy with each other but my girl suddenly changed. I tried to find out the reason from her, but in vain. I sent her wedding to another man. I feel hurt, so please, Dolly, advise me before I go mad.
Suki, Ala
Please do not go mad on account of a girl who was unfaithful to you. Life must go on so come off it and get out with girls from whom you can choose a steak.

I have been caught

I AM 19. I fell in love with two girls without knowing that they are friends. Now one of them found my letter with the other one and has confronted me. Please Dolly, save me.
Mwerg, Naivasha
You deserve whatever you get from your double-dealing. Sort things out yourself.

I am interested but she isn't

I AM 16. There is a girl I love very much. I approached her but she told me clearly that she was not interested in me. What can I do to win her. Please, Dolly, advise me.
Landi, Lemu
Max I ask you whether she is the only girl in Lemu? She has made it plain that she is not keen on being your girlfriend. I would advise you to approach other girls until you find the one who will accept you.

PLEASE TURN OVER

Dear Dolly

I have no true love

I AM 17 and have had many demanding girlfriends on whom I spent all my pocket money. They only have me for love like my friends. How can I find a steady girlfriend?
The girls took you for a ride because you were foolish in love. Be patient and do not try to enter girls with a number. You will surely get a true love because, happily enough, not all girls are money-mongers.

They left because I won't sex them

I AM 15. I had two girlfriends. They wanted me to take them to bed but I refused because of my father's advice that I should not indulge in sex yet. To my surprise both girls have left me. Please, Dolly, help me because I feel lonely.
Joseph, Eldoret
Do not worry. You will surely get a good girl who will appreciate you and your policy. Your father means well and if you keep his advice in your mind always you will not regret it.

She's stopped talking to me

I AM 21 while my girl is 18. One day I caught her having sex with a married man. She apologized to me and to do so again. To my surprise she has stopped talking to me. I tried to find out why from her but verbally and in writing, but all in vain. Please, Dolly, what do you advise me to do?
William, Nairobi
It is likely she is in love with the other man and no longer interested in you. Ignore her and look for another.

Why does he not write again?

WE WERE working in the same office and I had a baby boy for him before he was transferred to Port Harcourt. We used to exchange letters but for some time now I have not heard from him. Some of his friends informed me that he has now got another girlfriend. Please, Dolly, tell me what to do.
Laure, Ibadan
If you are not married to him you could move with other boys but then you have to be careful not to repeat the mistake of the past.

Can I wait for him?

HE WAS 21 and I was 19 when we fell in love. I was into an apprentice then, although I have got another job now. Before he went overseas he promised to get a passport for me. Since he left, he has not written me and the passport he promised me does not seem to be forthcoming. His parents always assure me that he will come back to me. Please, Dolly, do you advise that I keep on waiting for him?
Bumli, Mwanja
This is really a problem. If he had been writing to you, I would have advised you to rest on his parents' reassurance, but his silence seems to be deliberate and in this case I won't advise you to keep on waiting for him.

I have nine boyfriends

I AM a student aged 18 and I fell in love with six boys in my school and three others from another school. Out of all of them only one has proved a real lover. He gave me a job when I got a letter from him informing me that he was no longer interested in me since I had nine boyfriends. I went to him but he would not answer me. I even promised that I would leave the other boys but he refused to have me back. I am heartbroken, so please, Dolly, I need your advice.
Beaty, Uyo
You deserve the treatment you got. I wonder why you girls take delight in accumulating boys? Perhaps you think it makes you popular. Now you have lost the one you really love. I hope you and other girls have learnt your lesson.

I love them equally

I AM 14 and in form two in a secondary school. I have three boyfriends and I love them equally. I do not know which of them to choose should I decide to go out with one. Please, Dolly, help.
Comfort, Gboko
You are not yet in love. You are only interested in concentrate on your studies and when the time comes you will know which of them you love

He says I am disvirgined

I AM 18 and my boyfriend is 20. We love each other dearly. Testing me one day, he said that I have been disvirgined and that he would like to know who your boyfriend was. I persistently told him that I have never had intercourse with any man but he refused to believe me. He is the first boy in my life. I haven't had intercourse with any man in my life. Please help me, Dolly, as I am greatly worried.
Niky, Calabar
If your boy doesn't believe you, the worst he can do is leave you and you will get a better boy in his stead. So in this case a warning, don't allow boys to mess with you because you are in love with them

My brother says no

I AM 18, my boy is 21. He is a non-native but we are each other very much and have promised to marry as his Youth Corps. According to our custom, a girl always has to be disvirgined by her husband and he has disvirgined me. My brother with whom I live because I lost my last one doesn't allow me to visit even my female friends without reasonable excuses. I visit my boy after finishing work. He visits me at home during his holidays but my brother doesn't know the extent of our friendship. The result is that my brother always forbids me from going to my boy's town and he thinks I am still a virgin. My boy has not known this. Please advise me, as I still love my boy.
Okada, Benin
Have a frank discussion with your brother. Make him understand that you cannot call off your affair with your boy. After telling him everything he must be reassured if he is not a man from the past he will see reason and allow you to marry the man of your choice

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