

TSM

The Sunday Magazine

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Nigeria will burn!

— Eme Awa, ex-NEC boss
reveals why he was removed

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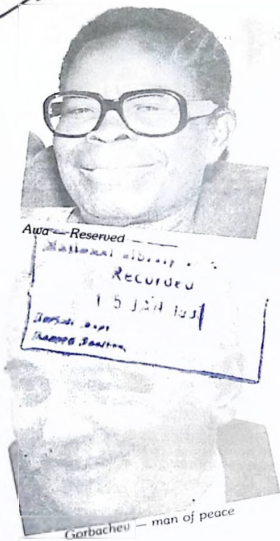
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CONTENTS

- Open Ballot system — can it work? ...5...
- There will be fire if I open my mouth, says Prof. Eme Awa ...7...
- The world loves Gorby, man of peace ... 16 ...
- Women soon to co-opt men into kitchen cabinets. ...18...
- Break loose with Ben Nwosa's *avant-garde* arty splash ...32...
- Social security scheme: do we have the money? ...26...
- Africans stage a soccer coup in Marseille ...35...



Gorbachev — man of peace

Cover Design: FEMI AWOKOYA
FELIX EDIALE



Abiola — more muscle for workers



A letter from the Editor-in-Chief

of too long ago. President Babangida in a rare moment of candour gave expression to a feeling that runs deep among many Nigerians today, that Nigeria has undoubtedly become one of the most analyzed nations in the world. Hardly any week

runs out without a series of seminars, lectures, discussions on the national, state or group level all on the "problem with Nigeria". But what boggles the mind is that a people with such clarity of vision when it comes to self-analysis are so incapable of acting to redress their mistakes

As Alison Ayida, former Permanent Secretary in the Gowon administration emphasized in his brilliant speech last Wednesday, Nigerians have unwittingly allowed themselves to fall into a self-perpetuating trap, ceaselessly whinning, complaining, wishing for change but never acting. He warned, "when tomorrow comes and our collective nemesis catches up with us as a nation, will the people of this country be ready for the consequences of their seeming lethargy and abject resignation?"

Ayida set out a ten point agenda of "unfinished business" which must be addressed before 1992 — "Before tomorrow comes" TSM's Business Correspondent, Chudi Okoye has put together a story you can't afford to miss. It's food for thought

Coincidentally, one of Ayida's "unfinished business" is filled "Equal citizenship and Equal opportunity", an issue he said Nigeria cannot wish away. According to him, there is a grave danger in marginalizing sections of the country, making them feel that they are "children of a Lesser God"

Among those who listened to Ayida's powerful speech was prof Awa Eme Awa, ex-chairman of the National Electoral Commission, an interesting coincidence, considering his equally strong feeling on the issue of alienation

Read Awa's loaded interview which makes our cover this week. Prof Awa who has hardly uttered a word publicly since his removal gave TSM a blip into his mind, just a blip. He's a man given to brevity and self-restraint. Yet what little he says is loaded with the power of a cannon. Enjoy

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Euli relief

Since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, there have been astronomical increases in the price of oil world-wide. But the irony is that even with the increases, the Nigerian government, being one of the major beneficiaries of the boom has not asked the populace to loosen their belts if only a little bit and enjoy part of the largesse. Yet had it been that there was an oil price fall, the government would have been asking for sacrifice and belt-tightening. We want to feel the impact of the boom, please.

**Y.T. Abdullahi,
131, Aminu Road,
Zaria**

Pregnant Quote

This letter concerns a quotation in the section of your magazine titled "The World" (Vol. 2 No. 22, October 14, 1990) which read "If women want to engage in combat, let them. A number of them will come back dead. But what a scenario if others come back impregnated by the enemy." First of all, there is nothing new or newsworthy about a woman being impregnated by the enemy. Anyway, a woman with her finger on

the trigger of a loaded automatic weapon cannot be wantonly attacked, and therefore has the best defence against being impregnated by the enemy. The likelihood of women soldiers being impregnated on the war front should never be used as an excuse to keep women out of military service or combat.

**Grace Okhiulu,
8, Laboye Laleye Close,
Surulere, Lagos.**

National Question

I refer to your special 30th Independence anniversary edition (Vol. 2 No. 21, October 7, 1990) and I say we are doomed to more intractable problems so long as the feudal oligarchy and the military continue their dominance of Nigeria's political scene. Maybe Sani Abacha has begun to erect the N200,000,000 (two hundred million naira) hospital he promised us in the 1983 coup address in his village to replace those "reduced to consulting clinics." Meanwhile, I refer the President to Beko Ransome-Kuti for leadership tutorials.

**Tony Nwachukwu,
Imo ADP,
Nempi, Imo State**

Speakout

VOICES

Can Open Ballot system work?



Kenneth Tadaferua
Media Practitioner



Nnenna Nwokocho
Technologist



Gbenga Ogunsikan
Personnel Officer



Sonny Umuahah
Engineer

There is nothing wrong with trying a new system since the old system has failed us twice. At least it might reduce rigging. But what kind of protection will voters have at the polling stations? Fear of molestation and acts of molestation have to be removed so that confidence can be built through an unbiased security management for the voters.

Open balloting could be a way out of election rigging which politicians do by stuffing fake papers in the ballot box. But it will surely create animosity between voters and those they vote against. Not many Nigerians are courageous enough to want to vote against a known person. Still, open balloting is the honest way of electing a good leader but I doubt if it will work.

The new system has its pros and cons. It is good to the extent that it will prevent double standards, bad because it could now make one's political choice a matter of life and death. But if I have to cast my vote for either of the two systems, open balloting will get my vote. I will not vote against my conscience.

With open balloting the electorate will not be keen on voting for fear of reprisals from political opponents. People are going to vote against their conscience because they will want to satisfy some influential people within their community. Open balloting will bring chaos both from vanguard-seeking politicians and from unruly crowds at the polling stations.

Bali, don't stop the fun!



By Ely Obasi

Domkal Yah Bali The highly-revered general who bowed out in the early days of this year. In a blaze of unbelievable controversy He has spoken again

Louisa Ayonote, crack deputy editor of *Quality* magazine, and daughter to him in the hills of Jos and got him to say a thing or two about the surprising move which hauled him out of retirement, pinned the insignia of a full general on his shoulders and sent him back to blissful rest.

If you thought that Bali's post-retirement promotion was the most enigmatic thing you ever saw, then you should go to all of us in the solar plexus

Let's just recall what Bali said. First that the promotion baffled him. "No it wasn't that I thought I did not deserve it. The promotion. What I couldn't figure out was the timing. I couldn't understand why now. But I accept it. What the army usually does is promote an officer first, and then retire him. It has never been done the other way round as it has been done in my case"

But not to worry Bali accepts his elevation and promises to call at Dodan Barracks to say thank you to the man who put the fourth star to his shoulder.

Which was all okay, except that, as you would expect, the issue of whether or not Babangida should make himself a field marshal soon arose.

Here the enigma came out. Ayonote did not quote the new retired/promoted general but the gist of what he said was this that it would be ill-advised for IBB to do such. That tradition forbids it. That the rank of field marshal is only won in the field of battle by a general who has gallantly commanded troops in war. That the last British general, to his recollection, who got that last star was Montgomery who led British troops against the Germans in North Africa. That, if the idea is to enable him get more respect, since his defence minister is now on the same rank as he is, as a full general and number

one citizen, becoming a field marshal will not do anything to enhance that particularly now which is peace time.

The issue of field marshal rank for Babangida is not really of immediate interest here. Not even the obvious contradiction in Bali's acceptance of one unusual, on the one hand, and criticism of another unusual, on the other. No that's not it.

The business today is to look how beautifully we have started living in an unusual era.

When today's history gets written.

The issue of field marshal rank for Babangida is not really of immediate interest here. Not even the obvious contradictions in Bali's acceptance of one unusual, on the one hand, and criticism of another unusual, on the other. No that's not it. The business today is to look how beautifully we have started living in an unusual era.

you will find that every bit of it will read like chapters out of thriller novels. Thrillers are highly entertaining things, and no-one should attempt to spoil the fun.

You see, like Bali himself told us, again in that interview, the idea of decorating officers with their new ranks is a new thing in the army. "We introduced it," Ayonote quoted him. "It was never a practice in the army of old."

Which was a beautiful development. If you are a farmer or spare parts dealer, the society rewarded you with a chieftaincy. And decorated you with the cap and leaves. If you

were a soldier, your chieftaincy got placed on your shoulder with camera flashbulbs exploding in the faces of your gathered friends and associates.

This is the era whose history will read like a thriller and no-one, not even the highly-respected Bali should try to stop our fun.

You see, they did it before, spoil our fun. When Shagan was in charge, he started a chapter of the thriller. There was minister of, and minister for. And then these sports in the military came in and disrupted everything. If they had let Shagan be, by now definitely, we would have had minister by, minister to, minister from, minister at.

There is one man I know who must be very happy for Bali's elevation. That man is Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu. If you recall, in the anger that preceded the 1967 civil war, Gowon and the army council had colluded and dismissed him from the Nigerian Army. Ojukwu laughed into his growing beard and said this is nonsense.

Of course he was right. In the Biafran Army he became a general. But Biafra flopped. And the sports in Nigeria have refused to recognise him either as a general or even as a colonel.

But the man didn't mind them. His personal letter head still bears his Biafran rank. Lots of people who see the think the man is funny. How did he expect that anyone would ever really call him that?

But now, you see? Maybe one of these days there will be a leadership that would look at the political possibilities and find advantage in the Ojukwu issue. He might get back his colonelcy or (don't block your imagination).

This is the era when our history must read like a thriller.



Nobody should tamper with the storyline, except to give it a more thrilling twist. Not even Domkal Bali.

The man should just concentrate on what he has said he would do. Go to Dodan Barracks and say thanks to IBB. Or what do you think?

The Country will burn if I talk

— Ex-NEC boss Eme Awa

- *Presidential aspirants instigated my removal*
- *Why Easterners lose out in Nigerian politics*
- *Ban on old politicians is futile*
- *Open ballot system is ...*



Politics & Policy

By Comfort Obi

He rarely talks, at least, since he was removed as the chairman of the National Electoral Commission, NEC. Even since then, Eme Awa, a professor of political science merely retired to his quiet Anthony Village home in Lagos. But a couple of weeks

ago, Awa meandered again into public focus via an invited paper he delivered in the USA on the Transition Programme in Nigeria. He disclosed a little of the circumstances that led to his removal as NEC chairman and, well, a few other things.

TSM felt Awa had hinted enough in the paper to warrant a full scale interview. We cornered Awa and if we were surprised at the nature of his experiences at NEC, we were even more surprised at the simple frankness with

which he analysed the future of Nigeria. He spoke more on the personal humiliation he felt when he was removed as NEC chairman, the tragedy of the easterner, the ruling class, why the President, come 1992, must be a southerner and lots more.

Awa is as unpredictable as his calm looks are deceptive.

This is Awa as you've never heard or read before. Have a ball.

TSM: But for very recently when a newspaper reported the paper you de-





There are things one should not disclose...

Nigeria.

TSM: Well, I expect your eyes and wanting to speak on the papers that brought about your removal. I see that tell me how did you feel about you were removed from office. Did you miss for the country, could you tell me the factors that led to your removal, but I am not to disclose.

AWA: Well, I think I'll leave that till the appropriate time comes.

TSM: You mean tell us just a little.
AWA: Nobody can be happy to be removed okay. Those who were removed recently have been complaining. Nobody can be happy at being removed abruptly. That's how I was removed, abruptly. Didn't Aikhomu say in the *Daily Times* it is not pleasant to be removed abruptly. He now knows how one feels when one is removed in that manner. That's all I can say. It is not a pleasant experience. No, it is not.

TSM: Since your removal, what have you been doing?

AWA: Well, I do a bit of writing. I have two books which should be published soon. Then, I run around for contracts.

TSM: I thought you were of NIPSS before your appointment as NEC Chairman?

AWA: Yes.

TSM: So, why didn't you go back to NIPSS?

AWA: It is not appropriate at all in any sense, to go to NIPSS. NIPSS still belongs to the same people who removed me in a most humiliating manner. Why should I go back to NIPSS under them?

TSM: But did they ask you to go back?

AWA: No, no. Not to my knowledge anyway.

TSM: Before the paper, you alluded, on impression people had about your activities at NEC was, 'Well, where said you were too strict, some said you were not so strict.' Which was done before.

AWA: Because I'm patriotic, I'll keep all those to myself but I'm not a rubber stamp. All I can say is that nobody could look at me and accuse me of ineffectiveness. Anyway whatever thoughts anybody had was normal. There were many forces which were an-

livered in the USA, you've been quiet. Out of circulation, sort of.

AWA: I've not been out of circulation, I talk only when it is necessary. When I'm required to talk. Like I was invited to the US to deliver the paper. It was to a very distinguished audience. The Nigerian presidency was represented by two people.

TSM: We're gone through your paper. Very beautiful, if a little controversial.

AWA: Not controversial. But facts.

TSM: We read a little on the factors that led to your removal. Just very little. So, now that you've started talking, tell us, what actually led to your removal as NEC Chairman?

AWA: I couldn't tell you. It is better the public knows as little as possible.

TSM: But why?

AWA: Patriotism comes first. No matter in what condition one finds oneself, there are things one should not disclose for the sake of one's country. The circumstances that led to my removal were not pleasant but like I said, the country comes first.

TSM: But by keeping quiet, you're giving room for speculations.

AWA: I will tell you this story. A British Prime Minister, William Gladstone made his house girl pregnant. It was in the year "18-something." And the wife felt very humiliated. She shouted and screamed in the house but got control of herself. She thought about it and told herself that if her husband's behaviour was made public, her household would be destroyed, so would the British cabinet, so would the government, so would the country and in fact, the whole empire. And so she told everybody in her household not to mention anything about the incident to anybody. She embargoed it for 50 years. She went to Kent and rented a house for the house girl. By doing that she saved the country an embarrassment. It was not until the 1970s that one of his grandchildren wrote about it. That was patriotism on the part of the woman.

I believe in the unity of Nigeria. If I disclose everything that led to my removal, the country will be shocked. I'll be destroying the unity of Nigeria. The country will burn. For now it is embargoed but the time will come when it will be made public. I'm bidding my time. I'm just watching for now. There are times when one's country comes first. That time, for me, is now. Not that I'm not hurt. I am, but...

TSM: But you said quite some in your paper.

AWA: And that's all I can say for now. There were forces against me. Powerful forces, particularly from two states of the federation (names withheld). They pressurized the President to remove me. And that's because they felt I was an obstacle to their ambition to produce Presidential Candidates. I don't know how. In fairness to one woman (name withheld) she warned the President against my removal. But you see, the forces were strong. But you see, it won't work. Things like that don't work. I'm just watching. When the time comes, we shall see. But I'm not one to be pressurized to go against the constitution of the Federal Republic of

tagonistic, which wanted to destroy me, or NEC or both and, at least, what I have told you helps to clarify some issues. And there is a whole lot more I could say but not now.

TSM: So, when would you say all that happened? In a book form? Or in 50 years time? May be one of your children will write on Daddy's experience at NEC?

AWA: (Laughs and laughs and laughs). Some kind of embargo is necessary. Not 50 years. But an embargo is necessary in the interest of the nation, not in my own interest. Of course, I realise that people have been blaming me or rather, those of us from the eastern parts of keeping quiet each time one of us is removed. You know, we don't open up to say why. It may just mean that we are too patriotic. There is an explanation for our behaviour. Probably what one can call misplaced aggression in psychology. If you have three boys fighting - ABC. One is 20 years, the other 16, and the other 12 years. If the 20-year old boy beats up the 16 year old boy in the meantime, the 12 year old boy laughs at the scene, then, the 16 year old seeing that he cannot fight back the 20 year old, beats up the 12-year old. That is misplaced aggression. That is the kind of thing that has been happening to the people of the eastern parts. The same thing happened to me. There are people holding important positions that they (government) did not tackle. They could not tackle these people because of the ethno-religious group these public officers belong to. But you tackle the man from the east because it is easy to deal with him because nobody will ask questions. That is my own assumption.

TSM: But why?

AWA: I think it is because the people of the eastern parts are still recovering from the effects of the civil war. That's the only reason I can find for now. And, the communication system is not very strong. These other people that come out en masse to attack and scare even the authorities. The authorities themselves realise this. And respect it. You don't find that kind of thing happening to them.

TSM: You don't think it is because by their culture, the eastern man does not have very strong traditional rulers who can possibly move in and talk on their behalf?

AWA: No, it has nothing to do with it. Traditional rulers have been assigned their roles by the government. It is not the other way round. So, it is not the reason.

TSM: Could you possibly assess the Transition Programme as far as what NEC has done.

AWA: Let's see what happens with the programme being implemented as it is now. Basically, my own view had been that within five years we'd possibly develop NEC into an impeccable testament which would now serve as a regulatory agency to referee the behaviour of the politician. But the larger problem in the society and the political system will take a very long time. But if NEC is properly organised and allowed to function properly, then hopefully in the coming years, NEC will then be in a position to handle these problems and off-set the need for the military to come

Once people come to repose confidence in NEC, it'll not be necessary again for the military to say we are going to step in because it is going to collapse. The problem will revolve around NEC.

And NEC as in India, the Indian system virtually collapsed but their commission was able to handle this because it continued to function effectively. This is the kind of thing that we had in mind. For any body to think that by 1992 this country would have been properly democratized will be living in a fool's paradise. It's not going to happen that easy in 10, 20, 25 even 50 years. In the more advanced countries, it has taken place as long as that. Even longer to bring democracy into the political system and society. And the areas of difficulty in Nigeria are hidden because the forces which operate against the idea of a democracy are very strong and are found in the upper levels of our society, not on lower levels. They are found within the groups of people who articulate ideas and policies most effectively. So, they are very difficult to get at. They are the people who come forward and make long pronouncements at what is going on but they are the ones who thwart the attempt to democratize the country and the society and all that.

So, Jerry Gana's problem is not easy by any means because he has to try to get at the root of this kind of problem. And he may have dining with him, consulting with him, laughing with him the very people who are the genesis of Nigeria's problem. So, my own reading of the situation is that it is going to take a long time. But provided the society does not collapse, it is not anything terrifying to say it'll take a long time. It normally takes a long time. It'll take a long time.

In my view, ethnic feelings have hardened now, more than ever before. And if old or new politicians are motivated primarily by the desire to satisfy ethnic desire nobody is going to benefit but the country is going to be hurt. So much depends on how we are able to handle the ethnic problem in the national problem because it can influence about everything else that we are going to do. Because the basis for this in my view are three fold. It is religious. It is materialistic in nature, and it's psychological in nature. People want some satisfaction of the psychological nature. They want to identify themselves as bonafide citizens of this country and not to feel by any reason that they are second-class citizens.

And this may not have anything to do with the Nigerian question of who gets what out of the economic system. On the higher levels, may be it is the leaders who are concerned primarily with who gets what. That also is important. But while the leaders quarrel about this, often they forget that the common people themselves do need economic measures to satisfy their needs as well as this problem of identity. How can you identify with the socio-political system if there are no structures designed to show your effective participation. Not just superficial kind of participation but meaningful participation where you're welcome to be in an office because you're a Nigerian. Not when you're tolerated on it because, well, okay, we just want you to be there because we cannot help having you there. These are deep psychological problems that we face. And the people who are best

placed to handle them here are the intellectuals, the academic people, who can articulate ideas which are designed to ease the relationships between the various ethnic groups. There has been a tendency on the part of intellectuals to arrogate to certain ethnic groups, or clans, special authorities derived from heaven to supervise the government of this country, and control the economic resources of this country. And to ignore the fact that if we really want to be one people

Federal character good, but



all of us should benefit same degree, more or less from the politics and economics of the country.

I think these are the things which worry me most when I think about them. Because there is a hardening of attitude in these areas and even when the minorities cry out one sees some justifications in what they are saying because they say, look, we are being ignored. We are being treated as if we don't belong. I don't know if any body is really seriously listening to them. So, I have noted that at some point we have to do something drastic to ensure that we bring everybody to the fold. The idea of Federal character I think is very good. It is a very good doctrine. We have not however given any serious thought as to how best to apply it. It is being applied on a most haphazard manner.

AWA: If you tell me, for instance that my people are over — represented somewhere and therefore, they cannot get a job in this particular place, then you must tell me where they can get a job. Otherwise, I'll nurse a sense of grievance. And this is the kind of thing going on. It is not being applied properly. It is being applied in such a way that it is a patronage system. You get a job because you are from such and such place. You're not obliged to perform well in that position because, there is a Patron Saint who will protect you. We ought to sit down and really discuss how best we can apply the Federal character system. We haven't done that yet. I think we should do it. If I had a chance to participate in these things, these are the lines along which I'll like to make a contribution. And if we don't give serious thoughts to matters of this kind the terrain is going to be very, very slippery.

One has to consider the things going on in Eastern Europe, especially the Soviet Union and in Yugoslavia. They had assumed, and my colleagues in the left wing had always assumed, that if you give the country a measure of socialism, every other problem will be solved. I had never accepted that. And now, it is clear beyond doubt that this socialism or whatever you want to call it, collectivism, does not solve all the problem. In Yugoslavia right now the place is virtually at the verge of disintegration and they have had socialism there. Because of ethnicity, the problem of identity, you cannot bring everybody to identify himself or herself with the nation or feel that he or she is indeed a citizen of that country. We have to address this question sooner or later if we have to preserve this nation.

How these things will work out, I don't know. But it may depend to a large extent, as I said before, on how the banned politicians want to play the game. If the primary motivation is patriotism and they move in a positive manner to advise, to direct, and ensure that some of the difficulties of the past have been removed, then, they become a force for good. I'm not in a position to anticipate how they'll want to move. If we articulate some of these issues, it may help them to direct some of their knowledge to the best interest of the country.

It still seems to me much difference between the banned and now.

AWA: Well, I don't know. I hope it helps them. I'm not sure now that by banning we have destroyed their influence. There is a problem of continuity and involvement. You see, some of these banned people are very influential, very intelligent, very rich. They have easy ways of infusing their ideas and influence to the system in some obtrusive way without letting you know they are doing this or that but, they manage to slip in ideas here and there. It'll be foolish not to realize that they can exert some influence or the other because they will. They have many ways of doing this.

Personally, my view is that it may not be altogether bad for them to wield some kind of influence. Other things being equal. If they stood at the sideline and decided to help in a positive manner, they could be a force for good provided they can look back on their experience and provide warning to those who are actors. Say look, in the past, we did so and so, and it hurt the country. Now, I think you should move in a slightly different way so as to preserve or ensure sustainable growth of the country politically and economically. If they can come to look at this matter this way, then they can become very useful because they have a lot of influence.

However, this is difficult in the country,

need politician. Why?

AWA: The banned politicians had worked at these problems for some time. Many of them had been operating on an ethno-religious basis. And I believe that inspite of the facade we're putting on, those coming in now are still operating from that basis: ethno-religious basis. Because of some curious reason, we seem to shy away from the need to rely on ideology. I do not understand why, but that seems to me to be the prevailing attitude. Ideology is suspect, ideology is inimical. I do not know of any country in the world which does not seem to be operating on some ideological basis. Not even in the USA. Because in the American system it is strictest capitalism which is now ideology. So, if you say you're shying away from ideology then the alternative is to rely on these cleavage reaching values, like the ethno-religious basis. This is what we are doing.

We push people away from embracing some ideology but in that same act, we push them into the act of embracing something which is deprecating in its influence. Its influence is more centrifugal than an ideology could be. So, these are the main things which worry me. But essentially, as far as attitudes are concerned there is no essential difference between the old and the new politician. Both are operating from the ethno-religious basis.

They, the present ones are being pushed to imbibe the attitude that it is a sin to embrace some kind of ideology. But those who are behind this do not understand that by doing this they are pushing them to embrace ethnicity and religion. Where do you go if you're motivated essentially by religion and ethnicity? Where do you go from there in terms of nation building? It doesn't go far.

If we should go back to consider what the traditional African view will be in such social matters, then perhaps, we do not need to shy away from ideology because I believe that in traditional Africa, we went out of our way to encourage collectivism and this was long before Karl Marx was born. This is what we refer to as communalism. You cannot argue that if you provide a scheme of social welfare or engage in some degree of collectivism that you'll destroy incentives. No, in the traditional system, we did not destroy the incentives simply because we encouraged people to live.

In the extended family system, if somebody was well to do, you encouraged those who are not that well-off. The person who was on that level, after that, will still work hard to replenish what he had given out. The person given would also work hard to make sure that someday, they'll help out. The idea of collectivism does not destroy incentives. This is the sort of thing I want us to pick up. We're not borrowing this from Europe. It is something traditional. It is pure. It is unique. And if developed properly they'll borrow from us. We should have our own thinking. We should be dependent on ourselves. There is this tendency to copy everything European. Thinking that everything good for them is good for us. We should be a little autonomous in our thinking.

TSM: Now, you were at NEC. And of course, you know what the constitution



... Southern President? Why not

is all about. What is this controversy about the open ballot system? What is your view, anyway?

AWA: Well, I don't know why they decided it should be open ballot. The law itself does not provide for that. And the argument that illiterate people will find it easier, is not impressive. These illiterate people had voted in the past with the secret ballot. Why can't they vote now. So, I don't quite understand the reason for making that sort of change, which in any case is illegal. If the idea is okay, rush through a decree to permit this. I think you're hurting the system, being too clever by half. I don't support it.

TSM: If you were the NEC Chairman, still, what would you have done? If the Federal Government wanted open ballot?

AWA: It is not easy to talk about that. Nobody knows where the idea came from. But NEC does not formulate policies. So, I don't know if there is anything the NEC chairman can do about it.

TSM: But people are building him responsible. He is being attacked left, right and centre?

AWA: Well, why not? If the idea came from him. But if it is imposed on him, then, people should direct their attack to where it came from. That'll be my view.

TSM: But how would you have handled it if you were Nwanjo?

AWA: (laughs very heartily) Well, I don't know. It is not a fair question. It is very difficult. But I guess, I would have advised that it is illegal. I probably would have made my stand very much known. Just leave it at that, I'm not a rubber stamp. Nobody should be one.

TSM: Let's go to the Transition programme. What do you have to say. The parties have just been given N570 million to share. How is that for a start?

AWA: The government is now directly patronising the parties. This is what is normally referred to as guided democracy. I suppose it has worked in some places. Whether it would work in Nigeria, I don't know. But even in the places where it has worked, to some extent, it has been of temporary nature because, in the meantime you may suppress a number of forces in order to get where you think you're going. But when you withdraw

that driving force from government, there'll be no telling what will happen. So, my view is, since they're doing it, wait, cross our fingers and wait.

TSM: People are saying the money given to them is much. That the government has spent a lot of money already on both parties.

AWA: If you're giving them too much money, that's part of the guided democracy. That's a part of the problem we have.

You see, we're merely gambling here and the gamble may pay off or it may not pay off.

TSM: Considering what you've said so far, about your removal and power seeming to belong to a section of the country, do you think a Southerner, I don't want to say an Igboman can ever become the President of Nigeria.

AWA: Yes. I think so. And I believe very strongly in it. If the parties are properly organised, the leaders of the parties themselves will see the need to rotate the Presidency. And this is not any novel idea at all. Even in the USA, there is some rotation which nobody talks about but it is there. This period, somebody comes North East, North West and East. It is necessary. You move it around. And it becomes a matter of habit for the leaders of the parties to think of candidates from all parts of the country. I think eventually, Nigeria will come to this. You don't have to talk about zoning in that manner. If you want to talk about it, well maybe it serves some purpose. Even though personally, I think zoning militates against the appointment of people on merit. But the idea of ensuring that people are picked from all sections of the country is involved in zoning. And to the extent that it is so, it is a good thing but it cannot solve the problem.

You have to educate leaders of the political parties to the extent that they know that it is part of the essence of good politics to pick their presidential candidates from within every part of the country. This is the type of democracy I'm talking about. Democratize the society so that those who are in politics will see readily the need for engaging in this kind of action. The need to behave in such a way that they'll give satisfaction to every ethnic group, to every section of the country.

The need to ensure that you bridge the gap between the North, West, East and so on. If the President comes all the time from the North for whatever reason then you'll not instill confidence in the system as far as Southern people are concerned. Therefore, if the leaders are properly groomed, they'll see the need to pick people from the other parts of the country. And I believe there are so many people in the North today who themselves think it is about time a President came from the South.

TSM: What is your relationship with the Federal Government?

AWA: There is none at all. **TSM:** And NEC?

AWA: There is none at all. I don't want to meet them one way or the other. Let's see how far they'll go.

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Republican Rumbles

By Kayode Samuel with Yusuph Olaniyonu and Sunday Ojelabi

As the campaign train of the National Republican Convention (NRC) took off from Kaduna yesterday, with party faithfuls generally putting up a show of solidarity, keen observers are hinting at a pocket of unresolved differences. This pocket exists in the party's Western flank, made up of the four Yoruba states — Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Oyo.

It all started in 1988, from the now defunct Constituent Assembly.

The decree creating the assembly had provided for an elected deputy chairman to be picked from among the constitution makers. No sooner had the assembly convened than members from the western states coalesced and reached an understanding to support one of their own for the coveted post. The reasoning was simple. Assembly chairman Justice Anthony Anlagolu was from the East while the Secretary, Baba Gana Kungbe came from the far North. So why not the West for the deputy chairmanship? The Western assemblymen thought!

In a shadow election conducted then, Olufemi Olutoye, a retired army general emerged as the compromise choice, albeit to much grumbling from other contestants.

As the haggling and heckling over the choice of a Western candidate raged on, northern members were obviously not in contention for the post. At least not openly or directly. An earlier "behind the scene" decision had zoned the office to the South. Still, the northern assemblymen, with their numerical strength, held the key to who the Southern winner would be. And they chose to support Lateef Adegbite, a lawyer from Ogun State who as Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs was a close ally of Ibrahim Dasuki who was later to emerge as the Sultan of Sokoto. The Eastern assemblymen also had their own lobby for the coveted prize.

The sheer amount of acrimony and bad blood generated by the contest threatened to scuttle the assembly's work right from its infancy and this informed government's rethink on the deputy-chairmanship provision. The post was quickly scrapped even before it could be filled.

Political observers watch as western party chieftains indulge in internal bickering ...



Kusamotu ... "my stand is clear"

Yet the contest had reintroduced and reinforced the issue of northern power brokerage. It is once again said to be at the root of the disemper currently doing the rounds in the Western NRC as the jockeying and jostling for Third Republic power move on full steam.

Late in August, a group of NRC leaders from the party's Western zone converged at the popular Kakankio Inn in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital. Counted among those present were the party's three national officers from the zone — publicity secretary Doyin Okupe, ex-officio member Onikepo Oshodi and party legal adviser Anyo Olagunju — as well as state chairmen and secretaries, alongside one representative each from the zone's twelve senatorial districts. The group, according to Okupe, a rising

called new Western caucus, came together with the understanding that the party's power-sharing formula should not be along the lines of North—South but on the basis of the six zones created by the party.

"We constitute one of the zones," Okupe said, a declaration that is obviously targeted at dispelling the widely held view that since the party's national chairman emerged from the South, the choice of its presidential candidate had thereby been narrowed to northern aspirants. This is still

star and one of the bigwigs in the so-called vexed issue.

The stated aims of the Western caucus include "fostering the interests of the West within the party and designing ways by which the West will speak with one voice on national issues that directly concern its political interests." But hardly had the group, settled down to business than dissenting voices boomed out.

First, from the Oyo State wing, the NRC deputy chairman whose leader, Olajire Akulola emerged the caucus leader, rose to dissociate NRC faithfuls in the state from the deliberations of the caucus. Behind the deputy-chairman's dissenting voice is said to be an NRC vice-presidential aspirant, Ahmed Kusamotu, a brilliant lawyer and scion of the Ikirun royal family in

Oyo State. The dissenters contended that "no small group has the right to claim representation of the West". Nor, as they added, should the group "have the audacity to claim superiority over other groups in the Nigerian nation". The war of words got so hot that Aikulola's position in the Oyo State party hierarchy came under serious threat, with the opposing camp almost engineering his ouster.

Speaking to TSM last week, the soft-spoken Aikulola claimed that he enjoys "popular support among all officers and members of the NRC in Oyo State". And in apparent reference to the stance of his deputy, he added that he took umbrage at "a situation where certain members can prevent the leader from attending a constitutional gathering". On his own part, Okupe was at pains to debunk allegations that the caucus was claiming for the Yorubas a superiority over other groups saying that "we are resolute and determined to achieve the set goals and we are silently working towards our target".

But in spite of the claim of full support made by Okupe and Aikulola, the Kusamotu influence looms large and dissenting voices abound. Analysts fear that the bubble of political infighting may eventually burst in the faces of the rival factions. A deep look, they say, reveals that the divisions span several issues, including the alleged monopolisation of power by party elected officers.

Kusamotu's men like Alani Bankole (a governorship aspirant in Ogun State), Layo Adeniji and Samuel Adedoyin argue that "as much as we agree with some of the (caucus's) objectives, like that of promoting the unity of the West, we disagree with their means of achieving them".

And in Kusamotu's words "I don't know of any system where the statutory leaders are the only leaders forgetting that behind the wheel of democracy there is always a force. These forces are the bulk of voters and leaders of opinion who do not seek elective office but are strong enough to keep the wheel moving".

Seeking to pacify the opposition and allay the fears that elected officers were grabbing all the power, Okupe explained that present members of the caucus deliberately decided to exclude some party topnotchers "because of their known aspirations".

"We do not want to be seen as promoting the interests of certain aspirants against others", he explained to which Aikulola added "We have just started, when we get our feet firmly on the ground, we will include all NRC leaders in the West".



Akande ... 'I'll deliver the West'

Openly at issue in the split is the question of what prize the West should bargain for in the Third Republic power game. Members of the Western caucus are bent on clinching the presidency for the zone and, as they claim, there is no question of "anticipating any failure" on that score. The Kusamotu group has however said that it is ready to settle for the vice presidency. In fact, Kusamotu is said to be desirous of running on a ticket that has his long-time business associate and law partner Umaru Shinkari, a one-time National Security Organisation (NSO) boss as presidential candidate. The man himself is not making any pretensions about it. "I have always made my stand clear on the issue of the presidential race within the NRC", Kusamotu told TSM.

But whatever ambitions the contending groups may have could come unstuck and their undoing may not necessarily be due solely to the "in-house" bill. Rather the intervening variable could come in the form of the Northern power brokers.

First with Tom Ikimi, a Bendelite emerging as national chairman at the July Abuja national convention, some Northern politicians have concluded that the presidential ticket of the NRC has automatically been zoned to the North. Okupe will have none of that. "We are operating on zones and Bendel State is not in the Western zone. We do not see Ikimi's chairmanship

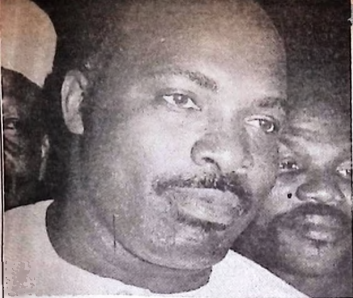
obstructing any westerner's aspiration to the presidency" he declared, adding cryptically, "we rely strongly on the integrity of our party members to keep to agreements".

If the "Southern chairmanship issue threatens to become too much of an albatross however, Okupe, sounding an alternative said "we can persuade Ikimi and other national officers to relinquish their posts to strengthen our bidding". Analysts are however skeptical as to the feasibility of this "fall back" option.

Another problem arises from the political tradition of the four states that make up the Western zone, a tradition which observers claim is as potent as ever. Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Oyo states have a political history of inclining towards the "progressive" wing in Nigerian politics.

Kusamotu hinges his word of caution to the caucus on this score. "That is why I have laid members of the Western caucus that we must first win substantial number of seats in the December council elections to give us enough leverage in bidding for higher posts".

An NRC leader in Oyo State, the Reverend ST Oja Akande, said to be eyeing the presidential ticket, does not appear to share Kusamotu's worries about the party's chances in the West. "The NRC can expect that Oyo State will be delivered to it by me" he boasted. He however notes that "it is not delivering your state that deter-



Okupe ... the Presidency. No less

mines being a presidential candidate' Akande also scoffs at suggestions that the NRC is in the pocket of the so-called Sokoto caliphate saying that "it's not true. I don't know how that impression came about"

Part of Kusamotu's caution could have been informed by the rumoured declining fortunes of his northern flank

The Game is on

Symbolism is not in short supply as NRC kicks off campaign with Ahmadu Bello and SDP opts for Tafawa-Balewa

By Yusuph Olaniyonu

Newbrowed politicians in the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC) yesterday went back to the roof of the nation's politics. They invoked the spirits of the country's first prime minister, late Abubakar Tafawa-Balewa and the first premier of the Northern Region, Ahmadu Bello as they commenced their political campaigns for the December local government elections in Lagos and Kaduna respectively.

With a promise of war against poverty and oppression, NRC party chieftains at various levels bombarded Ahmadu Bello Stadium to curry the support of the people of the strategically placed town of Kaduna. Robed in white Agbada signifying the symbolic white colour of the NRC flag, Tom Ikimi, the party's national chairman explicated the party's resolve to eradicate poverty through creation of more wealth. His speech which was

followed with that of several other party leaders like Usman Alhaji (the party's scribe), Lema Jubril, Umaru Shinkafi (both presidential aspirants), Ibrahim Mantu, Maxwell Ahmadi, Ahmed Kusamotu, Audu Naaudu and several others was highly laced with the determination of an NRC government to change the nation's economic prospect for the better.

Definitely, as Doyin Okupe party publicity secretary and master of ceremony said, Kaduna will definitely wait for some time before witnessing another rally of the same intensity.

But in Lagos where the SDP, riding symbolically on five white horses set the spacious Tafawa Balewa Square ablaze with political speeches and promises, it was a day the former prime minister would have loved to rise from the grave and make one or two comments on the new political arrangement.

From the Oba of Lagos, Adeyinka Kingibe ... no horsing around



Shinkafi, his political cum-business associate is widely rumoured as having fallen out of favour with an influential traditional ruler from his power base. With the influence the royal father allegedly exerts on the party, the fall out

may become Kusamotu's Achilles heel. Kusamotu however dismissed this claim, insisting that Shinkafi's traditional position as *Marafan Sokoto* and his marriage into the Sokoto ruling house cannot allow for any major disagreement with the royal father. Reports late in the week suggest that the traditional ruler has asked other contenders to step down for Shinkafi.

But just in case the rumoured gulf between Shinkafi and the traditional ruler widens irreparably, a powerful lobby is on to clinch the royal support for Lema Jubril, another northern presidential hopeful. If this happens, the book makers say, chubby Doyin Okupe, for now a least expected choice, could just emerge as the vice presidential running mate.

Oyekun's palace where the SDP party chieftains paid a royal visit, it was a day Lagos was saturated with messages of how the SDP government at various levels will rid the nation of disease, poverty, exploitation, ignorance and oppression. Baba Kingibe who led the party's campaign train which included the new convert, Tokunbo Awolowo-Dosunmu, Mohammed Arzika, Muniru Baruwa, Sarah Jubril, Alexis Antelo and Ojo Maduekwe, was bubbling as he set the tone for what he termed "the party's resolve to capture the 5,572 councillorship and 453 chairmanship seats in the local council election".

Saturday definitely, as a political stalwart said, is a "birthday for the Third Republic" as the deafening din generated by the campaigns was re-verbated through the length and breadth of the country — from Calabar to Sokoto, from Ibadan to Maiduguri.

Ikimi ... the eagle perches





The world

By Mackson Onyejekwe

Fifty-nine-year-old Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, the Soviet President, is making history, changing history and now, repairing fractured history. Some

love and adore him, others fear and suspect him. In his country, on Monday October 15, 11 a.m. Nigerian time, the Chamber of Deputies, (the Soviet Parliament) in Moscow summoned him for 'interrogation,' to defend his economic reform package which has not only caused severe hardship in Russia but in recent times has generated widespread protest, rioting, arson and mayhem, as essential commodities vanish from stalls and the queue of frustrated Russians lengthens. Reports said Gorbachev came out of the parliament, wearing a sombre face and looking embattled.

On the same day, same time and hour in far away Oslo, Norway, Gorbachev was being announced a Nobel Peace prize winner, with accolades, more like a universal prince. By 1.00 p.m., the oft-repeated media broadcasts from Europe had spread the news the world over, that Gorbachev has won the 1990 Nobel Prize, with a cash reward of \$700,000 (N\$ 6 million). He beat 100 other contestants, among them, are Dr Nelson Mandela, ANC Deputy-President, Vaclav Havel, President of Czechoslovakia, Li Chao, a Chinese student activist crushed by a military tank in Beijing

A Man of Honour

Embattled at home; honoured abroad. Such is the fate of Mikhail Gorbachev, the sociable socialist who has now won the Nobel Peace Prize for his noble deeds

Gorbachev stepped out of the harrowing Parliamentary interrogation right into the news.

Foreign journalists swarmed on him for instant response, but he was sceptical. 'No, it can't be, you people are

has been replaced by negotiation. Old European nation-states have regained their freedom. The arms race is slowing down and we see a definite and positive process in the direction of arms control and disarmament. Several regional conflicts have been solved or have at least come closer to a resolution. The United Nations is beginning to play the role which was originally planned for it in the international community, covered by law.'

Not only that. 'The peace process to which Gorbachev has contributed so significantly to open up new possibilities for the world to solve its problems across ideological, religious, his-



Gorby: gets prize for peace while Russia boils

joking," he said coyly, smiling and walking away. When by the evening he heard the news relayed, he was short of words. Again journalists pressed him for response, he spoke. 'Honestly I don't know what to tell you. It's not my prize but a reward for *perestroika* and all those who believe and support it in Russia and all over the world. It's difficult to find words at such a moment. I'm very touched.'

Gidske Anderson, leader of the five-member Norwegian Nobel committee said Gorbachev was selected because of 'his leading role in the peace process which today characterises important part of the international community.' According to her, 'during the last few years, dramatic changes have taken place in the relationship between East and West. Confrontation

and cultural dividing lines. This award is to honour Gorbachev for his many and decisive contributions to these changes,' she concluded.

As if reading the minds of many Russians, Anderson said she expected the award to be criticised, 'but that would only be normal.' And as if reading the minds of other people in the world, she conceded that the award reflected in part the warmer relationship between the US and USSR, adding that the committee awarded the prize to Gorbachev for his international role, and did not necessarily consider the present conditions inside the Soviet Union.

While the world applauds the award, with torrents of congratulatory messages from eminent personalities,



Bush: award for East-West relations

Including distinguished Russians, the Soviet populace and the generality of the masses are indifferent to the award. Most of them are rather vexed. Agency reports say they have continued to ask and repeat one odd question: "will the award change things, or make our miserable lives better?"

When he came to power in March 1985, Gorbachev introduced *perestroika* (restructuring) and *glasnost* (openness) as his catch-words for the massive structural changes he planned for the entire political, economic, social, cultural and military systems in the Soviet Union. These changes have cost the blood of some Russian ideologues and fundamentalists who reproachfully brand Gorbachev a Western protegee who has compromised Russia's enviable stature as world power alongside America that sees itself as world police. Hence these changes have resulted in bloody insurrections in Armenia, Azerbaijan and other parts of the Soviet Union. To the Russian masses, used to subsidised existence, the change to a competitive, free market economy has been excruciating with abject scarcity, if even bread, a common food item.

Gorbachev had tacitly warned his countrymen in 1986 when he announced his intention to change the entire political and economic props of Soviet Union, laid by the founding fathers, as enunciated by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, 73 years old. The political system and the decision-making processes were anachronistic. Gorbachev told his countrymen, the economic models were unrealistic, unrewarding and not dynamic, he added. "If you are willing to let me take charge of the affairs of this great Union," he said to over 279 million Soviets, "We shall need so much restructuring (*perestroika*) and make our nation much more open (*glasnost*) to the outside world. And these would not be totally a sweet and easy exercise," he concluded. Most of the Soviets won-



Kohl: promises to help Gorb

dered what he meant. Now they all know, and many do not find it funny.

Before Gorbachev took on the domestic scene in 1988, he addressed international issues. First, the Cold War, which reached its zenith in the 50s and 60s. "Hostilities among nations, threaten world peace and stability and retard progress," he bellowed across to the United States, from Moscow. Cynics called it politics. But before poutful lips eased, Gorbachev had coaxed Reagan into a change of tact. Cold War ended. Next, the arms race. Gorbachev called it a "barbaric pastime," and through series of meetings, negotiations and concessions, America and the Soviet Union signed a molley of arms reduction treaties, one of which in 1987 completely effaced a whole generation of nuclear weapons.

Instantly, in contra-distinction to Brezhnev's doctrine of limited independence of the Soviet satellite states, Gorbachev announced absolute independence for the East European states to enable them decide their domestic and foreign policy objectives and have absolute responsibility for their sovereignty.

In his steady drive for democratisation, he tactfully skinned the Communist party of its supreme power and bestowed it on the state and the people. Last year he caused a democratically elected parliament to be instituted. Likewise, he began the privatisation and commercialisation of state-owned enterprises, which constituted the bulk of the Soviet economy.

It is also remarkable that Gorbachev has not reneged on any of his earlier statements and initiatives. Last February, he had hastened the end of the 10-year war of attrition in Afghanistan by withdrawing Soviet troops. This followed his earlier policy statement to slash Soviet armed forces by half a million between 1989-1990. To further convince the international



Mandela: still to wait

community, especially Warsaw Pact member states of his detachment from all avoidable conflicts and intra-state crisis. Gorbachev watched with folded arms as the Communist regimes in Czechoslovakia and Romania, East Germany and Hungary crumbled under the people's demand for multi-party democracy.

A couple of months ago, Gorbachev, by concessionary diplomatic negotiations, collaborated with Helmut Kohl for the unification of West and East Germany, with the NATO. Gorbachev also envisages the total disintegration of NATO and Warsaw Pact security alliances. Gorbachev has said both alliances are now moribund, given their original mandates, in the face of current rapprochement between the East and the West.

Though his political and economic reforms have caused so much sporadic violent protests in Russia, thrown the economy into momentary disarray and prompted some ambitious Soviet republics to declare their independence, as in the case of the Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — thus putting Soviet might to test, these reforms have nevertheless endeared Gorbachev to the Western countries, and immense financial, technical and material support have been promised him by the United States and the European Economic Community (EEC), in support of *perestroika* and *glasnost*. Helmut Kohl, chancellor of united Germany, has also personally promised to give Gorbachev every support required at any time, to make his current policies succeed.

Undisputably, the Nobel Peace Prize would place greater sense of responsibility and commitment on Gorbachev. But with or without the Nobel, uneasy would lie any head, such as Gorbachev's, which tries to carry away the ideological-induced stagnation, and transgressions of past regimes, in the Soviet Union.

He is all thumbs in the kitchen, snoozes away on the sofa, while his wife slaves to death. But women are now flashing the red card.

The modern man is still a klutz!

By Mubo Okasun

The major hurdle for working women in the '90s is how to enlist their men as permanent members of their kitchen cabinets. As more women pluck plum jobs off corporate trees, put in long

hours, work over time, travel out on business, structural adjustment programme is also needed in their homes.

Or else, we are going to have bumble-out women, over-worked souls, bleary-eyed wives and frazzled women breaking loose in the next few years. Despite the fact that some men enjoy the exploits of their wives outside the homes, they still expect them to perform their 'wifely' roles after work.

According to TSM investigations, some urban housewives slug at their desks for eight hours, while another eight hours is spent on household chores. Forget about sophistication or business acumen, at the end of every working day unwashed dishes, unmade beds, soiled clothes and hungry



Life



Modern man shies away from the kitchen

children have to be contended with.

What we found out was that women are still neck-deep in these jobs, while their guys snooze away happily on sofas. A good number of husbands still see housework as solely women's work, some even say it's a price women have to pay by working outside their homes.

At a recent workshop on "30 years of Nigerian women" in Lagos, Yomi Lewis, ex-Superwoman Editor and lately a businesswoman, presented the new thinking among professional women. According to her, the era of superwoman is over. The woman that works am to pm on housework, goes to work, then returns to more housework. She said it is high time men involved themselves in their homes, since housemaids disappear without notice and there are fewer cousins left behind to act as helps. It is only natural that men become house husbands as they are known in other parts of the world, she suggested.

At the mention of house husbands, the men in the audience squirmed uncontrollably. Ain't no way they are going to be bogged down by running noses, dirty dishes, vitamin pills and shopping. One of such men told TSM that, "My mother also traded outside the home, but she was always around to take care of us. Why do I have a wife at home. If you start helping your wife, she'll start to take advantage of you. She'll become lazy and take you for granted. She'll no longer respect you."

A woman who trained in England in the seventies told us how she practised equality with her husband when they were students. It came naturally to us, she recalled. "Whoever got home first would start preparing the evening meals, would fetch the kids and bathe them. Then there was no division of labour. Immediately we got to Nigeria my husband's friends and relations started to tease him. So he stopped helping me in the kitchen." Although, she said, her husband still assists in sorting out his dirty clothes and shopping for bulky food items.

Another woman landed a dream job at a merchant bank in Lagos. The job entailed commuting early to work and returning late. Her husband too worked in that part of town, so she assumed that they would commute together. Meanwhile, her two toddlers were enrolled at a reputable daycare centre paid for by her.

As a pioneer member of the bank she was required to work longer than she envisaged. So her husband left her behind on most days of the week.

Plus: Utom Exigbo



Lateefa Okunnu — a strong woman

When she gets home every night, she has to start picking up after members of her family. Draw a bath for the kids. Cook dinner. Dust the bedrooms. Fetch water. Wash clothes. And prepare tomorrow's lunch. Her husband would merely sit in his favourite chair and watch his video.

By the time she finished cleaning up her hubby must have fallen asleep. Consequently, affairs of the heart were neglected. Moreso, as she felt anger instead of love when she looked at her husband. After two months of this 'insane' arrangement she handed in her resignation and returned to her old job. On a lesser pay. Closer home and with less hours of commuting. A semblance of normalcy has returned to that family. But the wife still resents being forced to abort her dream of breaking into the boardroom.

In the words of Lola Fani-Kayode, women and men don't respect each other's strengths and weaknesses. Instead of trying to play up your partner's strengths, there is a lot of anger and bitterness between the sexes. Especially among couples who have travelled out, are better educated, have seen a bit of the world, and know that the present arrangement is stacked against women.

According to Fani-Kayode since it is women that bring forth all kids into the world, it is only natural that they teach their siblings early enough to respect both men and women. They should be taught new values that will carry them through the '90s.

As a forty-year-old quipped, "It is too

late to start changing the guys in our lives. Unless you want to bend dried fish which will scatter into smotherens in your hands.

Meanwhile you can work on the young ones. **Raise your kids differently:** Share out chores evenly between your kids. Teach your boys how to cook and let them assist in the kitchen. Don't always let them off to play football when there are chores in the home. They may grow up thinking that they are God's gift to women.

Ask your partner for help: If you are on your feet from morning till night why not ask your husband to pitch in. He can conveniently shop after work, take clothes to the dry cleaners and pick kids from school. He can also bathe the kids while you're cooking. **Relax:** You are no superwoman. Why don't you eat canned foods for a change. Or bring home take-away packs. Learn to leave the kids with their Dads so that you can have a blissful hour at the salon. He'll not drown them before you come back. It will also not hurt them to eat baked beans on toast once in a while.

Don't clean up: Although you are used to shiny cookers, clean floors, if your hubby is holding court in the kitchen let him be. Remember, it's a whole new territory to him. Don't criticise him. Let him play by his own rules. Remember to eat up everything (even if it's burnt, not done, strong). Who knows he might take up cooking and reduce your hours in there. Your kids may also take after him.

Unical gets oxygen mask

... who attended Unical Endowment... raising Dinner knew they were going... a basket load of fun. But, Florence... iua, Chairman of the Committee, still... led them over with her attention to de... Choice of foods, wine, elegant and ex-

... quisite fashion, scintillating music and that... personal touch.

As the guests trooped home in the wee... hours they all chorused that it was a balm... outing. The kind that only an experienced... hostess can put together.

Here, Florence Ita-Giwa thanks Everest... Ojoegbu, Chief launcher for his fat cheque.

Fly, Richard, Fly

Richard Ikiebe, ex-personal assistant, ex-... roadcaster, ex-journalist(?) has now found... place in commerce. For him, no more... rounding the streets looking for scoops. Or

... jetting to the office to meet impossible dead-... lines. The only deadline he has to meet has... nothing to do with editorial, newsprint or... other production concerns. Simply busi-

After a long stint at Ministry of Informa-... tion, he has now landed a dream job. You... can only see him between the plushy con-... ferences of Nigeria-American Chamber of... Commerce. He is an Executive Director... and he now looks the part. We can only... say fly, Richard, fly like a diamond in the... sky. Nice to have 'one of us' (excuse our... audacity) up there for a change. Ladies,
Richard is still single and available!

Alpha's Trust

"That was a smart business idea, we... need to shake hands on it", Ogala Osaka,
NICON's MD and Godfrey Eneli, Alpha
Merchant Bank's Chairman seem to be
saying to themselves at the launching of
Alpha's Bond, while Bayo Kuku, Presi-
dent of the Stock Exchange examines a
document. The bond is a joint effort of
NICON and Alpha. Expectedly, financial
gurus, aspiring business people and ad-
mirers of finance were present at the cere-
mony.



Compiled by Mubo Okusun





by Pius Utomi Ekpeji & Sunday Ojelabi

Anybody who was anybody attended Abiola's bash for Sanni Zorro, President of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ). Even, Sheraton Hotel venue of the dinner party experienced an unusual 'go-slow' as those who could only be described as the nation's Who's who staged a mini motor and fashion fair. The cars and clothes on display could put Labanella and Ibrogba to shame.

Abiola was enveloped by a benevolent streak when he doubled Zorro's salary, upped his entertainment allowance and

provided a car for his 'presidential' legs. That was not all, his salary would be nestled safely in his account throughout his tenure of office. Lucky lad.

Guests included Alex Akanyeke, Minister for Information, Yemi Ogunbiyi, Daily Times' MD, Dayin Abiola, Concord's MD.

Elly Obasi, TSM's Executive Editor and other media celebrities.

Naira rain for Zorro



Mike Okri's second coming

Omoge man Mike Okri is now into rhumba. At least, the title of his new album was christened Rhumba dance, and was launched by Ken Caleb-Olumhese, Governor of Niteshift Club in Lagos.

Tony Okoraji, PMAN's President represented his organisation, while Phil Osagie, Quadrant's CEO claps excitedly.



No credit, just poise

If you run into ChnsOnalo, publisher of Credit-News, don't ask him for any credit. He will merely smile and lay on a load of poise at one, the strategy seems to be paying off him, which explains the wide beam on his company's coming of age. He is pictured with Mediline Tador, Poise Editor.

Events

OUR congratulations to Academy Press. — Our Printers on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. We are pleased to be associated with Academy — an excellent company. Here's wishing AP many more years of success. Cheers!

This is my story

People get to write or read their auto-biographies while alive. Gamba Sawaba is one of such people. Recently, in Kaduna, a book on her life was launched by Mustapha Dangi, a Kaduna businessman.

And politicians, newbreed ones, top-notch government officials, radical women's groups on the occasion.

The book was written by Rima Shawulu, a newspaper-based journalist and was published by Communications in the town.

Events

Calling all members of Uniben Alumni Association. A meeting will take place at I.T's premises, 4A Adokunle Fajuyi way, Ikeja, Lagos. Next Monday, 28th October, 1990. Time 2 p.m.



'BORN-again's go gay

As the fads and fancies of modernity assume dizzying heights, 'born-again's' abandon penitence for flamboyance.

By Amanza Obi

The world has gone awash with the trendy, the fashionable and the sensational. These are the stock-in-trade of tops and the blue stockings of society. The life style of these 20th century Jones and Joneses consists for the most part in exquisite hair-dos, flashy designer wears and painted lips for the womenfolk. The penitent 'born-again' abstained from this rat-race which was for him weird, wayward and therefore reprehensible.

But this was during those days of un-



Okotie...snappy dresser

conscionable orthodoxy. The inevitable wind of change is taking its toll on religion. The consequences are far-reaching, but the most common place is that the wavy line that hitherto sep-

rated the grain from the husk has worn thin and in some cases dissipated into thin air. The 'born-again' has been caught in the web of the changing face of the times.

Any wonder then that the religious sects in our university campuses are wearing a new look? Christ's Chapel of the University of Lagos is a comfortable worshipping place for these new-look 'born-again's'.

At this Chapel, one is constantly confronted with ladies roguishly dressed in tight-fitting jeans and sporting outrageous hair-dos.

Ghandi my dialectical friend was recently infuriated at this brazen display of charlatanism and decided to join issues with a top member of the sect. The 'born-again' was unrepentant about this trend. Like Lorine Okotie, she was of the opinion that the children of God can take to any form of dressing. It no longer mattered that appearance is an index of the inner self. The debate is taking shape but is yet to be neatly packaged. But Ghandi, like most others, was quick to remind this lady of a 'born-again' that the worship of God is the worship of the Absolute and since the Absolute does not change, those who worship him should be able to withstand the quicksand of a debilitating change.

Family Week

Many parents have trouble saying NO to preschoolers, but you can lay down the law — without raising a fuss — by following a few simple tips, says an expert.

Here's what you should do:

- Be consistent. Don't give in after saying NO or the child will learn that NO really means 'Maybe, not right now' or 'Push me a little bit more and you might get what you want'.
- Always try to have an alternative for the child. For example, if your child wants a cookie before dinner and keeps pestering you, realize that children need to eat more frequently than adults. So instead of saying a flat NO, offer a choice of either a few crackers or a small piece of fruit that won't spoil his or her appetite.
- For bedtime, have a consistent routine that allows your child time to wind down before going to sleep. For instance, after dinner, have the child take a bath, put pajamas on, climb into bed, listen to a few stories and then go to sleep.

"We've found that if parents are consistent with a routine, the children won't put up a fuss about going to bed." If you haven't been doing this, you may have a fuss for a short period

The right way for parents to say NO

of time. But if you become consistent, it won't take many days for your child to fall into a natural bedtime routine."

- For TV problems, restrict your child to one or two shows a day that you find acceptable. But don't just say, "you can't watch TV." Instead, offer an alternative, such as playing with toys, riding a bike or reading a story.
- Culled from *National Enquirer*.



Yohanna Kure — Minister of Culture

MILESTONES

ABOLISHED The law segregating public places in South Africa. President De Klerk said other legislations underpinning apartheid will be abolished next year.

PROPOSED By the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), a law seeking to deport to Nigeria for prosecution all non-Nigerians using Nigerian passports convicted of drug-trafficking offences. NDLEA Chairman, Fidelis Oyakhilome said this in an interview in Washington.

DISMANTLED By the government of President Elias Hrawi of Lebanon the green line that has long split the Lebanese capital into muslim and christian sectors. The move was in a bid to re-unify Beirut which has remained divided since the outbreak of the Civil War.

UNEMPLOYED A police post in Eastern Algeria by unemployed youths. The youths who also stoned a government building were protesting the way new jobs were being distributed.

HUNTING An 11-year-old girl patient in a London Hospital. British police are hunting for the rapist who entered the children's ward of a South London Hospital.

DRAUGHT In Burkina Faso a constitution denying legitimacy to regimes which take power through coups. The draft document which is awaiting president Blaise Compaore's approval was ironically submitted to him on the eve of the third anniversary of the coup d'etat which brought him to power.

REPRESENTED Three statues of President Saddam Hussein in Iraq in Kuwait city. A Kuwaiti refugee Fatima Hussein said the statues represented the Iraqi leader in military uniform, traditional Arab dress and Western-style suit.

RELEASED Former deputy Press Secretary to the governor of Niger State Mallam Nuhu Yarwa for allegedly abusing the governor's name to facilitate the allocation of 300 tonnes of cement from the Ashaka Cement Company to himself.

RELEASED By the federal government two controversial dons of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife. Professor Omoloye Olorode and Dr Idowu Awopetu. The dons who were released from a four-month detention on August 1, were retired for intellectual radicalism.

LEGALISED The new council of states under the transition programme. The council has president Ibrahim Babangida as its chairman, while the vice president and all former presidents

and heads of government are members. The council is established under Decree 27 of 1990

BIRTHDAYS



Fatayi-Williams — Birthday cheers

● 68 on Monday is Anthony Nnaemezie Anigolui, jurist, Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR), Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON), former Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, and Chairman, constituent Assembly 1988-89.

● 56 on Monday as well is Dr. Jonathan Chukwuemeka Okator, forest conservator and member, International Horticultural Society. He is also a holder of the traditional title of Ezike Nnabuanyi.

● 68 also on Monday is Atanda Fatayi-Williams, jurist, Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CON), Chairman, legal practitioners privileges committee, and life member, Body of Benchers, Nigerian Bar Association.

● 51 still on Monday is Ademola Oluwemi Atanda, agriculturist, administrator, and member, National Council for Agriculture. He is also an executive member of the Genetics Society of Britain and a holder of the traditional title of the Eketa Oba of Iwo.

● 62 on Wednesday is Most Reverend David Eyo Ekpudem, clergyman, National chaplain and leader, National Pilgrimages to Rome, Jerusalem and Lourdes. He is the author of the book *The church in the era of Cultural Revival*.

● 59 on Thursday is Akinola Aparo, jurist and author of the books *The law is for us* and *Introduction to legal practice*.

WISDOMS

"PEOPLE generally quarrel because they cannot see their own faults."
— Voltaire

"BEHIND every argument is someone's ignorance."
— Louis D Brandeis

"ALL mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move."
— Arabian proverb

"THERE is nothing to which men cling more tenaciously than the privileges of class."
— Leonard Sidney Woolf

"CLEVERNESS is not wisdom."
— Euripides

"COMMON sense is very uncommon."
— Horace Greeley

"TO speak kindly does not hurt the tongue."
— Proverb

"A GIRL is innocence playing in the mud, Beauty standing on its head, and motherhood dragging a doll by the foot."
— Alan Beck

"It is a common Phenomenon that just the prettiest girls find it so difficult to get a man."
— Heinrich Heine

"I NEVER know how to worship until I know how to love."
— Henry Ward Beecher

"LOVE built on beauty, soon as beauty dies."
— John Donne

"THE only good in pretending is the fun we get out of fooling ourselves that we fool somebody."
— Booth Tarkington

"WORRY is interest paid on trouble before it is due."
— William Ralph Inge

"OLDER men declare war. But is the youth that must fight and die."
— Herbert Horner

"FAINT heart never won fair lady."
— Miguel de Cervantes

"COWARDS can never be moral."
— Mahatma Gandhi

"AMBITION is the last refuge of failure."
— Oscar Wilde

"WE grow small trying to be great."
— E Stanley Jones

Compiled by Amanze Obi

A-Z

of slimming

A — **Asparagus:** only 5 calories an ounce and it makes a meal in itself. Steam until soft, serve with melted low calorie margarine and lots of freshly milled black pepper.

B — **Brain:** Choose a bran based cereal for your breakfast, it tastes good and needs no sugar. It also gives you the fibre the daily diet needs.

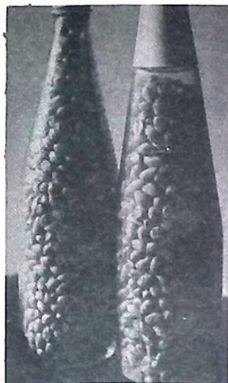
C — **Calories:** Our bodies need them for fuel, but please don't overstock the boiler. 1500 is all you need to lose those odd pounds

D — **Depression:** Cure it with lots of exercise plus absorbing hobbies. Fill each day with interesting tasks, you'll soon forget all about that diet you're trying to stick to, and the weight will just melt away

E — **Eggs:** The dieter's friend, a marvelously neat package of protein and just 80 calories for a medium sized one

F — **Fish:** Light — delicious — quick to cook — easy to digest, we should eat lots more of it than we do

G — **Garden:** If you have one make the most of it. Create a salad garden and for yourself, it looks as pretty as flowers and tastes a whole lot better. What could be nicer than really crisp fresh vegetables every day they're in season.



Nutty and nice

H — **Herbs:** We can't go on about them too much. Why not nip along to your local health food shop and sample some of the more unusual kinds.

I — **iced Tea:** A refreshing drink on a hot day especially in Summer when the craving for high cal fizzy drinks is at its strongest. Make a nice tall glass of tea add chunks of ice, some lemon slices and sprigs of mint. It's very refreshing and from a distance looks like an exotic drink.

J — **Junk Food:** Try not to be lured into hamburger joints and pizza parlours while you're trying to cut calories. The aroma alone could tempt you from the narrow path, the only answer is to run past very quickly.

K — **Kidneys:** As meat goes only 25 calories per ounce, and that's pretty low. To cook these to perfection without being too dry, first slice thinly then

seal them quickly by dry frying in a non stick pan. Add a can of tomatoes some chopped onion a few herbs and some seasoning. Simmer for about 15 minutes and you have a delicious low cal meal.

L — **Love:** The best way we know of losing weight is to fall in love — try it soon! Watch out though! It's marriage that puts on the weight, all those lovely home cooked meals.

M — **Men:** Wives have to watch their waistlines for them. It's a hard task trying to convince them that salads can be fun, and that it's really not necessary to have potatoes with every meal!

N — **Nuts:** Keep away from the peanuts at parties. Just one or two will soon turn into handfuls and then turn into extra pounds.

O — **Octopus:** Yes Octopus! It's very low in calories, only 20 per ounce. The difficult part is catching one. Seriously, look out for Octopus or squid in your more exotic fishmongers and experiment with the fabulous greek dishes that include them.

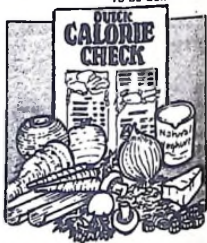
P — **Parties:** A slimmer's nightmare! If you don't think they'll have the low cal drinks and nibbles you need then take your own. An understanding host will always be sympathetic, so go ahead.

Q — **Quality:** We must learn to eat less meat, it's very high in fat — make sure the little you do eat is the very best quality.

R — **Rabbit:** Don't be put off by thoughts of watership down type bunnies. This is a delicious light meat similar to chicken and only 35 calories an ounce.

Culled from SI in Magazine.

To be Continued



Stay - well

By Shegun Oloni

James Ayena, a 40 year old bank executive, reported to the hospital with a 2 year history of upper stomach pain. The pain, which he described as peppery in character often came when he was hungry. The pain was however relieved by eating, or drinking milk. As a bank executive with a very tight business schedule, there was little or no time to eat a proper meal.

After a few medical tests were carried out in the clinic, the doctor told him he had a duodenal ulcer. James was given some antacids, anti-cholinergic and sedative drugs and was told to avoid spicy foods, and al-

cohol. His symptoms improved tremendously after this. This illustration shows the extent eating habits have on health. Improper feeding may result in malnutrition.

Malnutrition is the lack of necessary or proper food substances in the body or the improper absorption and distribution of them.

Among the poor malnutrition could be related to under-nutrition but among the elite or the affluent in the society malnutrition could be over-nutrition or improper selection of foods.

Overnutrition in the form of the intake of too much food could lead to Obesity (body weight 20-30% over the normal average weight for a person's age, and height). This health problem may even cause diabetes. Lack of adequate exercise even with a normal diet may also be a cause of obesity. Excess fat intake is often reflected in an overweight problem. Preference for a high meat intake which also contains a lot of fat could contribute to the aforementioned health hazard. This problem is especially common among the elite who believe that the more protein you eat, the better it is for one's health.

To meet the body's daily requirements for protein, only between 55-65g of meat is necessary. It is a common practice among the elite to consume as much as 250g of meat at lunch time. Specific examples are executives who spend their lunch time eating "one naira eba with twenty naira meat".

At most dining tables it is customary to see the father with 4 or 5 pieces

of meat while the growing child has only one piece, even though the child needs more dietary protein to augment both physical and mental development. Girls too, who want to lose weight, cut out other food items and eat only meat not realizing that meat with fat has many more calories than bread, rice or other carbohydrate — containing food. Because of the changing nature of the society, many people now eat more meals outside their homes. Mostly, junk foods. An average student

would probably consume bread, butter and jam with tea in the morning, a meat pie and a cake in the afternoon and probably a packet of biscuits, cake and another bottle of coke. An analysis of this shows that the only protein for the day was probably the 'meat' in the meat pie which is usually just an empty pastry case anyway. Sodium is usually high in processed canned foods and is thus injected in excess leading to illnesses such as high blood pressure.

The following recommendations are essential for a healthier eating

a. Balanced diets should be eaten on a daily basis. Especially adequate fibers and vitamins containing foods such as fruits and vegetables.

b. Snacks and canned food should as often as possible be replaced by freshly cooked foods. Foods should be prepared in such a way that their natural tastes and nutrients are preserved. Boiling, baking, and steaming are better alternatives to frying when possible.

c. Eat just what is enough for one person and not for two even when pregnant.

d. Three properly spaced out meals is a much better alternative to an enormous meal in the afternoon. This would help prevent ulcer. Also try not to leave the stomach completely empty at any particular time.

Shegun Oloni is a medical practitioner in Lagos.

The malnourished executive

Now a growing army as people snack on their jobs, instead of eating proper meals.



Say no to snacks



Money

By Dan Onwukwe

The members of Okoro's family of Ogula in Imo State will hardly forget the event of March 30, 1986. It was the day, it seemed, the whole world came crashing on them. Their son, Samuel 39, had a good news from his work place in Lagos. He has just been promoted as a manager at the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL). The home people must hear this and celebrate with me, he seemed to have said. And happily he left for home. But the good news was soon to turn sour. A few kilometres to his village, his car somersaulted onto a cemetery. And the man died leaving the family in deep sorrow. He was the 'bread winner' of the entire family.

Collecting his gratuity from government was an interminable agony for the family. Processing of the vital documents at the National Provident Fund (NPF) in Lagos took so long and cost the family so much in money and energy. And when the money came eventually, it was too small to take care of even the basic needs. It was one test case of the perils of social insecurity in our work places. Death and retirement in Nigeria had since independence become a nightmare for many a Nigerian worker. Many of them suffer unimaginable indignities ranging from lost status, lower income and psychological trauma. Where

Can Nigeria afford a social security scheme?

Thirty years after independence, workers call for a social welfare scheme.

But many questions beg for answers.

gratuities and pensions exist as in the public sector, the amount of money paid hardly goes any where in meeting the problems on the ground.

The essence of all these problems, many believe, will find an enduring solution in a social security scheme for the worker. The Nigerian Union of Pensioners at its National Executive Council meeting in Sokoto last November drew attention to this problem faced by retirees. That's one. At a seminar in Lagos recently, attention was drawn to the need for a social security scheme for the workers. An arrangement in which the unemployed, retirees and invalid workers are entitled to a basic means of livelihood, whether they have worked or not. It is a protection against adverse economic hardships.

Over the years, workers of various societies have sought solution to the uncertainties of old age, unemployment and sudden death. One workable solution was found when working men formed mutual benefit societies. Through these organisations resources were pooled and benefits were paid to members who were unable to work, either due to lack of job opportunities, sickness or old age. And in case(s) of death, payments were also made to their families, next of kins or dependants. With time, it came to be recognised that both private labour employers and government did have some responsibility to play, particularly towards protecting their retired workers from destitution.

This new thinking was further reinforced by the awareness that it's sheer exploitation to make use of the worker at his prime and dump him.

The growing concern for the aged and the uncertainties of the future does not apply to the industrialized nations alone. Recent UN research in Nigeria shows that those between the ages of 60 and above will increase 15 times by the year 2,000. However, the call for a social security in the country

dates back to 1980 when the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) presented the 'workers charter of demands' to the Shehu Shagari administration. In the charter, the NLC urged the government to make recommendation for the establishment of a social security system in the country. TSM gathered



M.K.O. Abiola ... workers deserve a fair deal

but although a ministerial committee which was set up by government in 1985 recommended for a social security scheme in the country, nothing has been done about it, five years after the recommendation was made.

The recommendation notwithstanding, the important question is can Nigeria afford a social security scheme in the face of present economic climate and the size of the labour force? Who will manage the scheme, and how will the contribution to such fund be made?

These are questions that of course attract divergent views points. Of course Batayau, President of the NLC, says there is no doubt that the country can afford it. Said he: "The truth is that Nigeria is still rich as ever". Our Petroleum resources he argues is still high \$18-20 on the average (and) our non-oil exports are also impressive", he said. What the country needs, says Batayau is prudent management of its resources. Present economic hardships, the NLC boss said has made it necessary for government to intervene on behalf of the workers. "To leave them to their fate", he argues "can no more meet the standards of civilised conduct", stressing that the United States government did exactly the same thing during the great depression and Europe after the second world war.

MKO Abiola, the Concord Press helmsman was handy to lend support to Batayau's call for a social security scheme. As one of the largest private employers, Abiola calls for a scheme where the employer will be obliged to contribute in proportion to the number of employees. Nigeria's cultural environment, Abiola noted has made it necessary for people to be their 'brothers keepers', stressing further that Nigeria needs a comprehensive welfare scheme. Abiola's views apparently, were informed by what obtains in efficient liberal economies like Japan where until 3 years ago, the government provided virtually every welfare need of its citizens.

It was a proposal which Batayau does not fancy because of our national peculiarities. Said Batayau: "I am not proposing a universal social security programme which will cover everybody what I'm saying is that we've to first accept the idea of social security for all our citizens as a first step in line with our national peculiarities and resources and implement those aspects we can carry". It was obviously a departure from what many workers expected. Said Paschal Idowu, representing the Nigeria Lites and Pensions Scheme. "If government does not agree to substantial increase

in the workers' wages, it should be ready to foot the entire bill".

E.S. Ejuba, regional director for social security in Africa tilts his argument along a middle ground. Said he, "you can't talk of economic progress without social security. The two should be combined", though short of recommending a comprehensive welfare scheme, govt., he says should think about the future of its aged and those going on retirement.

TSM investigations shows that African countries such as Mali, Benin, republic and Zaire with far less Gross national product (GNP) than Nigeria are already running a social welfare scheme for its workers. While Nigeria's GNP is put at N670, that of Zaire is N168, Benin republic N200 and Mali N152. Any worker according to Ejuba who has contributed to the benefit of any organisation or company needs adequate financial rewards.

Another unresolved question is if the new proposal for a social welfare scheme gets government blessing, will it be part of the government

owned NPF. Some of the participants like MKO Abiola and Paschal Batayau believe the NPF as it is currently constituted cannot effectively handle the new scheme. It is not difficult to see the reasons. The NPF established in 1961 to provide economic protection to contributors in old age have come under severe criticisms lately. These range from the fund's alleged slow pace of work, financial mismanagement and subservience to political pressures.

The finance of the fund bears this out. With about 2.6 million registered members, only 600,000 paid their N96 annual premium in 1988. And with high inflationary rate and inadequate interest rates, will the N96 from each contributor be enough to establish such a big capital intensive programme? It's a question that sentiment is bound to rise.

Nonetheless, it's a scheme which many see as an answer to their prayers. And only government, it seems certain now can finally resolve the knotty problem arising.

Foreigners pull the strings

Allison Ayida on the economy

By Chudi Okoye

In much of its traditional role as the currency of a sovereign nation, Nigeria's Naira is fast yielding place to the American dollar. Such is the situation that a widening range of local transactions are now unabashedly denominated in dollar terms.

This revelation was made last week in Lagos, at the 25th Anniversary Lecture of Academy Press Ltd. by Allison Ayida, a top brass of the private sector. According to Ayida, this alarming situation arises from "high" inflationary pressures and substantial devaluation of the Naira. More worrisome, the former permanent secretary said, is fact that determining the currency's value is not, as supposed, left to market forces, but to the preferences of Nigeria's creditors laundered through the Central Bank's so-called Intelligence Network. Arguing that undue prominence has been given to the Naira's external parity, Ayida declared: "an undervalued naira enhances continued foreign domination of the (Nigerian) economy".

This foreign domination, he said, may equally be occasioned by one of SAP's major planks, the attraction of foreign capital. Although foreign investment capital is often said to be supportive of local development effort, Ayida wondered how really beneficial it is in view of the unwholesome practices and questionable credentials of some foreign investors. For instance, he disclosed, some foreign investors who are now pulling out of the country dispose of their shares in 'off-shore deals' behind the back of their Nigerian partners, and often without the approval of appropriate authorities like the Ministry of Finance. Even so, he said, the new foreign partners in some cases come with nothing useful in terms of management and technical know-how. In the end therefore, the nation gains very little while laying its land bare for foreigners.

Issues like this, Ayida urged should form part of the 'unfinished business' which a National Conference ought to resolve before the final transition to civil rule in 1992.

Big business is good!

— Rufus Giwa,

LBN boss, reflects on how it feels at the top of the Billionnaira mountain.

By Chudi Okoye & Kayode Samuel

His handshake was warm and quite eager, but somehow it had the feel of a steel grip. He was quick to turn on a welcoming grin, however, a Rambo scowl couldn't have been more chilling. And although he spoke with a lilt, his voice carried the unmistakable rasp of authority. When he finally sank into his cushy executive highback, ready to attend to his overwhelmed visitors, there was no guessing why this man sits atop a billionnaira business.

Rufus Giwa is the topman of one of Nigeria's hottest private business concerns, Lever Brothers of Nigeria, LBN. By mid-span this year, when word of private sector performance last year had nearly sifted all through, a most astonishing fact became evident: several topnotch companies with preponderant private equity had hit the billion naira mark in turnover. This historic achievement, matched only by kingsize parastatal accounts, was made in a year the Nigerian economy, as the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria reckons, "was still in trauma."

Giwa's LBN is a member of this exclusive club of billionaires. Even more, it appears to hold its own well enough in that group's pecking order (see table). A couple of weeks ago, in his tasteful office in Lagos, Giwa sat down to parley with TSM.

For all the rave his company's (and the others') achievement has caused, Rufus Giwa appeared unexcited. As he sees it, there is nothing particularly special about a billion naira turnover. "It is just that a billion naira is a landmark: (that's why) people have been talking about it." Nonetheless, he goes on to tell TSM how such a feat was wrought.

The present achievement, Giwa says, is merely a moment in a long-begun process of growth. That process, which he says had set his company's fortunes on upward trend in previous years, consists in heavy investment in human resources, in facilitation of acceptance of lower profit margins to

boost sales. In shrewd emphasis on production preferences which recognise constricted consumer purse, and in increasing use of local raw materials, thereby obviating foreign exchange-induced exigency.

Plausible as this explanation may seem, it does appear to ignore two possibly contributory factors, factors to which industry watchers ascribe a great deal of weight. By way of explaining the striking performance of billionnaira companies last year, observers have pointed to their operational maturity which, they say, can only be gained from long years of existence. In addition, they claim that almost all of these companies have a fund of external infrastructures to which they can always fall back. This is a reference, not just to the substantial foreign interest in nearly all of these companies, but even more tellingly, to the 'heavy' component of externally-sourced machinery at the disposal of these companies.

These observations, cynical though they seem, raise a number of issues: Is the high command of Nigeria's private sector dominated by companies governed by external impulses? And if this is given, how does it impact on the output of government's economic policy?

For Rufus Giwa, these questions do not begin to arise. There is, he retorts, absolutely no question of a handful of companies hijacking government policy. "What we do," he announces, "is that together as a group with other companies and associations like MAN and NACCIMA we make our own contribution to government on important economic issues. Anything that is not in the overall interest is of no value because government policy is not supposed to service the interest of just one company."

Still, certain questions linger. With the current spate of mergers and acquisitions, aren't we moving to a situation where control of the economy will be in the hands of a few mega-companies, as in South Korea, India and elsewhere? "I think mergers and acquisitions are good for a growing economy," was Giwa's unequivocal response.

For good reason, it appears. For in 1985 LBN lacked Lipton in an embrace of merger. Three years later it enfolded CPL in another bout of merger. But Giwa says it's all in good spirit. "Combinations of capability" he declares, "help rescue weak com-



Giwa: no big deal

Roll Call of Billionaires

Company	Turnover N'000	Profit before tax N'000
UACN	1,389,241	24,176
First Bank	1,151,494	163,044
UBA	1,145,800	116,445
SCOA	1,132,103	38,094
Lever Brothers	1,134,054	248,244
National Oil	1,086,928	76,995
Union Bank	1,059,418	152,409
Total	1,046,785	77,512
Guinness	1,001,894	162,185

Continued on Page 31



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No fraud here

NDE boss moves swiftly to douse the fire of N20 million fraud allegation



Chuku Wachuku

The NDE boss said he called the conference to correct the inaccuracies, and misrepresentations contained in the report. This, he added, is imperative "considering the strategic importance of NDE in the framework of the structural adjustment programme of the present military administration with particular emphasis on the development of private initiative, and enterprise, the strengthening of the economy and the development of self-reliance".

He says that what actually took place was a simple, internal programme audit aimed at narrowing the gap between policy objective as formulated at the headquarters and their implementation in the field. This self-appraisal exercise, in his words, "is a commitment on the part of the NDE, to ensure that accountability reigns supreme in all its operations".

The NOAS and SPW programmes, according to the director-general, are very dynamic and this was why the first phase of the directorate's work was targeted at these two programmes. "Illuminating the essence of each programme, Wachuku says that the SPW was created to provide temporary employment for the participants. These participants leave as soon as they obtain permanent jobs. To determine the number of people actively involved in the programme and those who have passed through it, the D—G states that there is a serious need for taking stock of its participants".

Cases of trainees absconding from the programme, unilateral expulsion of some by trainers and graduation of some trainees in the case of NOAS call for periodic stock-taking with a view to filling the vacancies created, the DG added.

Chuku Wachuku expressed his awareness of numerous complaints nationwide from people who for one reason or the other missed the registration exercise and says the management is looking into the matter.

The differences reported in the said newspaper report, he believes, are accounted for by the omitted candidates and the unco-operative attitude of trainers who delay reports on trainees' absenteeism. The NDE, in his words, "has introduced monitoring procedures to ensure that only trainees who are regular in their training are kept on pay roll". A personal

audit, according to Wachuku, was recently carried out to ensure that no ghost names are on pay roll. In the same vein, the Loans Co-ordinations Branch is being strengthened to ensure that beneficiaries repay their loans promptly.

He appeared relaxed for a man rumoured to be in the thick of an alleged scandal. Without allowing much of the syndrome called "African time" to manifest itself, he promptly welcomed journalists in the conference hall of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE). Chuku Wachuku kicked off the press conference by expressing his press appreciation of the Nigerian press for the interest it shows in the activities of NDE in the form of constructive criticism and reporting of its achievements, problems and prospects. These he says "have been of tremendous assistance to the fine-tuning of NDE's Job Creation Programme".

He however regrets the recent publication on the activities of NDE carried in a weekly newspaper, a report he tagged a departure from the hitherto constructive reports. The publication, among other things, mentioned an alleged N20 million fraud uncovered by a panel of auditors that probed NDE's account from 1987 to 1989, especially the National Open Apprenticeship Scheme (NOAS) and the Social Public Works (SPW) programme where between 6 and 25 per cent of NOAS trainees and SPW participants are said to be ghost workers, with the state officials hilling their deep pockets with the ghost workers' allowances.

plummeting returns. For Giwa, however, who presides over substantial foreign investment himself, this should not raise hairs. "The fact that a few individuals are selling their interests in Nigeria does not mean that most people are doing it." On the contrary, he discloses, many foreign-owned companies are investing more and more to consolidate the local production base. And naturally he reels off quite a few of his company's endeavours in that respect. Giwa is hopeful that if the few problems hindering foreign investment are properly addressed, things "will turn out right". He exults, "Nigeria is a country of the future."

And when TSM wondered about LBN's place in that future when it tends to shun the Nigerian financial market, Giwa declared: "we don't need it."

Q: Is it that you generate enough resources from within?

A: Yes. We are strong, reliable and resilient.

Little wonder then his handshake, though instinctively friendly, had the feel of a steel grip.

Continued from Page 28

Big business

panies from demise. They tend to energise the huge ones," thereby creating "opportunity for companies with the managerial and financial muscle to help the smaller ones".

Tactically backing down on that note, TSM drew Giwa into other topical issues. What does big business consider a realistic exchange rate for the Naira? After tossing and turning around the question, the LBN boss ends up with the guarded inexactitude of an involved actor. "It is a question of the kind of economic policies a country is pursuing."

However, on the question of capital flight, Giwa is more forthcoming. Reports have it that in recent time a number of foreign investors have pulled out on account mainly of



Arty stuff

An artist

"If art is to nourish the roots of our culture, society must set the artist free to follow his vision wherever it takes him."
— J. In F. Kennedy

By Dan Onwukwe

ations are often held together by interestingly diverse habits which they give much pleasure to. For it's their culture. But it's astonishing how modernisation has eroded most of the nation's rich cultural relics. Though some of these have been poached, some smuggled out, some still stand firm begging for attention and revival. No one perhaps sees this more clearly than Ben Nwosa.

Nearly everyday in the past two years, the young man has taken pains traveling across the country, sometimes by train. His mission: noting and painting the different cultures of the people. And how he sees culture in its proper perspective. Which is why for the last six days (Oct 16-21), lovers of art and indeed, admirers of Nigeria's diverse cultural heritage thronged the Didi Museum in Lagos to witness Ben's exhibition of paintings titled *Culture in Perspective*.

The artist's theme draws its inspiration from man and nature with the environment conditioning his moods through a richness of cultural creativity with the centre court of course, being Nigeria's different cultures presented in an illuminating low relief. The simplicity of style, says the artist, is part of a process toward understanding and appreciation of the different cultures in the country. The artist's works tell a great deal of the story. Take *Across the manne*, Ben's impression of the Egun Fishing women in the ancient city of Badagry. Here, the message is lucid and simple. It's man and his culture richly conditioned by the environment, thoughts and beliefs. Recalling his experience on *Across the manne*, Ben said, "what I've found out in my journey is that culture is diverse... what may be regarded as a taboo in one culture may be a pleasurable pastime in another culture and these things cannot be erased off. His work, *The Argungu* bears this out. It's a journey to the great fishing festival in Sokoto State. Making good use of *graffiti*, the

artist breaks loose
Ben Nwosa's avid hunger for knowledge and beauty is replicated in vivid colours

artist amply shows how the Liberty Dam close to the festival site has enriched the culture of the people-making it a national pastime.

If you found the painting a peculiarity in culture, that certainly cannot be said of the *mask and motifs* - another of the artist's work. Here, he deliberately sets out to achieve unity in culture by 'marrying' the different costumes and motifs used in the traditional settings of the north and south. A very conscious part of the artist's style

Sinde - Theabe



Ben Nwosa's *The mask*

(which is impressionistic) is the way he uses colours to create a design and emphasize the formlessness of the earth. They are not abstract works. They are works you can physically identify with. In the *Return of the wine tapper*, blue, yellow and red colours are lavishly used to enhance beauty as well as tell a story. The effect: to create unity among the different ethnic groups in the country which he tries to achieve through the three major colours. *Jos around the railway* is rather very easy to decipher. It is how man has been conditioned by his environment and man drawing his inspiration from nature.

It's interesting how Ben became a 'disciple' of culture. As a final year student at the Yaba College of Technology, the artist spent more time art appreciation and its essentials to man. In fact, while his mates were busy putting their imagination into painting, the 29-year old artist found it more rewarding to travel across the country.

Looking at him now it seems the man did not alter all detail on his path to follow his own vision and his ability seems strengthened and increased by culture. Recounts the artist, "All through my journey I was able to notice all cultures that people in the north/south are not very familiar with and my experience is that we bring out what we have, what have been and what will continue to be into perspective."

The exhibition (the first solo by the artist) ends today. But not without making its mark which is an exploration into the diverse cultural settings in the country - and an attempt to re-awaken cultural revival. And like a delectable object, the exhibition brought together cultural revivalists like the Oba Akran of Badagry and the representatives of Sarkin Kudu of Sokoto State, Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido

From Abidjan with love

A dance drama that must be seen.



Strong survival instinct

By Zik Okafor

It is not just a dance drama, it is an African theatre, a total theatre combining music, song, dance and mime. The message is simple: the willingness of a people to survive in spite of all odds.

This is what Souleymane Koly, the director of *The Group Koteba of Abidjan*

brings to *L'Hotel Eko Meridien* on Saturday, 3rd of November 1990 as he stages *Commander Jupiter and his black Nouchis* courtesy of French Cultural Centre and Fougerolle Nigeria Ltd.

Using the Bambara tradition as a mirror, *Koteba* reflects on the tenacious will to survive in a modern African town life. The protagonist Koffi, and his adolescent group sometimes called *Louts* are too proud and arrogant to take just any job that comes their way because of their superior academic qualification. But this same qualification also makes their dream job and status a mirage as it is not good enough.

But there is a strong need to survive. This survival quest drives Koffi and his group to the street where a tragic misunderstanding and the tickleness of man combine to land Koffi

in jail.

Once out of jail, his father's failure to understand him coupled with his intolerance leaves him once again in the street where he teams up with *Nouchis* who baptizes him *Jupiter*. Despite their violent language and gesture, this group is saved by its tenderness.

Billed to take place beside the swimming pool of the five-star hotel, *Koteba* will no doubt ring a memory bell whenever dance drama is discussed.



STARDUST



Burt Reynolds — stinging remarks

NOT all NTA stars are into cars. Not all of them compete feverishly for the latest Daewoo, Mercedes, Volvo or Mazda coupes. At least, Joan Odwyer ex-newscaster, now business correspondent, was sighted on Wednesday morning on Adetokunba Ademola Road, Victoria Island, Lagos. Clad in red skirt suit and black top she looked like a real sizzler. In the morning sun that was just breaking out she waited patiently for a cab. Instead of zooming to work in a race car like counterparts. Glad to see that some girls like them simple. Carry on Joan.

HAVE you been tuning in lately? To the tube, that is. The latest offering is what they have tagged celebrity delight. The past episodes have featured Dr. Kiki and Art Flade at their dining tables handing out recipes like the Ten Commandments. Dayin Osegle-Okogie is the hostess; she has now buried her acerbic wit and sardonic humour. She is now a dainty hostess trying to draw out information from her celebrity guests.

Relax, lipstick, everyone knows it's a different ball game when you are holding the wrong end of the baron. But you are handling time programme. So keep the intelligent talk away from the table as there are few people who can talk sense while munching.

Wonder why NTA is giving us an overdose of sports. We all look forward to the hours set aside for sports every Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Prime-time (8-9 p.m.) on Sundays has never been a sporting on its 30 million viewers we just thought we should formally register our resignation from that club. NTA should look elsewhere to make up that figure.

SOME ex-lovers manage to stay civil to each other long after the fire of their romance has smouldered. Not Burt Reynolds and Joan Rivers. They are still at each other's throats, dragging each other down or smearing muck where it would hurt the most. On a recent episode of her talk-show, a guest referred to the growing popularity of Burt Reynolds's show. Joan Rivers was livid when she roared, "who cares? I don't want to discuss him. Let him take his toupee (wig) and drop dead."

Reynolds was equally caustic in his reply, "I don't like anything about that lady - including the fact that she's alive! She has all the sensitivity of a wart. Only a wart is better looking!"

ARE you one of Shina Peters' fans? Have you bothered to ask why his American tour slated to last 4 weeks is going into its sixth week? Well, we hasten to say that it's not only in Nigeria that *Shina mania* has become a fad. We hear that African - Americans and Nigerians in 'God's own country' are hooked to the Afro-juju music. Information reaching *Stardust* says the Nigerian Community in Dallas (Texas) have asked the Afro-juju maestro to prolong the tour by at least two weeks. And you can guess right what goes with it 'dollar rain', of course. And with the dollars raked in so far, the guy can sleep anywhere he likes even in the *moon*.

THIS gist is for you if you are shopping for a financier for one of those mind-blowing projects. You see, a smart dude like you was



Shina wows them in US



Joan Rivers — still smarming

recently conned out of his project. *Stardust* heard that these poor souls went to this millionaire that's been shooting bills straight from his hips for financing.

Because they were not on appointment he told them to leave all the relevant papers for his perusal. He feligned enough interest in their product for the guys to trust him with their original blueprint. When they came back at the appointed time, the money bag politely told them that he was not interested in investing in publishing. They left glodly. After all he had been frank with them. They had earlier cooled their heels for six months of someone else's apartment.

Now, these folks are said to be screaming blue murder because the guy who appeared disinterested in their project is now working on a similar one. Same name, same concept. Coincidence? Brainwave? We call it: "Ojo boju." "money yob man."

Meanwhile, our poor folks are still looking for funds hoping that theirs will come out looking different.

CANDICE Bergen has rediscovered fame in her new series "Murphy Brown" she is still desperately unhappy. Fame, bucks, hubby, Louis Malle (French director) and Chloe (14 year-old daughter) are not enough to make her happy like ordinary folks.

Bergen 44, still itches to make another baby, according to her, "I made the biggest mistake of my life by waiting so long to start my family. If I'd started at a younger age, I could have had the two children I'd desperately love to have."

With her packing in million of viewers every week, Bergen cannot take time off to have a baby. And the producers cannot even write in pregnancy into a character that is single, bossy and hates kids. Guess you can't have it all



Sporting

By Ochereome Nnanna

Liberian kiddies circle

The black kid with hooded eyes was aiming a crooked smile down at his mate who was lying flat on his back, smiling up at the ceiling. Both of them had tez caps screwed on at rakish angles on their heads. Two of their colleagues stood around, part-taking in a leisurely banter.

The language they spoke sounded like English, but you were not so sure because they gargled it around in their mouths before emitting it in a fast tempo. You cocked your ears to one side and started catching phrases of the Liberian slang that ricocheted around the room. They were talking football. One of them, the one with a Nigerian father, turned to the oldest person in their group and said:

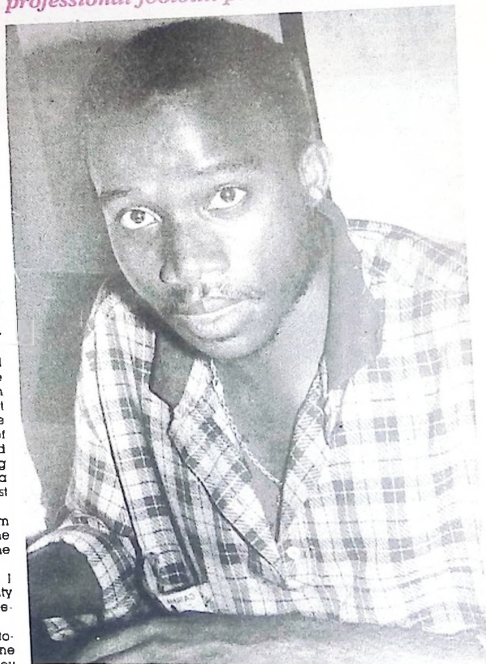
"This man, so so woman make am to stop playing football!" Amidst the mischievous chuckle that ensued, the oldest man protested:

"No no no! Not woman. When I played for Fulani FC, we beat Mighty Brnolie, we beat IE (Invincible Eleven), we beat..."

This group sounded and looked totally relaxed, apparently without one care in the world. Strange, for they were part of the ECOMOG "casta-

TSM Sporting sifts through the Liberian castaways and comes up with Mohammed Koneh, a France-based professional football promoter.

African coup in Marseille



Koneh: as calculating as a fox

as Captain and play friendly matches with national teams of African countries. We've played Gabon, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Senegal so far".

Koneh admits that all these countries are Francophone, but says, "that is why I am happy to be here. I will make contact with the Nigerian authorities. I will like Nigeria to be the first Anglophone country to invite the African Eleven of France. I have talked to your national chief coach (Tunde Disu). If it works, we may be here in June or December, 1991 to play a match, especially if Nigeria qualifies for Senegal '92".

For now, Koneh says, *Mondial* is preparing to help the newly independent State of Namibia to set up a viable football association, a contract which, he says, is a voluntary service, because it only involves expert advice. "I will be in Windhoek by the end of this month".

Job for the boys

As of the time of this chat last Monday, Koneh and his motley group of teenage footballers were still refugees. They were among the naval regurgitated by a Nigerian naval ship on the Apapa quays five days earlier. As relaxed as they looked, they still had that unmistakable stamp of the refugee on them, even if they were "high class" refugees that could pay for a posh hotel room for ten days.

The thing is, Koneh came home to Liberia in May, this year, and walked into a war. His mission was to gather two junior Liberian players — Victor Konwlo, (17 who played for Mighty Barrolo before the war broke out)



Among friends: Luc Sonor (right) Roger Mendig and Youssouf Fofana

and Ayodele Peters, (16, a player of Invincible Eleven, a first division side). Ayodele's father is a Nigerian.

He was still sniffling around like a hungry jackal for talented youths when the big guns of war started booming in Monrovia.

"We all decided to stay indoors, thinking it was another coup that will be over in four days", he recalled. As the war intensified, everybody scattered in all directions. Victor and Ayodele later learned that Koneh was holed up in a 5 star hotel in the Prince Johnson territory. The lads, who were caught in the Samuel Doe area, took a chance of their lives. It took two days of empty stomach, bullet dodging and 18-mile trekking before they found themselves in the African Hotel, where Koneh was staying.

The airport had been sealed, and they were trapped in the theatre of war. One day, mercurial Prince Yormie Johnson came around with his military bandits and ordered that nobody should be allowed to make a beeline for the ECOMOG rescue ship that bobbed on the shores of the Monrovia port. "This is a Liberian problem", Johnson was quoted as saying, "everybody must stay and help us to solve it".

Soon after his departure, one Captain Isa, a Nigerian platoon commander, led 15 soldiers to the hotel, disarmed Johnson's guards and herded the refugees to the ship enroute Freetown, Sierra Leone.

For now, the kids are dependent on Koneh. He intends to sign them on with Caen FC Sports Institute in Marseille, where they will play for the junior team of the French division one club

They will earn 1,000 dollars per month and enjoy free board, feeding and health care. When they are big and good enough, they will sign formal contracts with the senior team. That is the time *Mondial Promotion* will begin, getting their own cut of the cake.

"We can't touch their pocket money until they can play for senior sides", he declared.

Mohammed Koneh has already been to Kano, on the look-out for good intermediate strikers and he is impressed with his find.

"I will be back in November when I will visit Bendel. I hear Bendel has good footballers, especially the youths. I will talk with NFA before I take away any national player.

"We don't believe in sneaking players through the border".

TSM Sporting, at your request

On TSM Sporting, we tell you all you've always wanted to know about the popular sports, and the not-so-popular ones.

We bring to you the real news behind events and unmask the celebrities (the aspiring, reigning and burnt-out ones among them) in that deep, witty and conversational prose for which TSM is famous.

If there is any particular person, issue or event you would want us to zero in on, write in through.

The Editor, *The Sunday Magazine*, 2, Isi'ola Street, Ilupeju, P.M.B. 21687, Ikeja, Lagos.



Antoine Bell, Captain of Africa Eleven

Girls At War

By Ochereome Nnanna

Two girls are feeling on top of the world. One of them is bubbling because she has just reclaimed her national high jump crown, the other is slomping around happily because she has dethroned the reigning 100 metres Nigerian ladies champion to become the African champion in her very first continental cap.

Onyinye Chikezie, a Brown Ebewelle — brought-up from Kano State finally defeated Chioma Ajunwa, just when it mattered the most — at the just concluded African Athletics Open Championships sponsored by Mobil International in Cairo.

Ever since she hit the Mobil Classics circuit this year, Miss Chikezie always

The best place to slug it out is at a continental meet.

found herself finishing behind tiny bullet, Ajunwa, a cop. Look at the statistics. She has attended only two classics — the 4th in which she ran a silly time of 12.09 secs, following it up with an even sillier time in the 5th classics with 12.17 seconds over 100 metres. She finished 4th and 3rd respectively in both classics.

Her coach, Ebewelle, had called this reporter aside and told him that Onyinye Chikezie would beat Ajunwa before the year runs out. "The girl has a lot of guts, and I train them to do better in each race", Ebewelle disclosed.

At the Nigeria/Mobil Track and Field Championships in August, Chikezie made it a chase to the finish when she recovered from a slow start and closed the gap between her and Ajunwa in the 100 metres final. They finished at an identical time of 11.4 seconds. Ajunwa was given the gold medal but many keen eyes saw that her reign was going to be short-lived. Even though Chikezie is smaller, loo, she's got longer legs, and runs like a hurricane. She's a fantastic finisher.

The end came sooner than expected, because Onyinye clocked a time of 11.3 seconds during the Cairo Open trials, decisively putting Ajunwa behind for the first time ever. She went ahead to confirm her new queenly status in Cairo by winning the 100 metres gold, leaving Ajunwa to

clutch the silver. And now, what next? "By the grace of God", she told *THIS Sporting*, "I will break the African record next year, because I aim to win an Olympic medal in 1992."

The African record is 11.09 seconds, scored by our own Mary Onyiah in Nairobi in 1987.

The other lady who is feeling on top of the world is Stella Agbaegbu. Being a high jumper, on top of the world is where she should belong, putting it metaphorically. Agbaegbu broke into national limelight when, in January, 1988, she won the female high jump event in the sports festival in Port-Harcourt. Her reign has however, been chequered because only this year, little Nkechi Madubuko came from West Germany not only to defeat her, but also to raise the national record to a new height of 1.85 metres.

To make matters worse for her, a Bible-clutching Ifeanyi Aduba of Anambra State overtook Stella during the classics, capping it at the track field championships with a 1.82 metres jump, missing Nkechi's national record by whiskers.

She was taken along to Cairo as a sub for Aduba, but, surprises, surprises she ended up with the African silver medal hanging from her neck, while Aduba, who is taller and longer — legged, won the bronze.

"I'm happy to be back on top," Stella enthused, but her face darkened with worry when she glanced at her left knee. "I've had this knee injury for two years now". Anytime the injury nags, her jumps turn rotten.



On top of the world, Onyinye Chikezie



... and high jumper, Stella Agbaegbu



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