

# TSM

The Sunday Magazine

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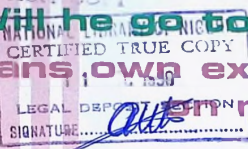
AKAPA'S  
Top

Riddle  
pro

# Akapa fights back!

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● Akpa...ready for war



● Thatcher...a British' coup

Cover Design: FEMI AWOKOYE  
FELDK EDIALE



● David-West...off to Kaduna jail



● John Chukwu...family hassles

## Letter from the Editor

he story could have made it as the major cover story. But we had to give attention to something closer to our skin the unfolding drama of the highly vibrant **Akapa's Top Magazine**.

But the story which louches the heart is this strange letter which came in all the way from Bombay, India.

The first page was an unusual letter. **TSM** being read in India. And not only in the streets of India, but even the bowels of the dungeons, where Nigerians youths are pining away.

It was immensely heart-lifting that those young men had read **TSM**, had found it exciting enough, serious enough, compassionate enough, to lay their burden at the feet of **TSM** readers.

But when we read on, the ecstasy of finding that **TSM** has penetrated India evaporated. Instead there was sorrow. Because if what those young men wrote are true the way they wrote them, then monumental injustice is being done.

Drug pushing is a terrible crime, everyone agrees. But if the offences of a handful of people are taken out on a whole generality, then a grievous sin is being committed.

Their story sounds plausible. All of us Nigerians who travel abroad have suffered in some way from this. It got so bad the other time that Wole Soyinka had to cry out.

Now, if the situation is this bad, that 90 per cent of our brothers in India are roasting in prison today then the situation is getting out of hand.

So, we thought Babangida should hear of it. As well as Oyakhilome. As well as you, **TSM** reader. Because even a little prayer for those young ones out to find the golden fleece, will help.

But this package isn't all about sorrow. There's a lot to delight you. And of course the scoop of where Tam David-West will spend his next 10 years.

When you read this edition through look back again. Isn't this a nice package of excellent investigative journalism?

Have a ball, baby!

*Ely Obasi*

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## Speakout

### Re: Maryam's brother

**Y**our story on Chief Sunny Okogwu's alleged paedophilia, as one Mrs M.I Amiebenowo, a nurse with Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Kaduna caught my attention (*TSM* Vol 2 No 28 Nov 25 1990). I have had contact, socially and in business, with Chief Okogwu and I seriously doubt the veracity of that "abduction" story.

Nigeria is a country where detractors have a funny but sinister way of achieving their notorious motives. Remember the "Ebony" hoax and the recent scare over missing organs. Chief Okogwu is a man of integrity who has proved his mettle in humanitarian endeavours, the present case being no exception. There is no harm in a man being anxious to see his employee's offspring in good health as Chief Okogwu has demonstrated over the treatment of the daughter of Umar Garba, one of his staffers.

An independent look into this "abduction" issue might well expose a case of medical malpractice. It could also uncover the shadowy figures of the quackness; faceless Nigerian detractors. Chief Okogwu should not have dignified these fabrications with a reply.

Humphrey Ijeoma  
Apapa, Lagos.

### Patrick Oke's game

**I** use this medium to welcome our brilliant former NTA *Newsline* presenter Patrick Oke back on board after a long absence (Vol. 2, No. 28). It is hoped that the pen will flow on paper just as beautifully as the presenter did under the klieg-lights if offerings like those captivating stories Patrick did for *Newsline* can be brought to the pages of your magazine in simple language, then the long wait will have been well worth the while. But the emphasis should be on keeping the language within the understanding of we non-intellectuals. Patrick's debut in your magazine did not speak to the averagely schooled.

Frankie Nwosu  
Lagos.

### Will the Army go?

**A**fter reading Ely Obasi's piece "At last, Tanko Ayuba" (*TSM* Vol. 2, No. 28) I'll want to suggest that Kingibe and Ikimi alongside their party officials should show determination and direction by organising and addressing a joint rally in the troubled Igbiraland. The main thrust should be harmonious campaigning. This way we'll know if it is the military that does not wish to hand over or if it is the politicians that have not shown the willingness and ability to take over. But then I suppose we should just watch and pray.

Chinedum Nwajuba  
Ilujeju, Lagos.

### Ray Ekpu

**R**ay Ekpu said it all in that interview he granted your magazine (Vol. 2, No. 27, November 18, 1990). Said the *News-watch* chief executive: "I'm a lucky bastard." Of course he knows that's what he is — a...!

Chinwe Obi  
Enugu

### Dele Giwa

**T**he Dele Giwa murder remains the unfinished story that Nigerian journalists must investigate and write fully one day (Vol. 2, No. 23, October 21).

Nwika Gbarale,  
Port Harcourt

### Re: Nigeria will burn

**I** sympathise with ex-NEC boss Erno Awa (Vol. 2, No. 24, October 28, 1990). But for the sake of his children, I could have urged him to spill it out before it is too late. Anyway, what makes the good professor think that Nigeria will burn if he talks? Does he know more than David-West, Domkat Ball and the late Dele Giwa?

Gabriel Buri  
Gboko

### Re: NUJ Will Crumble

**I** write as a member of the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) with some knowledge on the compulsory and immediate retirement of Mr Jola Ogunlusi as National Secretary of the union. Secondly I write as a friend of NUJ president Sami Zorro who is currently, out of the country representing the NUJ at two international fora.

Mr. Ogunlusi's claim in your November 25 edition that the NUJ will collapse because of his retirement cannot be anything but wishful thinking. The NUJ is made up of thousands of journalists who are both articulate and knowledgeable. The retirement of one man cannot therefore destroy this 35-year old mass organisation.

Secondly, the NUJ president cannot be said to have committed a fraud on the basis that he took a N5,000 loan from a chapel of the Union to enable him travel to some West African countries in search of two journalists. *The Guardian's* Chris Imodibe and *Champion's* Tayo Awolunsi caught up in the Libanan civil war. If the NUJ has no such money and a chapel loans it to perform such an immediate and professional task, the act cannot be a fraud.

Thirdly, I assert that at no time did the NUJ president ask that the union be merged with others. It is on record that even before his election Zorro campaigned against any attempt by labour bureaucrats to merge the NUJ with others and Mr Ogunlusi's schemes to disaffiliate the NUJ from the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC).

On the issue of Ogunlusi's retirement, there was a motion moved by the Borno NUJ Chairman Sami Potkskum and seconded by Anambra NUJ chairman Gozie Agbakoba. It was put to vote and the motion for Ogunlusi's retirement sailed through with 30 votes, four abstentions with only four members of the union's NEC voting against.

I want to say that union's NEC has power to take decisions on behalf of the union and Ogunlusi's retirement is in the best interest of journalists. I see that even from your interview you discovered that Mr Ogunlusi is not very friendly with the English language. We journalists have the right to chart the course we want to take and we say we will be better off without Mr Ogunlusi. He needs to stop harassing us to help get him another job. Mr Ogunlusi needs to stop sulking, pick up himself and look for another job unless he thinks without the NUJ job he cannot survive. Thank you.

Owel Lakemta  
Lagos.

For some of us who are by providence planted in the hinterland of Nigeria, we only get the heat of every news when a lot of cold water had been poured into the furnace.

So, when Chinweizu's Satanic Verses hit the shelves of various media houses, and individuals in the western axis of Nigeria quickly went for it for grabs, I waited patiently, as usual, for the opinionated summary of Chinweizu's bubble from various newspapers and magazines.

My crave was assuaged by the serialization of the deadly rabble-rouser in *Vanguard*. It didn't take me time to have a peep into Chinweizu's postulations to conclude that we may not look too far to find a replacement for John Chukwu in the humour manufacturing business.

There are some people in any society who just gauge the tempo of the society, (call it the psyche of the society) and decide to cool their nerves by humouring them. With his *Anatomy of Female Power*, Chinweizu has amply demonstrated that he is a jester par excellence in the Nigerian society where its members are lensed up in a serious pursuit to eke out a living. In that situation, no Nigerian has the patience to decipher satire from sweet flowing prose.

Chinweizu never intended his new bubble to burst into anything serious. His intention is to give us a good laugh. He knows it and the *Anatomy of Female Power* says it all. It is a mere comic piece written for comic relief.

Good as the book is as a comic, the

## Chinweizu's comic relief

By Okafor Ofebor

Humour shows the author's penchant for inaccuracy. He published a banal literature at a time when students yearning for knowledge have been enslaved by owners of Xeroxing machines photocopying the few available textbooks that contribute to knowledge.

More puzzling is the fact of what Chinweizu's Curmudgeon Vitae shows of the stuff he is made of. Why did he concentrate all his energy traversing and probing the anatomy of women at a time Nigerian students can hardly buy mathematics textbooks?

To be fair to the author the work is good. The prose style is almost flawless. And this is deliberate. As it is typical of a comic material that tries to reach a wide audience, and divert their attention from harsh economic realities the language is simple.

Thus the work succeeds in entertaining us in the theatre of the absurd only for us to come out and be devoured by excruciating economic realities.

The only concern I have now is that many of our female folks will go up in arms like tigresses tickled from their slumber and chase Chinweizu around. If they do, he will organise a thanksgiving service and celebrate his achievement because that will further boost his ego. The best way to treat a comic mat-

erial like that is to read, regal in the humour it generates and dump it in a hidden trash-can. Only to be picked up probably anytime one needs a good laugh. There is no point making a mountain out of a molehill, especially where there is no molehill.

The only saving grace for Chinweizu however, is that my mother, one of those he has punched in the face, is not literate. She couldn't acquire western education because her mother insisted she should sacrifice her chance for her brothers. When her brothers carried slates and chalk to school, my mother headed for the bush with her hoe and cutlass.

Today my uncles like Chinweizu bask in the glory of western education, while the likes of my mother are enslaved by ignorance, illiteracy and disease in the rural jungles.

The *Anatomy of Female Power* should be donated to Jagua, Ojo Laupa theatre or Chief Zebrudaya's *Masquerade* for quick adaptation into various comedy series to entertain and tickle our sense of humour. When the above suggestions fail, Chinweizu should apply for a slot in NTA network and take the place of John Chukwu. Chinweizu is simply a potential bag of humour fighting to let out its contents. We are supposed to be emmeshed in laughter at this time after all, laughter is both cathartic and therapeutic.

\* Ofebor is of The Voice, Makurdi

## YOUR CBS

## Should the military be given a special role in Third Republic politics?



Alex Gboyega  
Political Scientist



Patricia Orji  
Researcher



Abdulrahim Afiawari  
Politician



Bunmi Olosuna  
Student leader

THE military should not be given any special role outside being the keeper of the nation's security. That's its traditional role. If the military is assigned any role whatsoever in politics, it will be difficult to demarcate how far they should be involved and where to stop them. Of course it will be foolhardy not to listen to the military in the shaping of defence policy.

WHY should they be given a special role? The military is not trained to administer the state. Let them take their guns and tanks to the barracks and come out only when we sense external aggression. Failing this, we must be prepared for a complete take-over of the Third Republic by military opportunists. We civilians must be allowed to perfect our own system.

BY virtue of their orientation and training, soldiers have a responsibility to the nation—defence. It is only in the Third World that the military bulldozes its way into the administration and politics of a country. This has completely taken off that discipline and objectivity for which they were trained. If the military is accorded a special role in politics what happens to security?

THE military should hands off the politics and governance of this country completely. They should mind their traditional responsibility or get drafted to the countryside to produce food. Third Republic politics must not be allowed to be tainted with the internally-transformed aggression of the military. To allow them take an inch is to invite them to grab a foot—if only they will stop at that!

## Guilty as charged!

## I have been there

That afternoon we watched as they killed the man. It was a picture that will never go away from the eyes, a spectacle the scars in their heart will always bear.

You needed to see how it happened. They led him out to the sand-backed stakes. He came quietly and obediently. But when they made to die him to the stakes, he started kicking and howling. He kept shouting that he was innocent of the crime. That he was framed. That the alleged confessional statement was not his.

There was something about him that touched deep down. He didn't look that sort of man who was given to crying. But this day the tears tell in cascades from his honey coloured face. He didn't come across as the sort of man from a rowdy stock. But today he was kicking and struggling wildly. He struggled like a man who was no longer quite in touch with reality. For he struggled as if by his kicking his innocence would be established. It was as though he did not recognise the massive force that surrounded him. A force that was bent on carrying out its duty no matter how hard he kicked.

Finally the squad did its job. As the man kept yelling, the bullets went out, and quelled him.

My friends in the police force laughed when I told them. How come I didn't know that it is the guilty which put-up best of drama. They were surprised at how a journalist like me, whose success depended on a certain in-built scepticism could be so moved. They wondered how, in interviews, I had sometimes been able to extract hidden confessions from hardened actors. If I were this gullible, they laughed until I couldn't say anymore.

But somewhere deep down that linger of doubt clung on the consciousness. Suppose by some remote chance that man was innocent. The finality of his death made that feeling very crushing. The fact that it would never be possible to check again on the facts of that his case. On that little sliver of possibility that he did not do that for which he was ac-

cused.

Tam David-West's collision with the law brushed on that scar last week. There have been endless arguments over that verdict. Some of these have even been very loud.

The matter has not been helped by the fact that the public has not been privileged to learn the details of his cross-examination by the prosecuting lawyers. Perhaps when the details get published, as the Tribunal has said it would, everything will fall in place.

But one old and dependable voice has articulated it better than all those people who have been shouting to high heavens about either the man's inno-

*"I know he was hoping, as I do that something like this would happen that the Special Appeal Tribunal would be reconstituted. And that that tribunal would take another careful look at that case again. And if indeed he didn't do it, then he should be set free."*

cence, or his gullibility, about either how he was nailed, or his deep-rooted hypocrisy.

Tai Solarin said it as though it was a prayer. But we all know that Tai Solarin does not pray. So it wasn't a prayer. It was a mere wish. It was a statement of what would happen, an establishment of a prophecy. He said that if indeed David-West wronged, then he would serve the term in its entirety. But that if he didn't then something would happen,

and he would be brought out of the dungeons.

I do know that Tai Solarin wasn't talking about miracles. He was talking about rational man taking another look at a rational case.

I know he was hoping, as I do that something like this would happen, that the Special Appeal Tribunal would be reconstituted. And that that tribunal would take another careful look at that case again. And if indeed he didn't do it, then he should be set free.

There is a reason why I feel very passionate about giving all chances to the accused. I have been there.

It happened with a sister. One we all loved, and tried to do our very utmost for. For a while everything went well, and oh God, it was so beautiful.

The one day something happened, and I found myself accused of some sort of professional treachery. Then everything went awry.

Vitiated, called names and condemned. No chance was given for a defence. Even the little quiet defence proffered was spurned in moments of raging anger.

It rankled badly, and it hurt like hell. It hurts so badly when you are called names you do not bear, names you have never sought to bear.

You kept quiet and prayed and hoped that time will heal the wound. That time and the emergence of facts, that the history of your conduct and your lifestyle which by then was very well known, would clean out the now-murky slates.

But one day, quite recently, you find that the suspicious, the accusations, the condemnations are still quite as strong as they were and perhaps will always be. It hurts all over again. Sharp, biting, binding pain.

But you still keep quiet. Now, really because certain glorious things are happening, and you know you are part of that triumph, part of this happiness that surely will endure. And you pray Tai Solarin's kind of prayer. And keep on with your quiet.

Not because there's nothing to say, but because the golden words of ex-minister Tony Momoh rings softly in your ears. Time, my brother, is a tyrant. Time will solve all aches and sorrow.

Does Time still have these qualities?



By Ely Obasi





Politics  
& Policy

# Akapa fights back!

*Still trying to ignore a six month suspension order clamped on him by NUJ, Akapa may be dragged to court by LASG.*

*By Comfort Obi,  
Ademola Adedoyin &  
Yusuph Olaniyonu*

his story gets more interesting by the day. And it is far from ended. This, in spite of the fact that the professional body to which the "enfant terrible" allegedly belongs has suspended him for six months.

Lawrence Akapa, Chief Executive, Pub-



lisher, Editor-in-Chief, Editor (all rolled in one) of *Akapa's Top Magazine* is not yet heaving a sigh of relief, even though he may be smiling now and then. He may have scorned the Lagos State NUJ and laughed loudly at the penalty imposed on him, but he is not likely to shun the courts. If...

It really is a big "if". And the questions are: Will Akapa be dragged to court by the Lagos State Government? If he is dragged to court, will he be convicted? And, if he is convicted, will he go to jail?

If Section 4 of the Newspapers (Amendment) Act 1964 is invoked, Akapa may find himself in the law courts. And if he does, he may be answering questions on some of the stories he has published so far.

The relevant section of the Newspapers (Amendment) Act 1964 states that, "Any person who authorises for publication, publishes, reproduces or circulates for sale in a newspaper, any statement, rumour or report knowing or having reason to believe that such statement, rumour or report is false, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of 200 pounds sterling (or its equivalent in Naira) or to an imprisonment for a term of one year."

Even though the Lagos State Government has not declared its stand officially, as at the time of writing this report, it does seem that it is waiting for the Lagos State NUJ to forward its reports and findings, and penalty to the appropriate government office. Indications are that the government is interested in the case.

According to Tunji Oluwatayo who doubles

as Lagos State Acting Commissioner for Information and, Director-General, of same ministry, details of the report of the NUJ Ethics committee which found Akapa guilty as alleged had not been received to enable the ministry take appropriate action against the erring publisher. He said, "We are still waiting for the details of the order. It is not good to jump into conclusions... The state government will not rely on newspaper publications to take further sanctions against Akapa or his magazine."

If Akapa is arraigned before a court of law, and if he is convicted, he becomes the first publisher to be so arraigned and so convicted. At it is, Akapa has scored two firsts already. He becomes the first journalist to be suspended by the union. Worse, he has also become the first editor to be disowned by the Nigerian Guild of Editors, NGE, a body to which he rightly belongs in his capacity as Editor of a magazine.

In disowning Akapa, Onyema Ugachuku, President of NGE told the press in Port Harcourt, "setting up a media organ and ascribing to oneself the designation of an editor does not qualify one as indeed an editor."

Ugachuku disclosed that Akapa had never been in the fold of NGE and for good measure emphasised, "the NGE is in support of the action of the NUJ on the charges of professional misconduct preferred against Akapa."

While Akapa has denied being a member of the NUJ, he has not denied being an Editor.

But even with the NGE denial of Akapa and his suspension by NUJ, Akapa is not worried. At least, he has not shown signs of worry yet.

As far as he is concerned, the fight is on the streets. And whoever wins smiles to the bank. On that score, Akapa seems to be winning and has smiled to the bank a good number of times with just his first few editions.

And whether NGE likes it or not, Akapa has acquired the trappings of a celebrated Editor, by the kind courtesy of his "Exclusive stories and photographs."

Just within a few weeks after he hit the streets, with his magazine, Akapa has bought for himself a dazzling, red BMW car, designer suits and to enhance the circulation of his magazine a pick-up van on which is boldly written, Akapa's Top Magazine.

As if these are not enough show of success, Akapa plans three other publications between now and June 1991, and he swears they are going to be "hits." One artist who got a job among those Akapa interviewed last week, bagged a pay packet of over N30,000.

Akapa is not the only one ignoring his woes and basking in the glory of "fast" sales. His employees are in Jubilation mood. And the newsroom is as mad as that of any other newsroom of a print or electronic media.

We visited Akapa's men at work and we were amazed at the indifference to whatever is happening around them. The gossip. The suspension of their publisher. The jeers.

Typewriters clatter away. The large photo-room, a sharp contrast to the compact newsroom, is abuzz with activities. And the photographer is compulsively busy. In and out of the larger studio, it's like he and his products are the soul of the place. Once, he pastes a photograph on the wall, shoots and dashes back into the studio.

The newsroom too is set aglow by the youthful newshounds. Activities are in full swing. Amidst jokes and banter, stories, are leaving the tables for the machines for yet another scintillating and sensational edition.

At the Oshodi offices of the publication last Monday, there was nothing to suggest that the outfit was facing a trying time. Nothing at all to suggest any sense of guilt over NUJ's verdict of professional misconduct against the magazine's publisher.

There is this feeling of defiance in the air. Spirits are high. The editorial staffers, crammed in the six chairs and four tables in the newsroom radiate confidence. They hold their heads high. Proud and satisfied with their own brand of journalism. To them, the NUJ and those who are lambasting their organisation are green with envy.

Dele Ayandele, a correspondent breezes into the office brandishing a copy of the previous day's *Sunday Concord*. To him, what was published in the society page of that newspaper is a piece of cheering news. Their publisher is not losing any sleep over the NUJ palaver. And he's happy, the public has been made to know that fact by the writer of the column. His colleagues mill round the paper like a swarm of bees. And temporarily, work is at a standstill.

Discussion shifts to their publisher's present plight.

And then support for him and his 'cause' become very obvious. To Ayandele, all the hubbalooboo about their publisher, concocting photographs and feeding readers with lies is as true stories, blows down to "bad belief."

"Which publication can lay claim to perfection," Ayandele asked his colleagues rhetorically. His colleagues are not in any way less



Topnews on the road

interested in the matter. This is one war they are not shying away from. And they have lists of their 'friends' and 'foes' They reel out names of columnists who have written lampooning their 'enemies.' To such writers, they shower their praises. To their tormentors, they look forward to more lashings because, in the words of Jeffery Obomeghe a senior correspondent "the whole thing do n turn di bobo (Akapa) into a celebrity." He has a reason for saying so: "Which magazine, Jeffery asked, "has ever enjoyed three minutes of NTA prime time for free before now?" Nobody feels any sense of guilt about the allegations.

From the outer terrace of the one-storey building to the ground floor and to the pasted floor, past covers of the magazine are pasted on every available space on the terrazzo wall. Colour red, which many will not want to have anything to do with, seems to be the favourite colour here. The logo is red back ground on white lettering; company vans are painted crimson red. Just like the publisher's BMW car.

The staffers, trendy dressers, live up to what is expected of a *Top Magazine* outfit. And a special notice on the wall screams this: "A crazy man can work here, but a lazy man can't."

These guys are "crazy" but certainly not lazy. Amidst jokes and banter, stories still get dished out. A pile of *National Enquirer* and *Ebony* magazines are on Funsho Olufusi's table receiving attention.

And yet, all stories in this outfit are "exclusive-sives." In the words of Ayo Famulagba, a reporter with the magazine, that is. The comment drew a ring of heavy laughter. From the visitors. The laughter drew a comment, from Kent Ogogberin, a senior correspondent. "Are you laughing with us or laughing at us." There can be no laughing at them. It's serious business in here. Entertaining others with juicy, scoops week after week is one hell of a serious business. And very costly too. To get the stories and the photographs. As much as N1,400 was paid recently for some photographs. Jeffery who handled that particular assignment told his colleagues while finishing touches were being put in to the story.

And Lawrence Akapa, the man at the centre of the storm, leaves no one with the impression of the man who is riddled with all the razzmatazz. He's that he is riddled with all time waste discussing too busy for that. No time to waste discussing it. A group of applicants are there, sitting, waiting to be interviewed. Not only that, the thing to be produced. And no story, it magazine has to be produced. And no story, it seems, gets into the magazine without Akapa's final approval. Now and then, he dashes down from his upper floor office, to monitor progress

made on stories, take the ones that are ready, up for editing.

A surprise at the office this particular day is Uche Onyebadi, the deputy editor. No one expected him in the office. He was supposed to be far away from the battle field. He had travelled to Nairobi, Kenya. But after only two weeks, the guy happened by in the office. To the amazement of the staffers. Cool, composed and calculated, Onyebadi will not talk to any reporter for now on the raging controversy. Because "we are working on a corporate response to the whole matter."

Getting these fellows to talk is like trying to squeeze water out of rock. But then, a source told the visitors that "what you have now is the appetiser. By the time we go to town with our response, that is when you get the very meal, and that time every body will be excited. The war is far from over."

It would take great deal of intense meetings before Akapa opens up to TSM, the only publication he has agreed to speak with.

And the eventual encounter in his sparsely furnished office is very revealing. First, Akapa set out a no-go area for the chat. The restlessness behind the handsome face of the tough-talking man was glaring. He looks shaken but tries to present an unperturbed mien. He was sweating in a cool room. His composure speaks of a man on the hot seat.

He rushed through his statement in a jiffy as if to dispatch with the intruders as soon as possible.

Akapa's, and probably his magazine's problem started with their colourful cover designs with screaming headlines. First, the magazine screamed, "Michael Jackson has a Nigerian Girlfriend." Second, "Nython swallows 11 month old Baby." Third, "Niner year old blind girl predicts the future" More? "Michael Jackson's girlfriend is pregnant." "Nigerian who escaped from hell in Liberia."

Three magazines cried foul and went ahead to publish that Akapa's stories were false and fabricated. Worse, that the photographs used in the stories were lifted from either Ebony or Essence (both USA based magazines) doctored, and given new names. They published their findings and the Lagos State NUJ felt scandalised.

Quickly, the NUJ invited members of its ethics committee to look at the allegations against Akapa. The committee invited the Editors of *Classique*, *Climax* and *Poise* magazines whose publications carried the expose on Akapa. Akapa was invited to defend

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# I say, thanks to my enemies

By Yusuph Olaniyonu

**YU:** In the wake of the NUJ trial and subsequent conviction, you don't seem to be bothered. You maintain a laud back position. Why are you putting on such a posture?

**AKAPA:** It is quite natural. To start with, I consider the trial and the attendant hubalaboo as a ruse. It is just that and I felt, in the interest of sanity, I don't want anything pre-emptive on our side. We are trying to have our in-house investigation and the results are being collated and compiled. We will publish in the next two editions. Precisely in the 20th edition and the next.

**Q:** You don't want to pre-empt your investigation, maybe, but will that be your only reaction to the noble thing?

**A:** Definitely I will make sure that a lasting reaction that will be.

**Q:** So, it is only the publication of the result of your investigation...

**A:** (He culls in) Yes, yes.

**Q:** You are not planning to...

**A:** (Culls in) To go to court? No, it is uncalled for.

**Q:** So, you feel that you and your magazine are being used as scapegoats to achieve probity in Nigerian journalism?

**A:** Well, on the peripheral surface, I would have been bothered you know. But knowing the way Nigerians operate, I have not been bothered. The ethics committee has been there for the past two or three years. They have not done anything. We have cases that have involved professional misdemeanours by *Climax* magazine, by *Classique* and virtually all the magazines. They now come to talk of Akapa. They just got it wrong for purposes of gestation. I can very well adjust to it.

**Q:** Can you give us examples of such misdemeanours that the other magazines have committed?

**A:** Like the story *Classique* magazine carried on Mrs Rebecca Akhomu,

about her going to meet a medium, and something like that. It is quite totally unfounded and they have had to apologise. But the NUJ ethics committee decided to turn a blind eye and look the other way. Also, the case of about a year ago, that virtually all the newspapers in Nigeria including the so-called NTA network news carried the blatant fake story of Zik's death. I think save for *The Guardian*, every other newspaper carried it even on the cover, nothing happened. Maybe it was a case of when all is wrong, all is well. I don't know. But no committee was set up to look into that. *Climax* has carried a lot of fictitious stories in the past. Stories relating to Folawiyo. Stories relat-

*For the first  
time since the  
crisis, Akakpa speaks  
exclusively to TSM*

ing to Ojukwu. Nothing was done to that.

**Q:** So, do we take it that a man like you will want to retaliate. Do you intend to fight back?

**A:** No fighting back. I have always believed the fight will be on the streets. The fight should be to determine that the readers will want to bring out their five naira and say they want to buy *Top Magazine* because they had to. It is not in the court, definitely not.

**Q:** Since the issue started, I want you to compare the readers' response to your magazine, particularly in the area of circulation, with what used to obtain before the controversies—

**A:** I can tell you, it has been tremendous. Two days ago we got a sackful of letters. Commendations, letters trying to associate with our plight. Letters trying to see what is going on here and offering words of encouragement, from readers. You know, quite encouraging.

**Q:** What about the sales?

**A:** Terrific. In fact, I will tell you the truth, the very next Wednesday after the so-

called network news story, we sold out. Readers can always make up their minds.

**Q:** What measures are you trying to set up to forestall such occurrences in the future, because I read in one magazine that you wondered how you could verify if a story sent by a far away correspondent is false or not?

**A:** I must have been misquoted. I don't say anything.

**Q:** So, what did you say?

**A:** I was talking in reference to Zik's case. You know, Zik is right there in Nsukka. So if one says to you that Zik is dead, you could have just phoned or gone there physically to cross-check. You can't be bothered about that. So, it will be a different case. If someone from America sent a note that Michael Jackson has a Nigerian girl friend. So you couldn't have gone to America to verify. There is no way you can physically get in touch with Michael Jackson and say "Michael Jackson, do you have a Nigerian girlfriend?" Like I said, it has got to show about the level of hypocrisy in the future.

**Q:** So how are you trying to forestall a repeat situation in the future? **A:** No, we have set up a machinery to investigate it and make recommendations. Definitely a water-tight machinery.

**Q:** Are you going to fight back with your publications?

**A:** I don't want *Top Magazine* to descend into the quagmire. Into that own clandestine level. I just want a *Top Magazine* that will appeal to the people if we descend to that level, it is like we have cheapened ourselves. But what is not to say we will not hit once in a while. And when we do hit, some people will have to fall.

**Q:** You claimed not to be a member of the NUJ.

**A:** (Culls in again) I am not a member of NUJ (with a surprising facial expression).

**Q:** You are not?

**A:** I, I have never been a member of the NUJ. I don't carry their card. I don't pay what they call their N4.00 fees. I don't. I am not a member of the NUJ. It is ridiculous to believe that once you are a writer

Akapa... resolute



Continued on Page 13

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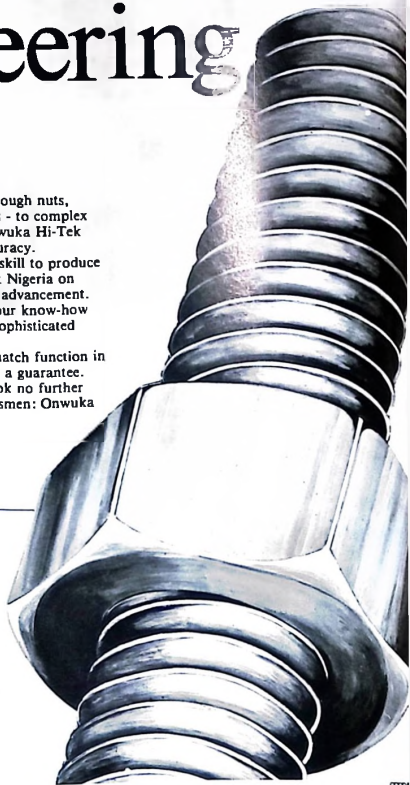
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# It's a long-term punishment

— Moji Danisa  
Cilmax editor

By Yusuph Olaniyonu

**Q** Looking at the whole trial, it seems the sanction imposed on him is ineffectual and he himself is indifferent to the whole thing. What then is the use of the sanction?

**A** Yes, Akapa is a stubborn fellow. I have always known that. Even when we were holding our meeting, somebody said that guy is a *juguda*, he won't even listen to anybody. But he doesn't know how far this thing is going to go. He is just trying to save face. It is not that he doesn't feel it. Of course, now, he is being checked. He has now stopped his Hollywood reporting. He has come down to Nigeria. And whatever he is doing now is like what we Bendelites call "dry raking." If your professional body tells you that you are no longer part of it that is the worst punishment one can receive. Tomorrow you may want to have an international appointment. It is a long-term punishment. You cannot go into politics, you cannot do anything. I think the punishment is effective. Some people say it is too lenient. I don't think so. Because I look at the future and see that the boy is going to feel it. Now, he is saying something that his reporters tied and things like that. I mean, that is dry-raking, trying to save face.

**Q** Do you think his case could curb future of professional misconduct in Nigerian journalism?

**A** I think so. Everybody is going to be on the alert, the readers, the writers, the buyers and any future publisher. Everybody will now know that you can't wake up one morning and start fabricating stories and calling them facts.

**Q** What other measures can be taken to introduce probity into the profession?

**A** I think every journalist should be able to censor himself. Everybody should be able to know what is ethical and what is not. Like the former minister for information was trying to say that everybody should have a professional background in journalism before you can be called a journalist. Though I don't support the fact that everybody should go back to school, I think we all need that professional background. Because if you go to school of journalism or read mass communication, you learn the ethics of journalism and that guides you. It is like they pump it into your brain. You don't just go out behaving any way.

**Q** Don't you envisage the man fighting back?



Moji Danisa: Akapa: is stubborn

paramount thing there. Whether the report augurs well with them or not that is not relevant. The fact is they pre-empted our judgement. Period.

**Q** Tell us the other publications you are planning?

**A**: We will come up with *Cartoon Week* in less than three weeks time then, *Parade* from January, every week and mid-year (1991), we will come out with *power magazine* — A political magazine.

**Q**: Your boys are in high spirit. They are not bothered.

**A**: Of Course, they have to. Their confidence is tremendous.

**Q**: The issue should have shaken their belief somehow?

**A**: They are still confident, they all rallied round. It is like when I had my "guilt crisis" in the other *Topnews* magazine, and I had to resign in protest, a lot of them 18 including cashiers and clean-

ers resigned and came here with me.

**Q** Fighting people who he thinks are his enemies, people who are trying to run him down.

**A**: Well, you know nobody is his enemy. I have never thought he was my enemy, and I still don't think he is my enemy. Though at one time he was mudslinging at everybody and writing all sorts of rubbish about anybody I don't think anybody took him seriously. We all just laughed over it. I don't know.

**Q** But if he decides to fight back at Cilmax...

**A**: (Cul in) He cannot fight *Cilmax*. (emphasis) Nobody can fight *Cilmax*. That is what I always tell people. We have seen our own bad times when people went all out to discredit us. But we were not like Akapa. We defended ourselves and our defence stood solid. Akapa cannot fight *Cilmax*.

**Q** But why is his own case so unique? I mean there were several cases of professional misconduct in the past which didn't get to the NUP?

**A**: I think some mistakes are allowed in journalism. Your reporter brings back something and you are not there to monitor the reporter. You publish it and the person concerned says it is a lie. Sometimes you are even convinced it is the truth. I mean some people mellowed down. I don't do it, but some people will apologise. That is accepted in journalism. Even other incidents, I think the guys concerned always apologised. Instead he was telling them that if he finds any of the reporters guilty he is going to give them an award. I mean that is ridiculous. It is like calling everybody who buys *Akapa's Top Magazine*, a fool. And that was what he called all of them. I think he deserves the punishment for his unrepentance.

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you must belong to the NUP. It was like saying once you are playing guitar, you are a musician and must be a member of PMAN (Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria). It does not necessarily follow. It is an obsession on their own part to imagine that maybe because I write fine I must belong to the NUP. I don't belong to the NUP.

**Q**: But you won't like to tell us about the result of your internal investigation.

**A**: No. Certainly not. No. Certainly not. **Q**: But by the time you come out with your own findings do you think it will affect the present NUP decision in any way? Affecting it like making them feel maybe they should have waited?

**A**: The fact remains that they did not wait. They chose not to wait. That is the

ers resigned and came here with me. They have confidence in me. And these are the things you can not erode, whatever anybody has to say.

**Q**: So, you have not noticed anybody trying to abandon the strip?

**A**: Definitely not. Except a lady in Belgium and the USA. They were a little worried. In fact, the impression they had was that the magazine had been closed down. So they phoned to confirm the issue. You see, the second day after the NTA news item and I came back to the office, a lot of them were saying "chiet, that was a nice advert on the TeeVee. They said did you have to pay for it?" and I replied "thanks to our enemies."

# Akapa should show remorse

**C**lassique Editor, Dele Momodu, spoke with Ademola Adedoyin on the NUJ's verdict. Akapa's threat and many other issues affecting the profession.

**Excerpt:**

**Q: The sentence seems to have achieved nothing. Did you envisage a tougher measure...**

**A:** It makes no difference to me. I think the penalty is a psychological thing. We are not saying that he should be killed. A point has been made that such a thing cannot be done unnoticed. That Nigerians are knowledgeable people.

**Q: But would you say such sanction could curb recurrence?**

**A:** A dubious character will always be a dubious character no matter the sanction. There is hardly anything anybody can do about it. But what we are saying is that if you do it some people are watching. And that you will be humiliated publicly.

For example I will feel very bad if they say Dele has published fiction as true stories for his readers. Nobody is intallible. There is no publication, whether junk or no junk, that does not make mistakes one time or the other. Which magazine does not have libel suit hanging on its neck?



Dele Momodu: Akapa's Nemesis

But what we are saying is that substantially, there should be some element of truth in whatever you do. You should not go out deliberately to feed your readers with falsehood to sell your magazine.

**Q: We bear the guy plans to fight back. And that he's compiling his facts...**

Magazine, *Stern*, carried out a journalistic coup.

On that April 22 1983, the magazine announced in a screaming headline that it had gotten hold of 62 volumes of Adolf Hitler's "Personal diaries." According to the magazine, the volumes were discovered from a 1945 plane crash. It described them as "authenticated."

The disclosure set off a pandemonium. Newspapers and magazines in the US, France and Great Britain and Italy went out with hard currency, scrambling to buy the rights to serialise the diaries. Newspapers and magazine made millions whetting up public interest in the newly found jewel. *Newsweek* deemed the diaries fit enough to make its cover.

But what a goal! A chemical analysis done on the diaries as soon as *Stern* published the first parts clearly showed that somebody had cleverly taken everybody for a ride. It was hoax. The diaries were forged by a master forger.

But 1983 is even recent enough. This journalistic scoop, and coup, is old. In 1928, the *Atlantic* monthly came out with its own scoop. It serialised a purported authentic article on "Lincoln the Lover." After it had sold millions of copies, an "eagle eye" discovered the letters to be fakes.

Recently too Clifford Irving dreamed to make millions. And so, he got it into his head to tell the world and

**A:** I'm not bothered. I, Dele Momodu, he has any evidence that I've been involved in the same malpractices let him go to down. That is an empty threat. He decides to publish any falsehood, the courts of law are there to begin with.

I also have my own magazine which, I believe, has more credibility. If he publishes now, people will see it as pure vendetta. As a vituperation of an angry man.

**Q: This brings us to the former question. That a tougher penalty that you given Akapa would be better for anybody found guilty of professional malpractices. Some are saying that in the respect, Media Council Decree has its advantage...**

**A:** Look nobody is saying that anybody's head should be cut off because a mistake has been made. Media Council Decree or no Media Council Decree.

The only problem I see about Akapa are these empty threats. He has not shown any remorse. If one makes a mistake, one should admit. All of us make mistakes. All we are saying is that he should show remorse and people will forgive him. I have nothing against him personally.

McGraw Hill publishing company that Billionaire Howard Hughes had given him the privileges to co-author his (Hughes') autobiography. The manuscript was a sell-out when he produced them. And expectably, made headlines. They were outright fakes. Irving had lied. And for his lies, he went to jail. Out of jail, he wrote a book, "The Hoax," confessing his exploits.

In the mid-eighties, Janet Cooke wrote a moving story on a teenage cocaine addict. It was an instant hit. And she won the Pulitzer Prize. The story was discovered to be mere fabrications. After she had basked in the glory of an award.

The magazines and newspapers guilty of such hoax at times, spend quite a lot of money in getting their scoops. For instance, in the Adolf Hitler's "Personal diaries." Well, just as it has been said that our *Akapa's Top Magazine* spends N1,400 on photographs alone on a single assignment.

**Continued from Page 9**

himself but he didn't feel up to it. He ignored the summons and called their bluff.

The committee found Akapa guilty and suspended him from the NUJ for six months. The drama is still unfolding. And the question is: Akapa go to jail?

Here, aside from Akapa's interview with M. N. O. Danas and Dele Momodu, Editors *Climax* and *Classique* magazines spoke to us on why they embarked on the crusade and what they think of the six months ban.

## Fraudulent Journalistic Scoops

*Akapa's case is only another in a long list of journalistic scoops that went awry; some of them genuine mistakes. Others deliberate falsehoods.*

By Comfort Obi

**W**hatever anybody says about Lawrence Akapa, he is not lonely in his predicament. It is anything Akapa and his *Top Magazine* are in good company when it comes to the type of stories for which he is being crucified. They may well earn a mention in Edward Jay Whelmore's *Mediamerica*.

Their predecessors are renowned. Check out the list. And their stories on a dot that shares the same date with Orkay's Satanic coup, the West German

# "Nigerians need a mother to care for them"

— Says Sarah Jubril, as she makes a determined bid for the presidency

By Mubo Okosun

She seems undaunted by the enormous burden she has placed on her shoulders. That of piloting the affairs of this complex country come 1992. Every cell of her body yearns for this post, and she is ready to sweep away all man-made obstacles from her path.

In spite of her soft looks and feminine voice, Sarah Jubril is as tough as they come. She packs so much power into her sentences, that every word comes out like a power punch. She struck TSM's team of reporters as a personable and pungent personality. Hers is the refreshing voice in today's politics as she eloquently proffers antidotes to the various problems plaguing the nation.

She was asked her modus operandi for dislodging the purveyors of traditional prejudices. These are expected to be her natural enemies, moreso, when she herself hails from one of those conservative cultures. But, Jubril took it all in her stride. "It is unfair to belittle or underrate any human being. It is ungodly to think that a human being can limit the achievement of another. I am not the wrong sex because I am a woman. It's only those that are narrow minded that won't want to accept," she said.

She also asserted that the retrogression of women is responsible for the stagnation of the country's growth. She is convinced that "we are ten years late since after independence to have a woman president. Nigerians need a mother to care, love, and listen to them. The workers too will know when the time comes that they will have a pair of listening ears."

Judging by the weighty names of the presidential candidates from her party (Social Democratic Party (SDP), and National Republican Convention (NRC)) it seems Jubril has fallen before she has ever started out in the race. Check out Obi Falana, Umaru Shinkafi, Layi Balogun, Abel Ubeke, Emmanuel Nwanyiawu etc. seasoned administrators, successful businessmen and professionals all.

How does she hope to beat these men? Jubril once again gave a robust display

of her talents. administrator. According to Jubril, if honesty, tolerance, understanding and perseverance are used as yardsticks then women will surely be the natural leaders in the country.

Part of her strategies for wresting leadership from men is by travelling in public transport all over the country and listening to people talk. She hopes to compile the common problems facing them and include them in her speeches. As well as securing the full support of her better half—Mohammed Baba Jubril, a retired military officer, and her children.

As she noted to TSM, "I didn't shock my husband when I told him I wanted to contest for the presidency. He is a calculative and combative officer, very religious too. He simply said may the Almighty Allah do his wish."

With the firm backing of the home



Jubril — Talking tough

of her talents

"I believe thirty years of male leadership in the country is enough. I am a principled person. I am not a person that can be pushed around. These guys came from God and my deep spiritual background. That my head is little does not mean that I do not know what I am doing. What's in development that women cannot cope with. Women are stable horses and are the conscience of a nation. Men will be helped to understand the dignity of mankind and unlearn those chronic negative attitudes."

She also lauded her rich experience in government — she was a commissioner in Kwara State, her training as a psychologist and her long stint at Human Fellowship Foundation in Kaduna as an

front. Jubril has been on the mustings since then. She was particularly evident at Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos when SDP kicked off its political campaigns there. She was one of the party members called to give a speech. Could this be an endorsement of her candidature by the party?

Jubril was quick to react saying "I hope my party will be wise enough to realise that a woman candidate is now preferred to a male candidate." This is following a world-wide trend of female leaders like Margaret Thatcher of Britain, Mrs Chamorro of Panama, Mrs Aquino of Philippines. Maybe, it is time for Nigerians to start looking forward to the reign of 45-year-old Mrs Sarah Jubril as the mother of the nation.

# Kaduna Prisons is it?

*Tam David-West, put in the slammer as soon as NEPA eleven were released, is likely to take over one of their cells.*

By Comfort Obi

As soon as the NEPA eleven were released from jail, one mischievous fellow shook his head and remarked rather calmly "The ground has finally been prepared for the imprisonment of David-West." That may not be very accurate. But there is some coincidence there.

Those listening to him did not quite understand what he meant. But a jolly good fellow that he is, he explained that David-West and the NEPA eleven will have something in common to celebrate next year. The anniversary of the release of the eleven. And the imprisonment of David-West.

As it is, TSM investigations show that sharing an anniversary for a release and an imprisonment may not be the only thing David-West and the NEPA eleven will share in common. They will have the "rare luck" of being kept out of circulation in the same prison yard.

For just as the NEPA eleven vacated their prison cells in Kaduna prisons, the popular prison yard is going to play host to another very important prisoner, Tam David-West. That is where he is likely to cool his feet for the next 10 years.

A reliable source disclosed to TSM that, "In obedience to the pronouncements of the Chairman of the Tribunal, that David-West serve his jail term outside Lagos, he is going to serve it in Kaduna prisons."

However, at the time of writing this report, David-West was at the Kinkiri Maximum Prisons. He was driven straight to Kinkiri after the judgement of November 16. On Monday, November 20, his lawyer, Tunde Olojo, along with some of David-West's relations paid him a visit. Olojo was to tell journalists after the visit, "David-West is fine. He is in high spirits."

Olojo could not confirm when David-

West would be moved from Kinkiri Maximum Prison nor to where he would be sent. He, however, confirmed that he has prepared "grounds" for an appeal.

Speculations are that David-West is still being kept at the Kinkiri Maximum Prisons for three reasons. One, he is waiting for the confirmation by the AFRC of the sentence passed on him. Said a source to TSM, "The AFRC has to sit to confirm the jail sentence. Any nobody knows what their decision will be. It is going to be a waste transferring him to outside Lagos only for the AFRC to meet and decide to release him or ask him to serve his jail term in Lagos."

The second reason, according to our sources, is that they are waiting to see whether his lawyer would appeal against the judgement. Again, the feeling is that if he does appeal, the cost of bringing David-West from Kaduna, for instance, down to Lagos for the case would be rather high.

Three, the Federal Government may be waiting for tension to ease off before transferring West from Lagos to anywhere. More importantly, the government particularly wants to publish the proceedings of David-West's case especially his interrogation by prosecution lawyers after his defence before he is moved out of Lagos. The feeling in government circles is that if the press had publicised David-West's interrogation by prosecution lawyers after his defence, like it did the other proceedings there won't have been any tension after his imprisonment because, according to our sources, "The prosecution lawyers took his defence to the dry-cleaners."

If these three reasons are anything to go by, then, David-West is likely to spend quite sometime at Kinkiri before he is transferred to anywhere.

First, no date has been fixed yet for the AFRC meeting. Second, his appeal against the judgement may take quite sometime in coming. For two reasons. One, the record of the trial on which the appeal will be based will take sometime to compile because of the volume. And two, the Special Appeal Tribunal where the appeal will be lodged is not in existence for now as it had been dissolved and no new one has been reconstituted.

According to a judiciary source, Decree 21 of 1986 which amended the earlier decree and which provided for special appeal tribunal had also been amended. Olojo will wait for a new tribunal to hear his appeal.

As for the allegation that the Federal Government is waiting for tension to ease off before sending him out of Lagos, that may not be true considering that there is not much tension really. Indifference to David-West's fate may well describe the situation. The reactions have been slow in coming. First to react was Tai Solomun, People's Bank Chairman. He described the imprisonment as "tragic"



David-West ... clawed

Students of the Universities of Ibadan and Benin went a step further than Solomun. While the Ibadan University students have called on the President, Ibrahim Babangida, to ignore the sentence of the Tribunal and release David-West, those of Uniben have slammed a ban order on Babangida. Stay out of our campus. Don't come to our convocation scheduled for Saturday (yesterday) unless you release Tam David-West from jail.

It is not likely that Babangida is going to lose any sleep over the ban order. He probably may not have planned going to Uniben convocation at all. And in any case, he is getting used to being banned in his own universities where he is a visitor these few days.

Last week, the students of the University of Ibadan banned him from stepping into their campus because two of their lecturers were compulsorily retired. Babangida inflicted Abdulkareem Adisa, a Col and Oyo State Governor on them as his representative. And they welcomed Adisa. Uniben students are likely to see John Yeri, Governor of Bend State at their convocation as Babangida's representative. It does not see there is much they can do about it.

As at the time of going to press, other campuses were as quiet as grave yards.

# Margaret Thatcher (1979—1990)

*Political commonsense triumphs over iron will as British Iron Lady steps down to allow her party iron out a bruising internal crisis*



*Helmsline... a fighter*



*Iron Lady... at last!*

The world

By Kayode Samuel

Just before the 372 parliamentarians in Margaret Thatcher's ruling Conservative Party cast their votes to decide the leadership contest between the prime minister and her challenger, Defence Secretary, Michael Heseltine, one British institution, *The Times* of London had this to say:

*"The country needs to know if Mrs. Thatcher does or does not retain sufficient party support to remain a strong Prime Minister. If she does not, she must go."*

The morning after the inconclusive November 20 ballot, another great British institution, the BBC described the outcome thus:

*"It was the nightmare scenario that Conservative Members of Parliament had always dreaded—Mrs. Thatcher down but not out."*

Conventional British political wisdom predicts that a party leader steps down if she or he fails to win decisively a popularity contest within the parliamentary party. But then Margaret Hilda Thatcher, the Iron Lady of British politics, did not merely establish a reputation for going against conventional wisdom. In the immediate aftermath of last Tuesday's leadership contest, the lady at the centre

of it all did not sound particularly desirous of putting a quick end to her party's nightmare. Speaking from Paris where she was attending the 34-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) the embattled Iron Lady stunned allies and adversaries alike by declaring that she did not intend to step down as party leader. Her

204—152 "victory" over Heseltine, she insisted, conferred on her a mandate to carry the battle on into the second round of the contest come Tuesday November 27.

The prime minister's inability to triumph conclusively in the first round left her

*Continued on Page 20*

## Down and Out in Paris and London

Last Tuesday in Paris, as the results of the Conservative Party leadership contest came in, one of Mrs. Thatcher's top aides boasted that though the Prime Minister may be facing a challenge at home, her stature in the eye of other world leaders was not in any way diminished. His reason? Many of the world leaders assembled in Paris for the European security conference were "queueing outside her door waiting to be granted audience." Another aide was reported to have quickly told him that those

waiting to see the Iron Lady might not exactly be there to pay homage. "They could well be here to say goodbye," he suggested.

How true. As it turned out, the Paris CSCE summit was the last international meeting the Iron Lady would attend as a head of government. And it appears Conservative parliamentarian Tony Marlow, the man who predicted a fortnight ago that "Britain will have a new prime minister before Christmas," may well become the most-sought-after soothsayer of the decade.

**WORLD EXCLUSIVE!**

*Drug suspects in Bombay write TSM...*

**W**e are sure that our people at home have been continually fed with stories of how Africans, especially Nigerians, have turned India into an illegal

drug enclave. We have even read some Nigerian newspapers in which names and pictures of alleged "drug pushers" are published periodically by the Nigerian narcotics agency. We write to advise the drug law enforcement agencies in Africa to investigate very well before taking such a step because in all likelihood they may be aiding foreigners in further tarnishing the image of the victims, and ultimately, of our people. Especially if the names and pictures are supplied by Indian narcotics agents.

Today, Indian jails are crawling with thousands of Africans. Their offence is that they are black, and for that reason, they are drug pushers and traffickers in illegal articles. For them, Indians do not push drugs, only African do, all Africans in India do this, of course, is obviously a jaundiced view, but an effective weapon that has ensured that thousands of innocent black souls are wasting away in Indian penitentiaries. African youths who came here to look for the academic golden fleece.

We are sure that the Venerable Mahatma Gandhi is a sad man in his grave today. The political lore-bear of India, a fountain of wisdom, knew that violence does no one any good in the long run. It is a monster you create, but which later turns around to destroy you.

In laying the foundation for a lasting democracy in the sub-continent, Gandhi taught his people to avoid violence in pursuit of goals. He preached that all Indians must be courteous to visitors to their country, make them feel welcome, protect them from alarm.

Today, 43 years after India's political independence, Gandhi's people have turned their backs on his teachings and legacies. Instead, they have embraced with open arms the very vices they were taught to abhor. They have turned the country into a haven of running violence instigated on ethnic and religious grounds. They have enthroned segregation, discrimination and casteism among their people. They have now topped it with malicious xenophobia and apartheid, directed towards black people from Africa.

It is for this reason that we, African detainees in Yeravada Central Prison, Bombay want to speak up. All over the world, everybody is supposed to be equal before the law, but this does not apply in India. Instances abound, but we wish to cite a few.

# How India tortures Africans

- Nigerians tortured with lighted cigar on nipples or scrotum
- Emeka Odunze arrested while shopping with wife
- 90% of Nigerian students in India are today in jail
- Why Sule Ojo today has smashed hands
- Victor Umunna now dying of chronic kidney infection
- How Afolabi Hassan was framed
- Some published drug pushers' pictures are false
- The real truth about India's anti-drug drive



## Hell-fire for hellish drugs

Chukwuemeka Odunze, a Nigerian student, decides one cool evening to go shopping in the company of his wife. On arrival at the Metro shop at Colaba, Bombay, he needed to answer nature's call. He was directed to the first floor of a building which also houses Shilton Hotel. Unfortunately, he ran into a search party of the Indian Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) who were raiding the hotel. He was promptly arrested and charged alongside another black man who was residing in the hotel. The NCB officials assumed that as a black man found on the scene where another black was arrested on drug offences, he was automatically an accomplice! They didn't even bother to investigate! The problem is even more complicated by

blatant discrimination in who gets arrested.

Like the case of Afolabi Tony Hassan who, with three other Nigerians, had hired a Maruti mini van driven by an Indian, for a leisurely ride. Unknown to them, the van was under the scrutiny of NCB officials who later stopped it and made a search. Two kilograms of "brown sugar" (an illegal drug) were found in the van but no one owned it. The NCB decided to conduct further searches in the hotels of the Nigerians and the driver. While nothing was found in the Nigerian's rooms, one more kilogram of the stuff was discovered in the driver's house. It may amaze you that the driver was released on bail at the police station, while the Nigerians were

put behind bars, without being tried in court. They've been there two years now.

Compare this with the case of an Indian who was confronted by the police as he arrived from Dubai with 2,000 kilograms of illegally imported gold. This man engaged the police in a scuffle of gunshots and six people were killed in the ensuing melee. The man was later jailed, but within six months he was already a free man again. Woe unto any African who will attempt to pull a gun on law-enforcement agents. Indeed, woe unto any African, especially Nigerian, who is found where an Indian commits a drug offence!

On March 31, 1989, Okolaji Ezenwa, a Nigerian was arrested along with an Indian, Abrar Khan. Both booked into the same hotel, but neither knew the other nor did they share hotel rooms. Ezenwa's only offence was that, being black, he was found in the same hotel with the offending Indian. When they were arraigned before a Bombay High Court judge, they were both sentenced to 11½ years in prison, each. Within 40 days, Khan was released on bail and earlier set free by an appeal court. The Nigerian was refused bail and could therefore, not appeal.

Being in jail, of course, is not a leisurely excursion in any part of the world. But the Indian jail is unimaginably hellish! Especially for Africans. The whole circumstance of a victimised African prisoner is enough to break a stone's heart. Consider being arrested for an offence you did not know anything about. You are taken to the jailhouse where your arresters torture you into signing a prepared statement. It's easy. A burning cigarette stuck on the nipple or scrotum does the trick quicker than any magic. All your legal privileges are extended to you, all you watch helplessly as the Indian whose accomplice you are said to be, is let off the hook.

You look around you. The cramped room into which you are thrown stinks of urine and faeces. The food the Indian warder brings to you is not good enough for his dog, or anyone's dog. Vermin, fleas, and tuberculosis, arthritis, scabies and other destructive afflictions transfer from one victim to the other. You look around, and all the inmates, are Africans. Most of them innocent, some of them soon to die and not be heard of, never, by people at home.

Then you want medical care and another nightmare begins, as one of us here Victor Umunna narrates. Umunna is suffering from chronic kidney infection. He requests for outside treatment. The prison medical officer, treacherously demands a 2,000 rupees bribe. Umunna pays, and is taken to a private hospital. He demands that police guards must be brought to stand sentry over him. The doctor is told that police guards are not available. The doctor shrugs and says:



Oyakhilome...Nigeria's drug czar

"then take him back to where you brought him from." Umunna is back to square one. The square of no hope.

Umunna is not the only one afflicted this way. Others have seen "red" in a similar manner. When we can, we sit down in groups and bemoan our fate. We compare experiences. We decide this extortion must stop. How to stop it? We decide to attract the attention of the authorities. By shouting and making a hell of noise. Maybe the authorities will hear us and put a stop to it all. Yes, indeed, they did put a stop to it! Only they did it in a way we never bargained for.

On this April 17, 1989 night, the Superintendent of Arthur Road, Bombay Prison, Mr. D. N. Dawne orders his convict overseers to beat us up and shul us up. One of us, Sule Salami Ojo ends up with his two hands smashed. It had to be encased in a *Plaster of Paris* (POP) for three months! Later that year (September, 23) we are also mercilessly brutalised for "making noise." This time heads and hands are broken. In fact, one of us, Felix Chike Ejiolor, already a handicapped person, gets his artificial leg broken beyond repairs. No replacement is made by the brutes. Instead, a pair of old wooden crutches are given to him to hobble on. The story is an endless one for us.

To be sure, we are all for enforcement of law and order. We are also on the *Ajibola...message from India*



side of the war against the drug trade and abuse. But what we see here in India is war against black people, war against Nigerians. Listen to this:

India beats her chest today as being the world's most successful drug fighter, because of stringent enforcement of their anti-drug laws. This evidence given by an NCB official before a Greater Bombay High Court judge, Yusuf Pathan on November 23, 1989, tells how India does her own drug fighting. "On June 27, 1987, I was directed by my Deputy Director to go to the airport and arrest any Nigerian travelling either by Air 'India' or Ethiopian Airlines."

Whether India is playing the ostrich or not will be clear to anyone when it is recalled that according to statistics, the country harbours the second largest opium farm in the world. Forty percent of this is produced and marketed legally. The rest are illegally marketed by India's big drug barons. This accounts for the large influx of drug traffickers to India to help the barons export the stuff. It is estimated that 45 metric tonnes of heroin is produced annually in India. Between 1987 and 1989, only 400 kilograms of this was reportedly impounded by the narcotics bureau. Hundreds of blacks have been dumped in jail, but few of the barons and their Indian agents ever get apprehended. When they do, they are soon set free to go back and resume their trade.

It is also revealed that out of 6,000 students who registered in Indian universities a few years ago, only 600 of them can now be traced. Where are the rest? Your guess is as good as ours: they are rotting away in India's hellish jails!

*The Times of India* (Wednesday June 6, 1990) quotes Dayashankar, Assistant Director of Department of Revenue Intelligence, which also fights the illegal drug trade as saying: "the tragedy is that innocent people don't get bail while the main crooks get away easily." This comes direct from the horse's mouth.

You see, our problem is such a complex one! India is the world's second most populous country with close to one billion human beings. Evidently, the

Continued from Page 17

party tentatively divided and her partymen overly apprehensive about the future. It also had the effect as Opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock enthused, of leaving the government very deeply polarised and incurably disabled. In short, "not fit to rule." Many within the ruling party secretly agreed with this assessment.

Mrs Thatcher at first disagreed, and sniggered at any suggestion that her time was up.

Last Thursday, the moment of truth dawned on her. The "men in dark suits," a euphemism for Conservative Party elders at the last minute managed to prevail on her to see reason and step down if the party was not to suffer



Hurd...favoured

## Why she fell

Margaret Thatcher would seem to have achieved the dubious distinction of being one of those leaders who somehow manage to get critical indices of political support wrong at the most critical of times. Three factors—high policy, bread and butter issues and leadership style—make or mar any government. In Mrs Thatcher's case high policy went awry over her position on European integration, bread and butter took a rubbing with the highly unpopular poll tax, and her torrefact (some say arrogant) style of handling these and other matters badly divided her party, sealing her doom.

Continued from Page 19

need for jail houses are high, even for her own indigenous criminals.

The courts and jail houses are bursting at the seams with cases involving their own people. You can imagine what the situation will be like when hated foreigners connected (rightly or wrongly) with a hated crime clamour for justice and fairplay with the privileged citizens. To make the picture clearer, we cite *Indian Express* of April 16, 1990.

Mr Sharad Pawar, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra State, said, on the occasion of opening a new sessions court in Pune that he had donned 19 Lakhs (19 million people) justice. The chief judge of the state confirmed this, saying that even if 300 additional courts were established, it would take the judiciary not less

mortal damage from internal bloodletting. Citing "the interest of party and country," Mrs Thatcher signalled her intention to resign as party leader, thus leaving the way open for other "unity" candidates to join the fray and have a go at the party's leadership. Two such candidates—Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major—stepped forward just before nominations closed to say they would forego nominations closed to say they would forego nominations closed to say they would forego nominations closed to say they would emerge by simple majority i.e. 187 votes.

And thus has the sun set over the eleven-year premiership of Margaret Thatcher. And thus has dusk fallen on what is undoubtedly one of the most dramatic political careers of all time.



Major...a rising star



Geoffrey Howe...gloating

three years to finish the currently pending cases!

We have brought out some of these facts and figures to the attention of our people at home to raise their sympathy to our plight. We would like the President and Federal Government to institute independent investigations and press for the release of innocent victims of India's apartheid-induced arrest and detention of our youths. If possible, those found to be guilty should be repatriated for legal punishment at home. Any legally justified punishment at home is better than the unbearable brutality of Indian jails.

On behalf of African detainees in Indian jails I implore you to publish this plea and the atrocities contained in the documents we are making available.

It is high time Nigeria and the whole

## QUOTELINES

"MR. Secretary, why are we here?"  
— An American soldier in the Gulf to US  
retary of State James Baker.

"DEAR Mr. President, ... I am hiding the state of Kuwait to avoid becoming "Guest" of the Iraqi government."  
— Velma Edson, an American, in a letter  
President George Bush.

"THE issue is not about building a temple. The issue is whether anyone's faith is about the judiciary, the constitution, and the state. Once you concede that faith is above P state, then you're conceding the foundation of a theocratic state. We cannot concede this point."  
— Ousted Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh on the crisis that swept him from office.

"A SMART government draws conclusions from criticisms."  
— Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

"AFRICANS find it extremely difficult to differentiate between dissent and sedition."  
— US Ambassador to Kenya Smith Hempstone.

"THE beauty of being a political pundit is that you can predict what the voter is going to do in an election — then when he doesn't do it, you can explain why he was wrong."  
— Art Buchwald.

"WE used to eat lentils with our bread. But the way the prices are going up we're soon be eating only salt with our bread."  
— Ghulshan Kumar, an Indian street sweeper, on his country's economic crisis.

"I DON'T believe that there are very many people who are seriously interested in doing me any harm. I think most Muslims are pretty reasonable. Actually, the world contains very few blood thirsty people."  
— Controversial British author Salman Rushdie speaking from hiding.

black race woke up to the fact that their innocent youths are being wasted in Indian and other foreign jails. The government should exploit the good relationship between her and India to ensure that justice and fairplay prevails.

India should be reminded that as a foremost member of the Non-Aligned Movement and a strong anti Apartheid fighter in the international level, she should practice what she preaches at home.

Thank you

F.C. Ejoror,  
For: African Detainees in India and all other voiceless oppressed in Yeravada Central Prison, Bombay.

lic places with a flourish. Their unique pirouettes could even put peacocks to shame. Some even stage special entrances for effect — only coming very early, or very late and storming out before close of business.

They peck at each other's cheeks, blow imaginary kisses and flash toothpaste smiles as if they will soon go out of fashion. They also know how to get locked in a teasing romance with the

# Climbing the celebrity cadre

Seven ways to join the galaxy of stars and stay there

paparazzi. While feigning disinterest and boredom in the disturbing lens of a photographer, they make sure no strand of hair is out of place. They almost always present an arresting profile for shots.

Such is the lifestyle of today's celebrities, which is why we have dubbed them the flits of life. Here today, gone tomorrow. Despite their flashiness and what can only pass as unbridled passion for publicity, they cut the pose of glib people. Avid fun-seekers. Tireless nightbirds. Generous party-givers. But they are hard-working professionals.

It surely isn't the easiest job in the world to live out your best and worst moments on the pages of newspapers. Which is why we have compiled worthy strategies on how you can too become a celebrity. Ours is a crash course that will have you gracing the pages of top newspapers across the land in no time.

All it takes is a string of connections, good looks, an unending supply of cash, a rich wardrobe and a penchant for

hugs, pecks and kisses. You must also develop the ability to small-talk, little-tattle and look interested even when bored stiff. Your stomach should also not be queasy to all the greasy dinners and lunches that a celebrity gets through in a day. Here's how to outshine the stars.

**Donate Generously:** This is the first rule, because many celebrities were made this way. Especially those money-miss-road types who go lucky in a business deal and are so eager to spread the lucre around it doesn't matter if you do not actually possess the dizzying figures you brandish. Remember, the fun lies in the announcement. The more mind-boggling the better.

At your village's fund-raising 'do' fo-



# Life

By Mubo Okosun

They preen like peacocks about to clinch a romantic deal with a new female on the block. Decked out in garish garbs, ubiquitous dark glasses in place, they sweep into pub-

Dosunmu and Adesina...they have

Awolowo in common



bore-hole or such-like affairs. pledge a cheque of N1 million Naira. You won't have to wait long for the flashbulbs and the air of recognition. Hostesses will be falling over themselves to collect this cheque.

Don't worry about paying up either, the organisers would be too embarrassed themselves to think of smearing your good name when they are on to your game.

Don't restrict your generosity to local shows. Invade record, book, product launching ceremonies with your cheques. Insist on announcing your figures publicly so that others will go green with envy. When you are well known, tell your guests it's no longer chic to make your donations public. Besides, every Tom, Dick and Harry now does it. Then make a modest donation in private and pay up.

**D**evelop an appealing acronym: Besides it's the rage now among some celebrities. Others like IBB, MKO, JJ, JC, I-Jay have been around for some time, but on no account should you adopt S.O.B.

An acronym makes you larger than life in the eyes of lesser mortals. Even your mum will have to start learning your new name. Why call the president his rather lengthy name when IBB can do it? It's catchy, easy and rhythmic. Saves people from the agony of tongue-twisting names too.

While you are up there, it acts as a bridge among tongues, cultures and professions. It opens a lot of doors for you, while others are stewing in a long queue you are called forward instantly.

**S**ex scandals: A few of these will not hurt, rather they will enhance your new image. If you are perceived as a stud or stren, rest assured that this rakish image will bring more clients to your door. You can even hire models or out-of-work actresses to accompany you on a night out in town. Smooch with these girls when photographers are focused on you.

Develop a wicked grin and cultivate the little-boy-lost-look even when you are mean deep down.

If people are impinging on this role, ditch it for a clean image.

**B**eauty Contests: A quick way for ladies to get into the big league. Many have chosen this path and have benefited from it. Ex-beauty queens have used their fame as a spring-board to greatness. During your reign, you are assured of a steady string of admirers, some of whom could well pull you by your joystick. However, some have had their fingers burnt by these beauty escapades. Like marketers would say, any publicity is good publicity, even when adverse. So go to town as a reigning beauty queen. Afterwards, you can graduate to fashion business, public relations or banking. Because everyone loves a pretty face, especially a smart



Benson Cardoso...magic name



Shobanjo...stands shoulder high

one Queens like Julie Coker, Omasan Buwa, Helen Davies, Rosemary Okeke readily come to mind for their enduring spirits.

**T**he right pedigree: Although we profess to be an egalitarian society, where everyone has equal access to the big time, the reverse is truly the case. Children from political dynasties, blue-blooded families of military big wigs, rich families and traditional rulers have an edge over others. Their surnames carry a lot of weight. They are used to mingling with equally big names right

from childhood, that they don't have to work too hard.

Their parents' natural easiness with them klieg lights easily rub off on them as tiny tots. A case in point is Segun Awolowo who has been dubbed the Crown Prince of the family. His wedding plans were replicated in the papers through last month all! Check out such names as Fani-Kayode, Danlata, Danladi, Abiola Ojora, Ibru etc. Add connection, cool bucks and class. These names have provided the natural head start for their siblings.

**M**arry well: Is your surname as boring as yesterday's left-overs? A new one might work the magic. Why don't you nurture the habit of marrying for love, marry well for bucks. And acquire 'celeb' magic. After all, hubby will be too busy to attend every launching ceremony or party he's invited to because he has made more money. As the other half, the mantle falls into your laps. Don't like a lord and paint the town scarlet!

You could even become a celebrity in your own right if you can handle things correctly. A demure smile, witty anecdotes, a calm look (even when you are flustered) and an amiable disposition will endear people to you.

Guys can marry well too by hooking one of those ill-connected girls. Remember, you are in for the ride. The name is the vehicle.



Soyinka ... cool in calico

**M**agical dressing: You cannot aspire to be a celebrity and still go around in those rags of yours. It costs a bomb to be the lord. With it, at least, you are so high.

that people will excuse you anything if you are a screwball you can screw protocol. But you must be brainy. That is why a Wole Soyinka can go about in his calico shirt. You don't just pick a Nobel from the garbage can.

That is why an Olikoye Ransome-Kuti can make party rounds in his 'uniform' French suit. His laid-back lifestyle is even more endearing than those in stuffy suits.

Remember 'Baba' Tai Solarin in his bookie drils.

If you are an upstart, comely clothes, smart shoes, trimmed nails should be your watchword.

Banish smelly armpits, shiny faces, grubby skin, and offensive mouth or body odour. Don't subject people to torture because of your suspect habits. Or else, invitations will dry up instantly.

**The right job:** Some professions produce natural celebrities. Take journalism, acting, modelling, music, broadcasting. Wonder why there are so many among their ranks? Wonder why every rich punk wants to invest in publishing? It's the easiest way to slap a face behind your name. It doesn't matter if you publish from one room in Ajegunle, a derelict suburb in Lagos, or operate with only one reporter (you). A publisher is a publisher. An editor is also an editor. That post could open doors that could otherwise have been slammed in your ugly mug.

It's only within the profession that the wheel is separated from the chair. Or you could maintain a column in one of the rag mags and preach your weekly sermon.

You'll be surprised at your instant large following even when you write verbiage most of the time.

**Last Line:** If you try all these, and you are still an unknown property, maybe you were not meant to be a celebrity.

It's a fact of life that there is no room to house 100 million Nigerian celebrities. Who would be left to do the dirty, gritty and sloppy work which sustains us all. Didn't we say that celebs are fluff of life, here today, gone tomorrow!

*Keji Okunnowo... maker of stars*



## Beauty Up Date

### Look good from Ten to Six

**T**hey have sworn to make all Nigerian women beautiful. This could well have been the simplest task except that they are guys. In fact macho men have been in the beauty business for long. Oliver Ubanl is a strapping young man who schooled in United States and clinched a deal with Jess Bell (Jr.) of Bonne Bell as the sales distributor in the country.

Together, they are plugging a fast moving range of products already making waves in the consumer market. This should sound like good music to women

who yearn to remain ageless. Ubanl who is the President of Oliver Sweet Nigeria Ltd in Lagos is in affiliation with Bonne Bell.

According to him, if you want to look good always insist on our products. From the stable, there are Ten-O-Six cleansing Bar, Liquid Body Cleanser, cleanser Tone and deep cleansing skin lotion.

There is also an acne cream for women that suffer from skin blemishes. Judging from the letters there are many acne sufferers out there. They might well find relief with these new beautifiers. Women with sensitive skin are not left out too, as they have special lotions for their skin type.

Ten-O-Six seems ready to carry Nigerian women along with it.



Bye to blemishes

## SNAPSHOT

### Women Support Chinweizu

**A**fter several knocks and vilifications, that great iconoclastic author, Chinweizu, has found a supporter in his campaign that the world is a matriarchal society.

And what a place and personality for the support to come for Chinweizu! The Chapel of Resurrection of the University of Ibadan where an evangelist — nursing tutor at the UCH, I.E. Olatoye, gave a lecture to commemorate the anniversary of the Women's League.

The pretty woman who all along was exploiting her oratory skill to keep the large

gathering listening to her evangelism suddenly diverted on how the women can use "their position" for nation building and declared that "women are the powers that be in a nation". Though our men claim they are in charge, but with our special power we can manipulate all things. This statement drew a loud laughter from the congregation, but like an orator, Olatoye would not allow such an opportunity to slip by. She added another jibe slightly short of using Chinweizu's words (bottom power) when she said "by our remote control, we can manipulate our men to take decisions that will lead the country into righteousness".

# Avoiding your allergies.

By Dr. Shegun Oloni

Doris was in every way a normal secondary school student but she had a significant health hazard. Every Saturday, she would develop what looked like an asthmatic attack and would have to be rushed to the hospital.

On the third visit to the hospital last month, the doctor decided to dig further into the origin of her regular illness. He discovered that her Asthmatic attacks were limited to Saturdays, when she didn't go to school. It was also discovered that it usually occurred after the general clean up routine. Ah! the doctor said to her parents, why not exclude her from house duties this Saturday and let's see what happens. The parents did what they were told, she had no more attacks.

On the subsequent visit to the hospital, the doctor attributed the cause of her allergic attacks to house dust, and that Doris should be advised to steer clear of house dust.

Allergies in medical sciences include acquired hypersensitivities to a substance that does not normally cause a reaction in non allergic individuals.

A lot of ailments, diagnosed as allergies are increasing, as our environment becomes more complex and polluted.

Normally, people swallow, inhale, or touch things that are foreign to one's body without any abnormal response. When you are allergic to a substance however, you can develop specific symptoms from contact with those substances.

Groups of allergens can be summarized as follows:

**A INGESTANTS** — Allergies caused by substances or food eaten or swallowed. They include fish, eggs, meat, milk, antibiotics etc.

**B INHALANTS** — Allergies caused by substances inhaled with air such as house dust, cat or dog hair, pollen etc.

**C. INJECTANTS** — Substances injected through the skin into the body which include, chloroquine, penicillin, anti-tetanus serum, bee stings etc.

Everyone produces antibodies that fight foreign substances in the body. If there is an over-reaction of the antibody to a specific antigen, an allergic reaction would be said to occur. A few factors could increase the probability of one becoming allergic, some of these include



A zesty drink...could cause allergies

**A HEREDITARY** — If a specific allergy is rooted in one's immediate family, there is a greater than average chance that one could also be allergic to a similar antigen.

**B. EMOTIONAL STRESS** — such as tension, overwork, fright or extreme anger could predispose one to developing certain allergic reactions. Allergic reactions could present as:

1. **ASTHMA**, the extreme difficulty in breathing which could be accompanied by wheezing and could be triggered off by pollen, animal dander, Respiratory infections etc. Aminophylline could be useful in the treatment of its Acute stage.

2. **HAY FEVER** — is an allergic reaction causing a watery discharge from the eyes, catarrhal nasal discharge, headaches and difficulty in breathing. Could also be caused by pollen animal danders, hay, straw or dust particles. It

could be triggered off by certain food items. Antihistaminic drugs are useful in its treatment.

3. **DERMATITIS** — Allergic reaction of the skin which could be seen as blistering, oozing or crusting sores. It could however just involve military rash and redness, caused either through direct skin contact with the allergen or by the presence of the allergens in the blood stream. It is usually prevented by avoiding the offending allergen.

4. **FOOD ALLERGY** — The most controversial of all allergies and most difficult to pin point and treat. Cure is also by removing the offending food item or drink from the diet.

5. **DRUG ALLERGY** — can sometimes cause death as could be the case of paracetamol syrup recently reported in the media. Simply remove the offending drug from your first-aid box.

6. **BITES & STINGS** — may cause fainting, dizziness, breathing difficulties and even death. If you are stung or bitten by an insect, apply ice to decrease absorption of the venom or remove the sting as carefully as possible. Most of all, seek medical advice for your allergic problems on how best to solve them.

Shegun Oloni is a medical practitioner in Lagos. Readers can send in their medical queries to him, through Editor, TSM, 2, Isijola Street, Ilupeju Lagos.

HOW YOU STILL DEY HOLD YOUR THING?  
NO ONE FIT CANNOT AM FOR INSIDE  
HOUSE NOW.



HOW THANKS HEAVEN, I DON FORGET SAY  
WE DON REACH HOUSE SELF?

### Continued from last Sunday

sunglasses and the glare gets to you, try compensating by keeping a minimum three-second interval between your car and the vehicle ahead. To measure, count "one-thousand-one ahead passes a road marker or sign. If you reach that point

**If you skip a snooze, lay off the booze. Sleep deprivation increases the effects of alcohol and vice versa.**

before counting "one-thousand-three", drop back. Make it a count of four in bad weather. **Shine a light.**

If's not for nothing that you see some school buses and trucks with their headlights on in broad daylight. Turning on your headlights can reduce the risk of a head-on collision.

#### Stay off Hypnosis Highway

Here's how to stay alert at the wheel. **Keep cool.** "People tend to make their cars too comfortable." Do whatever you have to do to keep fresh air circulating in the car, whether through air conditioning or by keeping a window cracked.

**Listen to chatter.** According to the experts, listening to a talk show will keep you more alert than listening to music.

**Keep it down.** If you do listen to music, keep it down. Loud noise can affect your vision. Psychologists have found that when the car stereo was cranked up high, drivers couldn't see as far or as well.

**Eat regularly, but sparingly.** Heavy eating will make you drowsy. Low-fat proteins like lean roast beef are better than sleep-inducing carbohydrates like bread.

**Take a tour of rest stops.** "On long trips, take a break a minimum of once every two hours." Pull off the road at a rest stop, get out of the car and walk around.

**Pull off and fall out.** If you're really exhausted, don't try to hang on until you get where you're going, or you might never get there. Pull over at a rest area and take a nap. Everything else can wait.

Culled from **Men's Health**.

**TSM**  
Always  
first with  
the  
News



**Happy kids**

Ade Faloye, a quantity surveyor in his early thirties talked about his relationship with a female sickler while in university. She, too, did not let on about her illness that easily. She was always looking gaunt. At times severe pains would double her up. Her palms and soles would swell. He used to be so worried about her predicament until a doctor friend told him the girl was a sickler.

Because he misconstrued the girl's secrecy for unrequited love, he broke off the relationship. "But now that I am wiser and older, I still regret the decision till today. Moreso, when I now know that she is happily married with two kids."

The sickle cell clubs scattered all over the country now organise frequent workshops, lectures, seminars to enlighten the public. The bazaar that took place at National Museum, Onikan, Lagos, was attended by sicklers and non sicklers. Pamphlets, peptalks were handed out by the club officials. They are also receptive to various enquiries about sickle cell anaemia.

Already other clubs also replicate these activities in Enugu, Kano, Ibadan, Warri, Kaduna and Abuja. Considering the size of the population that possesses the sickle cell trait, the activities of the clubs seem limited. Many claim to be hampered by funds, as they solely rely on donations and sponsorships.

In Makurdi, the Benue State capital, where Sickle Club has no presence, a campaign has already taken root. The Committee for Sickle-Cell Support of Makurdi International School has launched a 15 million naira campaign for 25 screening centres in the state.

In the words of the Committee mem-

bers, "the facility for sickle-cell diagnosis is only present at Makurdi General Hospital. This equipment is serving about 5 million people of the state. Our suffering children and their parents never get to learn about the disease until it strikes."

In Lagos, where awareness is higher, fewer hospitals run Sickle-Cell units. Festac sickle cell clinic is also run by Drs. Longer, Kassim and Grainger. These centres are tied with patients to the clubs, while they provide accurate information about the illness and management techniques.

Meanwhile the Sickle Cell Club pushing for the following control measures:

1. All new born babies should be tested for sickle cell anaemia, so that counselling and proper care can commence.
2. Sicklers should avoid strenuous exercises. They should be let off exertive chores on account of their health.
3. A clean environment, free of mosquitoes is necessary.
4. Anti-malarial drugs like Paludrine or Daraprim should be taken regularly.
5. Professional counselling is advised for marriageable adults.
6. The establishment of sickle cell centres for prompt diagnosis and treatment of sicklers.
7. Good Nutrition.

## Signs of Sickle Cell Anaemia

1. Pale skin and eyes
2. Yellow eyes
3. Abdominal pains or swelling
4. Fever, chest infections and **breathing**
5. Stunted Growth
6. Leg and ankle ulcers

# MILESTONES

Compiled by Ananze Obi

## BIRTHDAYS



Gana: Birthday cheers

**STOLEN:** A valuable staircase from the Royal Belfast Academical Institution. The thieves used culling equipment before lowering sections out of a window and on to waiting lorries.

**STARTED:** A degree course by 11-year-old Ganesh Sittampalam from Scarborough, South-West London Surrey University, into which the mathematical genius is admitted, has given him exemption from the first year. With this record, Ganesh has pipped Ruth Lawrence who was 12 years and two months when she started her maths degree course at Oxford. Ganesh is also the youngest pupil to gain an 'A' in A-level maths at 11 in four months.

**PUBLISHED:** By a 14-year whizzkid Miss Augusta Okon, a book entitled *Bola and the kidnappers*. Augusta who turned 14 last May completed the manuscript for the book at the age of 11. She is a JSS III student of Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School, Yaba.

**SACKED:** By the Somali president Mohammed Siad Barre, his son Brigadier-General Maslah Mohammed as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed forces and replaced him with his son-in-law, Brigadier-General Said Hersi Morgan.

**STAGED:** A one day rag day by the students of the *Times Journalism Institute* in an effort to raise fund for their former colleague, Martin Nzewili, who is now on the grips of an ailment. Their effort yielded N205,000 which the president of the Institute submitted to *Vanguard* for onward transmission to the Martins Nzewili Appeal Fund.

**REINSTATED:** By the authorities of the Obabemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, professor Omolayo Olorode and Dr Idowu Awopetu who were sacked this August by the Federal Government. The university's action was in compliance with a court order restraining the university from implementing the contents of its letters dated August 31 this year pending the determination of the case.

**SCRAFFED:** By the Nigerian Air Force an entire command and seven bases leaving the 26-year-old force with three commands and 20 groups located in nine bases nationwide. The chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Nureni Yusuf who announced this last Tuesday added that some aircraft have been phased out. He said the closure was in realisation of the fact that the "NAP was too thinly spread on the ground".

**CONCURRED:** Adolfo Bioy Casares, the 67-year-old Argentine writer best known for his works *The invention of morel* and *The war diaries of a pig*, with Spain's Cervantes Prize for Literature. The prize is a Spanish-speaking world's most prestigious literary award, given annually for the ministry of culture in Madrid.

• 51 also on Wednesday is Akanbiyi Olatunde Akinnawo, biochemist. A council member of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Ikeja and Chairman, Paints Manufacturers Association of Nigeria. Akinnawo holds the traditional title of Otun Shobalaju of Ikeja.

• 46 on Wednesday as well is Titus Jones Ogunidilimi, Agricultural consultant. A member of the International Association of Agricultural Economics and recipient of Cappa Delta Pi (Honorary award in education) University of Maryland, USA. Ogunidilimi is the author of *Community Survey Methods*, among others.

• 84 on Thursday is Akanu Ibiam, educationist, physician and politician. Former Governor of Eastern Region 1960 — 1966. Ibiam is the founder and Honorary president, Student Christian Movement of Nigeria as well as the chairman, Imo State Council of Traditional rulers. A holder of the national honour of the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON), Ibiam holds the traditional title of *Eze Ogo Isiala I of Unwana*, among others.

• 64 also on Thursday is Francis Udo Madike, educationist. A researcher in teaching at Ford Foundation, New York, USA, and International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada, Madike holds the traditional title of Agbalanze of Abatele.

• 45 on Friday is Jerry Gana, Geographer and University teacher. Gana, consulting Director for Social Mobilisation at the Directorate of food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) 1986-87, was appointed Chairman, Directorate for Social Mobilisation (MAMSER), Abuja, since 1987. He has published over 42 articles in national and international journals.

• 48 on Tuesday is Cliff Osaneme Ogiamen, hospital administrator. Ogiamen is a member of many organisations among which are psychiatric Hospitals Management Board, Board of Directors, Textile Mill Asaba and Bendel State Amateur Athletic Association.

• 82 on Wednesday is Michael Adekunle Ajasin, educationist and politician. Member and president, defunct Egbe Omo Oduduwa and initiator and co-founder, Nigerian Union of Students of Great Britain and Ireland, London, 1947. Ajasin was the Governor of Ondo State from 1979-1983. A holder of the national honour of the Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFR). Ajasin also holds the traditional title of the Asiwaju of Owu among other titles.

*"When you make people laugh, they remember it, and they love you for it."*  
— Art Carney

*"Little Paul fell and cut his knee. When the wound was bathed and dressed, his mother gave him a pill to soothe him. After he had swallowed it Paul asked, 'How will the pill know which leg to go down?'"*  
— Catholic quote

*"When you see a man opening the car door for his wife, you can bet one of two things is new — the car or the wife"*  
— Interchange

*"It is great to live with the saints in heaven but it is hell to live with them on earth"*  
— Cardinal Richard J. Cushing.

*"The one who does not get fun and enjoyment out of everyday in which he lives needs to reorganize his life."*  
— George Mathew Adams

*"Half the pleasure of crying is missed if there's nobody by to pity and comfort you".*  
— George Sanlayana.

*"My theory is, go for it. Do anything you want to do. Look at me. I was thrown out of school at 15 and now I'm read in 35 countries around the world."*  
— Jackie Collins.

*"Men with money to burn have started many a girl playing with fire."*  
— Jack Carter.



Money

# A Nigerian Tops the World

By Mackson Onyejekwe

In November 12 a select group of persons from 40 countries in the five continents of the world gathered at the European Community Building in Paris France. The occasion was the prestigious Europe Award to reward those companies of renowned international quality, repute and prestige companies offering high quality products.

Few black faces dotted the sea of white and coloured persons there. One of the blacks was a Nigerian engineer, 55, a huge fellow, over six feet tall, with sharp eyes, massive hands and wide, coarse palms that tell you he is a practical professional. Most engineers call

him 'the Sango (god) of traffic light' few manage to remember his full name. Ejike Obumnen Aghanya. He won the 1990 Europe Award for engineering.

In the cities and state capitals in Nigeria, traffic lights made by Aghanya flash continually at junctions, to order motorists and pedestrians to halt, get ready or go. These products had in April 20 won him the celebrated Grand Prix Oscar Award for Enterprises, in Madrid, Spain. Before this, he had won the Otago Club Merit Award in Innovation, Aghanya's harvest of awards in 1990 was a journey that began by accident in 1970, after the civil war.

The England-trained engineer returned to the ruins of his family home at Awmbia in Awka LGA, Anambra State. Faced with an empty house his wife decided to operate a small restaurant to feed their seven children and his wife. To encourage and mechanical workshop Aghanya, he decided to make neon light sign-board for her. He enjoyed seeing it flashing and off. Shortly after he visited Lagos, he noticed the 'dead' traffic lights and instantly pondered the similarity between his wife's sign-board and the possibility of traffic light. With a carving of traffic light. Later that year, he moved to Onitsha with the contraption and continued to improve the design and dramatic happenings. Then something at Onitsha, the Aghanyas lived in a flat down-stairs. He put the traffic light on, watching it, and thinking

The man upstairs complained that the on and off flashing was rattling the electronic gadgets in his flat. Aghanya apologised but regretted that he could not put off the product, because he was working on it. The man called in soldiers from nearby Asaba Bendel State.

They stormed the house. But a moment overtook their temper. They congratulated Aghanya and reported development to Samuel Ogbemudia, then the military governor of Mid-West State. Ogbemudia summoned Aghanya to Bendel, watched the system and encouraged him to exhibit the prototype in Benin. He did that in 1972. These prototypes later turned out to be advanced systems installed in Benin.

Ogbemudia's enthusiasm turned Aghanya into Mid-West civil servant. Frustrated by 'state of origin' bureaucratic red-tape, Aghanya advanced the models with facilities and continued to hold discussions around the country. Plus the well-known economist helped to obtain a patent for the system. In 1978, he incorporated NICONENG Nig. Ltd. and went into production and continued development of the traffic light systems.

In 1981-82 Aghanya instituted temporary control at Range Enugu and 1985/86, permanent traffic lights in Enugu junction. He mounted lights at Aba. In 1986/87, the company developed a mobile DC controlled traffic light system.



lights were installed in Owerri junctions. Calabar followed in 1989 and this year, Aghanya has been installing traffic lights in Rivers State. He has already made demonstrations at Alausa, Lagos State secretariat, on the invitation of the state government. It is believed that extensive programme of junctions light in Lagos would help reduce the chaotic traffic situation that occur at some of the major junctions in the city.

Meanwhile, Aghanya has developed solar traffic light systems. His aim, he said, is to develop something that could serve both the traffic and aesthetic appeals of the rural areas and other parts where electric supply is non-existent or most erratic. Expenmentation, he however said, might take two to three years to complete, because of the differences in the periods and intensity of sunlight in different zones of the country. By this, he would establish the capacity of the cells and conductors that would provide energy during the entire period before and after sunlight.

Aghanya's products which have been taken abroad by friends, have generated astonishing attention. It is therefore not surprising he was selected as the recipient for the 1990 award in engineering. When asked about the immediate impact of his works and the Europe Award, he disclosed that the representatives from other countries, especially those from the South, have expressed intentions to start their supply from his company in Nigeria rather than from European countries.

Diplomats of Gabon and Ghana in France had talked with him on the prospects of their governments' requests for supplies. He is optimistic that with the economic diplomacy of the present regime, a lot more could be gained for



*Aghanya: We've not put enough on science and technology*

Nigeria, by his innovations and ingenuity.

Aghanya does not believe that there are no more science and technology whizz-kids in Nigeria. He also rejects that standards of education have fallen, nor does he agree that students are not interested in learning science and technology. Aghanya, a one time member of Board of IMT, Enugu said most students are enthusiastic to learn. Likewise their teachers and lecturers are ready to impart knowledge. "I've a lot of sympathy for them because they lack facilities, and even books. We can't really wash our hands out" he regrets.

According to him, "we should lay emphasis on science and technology as great foundations for development. I am not saying other areas of study are not important. Only that science and technology are the basis for development. We have not thrown our weight and wealth as we should on that part. It

pains me."

This made Aghanya develop a training school as part of his company to train those willing to learn all he knows and all that he is doing in NICONENG. Himself and other chartered engineers take on the students. According to him, whenever they advertised the registration turns out to be highly competitive. "The enthusiasm is there in students. What they need is encouragement."

Aghanya's hope is sustained by the sensitivity of the present government, to the significance of science and technology. "The science and technology minister is a practical man, and he is trying to see that science and technology become the basis of national development. He is working in close contact with COREN and other related bodies. One day in this country, we shall sing 'come and see Nigerian wonder'. Aghanya believes he would be around to sing this song.

#### By Nwajuba Chinedum

The investment climate in Nigeria is hostile because financing manufacturing in — puts is a problem to manufacturers. The problem is evident in all sub-sectors of the economy. For instance, in the Glass sub sector it is particularly turbulent. It is normal for the glass furnace to be rebuilt after about 6 years. For a firm with only one furnace that implies shutting down the entire production. To raise funds to reactivate production becomes a constraint. About a million naira is needed. Resorting to the banks may exacerbate production costs.

Part of the problem is with the unguarded devaluation of the naira. The easiest way of derailing local manufacturing is by destroying the currency. It is therefore necessary to pop-up the value of the naira by increasing productivity. But then, how can this be done when firms are finding it difficult to finance production. The solution could be with the National Economic Recovery Fund

## Climate gets more hostile for investors

(NERFUND) NERFUND could be better organised so that companies involved in direct production will have easier access to the fund. The glass industry with about 80 per cent local raw materials, needs support. Relaxation of regulation under the export promotion programme could encourage local glass production. The requirement that firms exporting must repatriate their foreign exchange earnings is not necessary particularly if such firms need foreign inputs. Such firms may even embark on counter trade with firms overseas as a way to source production input.

Manufacturing outfits have to look in and produce locally, hitherto imported goods. Some local entrepreneurs have taken up this challenge and are getting involved in a number of manufacturing

concerns particularly those utilizing mostly locally sourced inputs. Two snags are however evident. The first is that manufacturers are faced with high cost of funds. The rate of inflation is high and projected costs are exceeded too frequently. Secondly, despite the encouragement of local manufacturing, some state governments still engage contractors to import even such materials as school note books which are locally produced.

Despite these hindrances on local manufacturing, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) report for 1989 shows that aggregate output rose by 4 per cent in 1989 as against an increase of about 4.1 per cent in 1988. Industrial production index rose by 5.6 per cent. This increase

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#### ZONAL CONTESTS

Zonal Contests will be held in Lagos (Ibadan, Benin City, Enugu, Kabiya and Kano) Zonal Raffle

Draws will be held in Lagos in March 1991. The Raffle draws will produce a total of 1,900 winning babies made up of 300 winners from each zone who will receive consolation prizes. The last three finalists from each zone will vie for the coveted PEARS BABY OF THE YEAR CROWN in the Grand Finale to be held in Lagos.

#### RULES

- Entries are open only to children of five years and below.
- The decision of the judges will be final.
- A. J. SEWARD shall not enter into any compromise with any baby in respect of the contest.
- All employees of A. J. SEWARD, LINTAS as well as their families do not qualify for participation.
- Every entry must carry the correct name, address and baby's date of birth.
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Names of winners will be published in national newspapers. Winner's names will also be displayed in A. J. Seward Offices nationwide.

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## BRIEFS:

## 1st Nigerian commodity sales week

By Zik Okafor

**T**he short and silent speech that the signach makes daily as man passes through the journey of life remains that: "To live, a man must eat". Thus the man that sells and the one that buys sit at the end of the day to pay tribute to this bottomless pit — the stomach. It is for this reason of survival that every government strives to achieve a healthy economy.

This again explains why the 1st Nigerian Commodity Sales Week is being organised. According to Sim Johnson, a dental Surgeon, this programme is 'not only to give the average needed goods at reduced prices but also for the manufacturer to achieve increased turn-over by selling more goods to the general public at the same reduced prices.

This programme being organized by NTA Channel 10, Trade Fair Management Committee, Cam Citex Nigeria Limited in addition to Hamak Travel will in her words help to boost production as well as meeting companies sales targets at the end of the year.

She expresses the uniqueness of this noble programme which apart from being a booster to the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) aims, will attract millions of visitors, provide a great opportunity for christian shoppers as well as a date for the manufacturer and consumer to meet in order to have a better economic essence.

Participants in this fifteen day (8 — 22 December) Sales — jamboree catalogue will be part of publicity programme to be mounted during the sales-week.

By Chudi Okoye

## Onwuka Hi-Tek reaches out

**S**OMETHING really sizzling appears to be brewing at Onwuka Hi-Tek — a company known for its long line of locally fabricated tools. Plans have been wrapped up to ensure that large manufacturing companies and industrial corporations no longer have to embark on expensive overseas tours to pick up components and spare parts for their industrial equipment. These companies have always been forced on such tours because of unavailability of worthy local substitutes.

Onwuka Hi-Tek apparently has been worrying about this. And recently, following an extensive expansion and diversification drive, the company has delved into moulding and 'precision engineering.' This means, as it is claimed, that machine users can simply stroll into the Hi-Tek smock down orders for specific, tailor-made components and be sure to come away with products of fine craftsmanship.

The man who put Onwuka Inter-biz together, Onwuka Kalu, says this has been made impossible by the recent advent of computerized, numerically controlled machines for precision engineering. Thanks to these machines, his company can now manufacture precision parts for industrialists as well as produce technological machines in commercial quantities for local inventors — all, with a high degree of quality and sophistication.

## Farina's gets word from Japan

**T**HE man came in and his oriental eyes were filled with pleasant surprises. Dr. Nakayama, a renowned soya bean expert from Japan, recently dashed into town on a special visit to Farina, so far the sole producer of soya bean milk in the country.

Farina, makers of Uncle Soya Milk, got a glowing back-pat from Nakayama who'd spent some time inspecting the company's tender operations.

A glowing Girish Wadhvani, MD of Farina, told Nakayama that his company will soon introduce Uncle Soya Yoghurt, ice cream and long life milk — all made from soya bean.

## Lagos will soon explode

**N**OTHING like it has ever been attempted in the whole continent of Africa. But come January 1991, the foundation stone of this exotic, billion-naira tourist

complex will be sunk into place right here at Lekki Peninsula. Riding on an equally exotic name of 'Happyland, Happyworld,' the complex will wall in many out-of-sight facilities: TV and radio stations, helicopter pad, health farm, marina, a racecourse, a cable TV station, movie recording studio, theme park, research centre, ports, and of course the usual — hotels, commercial villages and sports complex.

If it all goes well, by 1992, the last nail would have been driven into the first phase of this project. And four years later, in 1996, the second phase will be commissioned. Some 20,000 Nigerians will pick up a job thereunto.

## Nimark on sure foot

**T**HE Nigerian Marketing Association (NIMARK) seems to be well in saddle. It has pulled off another stage of the Diploma in Marketing exam with an even greater number of candidates. When the inaugural Part I exam was held in April, something like 100 candidates sat in. At the second stage held last October, the figure hugged 200.

With an obvious silver lining somewhere in the sky, a spokesman for NIMARK's national secretariat says plans are afoot to formally launch the Association's part-three Diploma programme next year.

## Young but eager

**T**HE license came in May, and full banking operations commenced only last month. But barely one month on Pacific Merchant Bank has ranged forth with a new product entirely its own. The new instrument, dubbed Pacific coupad certificate, is a medium-term investment in which individuals, corporate bodies, institutional investors like pension fund and insurance companies can invest with, as the bank's MD, Julius Oguniodu, says, "a very high return."

The Pacific coupad certificate carries a floating rate coupon or discount but, according to the MD, "the coupon can only float towards one direction-upward." This means that whenever interest rates in the money market move upwards, the coupon will be adjusted in the upward direction, but where rates generally tack southwards, the coupon will remain unadjusted. As at the day the instrument was launched, November 15, the coupon was 26 per cent per annum.

With a minimum investment of per certificate of N250,000, interest on the coupad will be paid upfront. Duration of the certificate will be one year, though investors may rediscount after six months.

Exults MD Oguniodu: "This is an (Instrument) with a difference!"

is attributed principally to enhanced performance of the petroleum sector. The manufacturing sub-sector recorded marginal increase in capacity utilisation from 42.0 per cent in 1988 to 42.4 per cent in 1989 representing a growth of less than 1.0 per cent in the sub-sector.

The Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) report deviates from the CBN's. MAN is more reflective of the conclusions of its members and reports that though capacity utilization was 42.0 per cent in 1988, it fell to 29.0 per cent in 1989. This implies a worse performance for industrial output in Nigeria for 1989 relative to the preceding year.

siren stood in front of their houses straggling erapily. Two men standing in front of a house later discover to belong to the father of Nigeria's one-time world amateur boxing champion Davidson Anbeh, said they knew nothing about the deceased.

Even at a distance less than two hundred metres to his own house, only a scanty crowd of women and children stood in front of a white painted one-storey building with the tag 'White House' owned by Ken, his younger brother.

While his casket was nestling in his uncompleted building, TSM met with his uncle, Peter Chukwu, 76, to find out more about his lacklustre attitude of village men. But the World War II veteran who returned from Rome in 1946, stoutly defended JC. According to him, the late witty compe and renowned actor was a darling of all and sundry. He, Peter claimed, bought and installed all the electrical equipment in the only church in the village and promised to tar the road before the end of next year. This promise, he said emotionally could not materialize because of evil mens handiwork which implies that JC was killed by remote control.

John Chukwu's maternal uncle Dennis Akachukwu, 57 also re-affirmed this notion that JC was a victim of man's inhumanity to man. He warned that the village elders are already meeting and that 'the voice of the night will not only tell them JC's killer but will keep the culprit naked the rest of life.

JC's uncles' positions however are in contrast from those of some men in the village. According to one John (surname withheld) John Chukwu's modern



Peter-JC's uncle in agony

astes and profession are diametrically opposed to the ethics of an Ogbuelli. Sirening his point, he said, "before the advent of the white man, an Ogbuelli does not sleep in a foreign land. No. Even now that everything has gone bad, there is still a limit to which an Ogbuelli can associate with people particularly the opposite sex. John was too free minded to differentiate between the cross and the crescent. He must have incurred the wrath of our ancestors. I may be wrong but my mind tells me I am right". A second man who pleaded anonymity states that the show-biz genius was too much of a foreigner in his land to understand its cultural systems. "He has never spent three days at a stretch in this town. He dashes in and rushes out. There is never a time to sit with elders to really understand our culture and imbibe the revered Ogbuelli cult".

"I sought to speak with Catherine Chukwu, the mother of late Omokadi I of Enugu-Mmaku, but she was too wrapped in her sorrowful costume for words. She looked stunned in every way as she

sat down adorned in a milk coloured 'buba' and 'ira' and a scarf to match. She was motionless with one hand glued to the cheek as Olor, her grandson sat beside her.

More men however began to gather the second day as JC received his last blessing from a priest. The climax of tears came when the priest called Olor to perform the ritual of 'Earth to Earth' after the grave side orations. He again looked hard, stern and determined not to cry. As he packed the sand with his fingers, men, women and children broke down in tears. At this point traces of tears became visible in his eyes but holding tenaciously to his casket, he brought out his dark glasses and covered his eyes in a chat later with TSM he said that he had vowed not to weep for a man that brought laughter to the world. "My father is not dead. As long as he is remembered, he is still alive. And before the world begins to forget him, I will finish my school to start from where he stopped in show biz". With a smile he asked "can you now see why I can't weep for him? JC lives on".

However, at the end of the burial rites Olor's mother, who had attended the burial out of the two wives made to go. The Mmaku clan forbids this move since their culture demands that she spend a month mourning her husband. But the quiet-looking and composed woman stood her ground. She insisted that she had to return home first and then come back for the harrowing mourning ritual. This was finally granted and so she departed with JC's committee of inends from Lagos.

## A kick in the groin

For meaty-mouthed Milli Vanilli

**H**ow does it feel to climb a ladder rung by rung only to find it rocking violently? Do you hang on for dear life? Do you watch helplessly as the ladder crashes? Maybe, these are the questions the winning pop duo Milli Vanilli are finding quick answers to.

After clinching the Best New Artist Grammy Award for 1989 with their best-selling album *Girl You Know It's True*, they naturally became the toast of music butts, producers and critics. What with their winsome looks, luscious dreadlocks and little hips. And velvety voice to boot. Or so we thought. Now their producer,

Frank Faria (Furious Frank?) has let the proverbial cat out of the bag. In fact, he's the one now singing like a canary, saying that the pretty boys did not sing a note in the hit album.

Trust National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, in America, they have moved in and stripped the band of award. Like humble lambs, the now discredited artists voluntarily relinquished the award. Somehow Rob Pilatus and Fab Morvan (both of whom make up the group) are determined not to crash alone. They are ready to drag down executives of their recording companies, Beatelsmann and Arista Records accusing them of pre-knowledge of the deception. "We were trapped, seduced, abused. We tell very guilty," they crowed at a news conference in Frankfurt, Germany last week. The executives on their part, are threatening to slap a libel suit on the singers if they don't lay their wild charges elsewhere.

Meanwhile Milli Vanilli is ready to show the world that besides their chiselled cheekbones they have got tons of talent. After handing over the award

they promised to start work on a new album. Only this time, no miming or dubbling of voice. No ghost singers.

The album has sold 10 million copies worldwide.





## Sporting



The Big Take! Skipper Obitor carts away the FA Cup



Plus Ubom Eyo

Governor Eze (left) played the ball. Rasaki won the cup.

### By Ochereome Nnanna

Herbert Eze, a Colonel, the Anambra State Military Governor could have won the much hyped 1990 FA Cup by merely wishing it, or by a thoroughly-rehearsed psychological war-

fare against Stationary Stores "led by" his Lagos State counterpart, Raji Rasaki, also a Colonel, Rangers would be the ones kissing the trophy and drinking from it.

Eze came, fully dressed for victory, willing, able and eager to play Rasaki into the ground in Rasaki's own 'back yard'. Sporting the stereotypical sports uniform of his state (yellow long-sleeved track top or black track down with a black cap decorated with yellow

# Military Governors

## 'fight' it out

Stores win. A new era, new antics make the struggle for the new FA Cup soccer's annual high point.



National Stadium. One of their fans Azumi Zubaru told our reporter that they are now used to Lagos football fan antics. "We pray that referee blows his

is back once again, especially as traditional teams which had gone into the cooler, have risen again.

The resurgence of enthusiasm for the FA Cup was also enhanced by the return of action to the main bowl of the National Stadium, Lagos. Those years — 1988, 1989 when the finals had to take place at Adamasingba, Ibadan and Taiawa Balewa, Bauchi took away some of the FA Cup's shine.

Perhaps, next season all the clubs will want to be "died" for by soccer fans, too.

## The glamour is back!

### By Ochereome Nnanna

Let us guess what might have happened in Lagos last "Saturday". If your car broke down, it was unlikely that you found a motor spare-parts shop open to enable you make

a replacement.

If you wanted to shop early for X-mas clothes and goodies for yourself and dear ones, you must have had to postpone the venture. Reason: Rangers International of Enugu was a qualifier for the final of the 1990 FA Cup.

If you wanted to run around Lagos, for business or for fun, and you failed to do it in the early hours, the venture must have flapped. Because the "Molue" conductors and drivers (including taxi drivers), vulcanizers and roadside mechanics, were not there to attend to you. Reason: Stationery Stores of Lagos was warming up for the final of the 1990 FA Cup.

Those who provide the above essential services that make Lagos tick herded themselves to the National Stadium for soccer war of nerves. Supporters of both teams had, on picking up the ticket at the expense of BCC Lions of Gboko and Ranchers of Bees of Kaduna, promised each other "fire" before yesterday's final.

Rangers supporters, clustering like ants on the bus of their darling team had sung in Ibo:

*Na mbu K'obidoro  
Na mbu na mbu K'obidoro*

Meaning —

*It started at the beginning*

*At the very beginning it started.*

Stationery Stores fans, aided by their talking drums and eardrum-blasting trumpets had warned Ranchers: *Sabaruma so logbon ni, wa sare  
Gambari so logbon ni, wa sare*

Meaning —

*The idiot who does not heed our warning,  
he will run away.*

*Northerner who does not heed our warning,  
he will run away!*

Last Sunday, Stores fans were so charged that policemen, fearing outbreak of violence, dispersed them with teargas. However, despite the boastful and war-like tone of the songs, violence seemed to be no part of it all. One of the trumpeters of Stores, Gboyega Ilesanmi, who spoke to TSM *Sporting* said they were not looking for trouble. "No trouble," he said, "we dey enjoy ourselves."

The Ranchers who came with Kano-based Koratso dancers, danced and shrieked over to the Lagos end of the

whistle well. If we win, they will cool down."

Observers believe that the legendary glamour of the Nigerian Challenge Cup



Action stations. Demola Johnson of Stores (left) is kept at bay by this mean looking Rancher.



Carnival time at one of the FA Cup semi-final matches

# A boy's genitals are menaced

By Ochereome Nnanna

As they say, if you do not know where to stop, you will definitely stop where you do not know.

This young Stationery Stores supporter ran into unforeseen dilemma during the first FA Cup final match between his darling team and Enugu Rangers, and he had only himself to thank (or blame).

It was still one hour to the start of the match. Groups of supporters of both sides were roaming the grounds of Sports City, singing, dancing, and having a good time. One of Stores supporters processions, banging away at their talking drums, milled towards the IN-gate of the stadium complex, here a lot of soccer mementoes (caps, rattlers, badges, stickers, etc) were on sale.

Jimoh Odumosu (as he was identified), a tall, charcoal black boy in his ecstatic frenzy, went low, scooped a handful of caps designed in Rangers colours, and threw them into the air. While some people in the crowd tore up the caps, others stamped on them with their feet, thus, rendering them unfit to be bought.

Odumosu's grouse was that the trader was selling only Rangers' caps and none of Stores'. To make matters worse the trader had a Rangers cap on! That was

what incited the teenager, but if he had known the consequences, he would have desisted.

Because the owner of the wares, Gabriel Okechukwu, grabbed him and demanded N200 as reparation Okechukwu seemed oblivious that the crowd might misunderstand the situation and go on a lynching spree. Shouting "thief! thief!" he pulled down the boy's trousers and held tightly to his manhood.

Odumosu's group suspended their drumming and started pleading with the trader to let go of the boy's genitals to avoid harming him permanently, but Okechukwu only tightened his grips around the boy.

Three fearless-wielding policemen arrived on the scene and only then could the trader let go of Odumosu's manhood. Okechukwu came under pressure from the cops to explain why he had to go for the boy's fly given recent events in Lagos.

"I know Stores supporters well well," he shouted panting from his exertion, "if I no holam dere his group I'll beat me and the boy go escape. I go lose two times. As I holam so, even if day beat me, at least I holam one person."

Okechukwu needed not to have worried, because the Stores supporters were not looking for trouble. In fact, some of them were furious at Odumosu for touching somebody's wares.

"No dis people dey spoil Stores name", one of their leaders was saying, when the boy had been taken away to the

police station, "we warn everybody not to cause trouble".

It was, however, gathered that after the match, the group would go and settle with the trader so that the boy would be released.

## "GOD BLESS STORES"

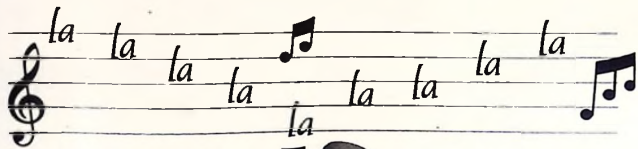
"Want the boys to go and win the cup," he said, adjusting his oversized agbada, "and God will be with them".

This was the ringing voice of Peju Adebajo, who had greeted TSM Sporting with "Up Super Up Flaming" the usual salute of Stationery Stores of Lagos.

Peju was having a date with history on this final match day. He, it was who bossed the club in 1982 when it last won the glamorous trophy. Since he threw in the towel to other members of the Adebajo family, Stores have never come anywhere close to any trophy. Peju, nudging 60, was, however, as convinced of victory as anyone else could be. Said he "the one has ever survived a reply with Stores... rangers cannot survive it". Neither did Ranchers' Bees nor Julius Berger.

Now that they have won, can they find the money to foot the continental bill? "Get the cup first and the money won't be problem", he said, poetically, "I know money is hard to get, but we are used to international engagements. We represented Nigeria in 1968, 1969 and 1981. Meanwhile, we thank Governor Rasak for supporting us all the way".

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