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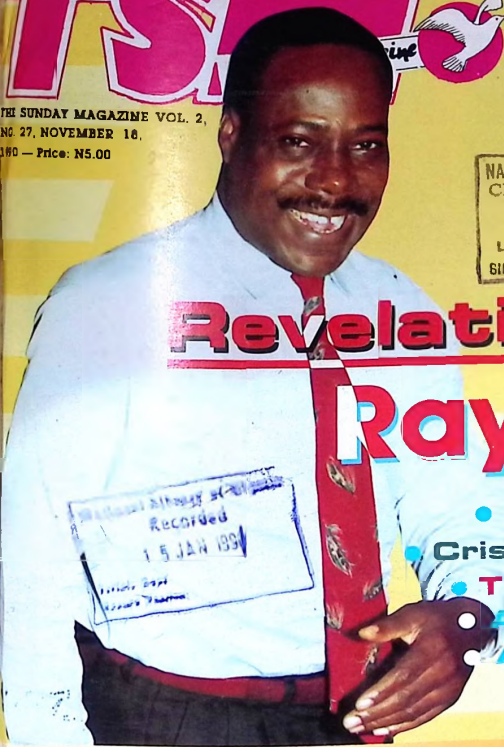
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TSM

THE SUNDAY MAGAZINE VOL. 2,
NO. 27, NOVEMBER 18,
1990 — Price: N5.00



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Revelations of: Ray Ekpu

- Dele Giwa & IBB
- Crisis at Newswatch
- Trouble with MEE
- Akapa & Akinyele
- Am I anti-North?

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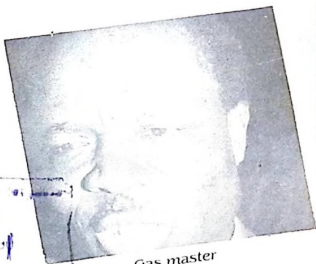
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● Ray — Revelations galore



● John — Gas master

Recorded
15 JAN 1991
FEM AIGBOYA
FELIX EDIALE



● ...Classy damsel — beware



● Ebewelle — Mr. Magic

A letter from the Editor

Journalists don't grant interviews. That's an irony which is very difficult to come to terms with. The toughest askers of questions don't like to put themselves at the firing stakes.

Which is why this edition of **TSM** is an unusual scoop. Ray Ekpu, editor-in-chief of trail-blazing **NewsWatch** magazine, a man who in the last 10 years has soared so high in stature, has never been seen as completely as this. It is not really that he doesn't grant interviews. It is just that because he is a most tough interviewer himself, most journalists who have interviewed him had found it impossible to penetrate that solid face and almost guttural voice, to reach the kernel of this man's personality.

But **TSM** did it. Which is why you will find in this edition a Ray Ekpu you've never seen before, immensely profound, brutally candid. Most important, you will find that Ekpu talks the way he writes with those great flourishes of prose which have elevated him perhaps to the level of a living legend.

Have a ball.

Ely Obasi

TSM

Editor-in-Chief/Chief Executive
Chris Anyanwu (Mrs.)

Editor
Ely Obasi

Senior Correspondents
Kayode Samuel, Muba Okosun,
Comstan Obi

Staff Writers
Mackson Onyejekwe
Ochereame Nnanna Chudi Ozoje

Assistant Staff Writers
Yusuph Olaniyana, Ademola Adedoyin
Zik Okator

Reporter/Researcher
Dan Onwukwe

Guest Writers
Eugenia Abu, Mohammed Bulama,
Greg Obong Oshoto

Proof Reader
Amance Obi

Head of Photography
Pius Ulori Ekpe

Senior Photographer
Sunday Ojelabi

Senior Production Officer
Femi Awakoya

Graphic Artist
Felix Ediaie

Computer Typesetter
Sola Oladapo, John Otudu

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Femi Akinlusi, Bola Adebote

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Speakout

Re: Ras Kimono

We hereby write to dissociate ourselves and our artiste (Ras Kimono) from a publication titled "I am not a Copy Cat — Ras Kimono" which was carried in your September 11, 1990 edition.

Please note the following

(I) Ras Kimono did **Not** and has never granted you Dan Onwukwe an interview on the above so he couldn't have said all that your magazine credited to him.

(II) Ras Kimono, who acknowledged Ras Siano in his *What's Gwan* album, did **Not** and could not have told your reporter that he did not know Ras Shara Siano or his book.

(III) Your reporter claimed that he pinned down Ras Kimono two Fridays before the publication when Ras Kimono was about to go to the Floating Bukka Marina. He did not state the exact location of the purported encounter, and Floating Bukka ceased to exist almost a year ago.

(IV) Your reporter referred to Ras Siano's book as "yet to be published". This also is not true, since the book is already three months old in the market.

Please correct the errors committed against our artiste in the interest of the good relationship that exists between us

Kent Uche (Esq)

for: *Massive Dread Promotions*
Surulere, Lagos.

Nigeria at 30

I disagree with the majority of contributors to your special anniversary edition (Vol 2 No 21 October 7, 1990) who claim that one of our achievements at 30 is maintaining *One Nation*. I'd rather say we are still far apart. In some parts of Nigeria, a citizen cannot get employment if he is not an *indigene*, rather you get a 3-year contract you cannot get promotion on the job or admission into a university because we want some people to catch-up. Some still believe it's their birthright to rule this nation and regard others as second-class citizens. That's why we are still far apart.

Ngozi Chukwuka

Bauchi

Field-Marshal 188?

It is still a puzzle to me why any Nigerian should be worried that President Babangida might take the rank of Field-Marshal. Didn't we find it acceptable that the man has pulled surprise after surprise? From dissolving the nation's highest ruling body through establishing two government parties, to promotion of retired officers — the first in the history of this country. He even dragged Nigerian soldiers who had not lasted war for over twenty years to Libena.

So what's all this noise about his becoming a Field-Marshal? I think he's already one.

Uzodinma Abosi Brown

Gboko

VOICES

Do you think MAMSER should be scrapped?



Joseph Ebegbulen
University Lecturer



Soni Irabor
Broadcaster



Lola Marc
Student



Felix Ommuhbi
Youth Carper

I HAVE viewed MAMSER and FEEL as cosmetic set-ups to siphon public funds. MAMSER is supposed to enlighten the people. Which people? To me MAMSER is a duplication of efforts since politicians have now taken over the mobilisation function. MAMSER is even a stumbling block in the transition process. I emphatically support its being scrapped.

I REALLY don't know how to determine the present day relevance of MAMSER to our society. And considering the current political situation in the country, I cannot see what end MAMSER is still serving. If it has functioned when it was needed and that is it, I don't know how to justify its continued existence.

MAMSER? Which MAMSER? I don't place much relevance on MAMSER as an institution. I don't feel its impact in whatever manner — social or political. I'm indifferent as to whether it continues to exist or not. MAMSER might be doing some people some good, but certainly not the Government. Should decide its fate since it's a brainchild of government.

AMONG the reasons that informed the setting up of MAMSER is social mobilisation. This is a continued function. It is therefore justifiable to retain MAMSER in that there is a gap it is filling. To that extent MAMSER should not be scrapped. Instead it should be reinvigorated for future development.



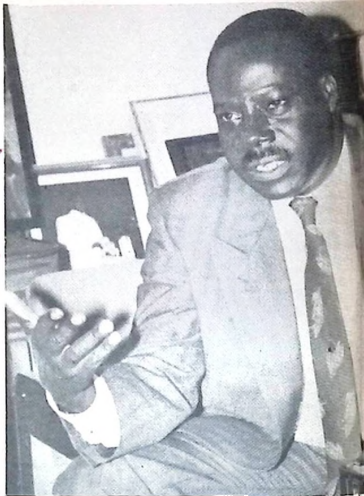
Politics & Policy

By Ely Obasi
Kayode Samuel

The story could start from 1980 — the year one young Nigerian journalist made his decisive move from provincial newspapering in sedate Calabar into big-time penmanship in bustling Lagos. Or it could start from 1984 when that young man, alongside three similarly destined colleagues, hid their employers a final bye and set out to blaze a trail in magazine journalism in these parts. Again, the story could commence from that nondescript Monday morning in February 1985 when the baby those four conceived — *Newswatch* — finally hit the streets and quickly warmed its way into the hearts of Nigerian readers.

Still, the story could start from that fateful mid-October noonday four years ago when Dele Giwa got bombed out of existence by still unknown assassins. Or maybe it should commence from six months after that bloody incident — on the day the sledge-hammer of official highhandedness came down with such a dreadful bang, bringing in its wake an astonishing proscription order. In between all

Newswatch
Editor-in-
Chief,
Ray Ekpu
pleads
"not guilty"
on all
counts—
Dele Giwa,
plagiarism,
Israel,
political
ambitions,
etc.



Dele Giwa... named IBF Man-of-the-Year

these of course there have been several other minor skirmishes, minor only because of the man's resilience.

But from whichever point we choose to re-run the Ray Ekpu story, the script reads the same — a long winding trail of trials, tribulations, triumphs...and more trials still.

Today, the *Newswatch* Editor-in-Chief is still on trial for allegedly deserting his bosom friend in death.

For not staying true to the *Newswatch* "dream," for taking the ladder with him after climbing up, and, lest we forget, for plagiarising Mr. Thomas Paine. All these among many other "crimes."

In this interview, Ray Ekpu rises robustly to his own defence on all the

Ray of Revelations

charges. It is the first time the man himself is saying it all. And it seems set to open up another round of dis-temper about the man and whatever he stands for. Which is why it is a must read...

Q There are almost as many accusations as there are commentators on this issue of why Dele Giwa's closest colleagues appear not to have been anxious to find his killer. Why are you still assuming it to be what you people developed cold feet —

A What specifically do you want?

Q An answer to the charge that *Newswatch* executives seem to be colluding with those we called Dele Giwa, that they are doing with us about with short eager spoons —

A Well, I guess after 4 years one is used to such remarks. But my opening slot is that *Newswatch* is not in anybody's pocket. It cannot be in anybody's pocket — The government or anybody's. The reason for setting up *Newswatch*, a lot of people comment about *Newswatch* without really knowing the reason

was so that we can have an institution in Nigeria that attempts to practise journalism the way it ought to be practised, which attempts to be excellent, attempts to be fair in dealing with any issue it tends to come in contact with. That is why we had certain conditions for even people who were to invest money in *NewsWatch*. We said to them, if you intend to go and contest elections, you should not invest in *NewsWatch*. And that is still there and we explained it carefully to them before they invested. For us, the four of us, we have an agreement. We called it *pre-incorporation agreement* in which we all signed that we will not go into politics, we will not accept any government appointments, federal, or state governments or local government, part-time appointments or full-time appointments, ministry appointment or board appointments. That is why Dan (Agbese) had to resign his appointment they gave him as a director NTA. And various governments have asked us to accept one job or another, and we had said no, because that is against the terms of contracts that we signed with *NewsWatch*.

If anyone of us today wants to leave before ten years, say to go into politics, he will have to forgo ten percent of his shares. So these are very stringent conditions. And the conditions were meant to ensure that we are sufficiently independent to carry on the business of publishing the way God gives us the light to see it. We haven't moved one inch from that position. And I get surprised when people talk about *NewsWatch* being controlled by the government, being a puppet of the government, it is worth laughing at. Because the relationship between the government and the press in all countries of the free era, is a cat and mouse relationship. But journalism is not about being pro-government or about being anti-government. Journalism is about being fair. Saying "the government has done this thing right, I say it is right. The government has done this thing wrong, I say it is wrong". It is not about saying "good or bad my master". Or it is right, right, right, all the way or wrong, wrong, wrong all the way. That could be unrealistic. Reality isn't like that. You can't have anything that is all good or bad. Life is a mix of good and bad. And you should be able to say at different times that this policy is good or this and this reason. This policy is bad for these reasons. And that is how we relate to this government and all other governments. And I believe that is the position of journalism. You cannot take a certain permanent position of being an enemy or being a friend. I wish to be corrected on that.

Now, a lot of people have written since Dele (Giwa) died to say we haven't found the killers. There have been all kinds of theories. All kinds of positions. And each one says that *NewsWatch* ought by its investigative skills to have found the killers. That is a great compliment. We would have liked to find and name the killers. You see, some sections of the public either for reasons of convenience or whatever like to suffer from selective amnesia. Before Dele died, we used to get letters, we used to be accosted on the road by people who say "*NewsWatch* is pro-government. Dele is pro-government, all of you are pro-government. All of you are in the pocket of the government." And on October 19, 1986, this guy was killed. And then the public tune changed. The chorus was "this was our great editor who fought for human rights, for emancipation of Nigerians, now, the oppressors have



Akinyele...no conflict of interest

killed him. This was our great magazine that fought for the interest of the people." Within the difference of October 18 and October 19, the song had changed.

Now, after October 19, we didn't labour under the illusion that things were going to be easy for *NewsWatch*. We tried to gather the pieces and to get on with the business of publishing, with the business of managing all of the untidy fall-out of Dele Giwa's death. And now just six months after Dele Giwa died, okay, before then, readers were being told, readers were writing to us, people were cursing us, you are lily-livered, you are no longer caring on with the investigative journalism, with crusading journalism, are you afraid to die because your colleague had been killed? Oh, *NewsWatch* has lost its lustre, it's lost its bite, *NewsWatch* is no longer the magazine that we use to know." The same public. They are like the Roman mob. One moment, "crucify him; then other moment crown him!" So six months later, *NewsWatch* was proscribed. And the people were punching the air, "oh our great *NewsWatch*, our great *NewsWatch* has been proscribed. Down with the oppressors!" But that is the way it ended. They just changed. They changed again. So, we have learnt to live with this fluctuations in public support and lack of support. That says to us we are consistent in our approach towards the profession. We are consistent. And we tend to remain consistent.

Dele Giwa named IBB man of the year

Then there was quite a bit of uproar about

Mohammed Haruna...Is NEWSWATCH anti-North?



our making president Babangida our man of the year. People wrote some hostile letters to me. Some said "and how much were you guys paid?" As mean as that. "How much were you guys paid." I said but you guys should understand what it is all about. *Time* (magazine) named the computer man of the year. *Time* magazine made Ayatollah Khomeini man of the year. These are different items. A paper like the *World Press Review* has a different set of criteria. It picks the ten best, what it considers the ten most important news items in the year and tells editors around the world to pick what they consider the ten most important best news items of the year. And all we are saying is that this man for good or for ill dominated the news stories for good part of that year. But I think that the people didn't read our explanations on what it is about. They thought it is another chieftaincy title or an honorary doctorate degree or national honour that we had conferred on the president. And they said "in the midst of SAP, in the midst of the government's failure to get Dele Giwa's killers, how dare you do that?" One reporter came here, during that time, he said, "oh you guys just made Babangida man of the year. I am sure if Dele Giwa had been alive, he would not have done a thing like that. I said Dele Giwa as Editor-in-Chief, was carrying out the editorial policy of *NewsWatch*. He didn't have his own personal policy. Our policy is to be fair to all persons in handling the news. I brought out a copy of *NewsWatch* in which Dele Giwa, in fact in January 1986, had named Babangida as the man of the year. And the guy was surprised and that was it. Of course, the story didn't appear. Because it didn't fit into the picture he had in his head. Yes, his pre-conceived position. He had already written his script and put it in his pocket and he wanted to fulfill all righteousness by just coming to us. So, you have this pre-conceived view of what *NewsWatch* is or what it is about. But we will just laugh. We have to laugh because we know they are wrong and they don't seek to be right. They don't care to know. They assume that they know. But, in fact, they don't.

Some people talk about the *NewsWatch* dream. And when you ask them to define the contents of that dream, they cannot define it. But it is alright. We know what the *NewsWatch* dream is and we believe that it is a realisable dream. But it is not dream that is realised in one day or in one week or in one month or in one year. The dream is an ambition, a target

you set for yourself. A target of excellence. An ambition to do it right. You can always just keep aspiring to fulfill that dream in its entirety. It may be possible or it may not be possible, but you just keep trying, and trying hard. And that is what we have been trying to do.

murder, our

The Dele Gbwa killing is our allstar. It is a cross we have to carry. We are carrying it. I don't know if we are carrying it gracefully enough. But we are carrying it as best as we can. People talk casually about this matter. They do not know the depth of the matter. People say to you "why haven't you found the killers?" If it were as simple as that, I am sure that any of the newspapers and magazines, and I am sure we have so many newspapers and magazines which are enterprising, could have found the killers. And of course that would have been the greatest scoop of the year. Or has scoop ceased to be the beautiful bride of journalism? Has it ceased to be journalism's high point? I don't think it has. I believe that any newspaper or magazine that has the ability to find the killers would have found the killers, independent of the police and government. But those who talk glibly about *Newswatch* not finding the killers betray shallow understanding of this complex phenomenon. It is not easy in the sort of circumstances that happened immediately after Dele's death and after the publicity that the matter has attracted, the international tension that it has attracted, for anybody, and the accusing fingers that have been pointed in some directions, it is not easy for anybody to wake up and just look under the table and find Dele Gbwa's killers. It is not like there is... I don't know if there is a document somewhere in which the plot can be found. I do not know how it was plotted, how it was executed. But when people talk like that about *Newswatch*, they refer to the Gani Fawehinmi court case. So many people say to us "oh you abandon Gani Fawehinmi." It looks like *Newswatch* is not interested. And you try to explain as carefully as possible. Some of them, their minds are already closed. They are locked against you on whatever explanation you have to make. But you have to explain all the same.

rejoice

The explanation is that on the day that Dele Gbwa was killed, I was at the hospital, and I sat at the hospital and called the directors of the company and called Gani Fawehinmi who is the lawyer that we consulted a few days before he died and we were asked to draft the statement which was to indicate what had been happening in the last few hours, the last 72 hours before his death, which is normal in every African society. When somebody dies accidentally, you ask: where did he go to? Could he have been poisoned? Did he eat food somewhere? Did he drink somewhere? Who are his friends? Who did he meet in the past few hours before his death? So, we chronicled his movement and the things that happened which we issued as a release. And that statement, the information contained is what Gani argued in his court case plus of course the interview that some reporters did with one of the security officers, ISSS Deputy Director Kunko Fagun, at the airport the

copy of which they gave to us. Apart from that, there is really nothing else. You see at the time this thing happened the board met and decided the information we had, when Gani suggested that he wanted to go to court, the board met and I believe that one can give a bill of respect to the people who are knowledgeable in matters about life, matters about the public, I don't claim to be an expert and I think anybody who says to you he has a simple answer to the Dele Gbwa murder is just a fool. There is no simple answer. It is very complex and people must understand that. And the board plus some other people who were invited sat down and thought of different approaches to the matter. And they said, okay, let us do a discreet investigation. If people say "are you doing anything, are you investigating?" we say, no. That is a discreet way of getting information. And as you get the information, let us continue to assemble the facts



Gani Fawehinmi... in war mood

until we have enough and then we take a decision on it. People were actually coming to say "oh, I have this information I can give you. Oh, we heard this or we had information that this is this," and we are just trying to piece these things together. With the hope that with all of these part of the jig-saw puzzle will hopefully in due time fall in place.

And these murderers may just cover their tracks because of the kind of attention that court processes may generate and we may not be able to get more information. Let us rather ask the government to set up a commission of enquiry. The government didn't and instead said it was a police matter. We said "Okay, we accept." The police is investigating with the machinery, the equipment, the personnel, the money and the statute with which to conduct investigations. So it is in other countries. I don't think anybody who loses a relation, who has a problem that is a criminal problem is the one to conduct it by himself. We are willing to give the police support. We will give information to the police, whatever information is available to us and we expect that the police will do its duty to Nigeria, to *Newswatch* and to Nigerians.

Well, that duty is yet to be done by the police. I will like to ask somebody who says *News-*

watch, you haven't done this, you haven't done that to step forward and say one, two, three these are the things that *Newswatch* should do that it hasn't done.

You will remember that the pirate confrontation, Wolf Soyinka, offered to pay some money to anybody who might provide some information to the unearthing of the murder and Nigerians love money. Everybody loves money, but to my knowledge nobody has come forward with it. If tomorrow morning, somebody comes to *Newswatch* and says "I have the information, concrete information, that leads to unearthing this mystery," I am sure *Newswatch* will do business with him. Yes. *Newswatch* will do to do business with him to show that we mean that this murder should be unravelled and the people should be exposed. Let the person who has this information, concrete, step forward and we will all negotiate with him.

Q: Is it not so easy that you believe as it is believed in western quarters that Gani Fawehinmi has his concrete evidence?

A: No, I am not a lawyer or a judge. I am not saying that. I am saying that I will like to know chapter and verse, who killed our friend, and for what reason. In fact, even out of self interest, we ought to know because we are groping in the dark, the rest of us who are alive, Yakubu, Dan and myself. How do we know that this was not a plot to kill all of us or some of us? How do we know that Dele was the only one targeted? And that it was not even the organisation, in which case all the executives of the organisation are in danger, their lives are in jeopardy. So, this mystery, this cobweb, I will like it cleared. In our own interest, we will like it cleared. Apart from our commitment to our friend, our brother and our business partner, how do we know we are safe? If we are able to get this mystery unearthed, then we will know it is in which dimension? Who did it? What was the latitude of the plot? Who and who were going to be involved and for what specific reason? Does that make sense to you.

Q: I think it does.

A: This is an institution, it is not a one-man band. *Newswatch* is not a one-man band. It has a band leader, alright, but you also have a saxophonist, you have a flutist, you have people playing the konga and so on. It is comprehensive. And how do we know who else comes out? Some people really come to me and say "will this place is not good for you. Why don't you go to America and practise journalism or go to Britain." It is out of the fear that we haven't seen the last yet. We didn't know what goes on in man's heart. You have people who don't know what goes on in man's heart. You have people who don't have something you can point to as evidence of courage in their personal lives who are telling you that you are chicken-hearted just because you have not done what they think you ought to do. And what they think you ought to do is not backed by reason. And you must be unreasonable not to accept what they say you ought to accept.

Q: You mentioned something about documents? How about that?

A: I said I don't know if there is any such document. No I was referring to a plot in which they say one, two, three, four, this is how we are going to do it.

Q: I think what Kunko is driving at is that there was saying that if the government could release the ballistics report to shine a spotlight on our music light on the mat-

A: I don't have any information as to whether it exists or not. What I know is that the same day and two days after the incident some policemen came and introduced themselves to me and said they wanted to pick the debris of the bombed incident and I took them there and they picked whatever they wanted to pick. That is the first day. The second day they came and said they wanted more bits and pieces on the dead. But I don't know whether they have a report on that. But I do know they picked samples.

Q: Have you been in contact with the police on this matter, report I presume?

A: Over the years, all of the police chiefs we have been writing to them and we haven't had a meaningful reply.

My study was bugged

Q: Another aspect is this thing about a visit from American ladies to your house. Did you report some office for bugging and what you did and have you reported a few times to the security forces under the guise of your book?

A: I don't know about any American lady who has come to sweep my office or my house. But I can say this, that I did find in my study, books in my study, some devices that I was told are bugging devices. I found one, I was just taking a book out of the shelf, I think "White House Years," Henry Kissinger's book it is a thick book and something dropped from the book and I looked at it, it was small like this Sonny earphone. And I picked it and I was alarmed and I started searching all the books in the place. And of course, I then invited someone to come and help in the search, and we found one more in another book so, that is the much I know.

Q: How long ago?

A: This was 1987.

Q: Before or after the ban?

A: Oh, after the ban.

Q: Could the bugging have taken you so much as to make you take things away?

A: Well, as a human being, I was worried about it. You see I made it a habit to take my friends to my study and we sit down and talk. Or we sit down and have cognac, (laughter) and discuss what we have to discuss because for me, it is a more intimate place to be when I am around the house. And then it is entirely possible that you are there with your friend and you step out a minute or say "let me get you a drink or let me get you some glasses," and somebody slips these things into your books. It is entirely possible. It could also be possible that the security men planted the things at the time they came to search the house after the prescription. Because they didn't let my family members come around and they were so many going into different rooms at the same time. So, this thing was possible under that atmosphere. But I am not making any accusation. I am just saying anything was possible. You can see one was worried that there would be any group of people who will be trying to buy the telephone of an innocent, law abiding and tax paying Nigerian citizen for no apparent reason. I am not against anybody, or at least so I think.

Q: Sometimes, indeed.

A: So you can see now, let me interrupt you, the people who tell you this thing that you should have done this or that, they don't even know your mind. The burden under which you labour. And they are putting you on the

cross and dragging the nails into your skin without caring to know what you are passing through.

Q: You think the burden has left you rattled enough to make you not want to abandon the search.

A: No. It is not a search that can be abandoned for various reasons. This commitment we have to Dele Giwa is unshakable and unshakable. And even out of self interest, it cannot be abandoned. You are sitting in a room that is completely dark. That is the picture right now you don't know who is lunging at you from the back with a dagger. You are sitting down there, you are a sitting duck, you are an unmovable and immovable target. You are just sitting there to be snipped at. You are a sniper's target. That is my own description of the setting in which we are. So, it is not possible to abandon the search. Rattled or not rattled, it can't be abandoned. The logic of the circumstances does not even permit, assuming that we for one moment ever thought of it. It does not permit any abandonment of the search.

Q: What is the condition under which regards the search can be abandoned?

A: Don't you think you should ask the family members that. You see when you are getting into a situation like this particularly after the uproar or after the sort of thing that happened, one should be careful. You should pick your steps, very carefully along what one can call the field of mine or minefield. So I will prefer not to talk about it. I think the various people involved are talking with each other. But I don't know whether anything concrete has happened. I don't think so because I haven't been so informed. But I am sure they are still talking and trying to resolve the problem.

Q: You are always aware of his interest on the North?

A: Oh no. That is in abeyance. What we do is to rely, because we haven't been able to get, because of the differences, from the Ministry of Justice, the letter of administration of the estate. So we depend on the Lagos State law that defines how the entitlements of a person who died intestate is to be handled. It says one-third to the wife, the other two-thirds to the children. So, whatever accrues to Dele Giwa from *News-watch* is handled under that direction, under the Lagos State law right now.

News-watch is not anti-North

Q: How do you think *News-watch* is viewed in the North especially from certain quarters?

Ekwu: 'I'm just a lucky bastard'



Q: How do you think the editor of *News-watch* (former *Standard*) viewed the situation in the North. There are some people who are saying that.

A: Well, I did read that piece. *News-watch* is not anti-North. It is not pro-North. Mohammed Haruna worked for a federally-funded newspaper, that is a Northern newspaper the *New Nigerian*. So his perspective has been coloured by that experience. If there is a news magazine in Nigeria that is representative of the geography of this country and the politics of this country, I think *News-watch* comes close to it. It is not perfect arrangement, though. Right now, you have two Northern directors who are my colleagues, Yakubu and Dan are from the North—whether you prefer to call it Fickett-Bell or the North. I mean, when it is convenient people say they are from the north, when it is not convenient they say they are from the Middle Belt, so, I think that by geography, these guys are from the North.

Q: You are saying that you are not anti-North.

A: I know the two of them are from Benue State.

Q: You are saying that you are not anti-North.

A: Yes, I know. And the two of them, Yakubu and Dan, they worked with the *New Nigerian* at various times and Dan also worked with the *Standard*. In fact he was the editor of the *Standard* and he was chairman of Benue Radio so, by every trace of imagination, you can accept that they are Northerners and they understand the Northern view point on a number of issues. And you cannot have in a magazine like *News-watch*, voices stronger than Dan's and Yakubu's. So, it will be very, very inaccurate, to say that because Ray Ekwu who is not from the North is at the head of *News-watch*, therefore they do not or Ray Ekwu doesn't like the North. Or *News-watch* doesn't like the North. I have been overruled quite a few times by the staff here because for us to get an editorial decision, it is very serious business. We sit down here, ten or twelve editors and to debate for hours. Brainstorm; really brainstorm. And if I feel that I haven't made any point of view clearly, if I have a point to make, I will go back to my study and prepare to come and defend it. I have done it on many occasions I think when I was trying to push a story idea forward and they didn't seem to agree that it was worthwhile, I went back to my study and did some more work and then made another presentation and they accepted it. So for us, it is an intellectual battle. We don't have a dictator here who says "this thing must be published, we must take a position against the North or against the south." There is no such position here. And we try as much as possible to be fair to all parties. I think he (Mohammed Haruna) referred to the story we did on the NNPC which I think was quite a fine story. The NNPC has not refuted it because we have the facts and the facts were loaded there. Some of them were documented. The facts were there and we spoke to all the parties. At least, as far as we know, he hadn't complained. Nobody in the hierarchy of the NNPC complained that it was a false story because a lot of the facts that we stated there were written, they were gotten from memos that they exchanged. So, we had no overt or covert reason to be unfair to any part of the country, that is the North. And I believe that their interest is adequately taken care of by the fact that there are two directors on our board, executive direc-

tors who are working on the magazine, who are in charge of the stories that are going into the magazine, who are from the North, who understand the perspective of the North.

The trouble with MEE

Q: Shall we look at somebody like *Classique* publisher May Ellen Ezekiel. How come she seems to like so much delight in knocking *Newswatch*? Were you told you once paid her school fees?

A: No, I didn't. I didn't pay her school fees. If you want to know why, you better ask her why she writes the things she does. Why are you asking me? I am not the soothsayer.

Q: She said something like *Newswatch* editors have been dining with the devil with "short eager spoons" in the Dele Glusu matter.

A: Did she say that?

Q: Yes, in one of her write-ups.

A: Ask her to explain what she means by that. Because I don't know of any *Newswatch* editor who is dining with any devil at all whether with long or short spoons. You could ask her to elaborate, if you think it is necessary. Yeah, a few people have spoken to me about that, they said, she is probably referring to you. I said no she couldn't possibly be referring to us and because it is not true, she would have no reason to tell untruths about us. We are her friends, or so we think; we are her brothers, or so we think. And it is not part of friendship or brotherhood to do such things. So I don't think that she would do that. I don't think so.

Q: Aside from those who might wish to call outsiders taking pot-shots at *Newswatch*, there are those who are within, and who claim that *Newswatch* executives have not stayed true to the magazine's founding ideals. We have in mind the top-level staffers who left recently under not-so-amicable circumstances.

A: Well, it's a human situation, it is not really worthy of any comment, I mean the specific details of what you have raised. I would prefer to make a general comment that I believe that...our profession is a very dynamic one. There is freedom of association too, so people are free to associate; to move with whoever they want, to stay with whoever they want. And I understand the guys you are referring to are setting up their own magazine. And I believe it is a legitimate aspiration for you to set up your own publication or your own outfit. But you don't have to bad mouth an organisation that has been kind to you, that has given you the opportunity for the tutelage that you wield in your new environment, in your new place of work. So I don't think it is worth commenting on. People would keep leaving organisations and forming new ones. How many peers do we have now? They are so many it is not an indication that *Newswatch* is crumbling or is crushing. *Newswatch* is unique in its set up. And that is what people who comment about *Newswatch* fail to take into account. At any given time, at least this is about the only magazine that I know, apart from the *Citizen* which has just come up, that you have three of its executive directors working there every day of the week. We are not absentee editors. We are here.

I like you to ask any of them what is the *Newswatch* dream. Many of them may not be able to define it. Yes, because when we were setting up *Newswatch* a lot of these things were



MEE...what's her grouse?

not written down because we were afraid of a leakage. So people like to talk about things they know next to nothing about. We just leave them to talk. I mean there is freedom to talk. You don't have to pay any toll or any dues in order to talk. It is alright and then they have fun at their expense.

Q: What is Chief Alex Akinyele's status in *Newswatch* now?

A: In terms of what?

Q: He has been appointed a minister.

A: No, that of the external directors, I think theirs was going into politics. To go into an elective position. Theirs was not in taking appointments like this.

Q: Do you think that is tidy? Considering that there is thin line between contesting for office and being appointed? Do you think there is not going to be conflict for instance if *Newswatch* carries a story that is against government?

A: Because that issue had come out, I have looked at the papers, and it doesn't, the papers do not forbid them from taking this kind of office. If just talked about elective offices, going into politics, that is the way to define it. It's ours that is almost specific. Since we are professional people working in journalism, and to ensure that we do not get involved in politics and abandon the organisation. The aim was to ensure that we sit down here and ensure that the aspirations of *Newswatch* is fulfilled. And that if you work for at least ten years, at least the body of knowledge that we like to use in sustaining *Newswatch* would have emerged. And that the staff would over that period, have been aware, through formal and informal processes, of what is ambitiously called the *Newswatch* dream. I guess we were not too strict on the business men among us.

Q: Have you heard the rumour making rounds that you are aspiring to governorship of Akwa Ibom State?

A: Honestly, I don't know. I still haven't been able to put my finger on it and even though I have denied interest in any such adventure, it is not my style. Because I really "can't" explain. I don't believe what it is not there. They still try to think that least he has a plan somewhere; he will come out last minute to say "my people want me. My people have said I must run so I bow to the wishes of my people. (Laughter). So I may as well stay in my house and do what excites me more. I can't, you will not find me vote one way in the general assembly and another way in the committee room. On one subject. So why should I go there? That is what politics is.

Q: Plagiarism. Let's talk about plagiarism. Many people still argue that there was a sense in which you and your defenders made so much of the motives of your accusers that you dodged answering directly to

their charges. What have you got to say?

A: Well, there was no point continuing talking about it because it was like the dialogue of the deaf. Some people had taken some entrenched positions and they would not listen to you at all. It was obvious to me that the whole matter has gone beyond simple journalistic matter, a matter of ethic. Because, I know that some people, some guy in the seat of power telephoned a number of publications and was instructing them that "this was the time to nail him." That "this guy must be nailed." The prejudice was there, there were people we are in competition with, so they must have thought: if you cut the head, you cut the body. You cut the head, the head dies and the rest of the body is a matter of time. The body will fall. So, that was the strategy. And of course, these people have apologised to me in secret which doesn't do anything for me. They come back to say "we are very sorry we didn't do a fair job on you." But that is in secret, the public doesn't know that. The public only knows that I stole somebody's work. And I said to these guys, you can't say that. I develop my own style which hasn't changed and I don't think it can. But for somebody to just begin to count words, he said he found Jesus Christ in my text, he found words, he found church, he found Moslem, scattered in different forms of a text. He found so many words like that. So, I do not know Jesus Christ. I do not know God, you find it is scattered in somebody's different text. So, I must have lifted it from the guys, and they are being unfair on me. And I think the better thing to have done is to report it to the ethic committee of the NUJ.

And I talked to the former secretary of the NUJ. "Why don't you ask these fellows who accused me to step forward and lodge a complaint with the disciplinary committee of the NUJ, so I can defend myself." But it was convenient for them to use that to destroy me than to present a case which would have been the first case for me to defend myself to the ethics committee. Till today nobody has done such a thing. Well, perhaps it is a fair competition. They say all is free in war, love and business. So it is fair. One of those people at that time, the time *Newswatch* was proscribed, he rushed to Academy Press and said "these guys they are off, check us on. We would want to be your new client" and they said "no, we are decent people, we have a contract with these guys." That is the level of some of our colleagues in this business. I guess, it is okay doing business like that in Nigeria. But we are not to do business like that, cut down colleagues in order to climb on their back and get up.

Q: You have attained some more visibility in the Nigeria-Israel association. Some people say that as a prominent journalist that it does re-inforce anti-North, anti-Arab, anti-Islam bias that some attach to *Newswatch*.

A: It is not all the directors of *Newswatch* who are members, and I don't think there has been anything in *Newswatch* to reflect that bias that they conceive of. But strictly speaking, the arguments that the people who argue that Nigeria should not have any relationship with Israel are making, I don't think those arguments can be sustained. Once they talk about Apartheid, which was the issue of support for Apartheid.

I am going talk about support for Apartheid, then you don't need to have any relationship with Britain or America, at all. Particularly with Britain or Germany and France because the

Continued on Page 11



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What does this boy want?

A 16-year-old boy begins a life of wheel and deal, in readiness for politics.

By Chudi Okoye

A first, you would think the boy a most meddlesome flea, indeed really nelliesome. The way he barges in on you, the way he stares into your eyes, unafraid, not disrespectful, but completely untrazbled by your superior airs. No issue is too big for him, to want to know about, no name too august to utter. There's not a whiff of those juvenile uncertainties in him, rather what you find is a good deal of adult poise. This teenager is completely in control of himself and some times even of the situation. Soon, irritation gives way to curiosity. Who the hell is this teenager? And what makes him tick?

Ahmed Sambo · Dukku, a little boy from Bauchi State, is nothing but aigsaw puzzle. You might say he's precocious as we're wont to call every kid with extraordinary talent. But Ahmed is a little more than that.

How does one describe a boy in his middle teens, a strapping youth still



Ahmed ... "It's Allah's plan"

grappling with the basics at Pilot Junior Secondary School, Gombe, Bauchi State but who consorts with the high and mighty? A roll call of Ahmed's friends would make the eyes pop. Consider the following: Ambassador Baba Gana Kingibe Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, Chris Garba (former Bauchi State governor), Dr Ibrahim (who is gunning for Bauchi governorship under SDP), Maina Lawal (national financial secretary of banned People's Front), Prof. Anjo Abdulahi, (running for Kaduna governorship), Ali Bala Kuchi (former Kaduna State Finance Commissioner), Traki Aliku (Gongola governorship aspirant), Col. Abu One Mohammed (former Borno governor). These are just a few of the

people Ahmed says he gets around with.

And he doesn't appear to be posing. He says he knows these people personally and meets with them quite often. Intact fights common political cause with them. For instance Ahmed says he was at the Abuja party convention to campaign for his friend, Ambassador Kingibe, with whom during that event, he shared a suite at Nicon-Noga Hilton Hotel. On the other hand he sees M.K.O. Abiola only as a casual acquaintance because their relationship hasn't much developed after they met at Yola International Hotel some time ago.

Asked why he mingles with men of mighty means, Ahmed says it's simply because "they are important, and I too am going to be important." He frequently comes to Bauchi town from Gombe (a distance of about 150 km) to confer with a much older member of a powerful political family who himself has his eyes on high politics. Why does he come so often to the man and what do they talk about? Ahmed: "That man is very intelligent. We always discuss how I am going to be important!" And why is he so sure he's going to be important? Ahmed: "The way I am received by people shows it is Allah's plan."

Indeed the boy does seem to have a great facility to make himself acceptable. Even while carousing with men of high density, Ahmed has somehow built up quite a following amongst the masses. TSM noticed the tawny greeting the boy seemed to whip up on the streets of Bauchi, and the gratuitous manner in which Ahmed usually responded: "They greet me like this," explains the boy, "because they know that I am one of them. I can sleep with them. I can eat with them. That's why I am popular."

Stories about Ahmed abound in Bauchi. Some say he is very rich. Some say he's 'mystic'. Others, like his friend of the powerful family, describe him as 'deadly'.

One thing is certain. We'll hear a lot more about Ahmed Sambo-Dukku

Continued from Page 10

level of their involvement in South Africa is a lot higher than the Israelis support for South Africa. I am opposed to it.

Q. Finally, how would you explain your success all these years in spite of everything?

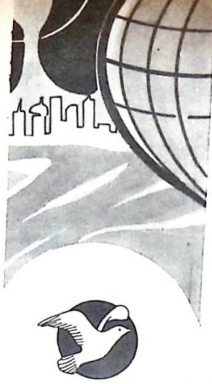
A. At least one can... I don't know whether I have an answer, I don't know how I manage to get along. I guess is through God's grace and the other factor might just be luck. Maybe I am just lucky. I take things as they come. Maybe in my dealings with people, I am quite upright. I am not fastidious with people. I think that helps too. People do understand and they are willing

to level up with you if they are clear about your sincerity. I think that if you do not have any ulterior motive, you wish people well. I do not have the frame of mind to sit down and plan evil for people. I wish that people can prosper. People can meet with good time, and if they are already meeting with good time, they meet better time. And my wife says to me often that "you are just a lucky man" and I believe it is an act of providence. So I guess I am just a lucky bastard. But I pay my dues, I worked hard. I am calm in the face of adversity.

Q. Okay, perhaps, for the first time in any practice of the profession, the editor and publisher of a magazine is supposed to appear before an NUJ panel to defend

charges of publishing fiction.

A. Well, I don't have full facts about this particular case and even if I do, I will not like to delve into it. Because as you probably know we have a court case against Mr. Akapa's magazine and it would not be fair for me to comment on this specific characteristic of this case. I think that it is the proper thing to happen if the NUJ feels that some aspects of its code of ethics have been violated. It is appropriate to put it before the ethics committee and let the ethics committee investigate and make a pronouncement. I think we must be gatekeepers of the norms and laws and moralities of our profession.



The world

By Mackson Onyejekwe

As the tension in the Gulf glides through the fourth month, realities repeatedly reinforce the option of war. Political analysts lament that the US, USSR and Iraq have been sending conflicting signals. Even then, the chances of negotiated settlement are getting more tenuous by the day.

US President George Bush who has reportedly said he was losing patience over Iraq's continued occupation of Kuwait has recently described Saddam Hussein as "a brutal dictator and terrorist," descriptions carrying more than

The Military Balance

	IRAQ	US & Co.
Personnel	430,000	296,900
Tanks	3,500	1,750
Fighter Jets	689	1,109
Warships	43	140

Courtesy: TIME
Source: Centre for Defence Information, Washington & US Defence Department

NOTE. These figures are by no means exhaustive of the actual capabilities of both sides in case of war. Experts say Iraq has about one million men under arms. The figure recorded above for "Personnel" reflects only those troops now inside occupied Kuwait plus soldiers stationed in the sensitive southern parts of Iraq. The figure recorded for "Tanks" also reflects only those hardware already mobilised on the battle-front. Also, the figures for the US and its allies do not include troops promised but not yet in place.

GULF CRISIS

On the eve of War

Tension builds to red-hot level as talk of armed confrontation moves from the pages of newspapers to the inner chambers of government

a hint of imminent hostilities. Similarly British foreign secretary Douglas Hurd is now calling for attack because "sanctions and diplomatic isolations are not strong enough to persuade a man like Saddam Hussein that the game is up. He is a very cruel and blinkered man," he says. Likewise, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze whose country had all along ruled out war in the Gulf, has said he was no more optimistic.

But the American citizenry is increasingly withdrawing support for Bush's military adventures in the Gulf. A *New York Times-CBS* opinion poll shows that the support which was above 75 per cent in August is now below 50 per cent. Different groups protest daily. The dilemma of Bush's political associates is that a US military action against Iraq would be unpopular yet failure to use force to subdue Hussein would be considered a betrayal of weakness and used against Bush by his opponents in the mid-term election. That could cost him the White House, as it did Jimmy Carter in 1980 over the hostage crisis.

Meanwhile, analysts remark that the level of personal and national pride committed to the Gulf imbroglio has grown out of proportion. This may further attenuate the resolve to accept a settlement. Almost 297,000 combined forces are stationed in the Gulf region. This number, US has the highest contin-

gent of about 210,000 troops. For the Americans to pull out is as costly as to fight.

The 18-nation anti-Iraq concert is dispersed with the ineffectiveness of the UN economic sanctions. Earlier steps in freezing Iraqi foreign accounts had also been futile. Intelligence reports further increase the exasperation of the Western nations, especially the report that Iraq does not depend on petro-dollar, because Hussein has \$4 billion (about \$3.2 billion) stashed in a secret cellar in Baghdad.

According to economists, the money which was allegedly stored over the past 18 years, is enough to pay for Iraqi food imports for the next four years. Hussein is reportedly using the money to finance syndicated smuggling of food, ammunition and equipment through Iran and Turkey. Analysts also believe part of it would obviously be used in subverting foreign governments and financing terrorists' activities in the event of war.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported last week that US Secretary of State James Baker would be seeking a time-table for a military attack on Iraq. The US government promptly denied Yel Baker has begun a tour of the European, Asian and Middle East nations involved in the "Operation Desert Shield," as the papers reported. Baker has only grudgingly conceded that the US is merely trying to sound-



* Bush

Round Trip

Happenings Here and There

orld attention focused Tuesday on the American midterm elections. This not so much because anyone expected any verdict

different from the much-projected Democratic landslide. As it turned out, the results hardly give the President and his men much cause for cheer. Democrats not only retained control of both the Senate and House of Representatives, they also engineered a few upsets in the gubernatorial elections, the most dramatic being in Texas — Bush's home state — where the Republican incumbent was floored by the Democrat. Iraq, understandably, watched the elections closely and prayed for a Republican defeat to show voters' disaffec-

grave case, religious and economic crises now ravaging the world's largest democracy, he says, call for very urgent measures such as an unprecedented coalition of all the major parties.

Meanwhile a couple of Egyptian F 16 fighter jets crashed during practice flights in the Gulf, raising new questions on the battle-readiness of the American forces now arrayed against Saddam Hussein.

And on the economic front, European Economic Community (EEC) ministers bowed to American pressure on the vexed issue of farm subsidies. The harass-

sed ministers Tuesday agreed to cut the subsidies thus raising the likelihood of a backlash from farm lobbies in several EC countries.

The Soviet Union Wednesday marked the 73rd anniversary of the Revolution that brought the Communists to power. But the focus of attention really wasn't the traditional Red Square parade in Moscow. Protests were organised in many major cities with demonstrators calling on the regime to hasten the demise of the Communist Party's control of state affairs.

— Kayode Samuel

Iraq's hidden joker

WESTERN intelligence services have discovered that Iraq has capabilities for producing nuclear weapons. The country has a secret mine that supplies it with uranium, the raw material needed for the dreaded arsenals. The mine is located in a mountain range near Iraq border with Turkey.

CBS news network quoted a Kurdish guerrilla fighter as saying that the mine had been operational for more than 18 months and that Iraq leader Saddam Hussein has been there five times. According to experts, facilities for producing enriched uranium and nuclear armaments could be built underground in the area. This has compounded the fear of what Saddam Hussein could do in the event of an outbreak of war in the Gulf.

Beruit Bomb Bazaar

AS the crisis in the Middle East mounts arms deals are said to be booming in Lebanon, as peddlars indiscriminately sell anything from tanks to bombs. A militia man who spoke to news agencies reportedly said: "If you want a tank, a cannon or any kind of weapon, just get your money, and you will get delivery."

Nearly every district in Lebanon is sold to have its retail and wholesale arms dealers, hawkling pistols, rifles, grenades, sub-machine guns and rocket-launchers. Bombs, which are in high demands, cover all varieties, from the remote-controlled types, time-bombs, letter bombs to those with mercury tilt-switches set off by the movement of a car.

The arms sales though said to have been on for years now, have become much more lucrative recently, as war ebates in Lebanon and tension mounts in the Gulf.

Extremist alliance in South Africa

THE hardline socialists of Pan African Congress (PAC) and the conservative Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party have agreed to sign a pact of co-operation, an Inkatha Youth leader in Transvaal Province, Thembo Khaza, has said. As a prelude to this new-found friendship, officials of the two groups shared a platform at the funeral of the late PAC President, Zeph Mthangeni.

Inkatha leader, Mangosuthu Buthelezi has repeatedly been accused of fuelling violence in black communities of South Africa in a bid to maintain his political control on KwaZulu tribal homeland. According to Khaza, PAC, Inkatha and the Black-Consciousness Group of Azanian People's Organisation, (AZAPO) were closer to each other, than with ANC.

Rwanda fallout in Kenya

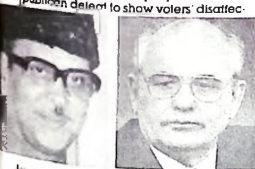
KENYA has since last week embarked on a massive man-hunt for Ugandans. About 12,500 Ugandans are believed to have been deported since President Moi ordered the exodus of the foreigners. The deportation drive is an out-come of the visit of Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda, to Nairobi, last month. His country had been attacked by Rwandan exiles based in Uganda.

we're quite ready for it. Absolutely ready." The Iraqi Ambassador to the US had earlier stated that Baghdad rarely expected US and her allied forces to accede to peaceful settlement.

Iraq's parliament has in a two-point demand also declared that Baghdad would discontinue the release of any of the estimated over 4,000 remaining Western and Japanese hostages in Iraq. According to Saabi Mehdi, a spokesman of the Parliamentarians, Iraq would only release any foreigner when she had got a pledge of non-aggression from the five permanent members of the UN Security

Council or two of the following five nations: China, France, Japan, Germany and Soviet Union.

Political analysts are however afraid that the heightening discomfort in Margaret Thatcher's cabinet in Britain and the dicey chances of George Bush in the US political landscape might pressurise them into plunging the allied forces into war, either to divert attention from their domestic woes, and/or credibility in their countries and among the Western nations or simply to tackle Saddam Hussein militarily.



tion with President Bush's Gulf policy. In a way, the prayer was answered. In an election said to have been ruled by what observers called "anti-incumbency sentiments," the President took a real slap in the face. "Everywhere he campaigned for candidates," notes one commentator, "they lost."

Loss was also the lot of Indian Prime Minister V P Singh who was finally seen off his post by the demons of political crisis. A vote of no confidence in the Lok Sabha (parliament) was carried through Wednesday leading to the much expected fall of Singh's coalition government. Indian President Venkataraman, on whose shoulders the duty now falls to either call upon another party leader to try to form a government or call another election outright, is said to favour a national government. The

the views of the anti-Iraq coalition for war. But analysts acquiesce that Baker has begun the prelude to military confrontation. President Bush himself is expected to leave for the region later in the week, a move considered as highly symbolic in boosting troops morale.

Iraq is not oblivious of the increasing prospects of war with the allied forces. Iraqi Information Minister, Latif Nassif al-Hassani has said: "We are quite sure that confrontation that would change the entire world could erupt any moment from now. Baghdad would not stand it. But"



Life

By Mubo Okasun

As the society gets more complex, men and women seem to be losing their inherent abilities to attract and keep each other. Judging by the woeful tales emanating from both camps, a mini war of the sexes could be said to be raging like wild fire in the bush.

Ask women, some are convinced that men are rotten bastards, only ready to cause untold confusion in their lives. They usually have such heart-rending tales to back up their convictions.

Take men too, some assert that women are only happy when they are reaping from where they have not sown. At the drop of a hat, they spew forth tales of their uncles', friends', colleagues' unlucky escapades in the hands of women.

The way men and women hurl darts at each other, it is surprising that weddings are still being contracted nowadays. The guy who has been treated shabbily by his ex-wife is soon embroiled in another sizzling romance with her carbon copy. Just as the dandy divorcee is seen tagging along with a replica of her quarrelsome husband. Soon enough, they get hitched and the fireworks later engulf them.

Guess the gradual breakdown of the extended family system, and the growth of monstrous urban areas are gradually taking their toll!

Somehow, the traditional match-making processes are being eroded. Boy meets girl at a cocktail party and, there's

Ladies Beware!

and how to recognise the guy to clutch tightly to her chest. Remember, there are only few of us available, but here is the best way to ditch the take ones.

Mr. Nice: With all his attributes, women should be beating paths to his door. He is considerate, punctual, faithful and generous. He is so

These men can shorten your lifespan

They are on prescription, touch them at your own peril. That is, if you live to tell the tale.

no-one to supply him with her credentials. Despite her generous curves and flashy smile, she could well be the wrong girl for him.

Same thing with some women. They always seem to attract the wrong set of men. Rather than have nice girls 'roasting' away in the arms of 'old smoothie', we have compiled a list of men about town. The list will certainly take a smart girl through the minefields of loving. Teach her how to spot a guy who is on the make, the one who is in for the ride.



A dandy to watch

nice that most women want to adopt him as their cousin. He latches onto women, and never makes impossible demands. But women sometimes love a bit of grit and spunk that they studiously ignore him. Our guy is simply playing the game according to the rules, which explains why his net is bereft of libidinous girls. And he keeps laying his charm on the wrong girls.

With time, Mr. Nice will learn the ropes and graduate to Opportunist or forget-me-not.

Forget-me-not: This is one guy you cannot forget in a hurry. He is usually good looking and confident. He also has a rich history of how to deal with women. Despite his harem of girl-friends, he delights in adding fresh intakes into his collection. He is not the marrying kind, as he is having so much fun that he'd rather die than settle down to a humdrum family life.

But, he knows how to give fun to a woman. Knows how to make her feel like a woman. He will take her to the best clubs, the most exclusive parties, the best hotels, and she will also get to meet such highly placed people. Through him, if she's wise a woman she should just relish her relationship with him and move on to greater things. She should walk out before he dumps her for the next attractive face. He hates clinging women, so run before you get too swamped by his charm, looks and easy connections. He is a professional boyfriend, not husband material.

M r. Opportunist: He used to be a rarity, until more women started banking fat paychecks. He is a hustler, but very, very charming. He is also attentive to his women. Remembering their birthdays, mum's anniversaries, allergies, that you'd think you have hit the bull's eye for once. In return for his unvarnished affection, you'll unknowingly pick up his bills, lend him substantial amounts of money, loan him your car for weekends and even your linen shirts!

He doesn't exactly piller your valuables, but he has the habit of running out of cash at sensitive moments. On a night out, he conveniently forgets his wallet. Naturally you'd hand over the cash. At a really expensive restaurant, he pats his pockets only to realise that he has misplaced his thick wad of notes. On a busy day, he forgets to go to the bank and asks for a quick loan. He never remembers to pay back, but he is so loving and adoring that he looks so harmless. Until you ask him to pay up. The only way to show this guy the exit signal is to refuse to lend him money. He'll simply disappear from your life. Like they say "Good riddance to bad rubbish."

M other's Boy: Although he might sport a massive frame or talk tough, this one is a tearful customer. He has to check on his

mum before he can take any decision. Including you. He parades you before her at any available opportunity. That would have been proper, except that she is the only wife he'll ever adore. If only he would pick up whimpering souls like him, then his mum would have applauded.

But he is attracted to critical, domineering women like his mum. Only, there is no woman good enough for her golden boy. Except one she can boss, and make unhappy like herself. Mama's boy will satiate you with his mother's virtues that it's only right that you nip the relationship in the bud.

You need all your energies to ward off



Classy dame ... run away from mother's boy.

desperate girlfriends when you are married than to get locked in an unnecessary battle with his mum. Women should turn their backs on this guy as he's a harbringer of pain.

Old Smoothie: If he were single, he would have made any girl happy. For he is sensational, rich, experienced, affable and confident. Every moment with him is magical. If you can remember that he was once poor and graceless, and that he is now having the best of both worlds. You and his wife. Even though, he says his wife is ugly, illiterate and a flop in bed he stays married to her. He continues making babies while he professes his undying love for you. He is also insanely jealous, as he will hit the roof if he sees you with a younger guy.

If only a woman can take him at his face value, enjoy his hospitality, and use him as a stepping stone to greatness. A

CAN YOU WORK UNDER A WOMAN?



relationship with old smoothie can set a woman back five years, because long after he's gone there are traces of him around. How soon you can wear your self of your appetite for cognac, choice wine, exotic food, designer fragrances, sports car, will determine how fast you can forget him which you must.

S elf-made man: His greatest forte is his enthusiasm for life. Because of a lacklustre childhood, he has vowed to burn the candles at both ends. In a way, he's making up for lost time. When his mates were toasting and carousing in school, he was busy hawking whatever he could lay his hands on.

When others are changing their wardrobes, he is engrossed with training his long line of brothers and sisters. Since he's the star of his family, he is shouldering a whole of responsibilities. Any woman who wants to take him on, has to learn to live with his first family. They are so dependent on him that they'll do anything to get rid of you. That is, if she proves unfriendly by cutting off their lifeline. When he eventually 'makes it', things are shared between his brothers, his parents, his mentors, his children and you.

He could also be very stingy, even admonishing you when it's your funds. It's his fear of not having anything to fall back on. There are too many depressing memories that it will take a while before he can be jaunty as the guy next door. If you meet him at this moment you are in for a barrel of fun. If not, forget him.

The price of liberty

By Ademola Adedoyin

Women Liberation. Feminism. Equality of the sexes. They are all catch phrases bound to generate more controversies in this last decade of the twentieth century than they have done hitherto.

No doubt about it, women have sufficient grounds to sledgehammer and even to declare war on the 'other party'. For a long time they have been taken for a ride by the male species. They have been exploited. Even abused. And, no pun intended, misused.

The male creature, arrogant and self-conceited, saw the weaker sex as nature's gift to him. A special creature for his lust and pleasure who must always be at his beck and call. Between this creature and material wealth, he seemed to see little difference. Just as you have a final say on what you do with the wealth you acquire, so also did he have the inalienable right to decide what he did with her. His desire for the weaker sex, which the creator in his infinite wisdom, created from his ribs to assist him, is insatiable. And there can be nothing wrong in having as many assistants as one wants. Only assistants can not have two masters.

And assistants, women have always been. Especially in this society. She has always taken order from the all-knowing and powerful boss, who was never known to shy away from dishing out such orders. Never mind that such orders sometimes could be ridiculous.

But unfortunately, for men that is the society is changing rapidly, changes that are exposing the weaknesses of the stronger party in this war of sexes. This change is fast exposing the man as a god (if at all he is one) with the feet of clay. For men, few things could be as distressing as this.

These times the modern lady has arrived. With dream job on her lap and awesome influence at her disposal, the man cringes before her. And she drives her point home every passing day. Yes, women must be liberated from the clutches of chauvinistic male oppressor.

And all necessary machinery are in top gear in this battle of the century. Men must capitulate. He no longer has a servant in his female partner. What he has

now is an equal partner whom he must work with on equal terms to run a successful home. In these 'strange' times, while the woman buries herself in the kitchen getting the dinner ready, the man must babysit in the living room and minister on to the needs of junior. No

modern lady will, with all sophistication, confidence and poise that go with these times woo a man of her dream and even propose marriage. The man awaits a phone call from his lady inane, inviting him out for a lunch at the choicest Chinese restaurant in town. And he looks forward to the day both the domestic chores and domestic budget will be shared equally between the woman and her husband.

Yes, both. If the man must wash the soiled underpants and rinse the leering bottles clean, then the woman must be ready to seltle the light and the telephone bills.

Get! This right! It is not being suggested that some women do not participate a settlement of domestic bills. Far from that. But, point is, it's being made to look like an aberration. Something extra-ordinary, so much that whichever home the woman is the breadwinner, it's made to look like something unusual is happening. That a newsworthy event is unfolding.

But in the spirit of the present times, there should no longer be news in such happenings. The impression should not be created that the modern woman wants to eat her cake and have it. She should go the whole hog in her quest for equality.

Only then will the man respect her. Only then will he realise that she's more than property to be acquired and treated any how. And only then shall we be able to clink wine glasses for a victory well deserved.

As women intensify their campaign for equality, men begin to ask: are they ready to pick up the bills?

more carousing around with friends late in the night. Men, all through history, have never found themselves in such trouble.

The modern lady has done no wrong. All she is asking for is fairness. And it is pretty difficult to say she isn't making a point. After all, both sexes are basically human beings, their biological differences notwithstanding.

But then, everything has a price. Including liberation of this kind. The quality the modern woman is asking for calls for a radical rearrangement of the social order. One eagerly awaits the day the



Dayin Abiola



Maria Sokoru

MILESTONES

Compiled by Amanze Obi

SACKED The National Republican Convention (NRC) executive council in Zaria local government area of Kaduna State by the party's congress. The dismissal followed a vote of no confidence passed on the executive for "ineptitude and inefficiency." A caretaker committee has been appointed to run the affairs of the party.

PROMOTED By Aigena the closure of 14 embassies and 10 consulates around the world as an austerity measure. The hint was dropped last Monday to Parliament by the country's foreign minister Sis Ahmed Ghazali.

PROMOTED To sergeants all Corporals who have put in eight years in service without blemish. The promotion is in line with a directive from the Inspector-General for the elevation of "Corporals who are long overdue for promotion." The promotion takes effect from October 1, this year.

FIRED A US career diplomat Felix Bloch suspected of spying for the Soviet Union. Bloch who was never charged was fired from the State Department last Monday by the Secretary of State James Baker for allegedly making "deliberate false statement or misrepresentations to the FBI."

UNCOVERED By the Malaysian police a syndicate buying Thai girls and selling them as sex slaves to Japanese gangsters or vicereigns. Malaysian INTERPOL Chief, Kee Saik Chean, said the girls were brought to Malaysia to learn to speak English and behave like Malaysians before they were sold in Japan.

RELEASED By the Tunisian president, Sine Al Abidine Ben Ali, 113 prisoners from fellow North African countries to mark the third anniversary of the day he took power. Ben Ali took power on November 7, 1987 after doctors deposed former President Habib Bourguiba until to rule.

SLAM In his native New York last Monday militant Israeli, Rabbi Meni Kahane founder of the US based Jewish Defence League and leader of an extremist anti-Arab ally in Israel. Police identified the alleged assailant as El Sayid A. Nassar whose nationality was unknown.

AWARD To Christy Essien-Igbokwe the Distant Accord Award by the International Federation of Festival Organisation (FIDO). FIDO is an arm of the International Market of Festival and Exchange. The award is given to promote an international exchange of cultural heritage.

SAVED By the Federal polytechnic Idah 316 of its 1,000 members of staff in a bid to reduce its wage bills and restore financial sanity to the institution. The rector of the institution, Alhaji Muazu Sa'adiki said there was no way the institu-

tion could survive without the weeding exercise.

LOST 45 lives in Michika Local Government area of Gongola State over a mysterious disease suspected to be yellow fever. The State Commissioner for Health Dr Zainabu Abubakar revealed at a Press briefing last Monday that the State government had committed 1.4 million naira and the Federal Government 200,000 dozen vaccines to control the outbreak.

BIRTHDAYS



Zik: Birthday Cheers

● 76 today is Taslim Olawale Elias, jurist, educationist and administrator. A holder of national honours such as the Grand Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR) 1963, and Grand Commander of the order of the Niger 1983. Elias is a member of many professional bodies some of which include the International Law Association and International Academy of Comparative Law. His publications include *Nigerian Land Law & Custom and Africa Before the World Court*, among others.

● 43 on Wednesday is Chibueze Jonny Eluka, university teacher. He was the Commissioner for Works, Lands and Transport in Anambra State 1985-86. He has since 1987 been on the headship of the Department of Business and Public Administration of the Anambra State University of Science and Technology.

● 86 on Friday is Nnamdi Azikiwe, foremost statesman, and the Owelle of Onitsha. Azikiwe was the Premier, Eastern Region, 1954-59, Senate President Lagos, 1960. First indigenous Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation, 1960-63, and President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1960-1966. A holder of the highest honour of Grand Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (GCFR), Azikiwe has many publications among which are *Ideology for Nigeria and Military Revolution in Nigeria*.

● 59 also on Friday is Solomon Godfrey Odi, economist, administrator, industrial and management consultant. He was a foundation member of Nigerian Economic Society, 1958, as well as that of the Institute of Public Administration, 1960. A fellow of the Institute of Personnel Management, Odi is the founder and member of Nigerian Association of Management Consultants (NAMCON).

● 47 also on Wednesday is Ephraim Haraght, high-flying businessman, founder of NTC Carpets, and director of TSM.

LIFE LINES

"**WHOEVER** said money can't buy happiness didn't know where to shop."
— Donald Trump

"**MY** own way of joking is to tell the truth. It's the funniest joke in the world."
— George Bernard Shaw

"**RATHER** suffer an injustice than commit one."
— Anonymous

"**JOURNALISM** is literature in a hurry."
— Mathew Arnold

"**MANY** a newspaper story has been ruined by oververification."
— James Gordon Bennett

"**IGNORANCE** is stubborn and prejudice is hard."
— Adlai E. Stevenson

"**MAN** is for war, woman for the re-creation of the warrior."
— George Bernard Shaw

"**THE** meaning of life rests in the meaningless nothingness of existence."
— Anonymous

"**MAN** is a jumble of contradictions. He is what he is and what he is not."
— Anonymous

Goings - On



Hope for disabled

THEY are not bowing their heads in shame, rather, they are taking a standing ovation from the audience. Ebenezer Obey, Commander of Juju music and spouse, Billy and Margurite Ingram, gospel singers from God's own country are basking in the glow of their guests. An Intimate night was staged at the University of Lagos in aid of disabled members of the society by Maranatha International Music

ministries and Ebenezer Obey. Don't look at Ingram's drooping eg-bada and capless head, he's one mean singer of gospel ballads

Singing for God In tongues

SOULFUL singer, Dupe Solana sang her heart out at her album launching ceremony. She even sang in tongues when she rendered a few tracks from the album in Ibo, Yoruba and Hausa. According to her God speaks all these languages so it's only right to spread the Gospel that way

Sunday Oriade

Coming of age

DO you know that Uniben is 20? To commemorate this special date, the Lagos branch of the Alumbi Association is organising an endowment fund next Sunday, 18th November, 1990, at Lagos City Hall. If you are an egg-head, a book-worm, a money-bag or someone with ties to the ancient city. Why not keep this date in your diary.

Beachboys

DON'T despair, this is no war dance Mike Oka, Omoae man, is not migrating to Zululand. He is simply doing the Rhumba dance, which was how our keen lensman caught him. Venue was the picturesque Badagry beach. There were snazzy dancers, live music, leggy models and fun. Watch for more details on his new video.





Two heads are better

"THANK God we made it!" seems to be what Layi Karounwi is saying to his pretty partners former Awele Lydia Kwentua. They were recently declared husband and wife at a lavish wedding ceremony in Lagos. They are firm believers in the maxim "Two heads are better than one!"

Mathematical Muksons

CALL it a business gimmick if you like, but Mut Muksons Trading Company is plugging its latest offering that way. When you buy a cassette

or video tape of Monday John's new *Juju Waves*, a N25 or N75 cheque could be yours.

At least four lucky folks from across the country have collected their cheques from Ola Kazim, Chief Executive of the company.

Customer is a King

If you want to sharpen your customers services skills, maybe you should enrol your sales/marketing personnel at this 3-day seminar. They will acquaint themselves with the latest trends in management of people. Course starts on Wednesday, 28th November and ends on Friday, 30th November, 1990. For N1,200 per participant, we bet you'll be trooping to Income-pro (Nig) Limited in Yaba, Lagos. They are the organisers of the conference.

Trading Toasts for Trade Bank

KOLA Omatunde-Young, chief executive of KES Computer Engineers recently hosted a luncheon in honour of Sam Ereola Kolawole, new managing director of the Kwara State owned Trade Bank. Here, the host (standing) proposes a toast to the health of the high flying banker while Mrs Omatunde Young (right) and Mrs Kolawole (left) give their spouses the much-needed support.

Compiled By Mubo Okosun



By Amanze Obi

The expression on his face was a curious admixture of hope and despair. His dishevelled looks betrayed the agony of someone engaged in a ding dong battle with life. The sweat dropping from his rugged face emitted smoke. He was in fact a burning volcano. As you wonder at this personification of privation, you discover that this man has hidden strengths. His blazing eye balls force you to discover the poison in him. He is not exactly grubby as a beggar should.

Then, you are instantly reminded of the beggar portrayed by Camara Laye in *The Radiance Of The King*. Laye's beggar is choosy and haughty, and these are attributes alien to begging. So far many, Laye was only fictionalising. But Laye's brand of beggar is here with us. Although this new look beggar who caught our attention a few weeks ago on Kudet street, Ikeja was not exactly of this mould, he bubbled with confidence. But you could read from his face the distraught look of someone who feels from his heart of hearts that the fault is not his. This hapless harlequin seemed to blame his misfortunes on a system that has gone awry.

Such is the lot of this dreg of society whose near ubiquitous presence never failed to arouse empathy. His favourite spots also include Anthony bus-stop, Bariga, Oshodi and Boundary bus-stop on Alajunle in Lagos. This tramp whose accent of English betrays him as of the Akwa/Cross stock employs a style that never ceases to amuse. He approaches his potential 'client' with mathematical calculation. He would first size you, take stock of your appearance and then deliver his punch depending on his convictions about your personality. He usually feigns excuses. It is either that he is on his way to the Island but lost his money to pick-pockets or he just needs the money for a quick dash to where he is billed to start work that morning. Whichever reason he puts forward, he never ceases to arouse pity.

Except that this member of the deprived has been anything but successful in his quest I have always watched with suppressed amusement some of his clients haranguing and harassing him for being the very person they helped out the other day on the same excuses. But the gentleman-beggar trudges on on the wings of determination.

And so through his new-found tricks, a new cotene of beggars has emerged. They roam about in groups of two or three. As you move along the streets of Ilesamaja, Lawanson and Alhaji Masha areas of Surulere in Lagos you are accosted by bleary-eyed layabouts. One would appear to be helping the other in figuring out an address. Then one would speak in normal English to you to



help. The other blatters away in some kind of incomprehensible that is neither English nor French. Then the other explains to you that this young man has just arrived from Cameroun with some valuables now awaiting clearance at the ports and that his only problem is that he could not locate his business associate to whom the address flashed before you belongs.

You become impatient, want to walk out on them, and immediately one leaves feigning disinterestedness. If you hesitate a while he would preach to you, urging you to be a partner in the business on hand. But the business on hand is no more than an orchestrated attempt to hoodwink and dispossess you.

*The
new-look
beggar
Beggars drop their rags,
wear the mask to arrive
at their Damascus*

Zesty Food Succulent Shrimp

This is one delicious dish that will have you licking your fingers long after you have devoured your meal. Besides its great flavour, it is also easy to prepare. Which means the whole family can join in.

Others could be shelling the shrimp while another set could be chopping fresh tomatoes and onions.

We can only wish you a happy devouring of your Sunday treat.

Island Shrimp Ingredients

- 1 lb shrimps (shelled)
- 2 tomatoes (chopped)
- 1 clove garlic (crushed)
- 1 onion (chopped)
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon shrimp paste
- 1/2 teaspoon curry powder
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Method:

Thoroughly rinse shrimps after shelling in cold water and lemon juice. Place in a clean bowl and sprinkle with salt, chili powder, curry and thyme. Add required oil in a frying pan and put on fire. Drop chopped onions and garlic, then add shrimp and fry for one to two minutes. Saute tomatoe and shrimp paste. Mix well on fire. Then add coconut milk and cook for another ten minutes. Serve piping hot on its own or over a bed of rice or potatoes.

Zesty Drink:

Ginger Beer

Ingredients

- 1/2 lb fresh ginger root
- 1 lime or lemon
- 3 whole cloves
- 1 - 2lbs sugar

water (according to preferences)

Method:

Remove skin from ginger and slice very thinly. Put ginger slices into a large pot where lime juice, cloves and 6 cups of cold water have been added. Boil over heat, then reduce heat and allow to re-heat for another five minutes. Remove pot from heat and allow mixture to soak overnight.

Then strain and sweeten to taste. If you find the brew too strong, some cold water could be added to dilute it. Bottle the drink with a whole clove inside. Allow the bottle to stand for above 5 days or until a little head starts to foam. Refrigerate and serve in tall glasses filled with ice-cubes.

Stay-Well

Very one was in a mood for celebration, Chief Ukpo was celebrating his 65th birthday. There had been dining and drinking all evening and now at 12.00 Mid-night!

It was the climax of the celebration: the cutting of the cake.

Suddenly, something abnormal happened, just as Chiet was about to cut his cake, he gave a loud cry, clenched the centre of his chest with both hands and slumped. It could be seen that he was in great pain and distress.

Terrified by the tragedy that had befallen the celebrant, party guests rushed him to a near-by hospital.

Unfortunately, attempts at reviving the Chief failed. The doctor sadly told those who had rushed him to the hospital that he had died of a heart attack.

Not all heart attacks are fatal, but the more an individual is exposed to the predisposing factors, the greater the possibility of an attack being fatal.

Heart attacks are usually problems of the western world but due to increasing changes in habits and life-styles, is increasingly becoming an in-ignorable health hazard in our environment.

There are many factors predisposing one to a heart attack and the earlier one starts taking precautionary measure, the better.

They include:

(A) **FAMILIAL PREDISPOSITION:** If someone in your immediate family has a history of heart attack before the age of 60 years, there is a greater than average chance that you could have one.

(B) **DIET:** A lot of people eat a lot of fried foods, butter, margarine, sausages, eggs, etc. All these foods have a high fat content. High fatty diets predispose to heart attacks and stroke. Fats are converted to cholesterol, an essential substance produced in the liver. This substance usually helps insulate nerves and produces cells and hormones. When too much cholesterol is produced from a high fat intake, it forms an inner coating in arteries and finally clogs them, thereby reducing blood flow through them. If arteries supplying the heart or brain are affected, it could lead to a heart attack or a stroke respectively.

(C) **SMOKING:** Cigarettes contain a substance called Nicotine which is inhaled with cigarette smoke. This stimulates a hormone in the body (Adrenalin) to be released which subsequently makes the heart beat faster.

Carbone-monoxide which is also inhaled with the smoke displaces oxygen from the oxygen carrying cells and when the oxygen concentration in the blood is reduced, less oxygen gets to the heart and the heart now beats faster to make up for the low oxygen concentration. A faster beating heart with low oxy-

How to live till 100

By **Shegun Oloni**

gen supply and smaller blood vessel cavities due to the Cholesterol inner coating which both Nicotin and Carbon-monoxide aid especially in heart blood vessels, could all lead subsequently to a heart attack.

(D) **HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE:** This increases the risk of a heart attack especially in men. Excessive salt ingestion and alcohol increases the chances of an increased blood pressure and subsequently a heart attack. Research has shown that a reduction of salt in one diet and abstinence from alcohol could lead to reducing blood pressure in hypertensive individuals.

(E) **OBESITY:** A condition where one weighs more than the average weight of people in his or her height, sex and age group. Obese people generally have more fat and subsequently more cholesterol in their bodies. They are thus

more prone to heart attacks and strokes than the average population.

Warning signs to an impending heart attack could include a sensation of lightness or discomfort in the Centre of the Chest usually brought on by excitement or physical exertion and could sometimes be mistaken for indigestion.

But there is still hope, if you follow these recommendations:-

1. Improvement of dietary habits, eat as little fat as possible and more poultry, vegetables, fish, fruits etc. Drink plenty of water daily, cut down on sugar, soft drinks, salt and alcohol.
 2. Cut out smoking totally since it definitely increases your chance of having a heart attack.
 3. Have your blood pressure checked periodically. Mild high blood pressure could improve with salt reduction and weight control.
 4. Regular physical exercises don't only keep you fit but reduce the chances of having a heart attack. Jogging, tennis, playing, dancing and swimming are all good forms of exercise.
 5. Have ample time to relax after and even during a hard days work. Those that compulsively drive themselves and never relax increase their chances of having a heart attack.
- Follow the above rules and you can be sure you are removing heart attacks and strokes from being one of your future problems.

Shegun Oloni is a medical practitioner in Lagos. Readers can contact him through Editor, TSM, 2 Isjala St. Ilupeju, Lagos, or their health problems.



Kull — Apostle of good health

It wasn't all glitter at the Lagos Fair

It was clear something extraordinary was afoot. Aikhomu himself swept in with all the flourish of federal presence. Apart from a rather lengthy speech delivered on behalf of the president, the vespere was to slug it out for 110 minutes tramping the confounding expanse of the Lagos Trade Fair Complex to inspect the stands. By the time he left, amidst a cloud of good cheer, he had set events on high key.

The 10th Lagos International Trade Fair was far and away the biggest of them all. Fair Manager, E.A. Bamgbose, reported, as against last year's 600. There was equally an accretion in international participation, with 120 companies there had been 80 companies from 13 countries. The fair revealed a great burst of consciousness among small scale entrepreneurs. For instance, three-month-old Farina Ltd., makers of Uncle So-So flavoured milk drinks, plunked down over N15,000 to participate. A number of established companies, Volkswagen and Anammco among them, showed vigorous commitment with their range of new products. With all these, there was undoubtedly a mark-up in the volume of business. What with the feverish commercial activity running through the 10-

day affair

Even with all that, however, much happened that stirred curiosity. For instance, despite the spurt of foreign involvement, there were questions regarding the nature of that participation. TSM found that a majority of foreign participants were mainly interested in penetrating the Nigerian market to sell their own goods and services. To be sure a number of companies came with concepts of mutuality. But quite a few were merely seeking outlet. A representative of Vremex, one of the seven export companies from USSR, told TSM in halting English about the wonderful products (Soviet-made watches and clocks) they were introducing into Nigeria. But when TSM mooted questions about their interest in Nigerian products, the representative's face hooded over. Though an array of hi-tech equipment were displayed, many of the products brought by foreign participants were rather lousy and of decidedly low technology. One Japanese-affiliated company, Kuno, came with low-priced photographic materials and cameras which someone perhaps uncharitably, called 'toyish'.

Incidentally, Olu Falae, ex-Finance minister and one of the architects of SAP, is the chairman of the company TSM. Continued on next Page

Money

By Chudi Okoyo

nce again, President Babangida shattered their expectations. Since the 1986 Chamber of Commerce and Lagos Commerce and Industry Commission took up the job of organizing the Lagos International Trade Fair, members had always invited the First Man to set the ball rolling. Always there'd be a word from the presidency. There'd be a bangida was all raring to go. And, in participation, LCCI would roll out all the acts as would belt Babangida's audience with heavy injections of reverence. Again, organizers would ensure elevated attendance and steerman of industry rules, top government honararies, the works — to dignify the president's presence. Each year while everyone bated their breath awaiting the president's arrival, he'd come and apologies from the president only at last year's fair. LCCI did Babangida's part. But then, that had been an un-

g him. ar again, the president was un-ly absent. He had his second in-nd, Augustus Aikhomu, stand in-ook nothing away from the fair. Right from Day One, the One.



Throng of visitors, but all wasn't well.

By Ademola Adedoyin

All set for US—Nigeria business day

The annual event is here again

Preparations have reached a feverish stage. And the organisers, Nigeria—America Chamber of Commerce, are leaving no stone unturned. The Chambers executive director Richard Ikiebe, is working tirelessly to ensure a hitch-free day as yet another US/Nigeria Business Day is around the corner.

Forget about the wheat cold war between the two countries. Forget about the often reported harassment of Nigerians (no matter the status) on entry points at God's own country. Ikiebe insists that there are enough grounds on which both countries should be able to relate, economically.

These grounds, his chamber believes, have not been fully explored and exploited. To explore them fully is the idea behind the US—Nigeria business day. A day Nigerians with business interests in the United States and Americans with similar interests in Nigeria come together with a view to expanding such interests and looking into new areas. Business moguls who have eyes on some ventures in either of the two countries cash in on the opportunity provided to strike deals and seal agreements with potential business partners and customers.

The venue for this year's day is L Hotel, Eko Meridian, Victoria Island. And a

legion of activities have been drawn up to make the day memorable. These include an address by the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, an exhibition and a luncheon, among others. Time will also be made available for the participants to get to know themselves, share problems, talk business in an informal way. Over 200 corporate institutions are expected to participate in this year's day.

At his eighth floor Continental Merchant Bank (CMB) building at Falomo Ikoyi, gangling and workaholic Ikiebe is driving his staff hard to ensure a successful outing. That the young man is determined to make the annual event more glamorous and achieve better result is evident. "We are determined to bring every member of our chamber together come November 15", he said with all the enthusiasm he could gather. "US—Nigeria business day, he added almost immediately, is organised by the chamber but assistance is welcome. For this year, Mobil is assisting the chamber."

The business opportunities the day offers is unquantifiable, he adds. "It is another opportunity for members of the chamber to further interact, especially

those in the common areas of trade e.g. those who deal in chemical industry, banking, agro-allied industry. They come together, share problems and work out business proposals."

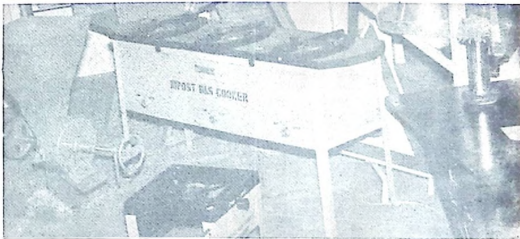
The US embassy has always shown interest in the day. And it has always participated. As Ikiebe put it, "It is the singular opportunity we have on yearly basis when the American ambassador is given the opportunity to address members of the chamber. Where he is able to relate to the chamber, the embassy and to the two countries."

But more than this, Ikiebe told TSM, his chamber's interest lies in the economic advantages of the day. Said he, "The chamber's interest is more narrowly defined than that of the embassy. Our interests are economic, commercial and investment-oriented. And these are the areas we want to promote relationship with the US. And the time cannot be more appropriate than now when the government is talking of economic diplomacy."

asked Ikiebe if such venture was a response to Nigeria's clamour for international investment capital. Sure beamed the chief, "The (Japanese) gentlemen who are here would not have come seven years ago." Again, at the Ghanaian stand, goods on display included textile materials, canned food, chocolates and mosquito coils.

There are other unhappy details. Some exhibitors grumbled about the high cost of stands, a situation which, following LCCI president LA Salami, Bamgbose attributes to the high rent paid to the Trade Fair Complex Management Board. TSM ran into a row in the Trade Fair Complex office of LCCI, a shrunken fellow from another part of the country was raving about what he called LCCI's tribal favouritism. There were equally loud sulks about irregular power supply and forbidding prices of consumer items exhibited.

Still, another surprising observation. The United States was conspicuously absent, but that's probably because of the imminence of the US-Nigeria business day. Yet, TSM noticed a measure of re-lapse on the part of some participating local companies. Some big companies betrayed what may be diminishing commitment with their whitened investment in exhibition — small stands, li-



"New concept in postal services"

imited range of products, etc. The publicity manager of a leading paints company which had its tiny stand tucked away in some obscure point, told TSM in defence: "We're already known. We're here for the PR purpose. We're not here to market. We didn't have to take a large space. What are we exhibiting?" But private companies weren't the only ones culpable. At the ministry of works stand for instance, the greatest items on display were pieces of poorly finished, hardy varnished furniture. This drew instant rebuke from visitors. "We want

houses. We want roads," they wrote in the visitors' notebook. NIPOST too wasn't to be outdone. It had on a number of odd fabrications among which was a gas cooker! TSM noticed a visitor's inscription after observing this: "A new concept in postal services!"

And then the inescapable consequences. Hosting of illegal exhibition, High-level revelry, Strumpeteering. And quite a good helping of robbery.

These oddities notwithstanding, the 10th Lagos Int'l Business Day came off quite

Flashes of Mandilas market

By *Nwajuba Chinedum.*

he fellow beckons at you familiarly. Smiles and then walks briskly towards you. You think, who is this guy? You try to place the face of the Mallam in white kattan. Your memory isn't falling you. Then he bursts out, 'oga', whether na Naira, Dollar or Pound, buying or selling, we get am'. That's some salesmanship for you. And this is the unofficial foreign exchange market in central Lagos business district otherwise called Mandilas.

Do you smile or just ball away. Of course, if you are for the deal — buying or selling — then you have a friend. But if you were going to reprimand him for halting you, you look around and what do you find? A multiplicity of young men, may be less than thirty years of age, but definitely short of forty. All of them similarly attired. They too you observe are watching you with the corner of the eye, though feigning disinterest.

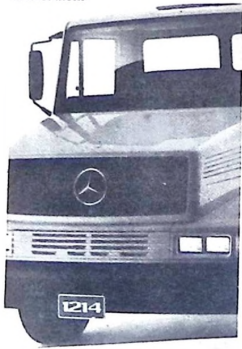
Your thoughts are cut short by your realisation that this is happening not too far from the Central Bank, the Nation's Centre for money matters. Then you observe the mushrooming new banks and new offices of the old banks competing for your attention. Do you know how many banks there are now? Only some guy in the Central Bank could. You never can tell how many were approved last night. You recall your last count in April, 1990, 57 commercial banks and 40 merchant banks. You recall that by the end of 1987 while still in school and engaged in a study relating to banking in Nigeria, there were 33 commercial banks and 16 merchant banks. You wonder if this growth tallies with the general state of the economy, considering that banking is only a service sub-sector.

But the banks are not the only formal operators in the foreign exchange market. There is also the government certificated foreign exchange kolkola, otherwise called *Bureaux de change* all over the place. This must be one market where every person interested — buyer or seller — is at home with its dynamics: price changes, free entry and exit for buyers and sellers and sufficient patronage for any volume of transaction. The market is always cleared. What's the equilibrium price? Then you think, you'd always felt that the food market is the closest approximation to the theory of perfect competition. That never forgotten concept hammered into every student of basic micro-economics. But with

food traders forming all sorts of cartels(?), marketing groups and associations, controlling and regulating the number of traders each day, and the volume of commodity brought into market, fixing minimum prices, your belief on the food market and perfect competition is called to question.

Then the Tinubu foreign exchange market with all the formal and informal operators, must approximate the concept of perfect competition. And when informed that the price differentials between the informal and the *Bureaux de change* is about plus or minus 10k in the Naira — Dollar value. And that the Naira exchange recorded some relative stability in 1989. You recall that the CBN has reported that average depreciation for the year is 30 per cent and the gap between official and parallel market rates was further narrowed in spite of a deadline of \$600m in official supply of foreign exchange to the foreign exchange market, when compared to 1988.

The formal market though offers the highest prices. But then, if you have an extra package of quick and personalised service, bereft of bonding paper and recording procedures, then the high price is worth it. These qualities are about the same with those advertised by banks and financial houses seeking customer patronage. But something else, what does the tax authorities do about income earned in the unofficial foreign exchange market? Are the relevant bodies for statistics bothered by this market's implication for unemployment, velocity of money and computation of Gross Domestic Product? A lot of the economy is underground and the informal foreign exchange transactions in Mandilas is one of them.



1214 Consumer workmanship

Company News

The Anambra Motor Manufacturing Company is out with a number of new brand of vehicles. These include a 22-seater bus MB 180, fire-fighting vehicles L911 and L1213, City bus O-131 and HPN trucks LJK 1214 billed to replace the famous L911 and L1213 in Nigeria next year. The 1214 in particular bears evidence of consumer workmanship. Its cab was designed for improved driver visibility, more safety, comfort, strength and endurance. The new MB 180 bus also looks promising with its diesel engine and roomy hood. However the bus finishing appears a bit hasty. The seats are too upright, are not well-padded, and lack adequate space between. An official of ANAMMCO however says the company is quite ready to make corrections.

Unity, Life and Fire Insurance, is another company striving to weather economic recession. The company is currently celebrating its silver jubilee, and last Wednesday members of the company's board called pressmen together to toast their survival. Chairman of board, Henry Orno said the insurance industry has been badly hit by SAP. A good number of the small companies, he said, have gone under while the fairly big ones are only struggling to stay afloat. According to him, SAP has affected insurance companies in several adverse ways: increase in price of assets insured, e.g. cars, hence high payment of premium because of cash constraints; and of course the lessening of the propensity to take out insurance policy. Yet, it does appear Unity hasn't fared too badly. During the SAP years the value of its total assets has risen from N17.1m in 1985 to N21.6m last year. Paid-up capital went up from N1.3m to N3.2m, and since 1985 the company has invested over N82 million.

Another, amidst economic adversity, a new merchant bank has joined *The Midas Merchant Bank*, currently operating from Awolowo Road, Ikoji, commenced operations on October 2, 1990. Entirely owned by private investors, the bank's spectrum includes money and capital services, trade services and personal banking. MD David Richards says the bank has gathered highly qualified professionals and that they are set to storm the nation.

Midas will be encouraged by the remarkable achievements of *Rivs Securities and Investments Ltd.* Rivs obtained dealership license from the Nigerian Stock Exchange in December 1987. But in less than three years of operation it is already making waves. Recently it was appointed stockbroker to the Federal government for the last quarter of 1990 by CBN. The highly coveted job could only have come as a pleasant surprise last Monday. Rivs Management got media men together to share their moment of glory.



Arty stuff

By Eugenia Abu

celebration of dance theme running across the vast continent of Africa came alive recently in London. In England "Adzido," Britain's largest African dance company brought rhythm to the doorsteps of music lovers in a beautiful collection of dance steps, poetry and music titled "Under African Skies." Directed by Ghanaian born George Kwame Dziku, "Under African Skies" is a stimulating experiment using dance to aid thematic development of various plots.

The experiment incorporated the use of poetic verses to tell the African story historically and contemporarily while the spirit of the dance raged on. The Poet whose works were adapted by the "Adzido" dance company to fit into the enchanting dance steps of "Under African Skies" was none other than Nigeria's Odu Oloimun Oloimun, a political science graduate of University of Ife, Ibadan, was once a personal secretary to late Elder Statesman Awolowo. A Poet and Literary Critic he describes the experience as "the fusion of dance and poetry, matching life, time and History through Elective Representations." Oloimun could not have been more right.

Sitting amongst hundreds of spectators black and white at London's famous theatre house, Sadler's well, one got the feeling of a depth of the African spirit transcending countries on the continent. "Under African Skies" was a homecoming for brothers who came to watch and for

African delights thaw frosty English

foreigners it was a truly exotic experience.

Divided into ten dance movements from most countries in Africa, The theatre opened with the Tigan dance from Ghana. This is a dance movement from most countries in Africa. The theatre opened with the Tigan dance from Ghana. This is a dance which is used mainly to release Fetish Priests from Northern Nigeria. A consuming dance, Adzido theatre group elevated Tigan to a study in solo dance steps.

The Aisa dance, mainly a women's dance from Togo followed, enkindling

"Under African Skies" is a dance performance of African movements. It toured London in early October. Eugenia Abu watched it in London and says the performance was electric.



... a stimulating experience

nostalgic feelings in the African audience. A social dance originating from the Luyas of Kenya was slow and majestic. The costumes of this dance were particularly attractive. A raffia skirt for both men and women whirled and swirled as the dancers performed.

Bata dance from the Yoruba speaking area of Nigeria was a thrill. Combining the Ilambouyan Yoruba Aso-Oke in costumes with the exuberant jerky movements of the dancers. The Sango inspired dance steps enjoyed a spontaneous applause from the audience. The nimble footwork and the expressive "Dan-shikis" on the men. "Buba" on the women brought part one of "Under African Skies" to a scintillating crescendo.

If you saw rigorous well choreographed dance steps, the second part saw the dexterity of the drummers and the dignifying movements of the next five dances. It opened with a Kenyan movement called Borama. A dance of lovers, hunters and artisans performed by both sexes. On its part, the Tanzanian dance Sindiba acquired a household of admirers. The dance basically a waist dance reminded one of the "Owambe" parties prevalent in certain parts of the country. More than anything else, the dancers proved that waist-shaking to the rhythm is an exclusively African preserve.

The thematic maze of Pan Africanism came to a height when gun-toting enemies fired gunshots at the dancers. They stayed still for a while dead, but rose slowly afterwards, revived and chased their gun-wielding enemies off-stage.



... hot and fiery



It was symbolic in more ways than one that the African spirit of dance, the African spirit of life is an undaunting spirit. No matter how hard you try in pulling it down.

Spunked with the best of multi-African costumes Adzido not only told the story of Africa in their eye catching designs. Each outfit is from the region of dance depicting a heritage with a sure sense of direction culturally and a sense of belonging historically. The climax for "Under African Skies" was the Zulu war dance from South Africa. This dance celebrating victory is typical of South Africa body movements with dancers prancing majestically on stage in elabo-

rate zulu costumes, shields and spear inclusive.

To the dance, the poetry and songs Emmanuel Tagoe, the poetry and songs Adzido led a crop of drummers on the synchronization which made "Under African Skies" not just a dance but a drummer's delight.

TSM spoke with Hilary Carty, General Manager of the dance company, and she described the event as a well-structured Pan African ensemble. According to her most of the dancers on the troupe are Jamaicans (which was a shock because they performed all the dances flawlessly) who have perfected the African dance steps by learning straight from choreographers from each African country performed. She says an African tour would have been desirable but for financial constraints. Carty then went on to assure that Adzido intends to stay on the top as Britain's largest African dance troupe, making African dance accessible to diverse audiences.

If "Under African Skies" is a tip of the iceberg then Adzido is not just going to be a dance ensemble, as it is likely to become a cult following. The Tanzanian lady sitting beside us nodded in appreciation as the curtains fell against the Zulu war dance with a deafening applause. "No one can hold a candle to the African in dance," she exclaims. We could not agree more. "Under African Skies" is truly an African experience for both the uninitiated and the knowledgeable. As Rose Tackie, a performer in the group puts it "Under African Skies" is like going home.

EVENTS

music kept the guests shaking their heads and tapping their feet.

Tunde and Fran Kuboye with their Extended Family Band of Jazz 38 did not waste time to confirm the special beauty of the night as they rendered special jazz tunes. As the music echoed, some members of the audience soon began to dance on their seats, others clapped while some waved their two hands.

Even humour-bank Art Alade and soft-speaking doyen of the arts Steve Rhodes, recipients of *Niteshill* Gold Cards on that special night, could not hide their excitement as they too shook their heads in appreciation of the music.

Jazz Nile is on every Sunday at the club.

Sparks on the move

They may not be called *wonderkids* now but so they were described when they ignited the Nigerian tube in 1988 with their maiden album *Ever, Ever*. Their uniquely different costume dance styles a la Michael Jackson and tiny voices like Soprano Singers

matched with a classy video made them one of the hottest contenders of the pop crown at the time. But since then, this duo of Felly Eiremiokhae and Motzyx Ochia of Sparks, have gradually faded out like the evening sun setting in the West.

At *Niteshill* recently, these boys sparked and re-enacted memories of their hey days as they sang one of their yet-to-be recorded songs, Rub-a-dub calypso.

TSM cornered them after the performance to find out why they went into oblivion after their debut LP. Felix explains that they did not really disappear, but that they have only been rehearsing seriously. According to him, they were also working hard to assimilate the politics of music before coming out again. Initially, he said, people exploit them because they were ignorant of the 'goings on' which explains why they have had very little to show in terms of remuneration for their maiden album because people cashed in on their ignorance.

According to him, work is at an advanced stage on their second album and they are ready to prove that they have done their home work in these last two years.

Niteshill goes jazzy

By Zik Okafor

Jazz usually referred to as the music of the cultured minds, made its entry into *Niteshill* recently in grand style. This was the maiden edition of Sunday Live Jazz. It was different from the other nights.

The usual dance syndrome that kept most 'Nite clubbers' on their feet was absent. The thunderous sound of funk music was buried inside the Konga drums. Also people were not gasping out of exasperation that follows an energetic dance session. Instead, cool, melodious

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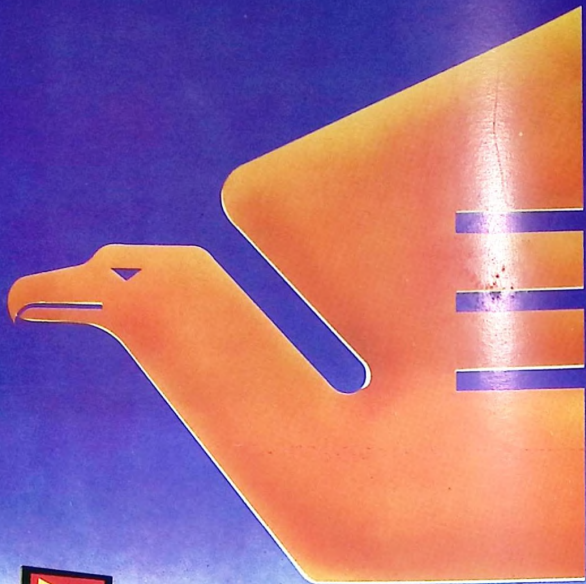
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Oil & Energy

Gas does it better

Again NNPC dazzles Trade Fair visitors with a vehicle that runs without petrol.

By Ademola Adedoyin

As you are reading this the over 800 exhibitors that participated in the 10th Lagos International Trade Fair must be getting set to leave for their various destinations. And the visitors, estimated at over a million, must be looking forward to next year when such opportunity would happen again.

But then, it is the fair that is coming to an end this evening. And certainly not the impressions the exhibitors, visitors

and participants have had of the 10-day long big business event.

It was brisk business all through at this annual business carnival. From the smallest petty trader at the gate to the biggest business concerns in the jumbo pavilion and stands the singular resolve to sell products and services to the teeming visitors was unshaken. But as in such fairs, it is not every exhibition that gets the visitors scampering or jostling for space at its stand. Only those who come up with something new, a breakthrough in whatever area, do get visitors thronging their pavilion ceaselessly.

And so say that the Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC) attracted quite a crowd to its pavilion at this trade fair will be saying the obvious. NNPC had a product that attracted every visitor to the fair. A car that runs on natural gas fuel.

To be sure, it's not the NNPC's first time out with this car. The gas-powered car was at its stand at the last year fair. It was displayed again at the Science and Technology week held in Lagos recently. But the type of crowd it attracted this year was unprecedented. It was like NNPC was exhibiting a product it never did before. It was like the visitors were setting their eyes on the car for the first time. May be many were seeing it for the first time.

But whether you were seeing it for first time or seeing it again, the fact that every visitor wanted to catch a glimpse of it wanted to know more about it, was very obvious. And to NNPC's pavilion, they thronged.

No vehicle is specifically made to run on natural gas. Every vehicle can be converted. And, according to NNPC technicians, for as little as N4,000.00. And the process is simple indeed. The 25kg cylinder is fixed in the boot of the car, while the pipe passes the gas to a regulator fixed to the vehicle engine. The regulator monitors and controls the supply of gas to the engine. The quantity of gas supplied to the engine depends on the speed. The lower the speed, the lower the gas supplied. And for safety, there is a safety valve on the cylinder, monitoring the flow of gas from cylinder to the regulator. In case of a leakage, it automatically stops supplying gas to the regulator.

NNPC technicians say the compressed natural gas (CNG) is cheaper than petrol and diesel. The 25kg cylinder can run 160km at a stretch. And in case there's a red on the level of gas, the car has an inner switch, which can be pressed to make petrol take over the powering of the vehicle. And that is not the only credit given to gas-powered vehicle by the NNPC.

It maintains that the CNG technology is proven simple and easily adaptable. Less maintenance cost is one of its virtues because "very little carbon deposition takes place on engine compo-

nents (valves, pistons, etc)," making CNG engines to last longer compared to petrol/diesel engines. CNG fuel system also boasts of some operational advantages which include clean burning thereby averting pollution occasioned by hazardous emissions in petrol/diesel engines and the engine also runs smoother. And NNPC insists that motorists should not be scared by the cost of conversion, such cost "could be recovered in short time through savings made on CNG use instead of petrol."

But this may be as far as the CNG technology goes in its glory. For now, it may be some pain in the neck for any motorist that adopts it. Refueling is a big headache. There are only two gas stations - one at Ikorodu and the other at Warri - at present. What happens to a Sokoto-bound motorist that runs short of gas at Kalanchan? That is the question the Nigerian Gas Company Ltd., the NNPC subsidiary in charge of this project is battling with. Individuals and oil companies are being contacted with a view to making them interested in running gas stations in the country. And the NGC is confident it would start achieving some result soon. "In fact, before six months, you will see our gas stations all over the place," an official of the company who begged for anonymity told TSM. Despite the few stations, visitors at the fair were unanimous in their commendation of NGC for its effort.

"CNG technology may not be a new discovery in the world automobile industry, but that with local expertise and material, Nigeria Gas Company has successfully done it here is commendable," said Usman Yakubu, a mechanical engineer, who told TSM he came to the fair the second time primarily to study the car.



Dr. T.M. John, NNPC

A nite of celestial music

By Zik Okafor

The serene atmosphere that characterises campuses whenever schools are on vacation was punctured in UNILAG penultimate Saturday, the 3rd of November

1990. This was when Maranatha International Network and Ebenezer Obey Music Ministries came together to tell the world that 'Vision is Still Alive' in what they termed the 'Intimate Nite.'

As people trooped to the auditorium the purpose was not to see a drama but a grand International Gospel Music concert aimed at raising fund in aid of *Spiritual Card Injury Association, Lagos Lepers' Colony, Abeokuta, and Sports Disabled*, Port Harcourt. It was a magnificent occasion that brought various gospel churches together towards achieving a mission that has a spiritual essence! It is this noble essence of the programme that probably explains the presence of the society's big shots that include the Honourable Minister of Culture, Yohana Kure, Rasheed Gbadamosi, Keinde Okunowo, Kris Okotie, Ken-Caleb Olumese, Maureen Amenechi, Yemi Akeju, and a host of others.

While the petty business men outside had a field day selling gospel music cassettes, books, stickers and caps, the curtain gave way to reveal the international Ministry band set for action. The lead vocalist and percussionist, Kenny Smith, wasted no time in dazzling the audience with his instrument and voice as he sang 'Don't give up' a track that preaches relentlessness and tenacity in the service of God. But within a few minutes, attention became divided between Kenny and Darcel Leonard.

A dancer who had backed the audience for about forty seconds in a motionless poise. She was a beauty to watch as she did classical ballet and modern dance with such graceful movements. Her long hair like a perouk packed behind and free flowing garment of red and white colours added effect to our performance as she

explored levels, and created curves while utilising the available space on stage.

The Kenny led band soon left the stage for other performers. Marguarite Ingram sang like the great and experienced singer that she is. Ori Okoro, Nigeria's gospel song messiah made Nigerians proud of her performance, while Glen Leonard, husband of dancer, Darcel Leonard like his wife, did his singing duty perfectly with the track 'Lord of All'. A



Leonard... a beauty to watch

dealing ovation greeted the entrance of the Chief Commander Ebenezer Obey. His song 'Don't Compromise' was simple but its melody was celestial. Sample: 'Don't compromise, Brethren, don't compromise. As for me, there is no turning back, I won't compromise. Before long the audience sang and clapped along.

Such was the spiritual vibes unleashed at the first intimate nite in Lagos. Other shows are slated for Abeokuta and Port Harcourt.

J.C. makes his final journey home

John Chukwu, the man who utilised his talent to the delight of mankind is set for the last trip to mother earth and his friends seem poised to ensure that a flag of honour accompanies him to his destination. Thus, at his Klass Nite club a staggering sum of N50,000.00 was raised by this committee of friends as a trust fund for the family.

The agenda which also emerged from the meeting, revealed further grand plans for the disc jockey, actor and versatile comper. Top of the agenda is an all stars concert scheduled for Sunday, the 11th of November. Venue is still uncertain as at press time.

Mass Media night is for the following day. At his Klass Nite club clips of all his performances have been compiled on a documentary video.

Wednesday the 14th is set aside for his friends and sympathisers to share a moment together with songs at his house in Ojodu while a wake-keeping will follow at his Nite club that same day.

His body will lie in state at National theatre and later at Klass on Friday before leaving for his home town in Agwu, Anambra State.

Burial and interment will continue there in his home town on Saturday the 17th of November.



John Chukwu: final rest



Essien-Igbokwe

Lady of songs for politics?

By Yusuph Olaniyonu

For several years, she has shaken the entertainment circle like no other female musician. Her songs span the various ethno-cultural dichotomies in the country. And with her gift as a warabiya woman, she cannot be more infectious.

These are probably the attributes that have informed Christy Essien-Igbokwe's desire to "play a key role in the politics of the transition period." But alas Christy Essien will never join the National Republican Convention (NRC) or the Social Democratic Party (SDP). This, she said, should be left to women politicians like Onikepo Oshodi, Dosunmu-Awolowo, Helen Gomwalk, Sarah Jubril, as they are making waves within the political circle.

What then is her level of involvement in politics? She smiled as if mocking the cautious reporter and replied "my involvement is at the level of a patriot who does not want his country to be misled or misruled, who wants to ensure that the average woman in the rural area is not deceived to go and vote for an unpolitician." She is already girding her loins to use her talent to remind Nigerians of the need to do a critical assessment of all candidates for coming elections before casting their votes for them.

This new political re-awakening efforts will be a new dimension to Christy's several efforts to elicit dynamic development in Nigeria. She is now a cultural ambassador portraying the rich African culture at home and abroad. The recognition of this effort is an award that she bagged recently in Los Angeles, USA. Speaking about the award, South-rain organisation the managers of Christy Essien-Igbokwe, told TSM that "the award was the greatest birthday gift the lady of songs would get as she will be celebrating her birthday today."

Christy Essien-Igbokwe is married to Edwin a director of Punch newspapers and has four sons.

Starting over

By Busola Dada

Death struck like a bolt of thunder, snatching Tokunbo from her at a time when she should have been enjoying the fruits of her labour, burying the past sorrows and looking forward to a bright future. But she was given the chance to taste of her new found love with Tokunbo, why?

At thirty-two, she suddenly found herself without a husband no child to remind her of Tokunbo, found herself alone for the first time in years, afraid to face the future, too hurt to live in the past with her memories though she would give anything even welcome the beatings, abuses though heartedly to have Tokunbo back. At least the scares of beating and punches should have faded away before he died.

Tokunbo was her one and only love. The only lover she ever knew. She loved Tokunbo with all her life, cherished him and was happy when he proposed marriage though she knew about his infidelity knew about his drinking and his affairs with some of her friends. She even knew her friend from whose bed he came for their wedding. She understood him better than his parents but she loved him and her love made her blind to all his undoings.

Her marriage wasn't a bed of roses. It had its thorns that pricked her, but she stayed. Shutting off advices from friends and relatives who always saw her with black eyes. She knew he loved her in his own way and showed it when not aware of her watching him.

Her life changed dramatically in a matter of a few minutes when she was counting her blessing for having the patience to bear the pains and humiliation. It seemed the town she had been brought up in and lived all her life was suddenly against her.

Discovering she was pregnant two months after his death, was a bitter-sweet experience. She was happy and sad at the same time. Following the advice of her relatives, she travelled to America to stay with her unmarried sister.

Then a man called Emeka, six months her junior, came with his friends to visit her sister and she found herself feeling something close to the way she used to

feel with Tokunbo. With his constant visit she found him wanting to change the life-style she had built around herself.

The situation was further complicated for Dupe by Emeka's obvious attraction to her, not understanding her need to keep to herself and the age barrier. There was nothing she could do to stop him and even as she 'tried' she knew he was a man who would win in everything he set out to do.

But as Emeka made his intention to make her live again clear, Dupe became afraid of something else atrait most of all of replacing her husband with another man.

On his part, Emeka made himself available everytime of the day, walking her to parks taking her to dinner but never rushed her, understanding her refusal to commit herself to another relationship immediately after her husband's death, when she was still carrying his child.

He was there when, it was time for her to give birth. He took her to the hospital and would have stayed by her side had she agreed, but he understood her refusal because it was her last time of sharing such intimacy with her dead husband.

All through this period, Emeka stood by her and after, Dupe gave herself into Emeka's care, entrusting all her present and future happiness into his hands.

And Emeka did not let her down, making love to her tenderly, beautifully, promising her that no matter where they might be they would be together from now on, that just as the world moved on so did life, that Dupe was now ready, even ripe to Begin Again.

MAMA DUPE, HOW I WISH THESE ORGAN SNATCHERS COULD KINDLY TAKE MY HUSBAND'S ORGAN, GOD, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PERFECT REST OF MIND FOR ME!



AND ME TOO, AT LEAST HE WON'T HAVE ENOUGH PRIDE RUNNING AFTER ALL THOSE LAZY GIRLS, AND THAT SIMPLY MEANS PROMPT ATTENTION FOR US AT HOME!



STARDUST

REMEMBER that model of FRESH cream TV ad? Light Robust Above average height. Him, saw her the other day at Ozone during Shina Peters' first performance after his US tour Beautiful dome. She was with her man on whose finger we noticed a shining wedding ring. She didn't wear any. But that didn't matter to them as they fed each other with beef and bones from a plate of pepper-soup. Even the powerful video light could not rattle the bespectacled senior guy as he cuddled his jewel. You wouldn't blame him. Didn't they say that what God has joined together let no dome put assunder!

HAVE you ever heard of a court's injunction banning a school from holding beauty contests? Well Lagos State University (LASU) is likely to be the first. We have it on authority that the 1989/90 beauty queen Yemisi Adeniji has not been given the N2,500.00 and her one year supply of IHB hair products prizes. All these were promised her during the contest. The queen will soon go to court to stop the school from holding further contests until she gets her prizes. Smart move. We hope that will not invite almighty frustration on the queen; courtesy of campus powers-that-be. We are watching.

LEARN that LASU students Union President 1989/90 session, Gbenga Ore has been expelled while the student Union has also been dissolved. Our sources revealed that while the school authority was probing him and the union for financial mismanagement and stealing of the queen's prizes, another rat was let out of the bag. Gbenoa it seems gained admission into the school with a fake result. What a discovery after three years! A case of chasing a rat and killing a lion did you say?

HUSH! there is now an unwritten law in faculty of law, University of Lagos, Lagos. You cannot combine pregnancy and law making.

If you choose to become pregnant while in the faculty you may be inviting a big WAHALA in the form you are inviting almighty frustration. In the form of losing a year or two. The lecturers according to our sources, strongly feel that combining matrimonial pleasure and law cheapens the course they cherish and adore very much. Heavens of the case of this particular woman (name withheld) whose husband once worked with Nigerian Embassy in Warsaw, Poland.

She had the audacity to become twice pregnant within three years. The lecturers thought that was A crime. Taboo and an unforgivable act. She was frustrated and oppressed! But the strong woman didn't let on. She managed to escape with a third class degree, and is cruising along in Law school with her babies.

UNIVERSITY of Ibadan now boasts of the largest collection of medical students. The guys are strutting a over campus. Before long a quarter of these fresh medical JAWBITES will be flushed out after the prelim, while another quarter will be sent packing after the first M.B.S. exam. What a generous way to give

with the right hand and retrieve with the left. To our pals, we say it's better to have loved and lost than not to have loved at all. At least, they can find consolation in their brief romance with medicine. They get what they score! Those are the words of the mark-miser according to our source. Well Stardust says 'don't cry fellow students, we can't all be geniuses.

NTA & Channel 5 'Top of the Pops' Musical Show now has a new producer. Reliable sources disclosed that there is likely to be conflict of interests between the presenter, who is said to be doing an excellent job of the programmes while the producer seems not well-grounded in the art of production.

One only hopes this conflict will not affect the overall quality of the programme, as we all know what happens when two captains control a ship with their different individual styles.

WEDDING bells will soon clang for Femi Odeleye, presenter of NTA & Channel 5, 'Top of the Pops' Musical show. He is poised to hook Helen Ogbache a.k.a Vera of the now moribund Soap Opera 'Behind the Clouds.' Heard Femi is so crazy about Helen that he's been natching up telephone bills while calling her in far away Jos. Meanwhile, Feyi, his old love is not finding the affair funny.

To Femi, and Vera, we say don't forget to send us your I.V. when the date is fixed with to Feyi, take heart 'for every woman, there is a man.'

THERE is a running battle or do we call it cold war going on at your Reach-Out Station between the erstwhile Manager, Chris Ebie and the newly-appointed General Manager of the station, Mrs. Jennifer Ejambi; who was

Okpala ... Better life after the tube



posted from NTA Makurdi to improve on the performances of the station. For some time, Ebie refused to prepare a handing-over note for his successor which would have been the appropriate take-off point of his successor.

As the saying goes "when one door closes another one opens." Since the directive from the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) that all staff who engage in any form of private practice like acting should choose between their professions, capable hands like Moti Dodzie, Chiko Okpala a.k.a Zebudaya, Toot Ogidan, Binba Odekunle have to resign. They are now doing fine as independent producers.

We learnt that they now produce programmes on NTA as independent producers and they reap in ten-fold what they were hitherto receiving at NTA.



Liz ... selling off art

ENIGMATIC and versatile actress, Elizabeth Taylor, 58, once again turns attention to her abode as she decides to sell Vincent Van Gogh's painting 'A view of the Asylum' which her father bought for £98,000 (N1,472,000.00) on her behalf. The painting is expected to fetch up to -10 million (about N160 million) when Christie auctions it on December 3 in London.

According to Christie, Taylor, a veteran of seven marriages, a reported 35 operations, drug and alcoholic addiction, is selling the paint work for 'personal reasons.'

A lover of art, Taylor started gathering paintings in the mid-50s and still has a large collection of Impressionists spread between her houses in Bel Air, Los Angeles, and Gstaad, Switzerland.



Sporting

Juju scandal among athletes!

But officials and other high flying athletes say it does not work

By Ochereome Nnanna

The six youths made a semi-circular cordon around the girl. They had constituted themselves into a tribunal to try a national female high jumper (name withheld) for trafficking in juju or black magic, a diabolical scheme that was aimed at one of them.

The group of six contained two females



Brown Ebewelle: "I'm the greatest juju around"

and a male athlete and their "well wishers" (whom AAAN officials later described as thugs) who had come to ensure that "justice" was done to the high jumper who was "planning evil" against a beloved friend.

"Don't deny it," said the sprinter among them, for whom, it was said the juju was meant. "I heard you with my own ears when you said that one day I will fall down and die on the tracks. I am not the first person you are saying it to."

"Me?" said the outraged "accused" lapping her chest for emphasis.

She decided to disregard them and walk out, but before she took a step, one of the "friends" of the athletes yanked her back to position and glowered. "Where are you going?"

The others took off their shoes and a gang beating was afoot, right in front of the medical centre of Sportscity!

Only the timely intervention of the rapidly assembled crowd of athletes and athletics lovers prevented a very ugly situation from developing. The intervention was not even easy because the "friends" looked ready to take upon anyone who so much as tried to protect the high jumper.

However as soon as AAAN officials, Rose Adiole and Fortune Ezewu appeared on the scene, the "friends" beat a hasty retreat.

"This is what we see everyday," Mrs Adiole said to enquirers.

Indeed, *TSM Sporting* had, earlier in the year, stumbled upon a letter written by a US-based identical pair (names withheld) to their Anambra State Coach, touting at another Anambra (home-based) colleague.

The pair, who run in the 100 metres only went abroad early this year after the Auckland Commonwealth Games, and were sitting exams that would get them a place in a University.

A colleague had allegedly written them, intimating them of how "the accused" went round telling people that they had used juju to make him (the accused) injury-prone. The pair, in their letter, were threatening fire and brimstone anytime they encountered their accuser again.

Trivial as this may sound, it is a dangerous virus that is capable of not only destroying the growing *esprit de corps* and healthy competition among Nigeria's home-based athletes, it can also lead misguided athletes into plotting diabolical, subliminal subterfuges against their colleagues. It will pitch the "ne'er de wells" or backsliders against talented progressives, who are the hopes of the nation.

TSM Sporting took up this issue with the Amateur Athletics chairman, Abdul Karim Amu. He dismissed the issue instantly. I don't believe in juju. My own belief is *Bismillah*, Allah is the greatest. So I don't discuss juju.

What does the association do when

such cases are brought before it by athletes, at least to soothe frazzled nerves and discourage sabotage?" *TSM Sporting* queried.

"Let me tell you. I was once an athlete," he countered. "in my more than 30 years of association with athletics. I have never entertained the thought of juju. This game is pure science. For instance, assuming you and I are running hundred metres I run in 10.15 seconds and you run 10.00 seconds. Even if I run with the Koran in my pocket, you will surely beat me. Period."

Brown Ebewelle, who coaches two athletes levelling the accusation, said he was not aware of the problem.

"The last time I heard about the juju bullsh*t among athletes was in the 1970s when we were competing. It's a primitive talk," he said.

"Suppose your athletes complain to you that someone is using juju on them, how would you handle the matter?" *TSM Sporting* asked him.

"I will tell him to retaliate," he said with a teasing smile. "by using me. I am the greatest juju around, only people don't use me. My own juju is God-given. It's nothing to do with native doctors. There is no greater magic than expert training for athletes. The other one is bullsh*t."

Pius Bazighe, the king of 1990 Mobil Classics answered the question with an analogy: "last night (a day) to the classics finals, I suddenly started experiencing pain in my left hand. The pain increased rapidly and I couldn't use the hand. I

was worried because I was sure I wouldn't be able to participate in the crucial final if it continued.

"As a firm believer in Christ, I went on my knees and prayed to God to banish the pain. Later, I dissolved ointment in hot water and doused my hand in it. The pain gradually receded, and today, I have no problem.

"If anybody says he wants to use juju on me, I will not light him. I will tell him to go ahead. If you succeed, you enjoy the proceeds. I'm sure nobody can harm me with juju because in Luke 10:19 in the Bible it says 'behold I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the powers of the enemy and nothing shall happen to you'."

The girl who was accusing the high jumper of this insidious offence is a 100 metres sprinter and shares no event with the athlete she was accusing.

Therefore if there is anybody that has a right to make such an accusation, it is Ifeanyi Aduba, an enterprising new talent who even overtook the accused high jumper during the classics by making a height of 1.85 metres. Ironically, it was she who was brokering peace between the two warring parties.

"I don't believe in juju. I'm a Catholic. I always attend practices or competitions with my Bible, chapel and holy water. I was the one who called auntie Rose to come and separate them," she said.

Stores fans plan FA Cup carnival today

Something keeps telling me that Stationery Stores will win this year's FA Cup.

Dr. Sam Akpabot, in *TSM Sporting's* 29 July 1990 edition.



Stationery Stores supporters are set to bring down the heavens at SportsCity today. Arrangements have already been concluded to make the second semi-final match of the 1990 FA Cup against Ranchers Bees the most colourful ever witnessed in a long time.

The supporters are sure their darling team will crush the Bees, so sure that victory celebrations will start at the National Stadium even before the kick-off of the match.

An official of the club told *TSM Sporting* that thousands of Stores fans will invade SportsCity carrying the Nigerian flag in their right hand and that of the club in their left. Handkerchiefs done in Stores colours would be on display.

"You will see doctors, lawyers, and top citizens of Lagos dancing to talking drums" said the official. "We will mobilize our masquerades and even native doctors to provide side attractions. Nothing will stop Stores this year."

Many followers of the Lagos Flamingoes will prefer a Rangers—Stores final because of the thrill such a pairing will guarantee. The Coal City outfit look on all-conquering BCC Lions of Gboko yesterday in the first semi-final.

The Ranchers—Stores clash of today is particularly remarkable because when both teams met last year at the same stage in Onikan Stadium, it ended in a 1—1 draw and violence. The replay had to be shifted to Bauchi, where BCC sailed into the final at Stores expense.

"That one na hisry" said a Stores official. "Dis year Stores different. Dey haf pattern. We beat dem for Lagos and aien nearly beat dem again for Kaduna. Ranchers will see pepper today!"

Quoteline

Why una go kill me like that? You say I wear dirty shoe. I like am, I like am!

— Jerry Okorodudu, on our lead sporting story of last edition



Pius Bazighe

... and Ifeanyi Aduba — refuge in the Bible.



Moses Simwala, the school gamesmaster who stole the show

By Ochereome Nnanna

He looks anything but like a big boss. Indeed he looks like a typical job seeker — gaunt and shabbily dressed in an ancient light cream jacket and black trousers whose make has never been in vogue anywhere anytime. Our enquiries later confirmed that he was once a school teacher and games-master.

His appearance may throw you out of your stride, but Moses Simwala is the coach and Team Manager of Nkana Red Devils of Zambia, grand conquerors of Nigeria's Iwuanyanwu Nationale in the Sekou Tuore Cup semi-final.

After putting the Nigerian clubside behind, Simwala felt free to share the secrets of his victory, the ingredients of which are bound to make news to many Nigerian coaches.

Before the first leg of the competition that took place in Kitwe two weeks earlier, the Devils were worried about their next opponents, (Nationale) that was able to shove aside dreaded Esperance of Tunisia. But as soon as the Kitwe encounter was over, Simwala went into his room and thanked God for solving a tough puzzle for him.

He found out that most of the Nationale boys did not seem to have respect for dieting as belittles athletes. Some of them looked as big as wrestlers which took away much of their skill and agility.

"When I recruit players", Simwala told *TSM Sporting* exclusively, "I prefer those with smaller body weights. They are the ones who can run because they can manage their bodyweights. Heavy players cannot attack, and they lose weight easily. Coaching big players is

The difference is upstairs

Nationale lost the African champions cup chase because they were too heavy, says Simwala, Red Devils' coach

a headache. Nationale is full of heavy players. They play a hard game and they are slow."

It took only 15 minutes for Simwala to assure himself that his guests had no particular approach and lacked attackers. Each time the two attackers he left upfront look up the initiative, there was panic in the Nationale area. He then concluded that it was only a matter of time before a goal would come.

As they settled down in their hotel to toast their victory, the team manager and the player who scored in the 55th minute, Kenneth Malito, thanked Nigerian

fans for their support. "Zambians can never support a visiting team", Malito said, "instead they will close their mouths if their team is playing badly".

"Do you people like being called Devils?" We wanted to know.

"Why not?" Malito retorted with a smile, "in Zambia, devil can mean a genius. It is not the same as Satan".

The Iwuanyanwu Nationale bench looked like electrocuted dummies as the referee signalled the end of the road for their African champion club ambition. The Team Manager, Uche Ejimotor, politely but sadly waved aside reporters' questions.

What a contrast from the other Ejimotor who, earlier in the year, had boasted that nothing would stop Nationale from winning the cup this time around.

At the end of the celebrations that marked the launching of the team on victory path in February, the confident TM had said "we are not thinking of failure this year. We have been in the continental football business for three years now. If we fail again, that will be unfair on Nigerians".

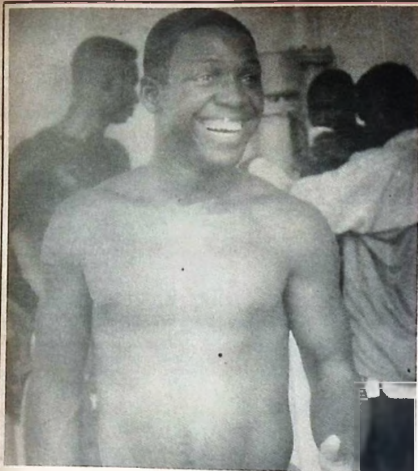
When Nationale made their debut in the Sekou Tuore cup series in 1988 they got to the final, losing resoundingly 1-4 to Seltit of Algeria. Last year, they fumbled again at the quarter-final 2-3 aggregate to a Congolese clubside.

From all indications, the team is likely to represent the country again in the same series judging from their performance in the professional league unless criterion is altered by the Nigerian Football Association.

What lies ahead of the team? Only Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu, the club's financier can say it, for now.

Nationale bench. Electrocuted





Cassidy — back to the front line, to stay.

Watch this Lion

You are going to see more of Clifford Cassidy's boots of poison

By Ochereome Nnanna

It's amazing how boys quickly grow up to be men. The case of Clifford Cassidy of BCC Lions of Gboko is quite phenomenal because in just three years he has transformed from a bumbling college footballer to burgeoning prominence as a striker on the continent.

He was still preparing for his school certificate in 1987 when the Federal Capital Development Authority Football Club of Abuja, campaigning in division 4 of the league, engaged him. Cassidy's goal-scoring habits got to the attention

of Emma Teleh Okonkwo, coach of neighbouring Tornadoes of Minna.

As soon as Okonkwo 'pilfered' him at the beginning of the 1989 season, young Cassidy realized that he was stuck with football as a means of winning bread. Playing in the central attack, the boy from Bendel surprised Nigerian soccer followers by scoring 15 goals, the highest in all the divisions of the national league, in 1989.

Few who were associated with the second division took note of his exploits, especially as the Bournville Award had crawled into the deep freezer. In spite of this, Tornadoes escaped relegation by a hair's breadth. The team drifted, and rumours had it that Lawan Gwadabe, military governor of Niger state, was contemplating disbanding the club.

Cassidy refused to sink with the boat. When Amodu Shuaibu, the highly successful coach of BCC came calling, Cassidy hopped and the following day he was in Gboko.

The young man is already the second highest league scorer (4 goals) in the BCC line-up, the highest being irrepressible Edema Fuludu (5 goals). Last Sunday, the Lions' third goal, scored in the 43rd minute by Cassidy, signalled his arrival on the African continent. A most promising arrival, since he was playing his third international match.

Right from his days with the FCDA and

the Tornadoes, Cassidy has had one nagging draw back: he is slow on the ball. This problem caused a lot of layoffs between him and his Tornado coach, Okonkwo.

But Shuaibu is not one to quarrel with players simply because they have flaws. Who hasn't anyway? Amodu withdrew him from the critical attack into the midfield to scheme.

Later, the coach found out he could attack well with both legs. To increase his speed, he was put on routine shuttle runs and drilled back to the front line to strike.

Today, even though Cassidy is not yet a Ben Johnson on the flanks, he is running a lot faster. He has become infected with the total mobility of the Lions, which whacked Grupo d'Esportivo of Mozambique 6-1 last Sunday in the Mandela cup semi-final second leg.

"Amodu Shuaibu is a matured coach", said Cassidy of the difference between him and Teleh Okonkwo "while Teleh (though good) shouts and quarrels with players. This causes loss of concentration".

SNAPSHOTS

NIGERIAN Breweries Plc is something else when you talk about Nigeria's corporate citizens that love sports.

Three weeks in a row, the nation's oldest alcohol and malt brewers have kept the indoor Sports Hall of the Sportcity busy with male and female basketball league division one playoffs, under its Maltina sponsorship.

Just last Tuesday the company called the press for a briefing over its junior lawn tennis classics, the six sport under its annual sponsorship.

More Vote for President

MISCHIEVOUS reporters lifted the trophy tagged the President's Cup for lawn tennis last week and pronounced it the most inferior (in male) trophy they have ever seen. One of them joked that it was probably put together by native brass makers in Bida, Niger State.

The trophy may be of questionable quality, but six African countries have taken up the offer to compete for it, so far Mozambique sent in her entry on Monday, right after Togo, Ghana, Egypt, Congo and Morocco had said they would come. The competition, sponsored by NICON NOGRA-HILTON and Sunny Odagwu, will come up in Abuja on November 25.

Kasparov—Karpov stalemate

The two Soviet sluggards at the on-going World Chess Championship, Kasparov and challenger Karpov, ran into a 5-5 deadlock on the 10th game in New York Monday.

This followed a change of method of opening by former world champion, Karpov, who played black against his opponent, Kasparov, who had established an advantage, had to offer a draw at the 18th move when he found out that Karpov's surprise shift of tactics effectively nullified his advantage.

The chess circus next moves to Lyons, France this week.

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