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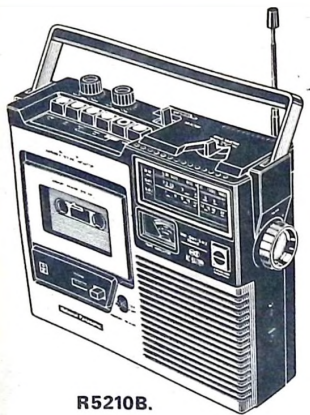
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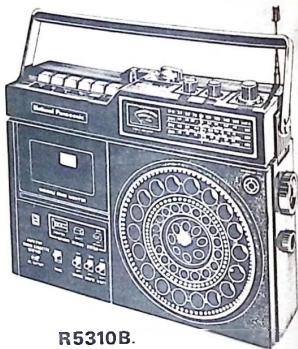
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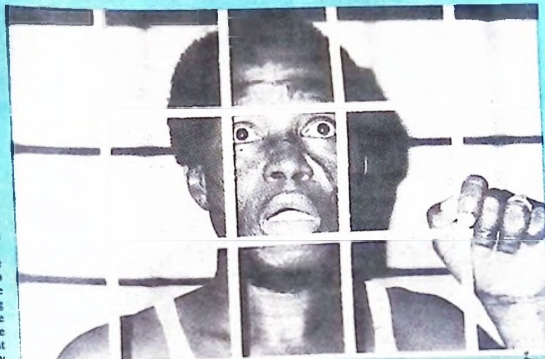
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going it alone. I proved myself right within the short time that I started."

Born 34 years ago of a tobacco farmer in Ogbomosho, Lere Paimo was a grade two teacher at Oshogbo in the Western State for several years, then became an apprentice in an architectural office.

His stage life began in 1964 as manager of the Adejebi Theatre group. But then Duro Ladipo discovered him and brought him into his group.

Of Duro Ladipo, he says: "I respect him and I still love him. If there is an opportunity I will want to benefit from his advice."

"Every separation between two people should not be regarded as a quarrel. I am a very ambitious man and my ambition is made of stern stuff. It was this ambition that led me to form my own group known as 'Lere Paimo Theatre, alias Eda Onile Ola.'"

The first year was very rough for Lere and he found things difficult financially, but with his audience's moral support the business survived and is growing.

One of his crowd-pulling plays which he took on tour of North Central, Kano and Benue Plateau States recently was "Ogbori Elemesho" — the story of the creation of Ogbomosho, his home town.

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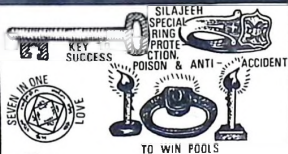
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The victory of this fight was what gave Ogbomoshon town its present name, because the Ogbomoshon warrior succeeded in beheading the intruder Elemesho after killing him with his poisonous arrow.

The name "Eda" which now sticks to Lere like adhesive tape was from the play "Adventures of Eda". In the play he was living a reckless life seducing other men's wives with his wealth. But later he became sober when he met Mr. Death who threatened to take his life.

Lere Paimo says he gets ideas for his plays when he is alone relaxing with cups of palm wine. "Palm wine gives me more ideas when taken." About his family life, he says, "I have one wife at the moment. But I will want to be interested in girls later, especially those talented ones who are interested in my type of job."

Lere is a devout Christian of the Baptist denomination. Though not a Muslim, he prays five times daily like a Muslim. Before DRUM left his residence at Adeoyo Road, Ibadan where he also has the office of his Theatre group, Lere invited us to join in one of his usual prayers, a clear demonstration of his religious devotion.

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**CLAD** in his war robes decorated with juju (left) and charms, Lere Paimo fires his poisonous arrow at an intruder in his play "Ogbori Elemesho", which depicts an inter-tribal war. Though not a Muslim, nor a Catholic, Lere Paimo (above) prays five times every day.

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EKLO spends his time surveying his territory and (right) giving rides to young people, which he seems to enjoy despite his age — said to be 125.



# The king of the tortoises

**E**KLO WAS brought to Lagos in 1940 and has since been a pet of Mr. Alfred Ferdinand Hooper, who is 81 and says the tortoise is 39 years older than himself. Eklo's ripe old age and his heavy weight — over 90lb. — both help to qualify him as a king tortoise.

Born in 1850 some miles from Kano, Eklo was picked up by a farmer as he tried to take his first few steps in life.

After living for 35 years as the farmer's pet, he was sold to Mr. Hooper. He brought the tortoise to Lagos in 1945 and he has lived there in great comfort ever since. Apart from a

cracked area of his back he has suffered no injury in the walled palace built for him. Among Eklo's favourite foods are vegetables, cassava plants, banana leaves, green grass and insects.

His main occupation is hunting insects and wandering around his environment.

Like humans, Eklo snores in his sleep. He is conscious of the presence of strange visitors in his palace and he does not take kindly to unknown guests. He is shy, but he recognises those who look after him. Every Sunday, Eklo is given a thorough washing in his master's bathroom and in return he gives

young people rides on his back. He really seems to enjoy it.

He hoards special food treats, like fried yam or fried cassava. And he certainly seems to have many strong, active years ahead of him.

Perhaps Eklo's placid existence should serve as a lesson to us all.

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ever become a 'developed' nation, will we ever remain a part of the World? Segun Bucknor tries to find the answer.

## A new look at old words

THIS month you and I will look closely at some words and phrases which we used so unthinkingly of our real world. Read through this column. Any lives in Lagos the world nation; he will you because he is the days of his family and I know that you will blackist

to examine the italic words. Developing not only the idea of growth but suggests a standard by which the subject is growing. A woman, puppies dogs, cats. What is the which determines a nation is developing already been developed?

They for us? "developed" nations to Britain, France and America remain at a standstill to the "developing" nations up? Certainly not. Independent then becomes a which we can never level to a mirage. "Developing" therefore a term that confines us in a category from which can never unshackle

Another description which has been acquired and by which heretofore declared ourselves belonging to the "Third World". Obviously, it denies the existence of a first and a second. So what is the for classification?

What is the first stand for the rest in age of the land area or peoples? Archaeologists have turned up evidence that man first evolved in Africa. Is it the basis of discovery? The that Africa and Asia were discovered into some continents came into

The basis for classification may be similarities of physical and economic systems of alignments. Thus the industrialised democratic and nations of the

"Western bloc" constitute the First World. The so-called "Iron Curtain" or Communist nations form the Second World. The rest — the nations of Africa, Asia and Latin America, which are at various stages of industrialisation and have varying political systems, ranging from military dictatorships to budding democracies — make up the Third World.

This traditional classification pretends that the three divisions are equal, with the "Third World" counterbalancing the first two blocs. It also signifies superiority and inferiority because third can never be equal to first.

Language expresses thought and defines situations. The meaning of a word depends on the circumstances in which they have been coined, the user, and to whom it is addressed. Many terms and phrases in the English language which refer to Africa and Africans originated during the colonial era, and smack of a master servant situation.

The native speakers of the language coined such words from a superior feeling as masters and we, by continuing to use them, endorse the charge of inferiority and maintain our servant status.

### Why black is bad news

There is also what I would like to call cultural symbolism — the representation of a feeling or act by reference to a people, tribe or race. Now let us go back to the passage at the beginning and note the full meaning of the remaining underlined words.

**Blackmail** is the act of forcing payment for not making discreditable disclosures about somebody; **black sheep** is a good-for-nothing person, the shame of his family; **blacklist** is a list of persons considered dangerous or to be punished. And we can recall more. **Black tidings** means sad news and an unfortunate day is a **black day**. **Blackguard** is a scoundrel who

perpetuates black deeds or wicked acts. Black is the symbolic colour for mourning and death. A judge puts on his **black cap** before sentencing a murderer to death. The word "black" represents wickedness, spitefulness, sadness, gloom, in short, evil.

### Derogatory symbolism

On the other hand white stands for purity, innocence, peace and other commendable events or acts. The white bridal gown signifies the bride's assumed virginity. The religious pur white as a symbol of purity. At the end of a battle, enemies put out the white flag; a white lie is a harmless one told for the sake of being polite.

We blacks must reject this derogatory symbolism and play up those positive aspects of ourselves. It is not hatred or black racism as some would accuse: it is simply a question of what must be done. As a beginning I will list some words or phrases in the English language that borrowed directly or took its idea from an African root.

**Bad eye:** Threatening, hateful glance, think of Yoruba — Oju buruku. The idea is present in many other African languages. **Bad mouth:** Slander, abuse, gossip; root: Hausa — muguni — baki. Be with — muguni in fashion. **Big eye; greedy; root:** Ibo — anyi a uki. **Bogus; fake; fraudulent; root:** Hausa — "boko-boko". **Boogie; fast, blue music; Hausa — bugu — to beat; Lam: dpart gently; Ibo — a lare — to go.**

These are things we should be proud of, but which are played down. We must think positively, in order to raise ourselves from our present predicament. The other races of the world have confidence in themselves, and exhibit a pride in their achievements.

Such slogans as "Black Power" and "Black is Beautiful" have relevance only if they act as psychological boosters to help us appreciate and place faith on the goodness of ourselves.

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# CONFESSIONS OF A WITCH WOMAN



COURT inspects the alleged witches' feeding ground. Magistrate S. C. Drah is on the left. Abena Kobua points out *Tal*, the dirty pond where she said Kofi Badu and Ama Kunta — on her left — fed on her daughter.

**A**BENA KOBUA is an agrieved, self-confessed witch. Twenty-five-year-old Abena, a fishmonger of Ankaful, near Cape Coast in the Central Region of Ghana, looks simple enough, but underneath, she claims, lurks that strange force — witchcraft. Abena has confessed that as a witch she belongs to a group whose members had been feasting at nights at a dunghill.

According to her, before she flew out on her nocturnal feasting jaunts she used to undergo transformation and assume the form of a vulture. She would then carry her late daughter (in flesh) on her feathered back, and between 11 pm and midnight feed on carcasses of dead animals at a dunghill. She always returned home by the first cock crow.

Madame Kobua made these sensational revelations at a Saltpond Magistrate's Court, where she defended herself in a civil suit brought against her by Kofi Badu and Ama Kunta — her alleged fellow witches — whom she had accused of "killing" her daughter through witchcraft. In the suit the plaintiffs separately and respectively claimed C600

and C800 from Abena Kobua and her mother-in-law, Ama Otuwah, for defamation. Demonstrating to the court how she managed to fly out of her room without disturbing the other inmates, Madame Kobua stretched out her arm and gently blew air over her palm. She said that was the magic with which she put the other inmates of her room into a deep, deep sleep.

The self-confessed witch told the hushed court that it had been her practice to feed alone, but she met Kofi Badu and Ama Kunta while carrying her daughter on her back one night on her usual hunt. She said Kofi Badu and Ama Kunta had respectively assumed the forms of an owl and a centipede. She met them at the feeding ground.

It would seem that on the night in question there were not enough carcasses around, for according to Madame Kobua, the other two expressed interest in her daughter and snatched the child from her. A fierce fight ensued as a result, in which Badu and Kunta, in the forms of an owl and a centipede, overpowered Abena in her form of a vulture and spiritually took her daughter away to a nearby dirty

pond of water called *Tal*. There the owl and the centipede fed on the daughter.

Soon after, her child became ill. She was sent to a Spiritual Church for prayers for her recovery. She was accompanied by her husband.

The pastor of the Twelve Apostles Church is said to be a man well schooled in spiritualism. When he "examined" the girl, he told Abena's husband that Abena knew the cause of her illness. Abena consequently confessed that Kofi Badu and Ama Kunta had spiritually snatched the child from her at their feeding ground.

Madame Kobua told the court that soon after that confrontation the child's condition worsened. When they met again in the night she pleaded with Kofi Badu to surrender her daughter in good health. She said Kofi Badu agreed but on condition that she should pacify them with C14.05 — said to be the normal pacification fee for Ghanaian witches.

At another feeding meeting, said Abena, she paid the pacification fee to Kofi Badu, who promised the child would be surrendered in good health.

The story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde — one body in which two separate personalities alternate — might have stupefied you. But what about coming face to face with a witch, a self-confessed witch? A witch who could assume the form of a crow, a bat, a centipede, a vulture, or a black cat? A witch who emitted some strange glow when she flew at nights to rendezvous? It was all revealed in a court-room drama that shocked a nation, says Joe Mensah.

He even named the day the child would be released. However, on the day in question, when Abena expected to see her daughter in instant radiant health, she found that her daughter's condition had worsened. She was on the point of death.

Madame Kobua met Kofi Badu again and demanded to know why he had failed to keep his promise. Kofi Badu told her that her daughter did not recover because her heart had already been eaten up. The child died the next day.

Abena swore to Kofi Badu that she would reveal his identity, as well as that of Ama Kunta, to the whole world. She went to Ama Kunta's house and accused her of being a party to her daughter's death. Then she went to Kofi Badu's house. She did not meet him, so she left an accusing message behind.

Abena Kobua, who told the court she was a born witch and that witchcraft was transferable, said Badu and Kunta had killed her daughter because they accused her of eating their meat. She did not say what kind of

meat. At one stage in the trial Abena Kobua sought the permission of the court to turn into a vulture to prove her case. But the court refused her permission on the ground that it would be tantamount to nudity. The defendant also asked that the plaintiffs should strip naked to help her in the transformation exercise, "because witches always strip themselves naked before they take on other bodies" for their nocturnal outings.

Mr. J. D. Hammond, counsel for Madame Kobua, criticised the court's refusal to grant her client permission as amounting to "stultification of our desire to prove our case".

The presiding magistrate, Mr. S. C. Drah, said: "If counsel had indicated that Abena Kobua would expose herself to prove her case I would have referred the case to the Chief Justice for his approval. But the only snag was that she also asked the plaintiffs to strip naked to help her prove her case. The condition could not be met."

Mr. Hammond told the court that it was very strange that



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## Witch's home was in a hollow tree

continues

witchcraft: the "constructive" and the "destructive". The former is said to be employed by its possessor for protection or improvement in his/her undertakings, the latter to be employed for evil purposes. This belief may generate argument, but I once met a detective sergeant who told me that he was a wizard and that he employed his *berie* in the detection of crime!

It is also believed that witches have some strange, special link with certain animals, birds or plants or trees. Witches are believed to rendezvous at very odd places, at very odd times. One such place is said to be a hollow cavity inside such mighty trees as the sandbox tree.

At Tarkwa, Ghana, I witnessed an incident when a team of mine labourers were ordered to cut down a giant sandbox tree, as its branches had been disturbing the overhead telephone wires. Immediately the cutting began, an old woman known to almost everybody as a witch, rushed to the scene. She begged that the tree should stand. Of course, the sturdy, no-nonsense labourers ignored her plea. But when the cutting had progressed they discovered that an immaculate hollow was mysteriously carved inside the trunk.

In the hollow was a collection of cooking utensils, including a pestle and a mortar. The old woman made no qualms about the mysterious "kitchen" and its store. She claimed the items were hers, and told the labourers she had put them there. But she did not say how.

And, in Togo, a man was travelling with his son from Togoville to a place called Keta-Akorda. They started about 11.30 pm, thinking that it was almost daytime. The bright moon had deceived the cocks to start crowing. When they reached a mighty tree they heard a sudden ear-splitting explosion like thunder, amid a yellowish glow and hoarse laughter and shrieks. The man pushed his son into a nearby thicket.

The young man, Tetch, said that from that moment he could hardly see his father, though he could hear his voice from far away, reciting some unattractive incantations. Soon there was an eerie silence. When his father "materialised" he observed that his whole body was drenched in water — his own sweat. The father then called him: "Tetch, come out and let's go. This tree is a meeting place for witches. We got here just when they were eating and making merry. I think we got up a bit too early."

When they arrived at Keta-Akorda those they had gone to visit woke from their sleep greatly surprised at the time of their arrival. But they were surprised when they heard of their experience under "the big tree." The people knew that long ago the tree was a meeting place for witches.

The case involving Abena Kobua, Kofi Badu and Ama Kunta, in what was considered the most sensational witchcraft case of the century, also appears to be the first occurrence when someone has confessed to being a witch.

Abena Kobua and Ama Otuwah were found liable for defamation and ordered to pay C300 damages to Ama Kunta.

Giving judgment, the magistrate, Mr. S. C. Drah, said evidence given at the trial swung strongly in favour of the plaintiff, Ama Kunta, who had claimed C800 from the defendants for defamation.

On Ama Kunta's claim that as a result of the imputations made against her people have shunned her — like Abena Kobua, she sells fish — that paralysing her trade and eventually her income, the magistrate said: "It appears in order to revive her trade as a fish seller, she (Ama Kunta) would eventually have to leave Ankafal for a locality where she is not known. This will definitely inconvenience the plaintiff, who has lived at Ankafal all her life."

Mr. Drah said that in the opinion of the court, Ama Kunta had suffered tremendous damage. He awarded her C300 damages. Mr. J. S. Eshie, counsel for the plaintiff, was awarded C120 costs.

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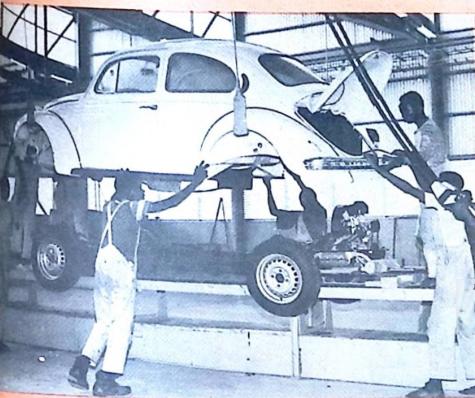
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PICTURES . . . how a Volkswagen is made. Engines, axles, gearboxes and chassis are united and then **BELOW** the body is gently lowered by crane. After the interior and exterior are attached, the vehicle is ready for testing (**BOTTOM**).



## Now a year's guarantee on Volkswagen

**V**OLKSWAGEN of Nigeria has introduced a one-year guarantee for all its made-in-Nigeria vehicles — with no limit to distance covered by the vehicles. The guarantee is aimed at reassuring VW owners as to the reliability of Volkswagen products.

Set on a 300-acre site, VWN (Volkswagen of Nigeria) is one of two motor assembly plants sponsored by the Federal Government. The other is Peugeot Automobile (Nigeria) Limited.

This was one of the first steps

**Motoring news edited by DRUM's supplements editor Akinlolu Aja**

the Federal Government took to establish a motor manufacturing industry which has a great part to play in the distribution and transportation of locally-produced goods.

The assembly plants are the forerunners of a real automobile industry when the parts themselves will be produced in Nigeria. This phase will come when the iron and steel industry takes off.

The motor industry is closely linked with the other sectors of Nigeria's economy.

Interviewed in his office, sales, service and parts division manager, Mr. Horst Stoll, told me that the plant now assembles 45 VW Beetles daily. The plant has a capacity for 60 cars per shift — 120 cars daily when in full swing.

Since the plant began production last March, it has assembled 3,400 cars. All the parts are imported except for the tyres and body parts which are locally manufactured. VWN are anxious to hear from local manufacturers of parts who are capable of producing VW parts.

All the components of the cars are imported in "complete knock-down" packages.

Asked what area buys VW cars most, Mr. Stoll said the area with the greatest buying power was Lagos State — due to the concentration of population. Federal and State arms of government and the local industries there. Forty per

cent of purchases of all kinds of VWs are bought in Lagos.

Apart from the VW, the plant also assembles six Passat cars daily and the Audi 100LS.

Mr. Stoll said that the present operation is Phase One of VW's scheme. The development period is 25 years, at the end of which, it is hoped, cars from the VW stable will be completely manufactured in Nigeria.

How is a car assembled? Do you start with the wheels, the body, the axle or the chassis? Firstly, the parts are given pre-treatment, then sent to the sub-assembly division in the bodyshop. The busy time then begins.

Those to be welded together are so treated. Then the moving parts — gearbox, clutch, rear axle and so on — are first assembled and pieced together.

Then, the immovable parts — suspension, body, doors and upholstery — are fixed.

The next step is for the moving parts to be greased and then painting takes place.

Three different coats of paint are applied. Mr. Stoll explained, the third coat called "the filler" — to fill up any scratches or faults. A fourth coat finishes off the job. Then the paint is dried and the car moves to the final assembly line.

There are special conveyors to transport the car from department to department, but because production has not reached full capacity, cranes are used as an interim measure to move them from section to section.

The final phase of production is at the "mnrriage port" where the "wedding" of engine and chassis takes place. Wheels, seats and interior furnishing is added, then the car leaves the assembly line for testing. Here, the engine is switched on and the accelerator pressed to the maximum point. This is to detect mechanical faults through uneven sound.

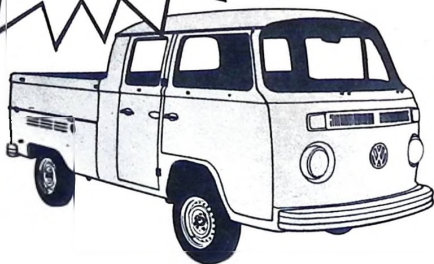
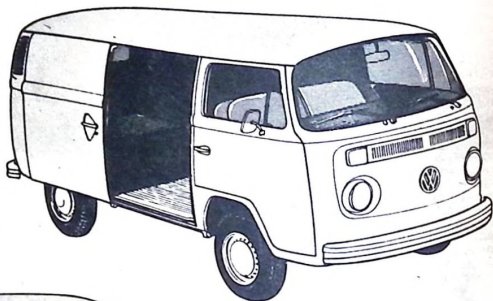
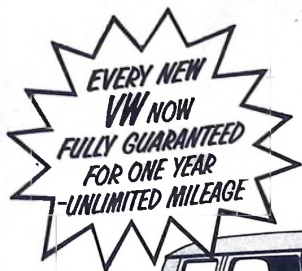
It is in the light of these rigorous tests that the company now offers a one-year guarantee of each VW car.

VW has 50 dealers in Nigeria and has trained some 500 workers since the time the company became operative. By the time this is in print, the solid VW Sports Car, SP11, will be on sale.



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## Peugeot's assembly plant in Kaduna

PEUGEOT Automobile (Nigeria) Limited is presently importing all components for locally assembled Peugeot cars from France. But, it hopes to manufacture components in Nigeria, a move in line with the Federal Government's idea of motor manufacturing in Nigeria. Locally, PAN intends to locally manufacture parts they need the required quantities. Already, the company uses Dunlop tyres and axles, making about PAN's cars. Mr. Michel G. Dubas, commercial manager of

the company, said that while the company wanted to encourage local products, rigid quality control must be ensured so that locally made components met the high standard expected in every Peugeot car.

Peugeot started 165 years ago, when the Peugeot family established an iron casting foundry near Montbeliard, France. Now, it is a name embracing 125 companies, operating in all sections of the economy, that is, from motor cars and light lorries to cycles and motorcycles to banking, transport, tools and light household equipment, stainless steel and even credit financing.

Mr. Francis H. Dubas, PAN plant manager in Kaduna, assured me that the plant would produce 80 cars daily when in full production. Current production varies between 15 to 30 cars daily now. When in full production, the plant will employ some 750 workers on two separate daily shifts — a total of 1,500. To date the plant has produced 1,200 cars. The progress at first had to be slow, explained Mr. Dubas, because they had had to train local employees to work in the very technical departments. As the employees become more skilled, production will increase.

In future, said Mr. Dubas, the company would invite manufacturers of motor parts and accessories to present quotations and samples of their products.

Mr. Dubas said Nigeria can become a motor manufacturing country in its own right when an iron and steel industry is finally established.

How do the various parts become united to form one of those gleaming new motor cars one admires in the showrooms?

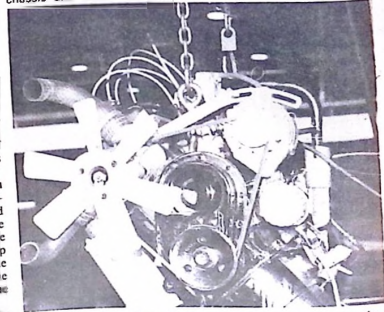
Mr. Dubas and Mallam Umaru Abdullahi, the company's personnel manager, said all parts arrive at the supplies department from where they are issued to the body shop mechanics. Corrections to the body are made while the mechanics adjust and check the necessary parts.

The engine is fixed to the chassis and wheels and the brakes, rear and front axles are fixed, followed by the propeller shaft, independent suspension, clutch and other parts.

Roofs are welded, hinges for the doors are fixed to the body along with mudguards, bonnet, boot cover and so on.



BODY workers (above) ensure that everything is in its proper place. NEXT STEP (below) is for the engine to be fixed to the chassis and linked with the new car's other moving parts.



When the doors have been fixed and the floor sealing completed, the car is given a pre-treatment by a giant washing machine, which uses three ICI chemicals to wash the body.

From the pre-treatment machine, the car moves slowly to the oven for drying, then to a cooling fan. It then moves to the spraying room for its first coat

of paint, back to the oven, then on to a second paint bath, back to the oven and then cooled again.

The inspection department takes over to see if there are deficiencies to be rectified.

Upholsterers do their work, brakes and other pedals are fixed and a last minute check is made of the car.

## PEUGEOT 604 NEXT YEAR

HAVE you heard of the Peugeot 604? It will be imported into Nigeria some time next year. The Peugeot 504 is already being assembled in Kaduna and has been since July this year. The 604 will be in rank with Mercedes, BMW, Ford Monarch and Jaguar.

Peugeot Automobile (Nigeria) Limited also plans to begin assembling the Peugeot 304 next year.

This was disclosed to me in Lagos by the commercial manager of the PAN, Mr. Michel G. Corbin.

I also visited the Kaduna operation, which began with the Federal Government inviting applications in 1969 from car manufacturers all over the world to submit tenders for the building of motor vehicle assembly plants in Nigeria.

Response came from 16 motor manufacturing companies, out of which the Federal Government approved two, Peugeot and Volkswagen.

In selecting Peugeot, two salient factors taken into consideration were the considerable advantage the Peugeot project offered to Nigeria in terms of technical progress and human scope and the very high reputation of the quality and reliability of Peugeot vehicles.

The official agreement was signed on August 11, 1972 and the following November building began.

Peugeot Automobile (Nigeria) Limited was incorporated with an authorised share capital of N3,000,000. The assembly plant was officially opened on March 14, 1975, by the then Head of State. The plant stands on a 25 hectares (62 acres) site at Kakuri, Kaduna.

The personnel manager, Mallam Umaru Abdullahi, told me that the plant will give employment to some 1,500 people when in full production of 24,000 cars per year.



FINISHED product — a Peugeot 404. All that remains to be done is to attach the boot lid. Then the car is ready for testing.



## One car to every 574 Nigerians

**L**OCAL motor assembly plants in Nigeria have gone a long way to fill the vacuum created by the short supply of vehicles from overseas, plus the dearth of spare parts, the absence of technical know-how in motor manufacturing.

A few years back, it would have been wishful thinking to say that by 1975 there would be three motor assembly plants in Nigeria. The plants now operating are the Federated

Motor Industries of Apapa, Lagos; Volkswagen (Nigeria) Limited, Lagos; and Peugeot Automobile Nigeria, Kaduna.

When one notes the staggering rate at which Nigerians buy motor cars and commercial vehicles, it is easy to judge how the pace of development is going to increase even further.

In spite of the upward trend in motor ownership, the world vehicle registration figures show that there are 573.9 persons to a

vehicle in Nigeria with an assumed population of 66 million.

This means that, because the ownership of motor cars is beyond the buying power of the common man, more people take to motor lorries and buses as their means of transport.

The World Vehicle Registration figures stand at 288 million, which is the latest assessment.

The figures were arrived at by taking manufacturers' factory figures and relating them to the countries to which the vehicles were sent and how many of these were registered for use. Import figures also play a decisive role in arriving at these statistics.

The period under reference is 1973. Figures for last year are still being compiled. The 1973 figures which have just been released show an increase of 18.4 million units from 280,572,122 in 1972.

With a buoyant economy, more people now own cars in Nigeria than in the previous years. Like every other country in the world, owning a car is looked upon as a status symbol.

In Nigeria, civil servants account for the largest passenger car usage figures. The second place is filled by private industry and companies, while private ownership trails in the third place.

With more industries being

established in Nigeria, our companies springing up and a healthy oil boom, registrations figures are rising daily.

Despite Nigeria's reputation for bad roads, it has been found that, with her size and present position among developing nations, the country has made much improvement to its roads and bridges and today there are road transport links with most parts of the country.

Between 1972-73, passenger car usage increased by 144 million and trucks and buses by four million.

Before the civil war in Nigeria, we imported 10,000 commercial vehicles and 14,000 private cars per annum. The figures have risen because village communities have now constructed roads to link them to their neighbours.

Nigerians have also found that, to haul building materials to their towns and villages, they need good roads. Communication, accessibility and faster development all depend on availability of good roads.

The car industry continues to lead the commercial vehicle industry because affluent people and civil servants see cars as the best means of going about their business. Lorries maintain their

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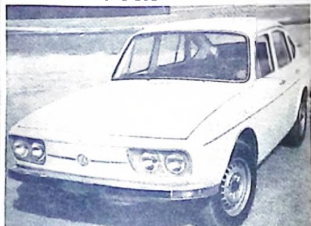
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# DREAM MOTORING SPECIAL



Days hold  
vehicle  
assembly

...sales figures.  
...the establishment  
...motor assembly  
...in Nigeria shows  
...there is a need for the  
...Government to gear  
...activities towards the  
...establishment of its own iron  
...steel industry complex.  
...if this is done, materials for  
...manufacturing machinery  
...locally, especially pressed  
...steels, will still be imported.  
...For example, Federated  
...Industries which assembles  
...hodied lorries at Apapa, still  
...import all its pressed iron  
...lorries, buses, vans and  
...other vehicles. This also applies  
...to industries which manufacture  
...building materials,  
...tractors and other products.  
...In 1974, there were 40,830  
...passenger cars and 18,579  
...commercial vehicles registered  
...in Nigeria as against 1,782  
...passenger cars and 15,000  
...commercial vehicles in 1970.  
...Motor assembly industries in

Nigeria suffer by the delay in  
shipping for between six to nine  
months without the ships being  
able to berth.

One assembly company had  
to keep its staff by giving  
mechanics and other artisans  
other jobs to do when there  
were no materials available with  
which to build vehicle bodies.

The figures in the table show  
that there is room for expansion  
in the motor assembly industry.

Countries around Nigeria are  
also a potential market and one  
that Nigeria must seize when  
the industry has taken off.

In this context Federated  
Motor Industries have developed  
an assembly and manufacturing  
industry which can play a major  
role. It has the physical resources:  
the technological manpower and  
many years of experience.

Federated Motor Industries  
at Apapa can build coaches,  
buses, refuse conveyers, pick-  
ups, brewery distribution  
lorries, police vans, stake-side  
hodied lorries, minibuses,  
dropside cargo bodies,  
ambulances, security vehicles,  
mobile banks, recovery vehicles,  
mobile workshops and tippers.



DREAM car to most Nigerians is the much-coveted Mercedes Benz (pictured above). But just as important are the two vehicles seen below — the refuse disposal truck and the popular Galant.

Country and Population	Persons per Passenger Car	Total	Cars	Trucks And Buses
USA 230,000,000	2.9	9,088,852	7,407,275	1,681,577
UK 56,000,000	2.2	118,618,162	96,948,813	21,699,349
FR 55,000,000	4.3	14,707,170	13,020,930	16,862,000
Italy 52,000,000	3.8	15,975,000	13,800,000	2,175,000
FR Germany 49,000,000	3.8	17,640,587	16,323,997	1,316,590
West Germany 44,000,000	4.1	1,697,521	1,557,165	140,356
Nigeria 101,000,000	573.9	175,000	115,000	60,000
SA Africa 129,000,000	14.8	2,102,900	1,502,900	600,000
Italy 112,850,000	404.0	131,918	56,584	75,334
Uganda 111,488,000	406.5	331,917	25,729	8,188
China 101,650,000	185.8	89,217	51,656	37,561
Malawi 101,870,000	136.8	9,503	12,204	7,299
Egypt 94,840,000	229.6	190,938	151,748	39,192
Ethiopia 92,900,000	728.2	46,342	35,565	10,777
Tanzania 81,942,000	56.6	72,452	34,862	37,620
Kenya 72,000,000	80.4	168,863	149,229	19,634
Dahomey 72,260,000	130.3	28,286	17,337	10,949
Kenya East 69,500,000	77.1	125,978	76,268	49,709



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And the platform is ready for the installation of ropes, weather protection or the all-steel 780/880 safety cabin.

**Today you have to get the most out of every penny you invest.**

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Your Fiat dealer is ready to demonstrate the 780 and 880.

## ***Fiat 780/880***

# So have their tractors.



**Fiat Trattori**  
**FIAT**

# DRUM MOTORING SPECIAL



WORKS manager Mr. Francis Kokodoko

## MADE IN NIGERIA — THAT'S FMI'S PROUD BOAST

**F**EDERATED Motor Industries, a division of UAC of Nigeria Limited (commonly known as FMI) stands unique as the only commercial vehicle industry specialising in body manufacture in Nigeria.

Working in concert with Niger Motors, Federated Motor Industries assembles Bedford vehicles and was established many years ago as a branch of the United Africa Company. Ever since, it has handled the assembly of the British Bedford commercial vehicles, assem-

bling 15 Bedford chassis daily.

On the manufacturing side, FMI builds buses, coaches, drop-side cargo bodies, recovery vehicles, mobile banks, ambulances, security vehicles, mobile workshops and so on.

Chassis of various makes are a regular sight in their modern body manufacturing workshop, which is equipped with the most sophisticated machinery and skilled manpower. Works manager, Mr. F. A. Kokodoko, explained the assembly process and how the chassis are strengthened to suit local

ELEGANT bus constructed at the FMI workshops. The company also makes trucks and coaches. TIPPER body (below) is one of a variety of heavy truck bodies made by FMI.



operating conditions.

The chassis and cabs are imported in a completely knocked down condition and are cold riveted and welded. A large number of local components are incorporated as well as tyres and batteries, which are manufactured in Nigeria.

FMI has its own drawing office where experts design and carry out FMI's policy of progressive development of bodies of all types; this involves a considerable amount of calculations to ensure that

bodies meet the requirements of customers. From the drawing office, designs are passed to the planning office whose function is to schedule production in the most efficient manner.

Mr. Kokodoko explained that FMI used to import everything it needed to build commercial vehicles. Now with the growth of new industries which produce many of the parts, FMI buy tyres, batteries, adhesives, soldering lead, processed wood, tarpaulin, plastics, etc. Locally and will continue to support wherever

possible new industries can meet their requirements standard.

Because of the growing demand for commercial vehicles, FMI is expanding its activities by installing additional capital equipment.

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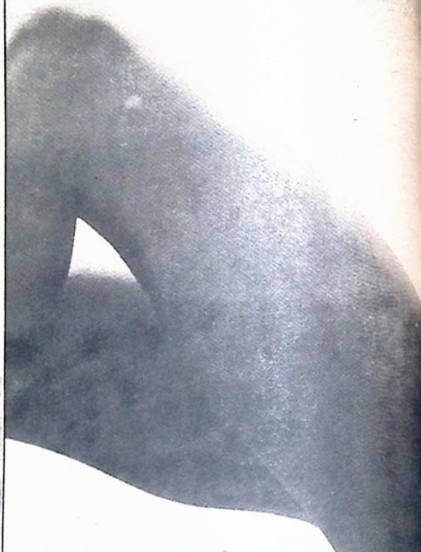
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**NOVEMBER**

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PS-1100

ST-70  
TA-70

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Scorpio 11 October 23rd. To November 21st.

Scorpio is the eighth sign of the Zodiac and is of the water quality. It is of the fiery planet Mars and is symbolised by the scorpion. Its preferred colour for this sign is naturally red, the metal of this sign is iron, again, reflects this colour.

The gemstone for this sign is the lovely topaz, a fire-means stone known usually in the yellow form but there some are found in all colours. Its occult name is a scarab was said to eat its own tail, about embolment and regeneration.

The Scorpian person is the most passionate of all. He never lets anything get the better of him, but when a water sign they also obtain the force of a mountain stream and the unfathomable depths of the sea. The natural and healing properties of water give the Scorpian person the desire to transform life and so it is that many elderly Scorpian men marry at an advanced age. In this sign these magical people are often driven to extremes of behaviour. Mars is a violent as force but it is with the help of Jupiter that they overcome their prejudices and rise to the top of the tree again. The arts, music, romantic poetry, literature all have appeal intensely to Scorpio. The passions and greed of Scorpian people make them formidable for brutal occupations. They make good friends in times of need.

In love the Scorpian person is passionately emotional with a magnetic attraction. Not in the least light hearted they are utterly disappointed if one fails them of their expectations. Love people remain a marriage which is constantly changed by love of power or money and partners are advised to forget the influence which they have.

Suitable partners for the Scorpian person are to be found in those other water signs. A few hours of pleasure with the power to underplan or sleep with for the power to suffer.



# N3.1 billion payments surplus for Nigeria

**N**IGERIA had a balance of payments surplus of about N3.1 billion in 1974, an increase of 1,679 per cent over the 1973 surplus of N174 million. The dramatic upsurge in balance of payments surplus was accounted for mainly by a large net inflow of about N2.81 billion on current account and a net increase of about N248 million on capital account.

The figures are estimates from the Research Department of the Central Bank of Nigeria. Merchandise transactions

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resulted in a 1974 surplus of N4,39.3 million, compared with a N1,166.9 million surplus in 1973. The increase was due to the surplus recorded on the oil sector. At N5,670.7 million, the value of oil sector export almost tripled the level of N2,006 million recorded in 1973. The value of the sector's import rose by only about a quarter over the level of the previous year.

The performance of the oil sector reflected mainly the sharp increase of about 80 per cent in posted prices of crude petroleum.

The non oil sector trade was in direct contrast. The value of non-oil exports increased by about 20 per cent above the 1973 level of N363.5 million, the value of imports rose by about 40 per cent to N1,614.0 million. This resulted in a deficit of N1,178 million, one and a half times wider than the N398 million deficit recorded in 1973.

It is significant, however, that the N435 million non-oil export

value in 1974 was the highest on record, mainly as a result of favourable trend in world market prices of some commodities like cocoa and increases in both volume and prices of others like palm kernel cake and rubber.

The value of imports increased considerably, reflecting the world-wide increases in the prices of imported items. The value of imports of manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals and food items increased by 58, 24, 41 and 23 per cent respectively above their levels in 1973.

The deficit on invisibles, comprising freight and insurance, other transportation, travel, investment income, government and other services, is estimated at N1,568.7 million—up about N490 million over the deficit in 1973. The major contribution to the increased deficit was the very big increase in payments by the non-oil sector. The sector accounted for about N1,007.5 million, or 64 per cent of the

total 1974 deficit, compared with N452.6 million or 42 per cent the previous year.

The oil sector's share of the deficit in 1974 dropped to N561.2 million, or about 36 per cent from N626.2 million or about 58 per cent of total deficit in 1973.

Receipts on freight and insurance in 1974 were N304 million, while payments amounted to N408.8 million. The surplus of N104.8 million was, also, higher than the 1973 surplus of N7.2 million. The increased surplus was attributable to a higher level of exports.

Receipts on other transportation—passenger fares, time charters and port expenditures—were N43.4 million. Payments amounted to N69.6 million, giving rise to a deficit of about N26 million compared with a deficit of only about N2 million in 1973.

Transactions on travel account, comprising business travel, basic travel allowance, education, leave and medical

tours, pilgrimage and government official tours, resulted in a deficit of N70 million in 1974, compared with N32 million in 1973. Receipts amounted to N6 million while payments totalled N78 million. The increased deficit was due largely to increased basic travel programme allowances granted during the 1974/75 budget in furtherance of liberalisation of exchange control.

Net payments on extraprofits and dividends at N230.8 million are estimated to have dropped by about N155 million from the 1973 level. Net payments on oil sector fall by about N107 million and that of the non-oil sector by N155 million. Official earnings from foreign securities increased by N31.6 million in 1974 from the 1973 level of N16.2 million due to increased investments abroad and foreign exchange securities.

Net payment for government services abroad at N34.6 million, was about eighteen times the level recorded in 1973.

Transactions for other services, mainly foreign contractors' fees, service charges and miscellaneous expenses, resulted in a phenomenal net payment of about 64 per cent above the level in 1973 of N761 million in 1974. Payments by the oil companies to their foreign contractors represent 34 per cent of the increase.

Private transfers abroad increased by N11.4 million over its level of N49.9 million in 1973. The increase was largely on account of home remittances, membership fees and subscriptions. Receipts declined by N9.7 million below the 1973 level to N4 million.

Payments in form of contributions to international bodies and aid to foreign governments totalled N10 million in 1974, while grants from foreign foundations and technical assistance received amounted to N2.2 million. The resultant net outflow of N14 million contrasted with a net inflow of N0.8 million in 1973.

Balances on private short-term capital (mainly trade credits) showed a net inflow of N48.4 million compared with N8.5 million in 1973.

Balances on private long-term capital and direct investment of the oil and non-oil sectors showed a net inflow of N195.9 million compared with a 1973 net inflow of N13.6 million. Out of the total net inflow, the oil sector accounted for N135.8 million in direct investment, compared with N14 million in 1973. The non-oil sector's direct investment, including reinvested profit, was N99.7 million lower than in 1973 level. Gross inflow of official long-term capital was N84.8 million while total capital flow amounted to 81 million

## INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

SOME STATE governments have set up industrial estates to provide an incentive to businessmen to locate their operations in particular areas. For example, Kano State is to spend N2.2 million on a new industrial estate at Challawa and expanding the existing one at Sharda.

The Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry and the Industrial Training Fund have already established branch offices in the state.

## BADAGRY GETS GLASS WORKS

THE LARGE deposit of quartz sand in Badagry division, Lagos State, is to be used to produce glass ware. A N35 million glass factory, jointly owned by the state government and the Komplet Hungarian Trading Company, will be located in Badagry town.

## NORTEX BACK AGAIN

NORTEX NIGERIA Ltd., jointly owned by the new Nigeria Development Company, Northern Nigeria Investment Ltd. and private shareholders, is to resume full textile production after a temporary shutdown.

The closure of the company was caused by technical and organisational changes. The company, based in Kaduna in North Central State, employs 1,100 workers.



## JEWELLERY PLANT

OTTIBROS IRON and Steel Industries (Nigeria) Ltd., of Onitsha in East Central State, recently commissioned a jewellery making plant. In the same state, the war-damaged modern ceramics industry at Umuhia is shortly to start production following its reactivation at a cost of N12 million. The plant will have an annual output of 2,032 tonnes of sanitary ware and will employ 300 workers.

## BREAKDOWNS CLOSE PLANTS

FREQUENT power failures in Lagos has caused temporary shut-down at several industrial establishments.

The main causes are said to be damage to transmission lines during heavy storms and delay in receiving spares and new equipment from overseas owing to port congestion in the country. Even without these factors existing generating capacity would be greatly overstressed. Power consumption doubled between 1970 and 1974. In Lagos, 50 transformer sub-

stations are required but only 15 exist.

However, efforts to improve the power supply situation are continuing. Recent measures have included air lifting essential supplies such as meters and fuses.

More transformer substations and a N3 million tool repair and adaptation workshop are being built in Lagos and a new station is being built in Sapele.

## TRADE TEAMS TO NIGERIA

AS NIGERIA'S third National Development Plan progresses, more and more prestige swimming pools are being installed by hotels in Nigeria, as well as by the large municipal leisure and recreational complexes. To study these new developments and find out how to assist these constructions, a British swimming pool equipment manufacturer, Certikin Ltd., sent its sales director, Mr. James Moore, to Nigeria as a member of a Leicester and County Chamber of Commerce and Industry Trade Mission, to survey the market.

Several other trade missions have visited Nigeria in recent months to survey the possibilities of expansion for their products. One of such trade missions included Britain's Building Materials Export Group (BMEG).

The trade mission delegates are interested in seeing where their products and services can be of help to the Nigerian economy.

The mission visited Port Harcourt, capital of Rivers State,

Kano City, Ibadan, and spent several weeks of intensive market survey in Lagos.

## N1 BILLION IN OIL REVENUE

OIL PRODUCING companies in Nigeria paid N1,186.55 million to the Federal Government in August this year. This represents the total sum of revenue from oil producing companies in Nigeria in the last quarter. This huge sum is 10.2 per cent higher than that in the third quarter of the financial year.

According to a report, petroleum profits tax contributed N893,262 million, royalties and rentals amounted to N289,659 and miscellaneous local payments totalled N3,629 million. The report, however, pointed out that there was a decline in petroleum exploration activity during the quarter.

Shell—BP was the most active, accounting for 38.4 per cent of the total tax shot, followed by Texaco with 24.5 per cent, Gulf, Agip, Elf, Ashland, NNOC and Teneco together accounted for 37.1 per cent.

## EXCHANGE RESERVE

NIGERIA'S TOTAL official holdings of external reserves at the end of April amounted to N4,061.9 million, up by N357.7 million from the end of the preceding month, and N3,008 million above the level a year earlier.

BOOKS

Stone

Age

Glory

by John Tasaday  
(Victor Gollancz)

OCASIONALLY a book appears which cuts right across the normal barriers of culture and time and which tells a powerful story of what a landscape called "bare uncolonised man." Such books are uncommonly, very rare — at least one of them: at once interesting, incredibly beautiful, easy to read and, throughout, fired by the charm and grace of the people it describes.

These are the "gentle people" — a tribe of, literally, 100 people, living in caves high in the Philippine rain forests some 100 miles south of Manila, with no contact with the outside world until they were "discovered" during the war. They are a Stone Age people, without agriculture, dressed in metal, living off fruit and plants, fish and frogs, and, like monkeys, and, for



YOUNG Tasaday boy climbs a vine near his cave home.

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## My Datsun's proved itself, again and again.



Mr. Henry Musyoka Mulli, his wife, and six children photographed in front of their Nairobi home on November 28, 1974

Any car that comes out top in the East African Safari must be at home in Kenya. Right? That's why I chose Datsun in 1970. And now again, in '74... well, it's been that kind of year. The year for the car that won't keep costing you. My first Datsun was a 1200. It wasn't frightened of a bit of hard work. Which was just as well. I often had

to drive miles in search of curios for my shop. Wonderful scenery. But tough on cars. Like my six kids! Yes, eventually our boisterous family became a bit too much for the 1200, but I got a good price for it when I sold it. And while I had it, it was so economical. Now I have the Datsun 160B — much bigger and the envy of many of my

friends. Whenever we talk cars — which is often — I know I did the right thing going Datsun. It's proved itself again and again. Starts every time. Good fuel economy. Low maintenance cost. Utter dependability. Worry-free motoring. And, after all, when you're out driving who wants worry.

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## BOOKS

### Continued

instance, they make fire by rubbing sticks together.

But they contradict all the stereotypes of Stone Age man. The author, John Nance, who was an agency journalist in Manila at the time of the discovery and who spent considerable time with them — describes with loving care (with reverence almost) their gentle and uncluttered lives in the forest. They are people, he writes, with "no words for enemies, fighting or wars."

Nance went to their forest retreat together with remarkably enlightened expectations whose prime aim was to protect them from the possible ravages of the "civilised" world of that world which they describe (seeing it for the first time from a helicopter) as "so flat!" — unlike their "up and down" world of trees and mountains and streams.

Inherent in all he writes is a fear of what might be the eventual effect — which he and themselves describe as being "like lightning" — of the invasion of the 20th century. To provide, he says, "a glimpse of Eden... some kind of paradise — gentle people taking no more from nature than they need each day, nibbling flowers, playing under the waterfall, laughing and weeping... cuddling children, embracing friends, unashamedly expressing their love."

When news of their existence was first published they were described as a "lost tribe." This point made forcefully in his book is that such a description is wrong: "It's more reasonable to say that everyone else is lost and they have stayed where they belong." That is what provides the fascination — as well as the sadness — for the rest of

## In Brief

A NEW series devoted to African writing is being started by Longmans. Similar in conception to Heinemann's African Writers series, the African Creative Writing series is under the general editorship of writer-poet Michael Echeverria-Gent. Professor of English at the University of Ibadan. The first two titles (which will be reviewed in next month's DRUM) are *The Marriage of Anansewa*, a play by Ghanaian playwright Efuwa Sutherland; and *Sabbing Sounds*, an autobiographical novel by a young Ugandan, who writes under a pseudonym. Future titles include *Shaihu Umar*, a play based on the novel by the late Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa; *The Last Duty*, a novel by Isidore Okpewho, and *To See a Passion*, an anthology of poems by Taban Lo Liyong.

# DRUMBEAT

# REVIEWS



THE DUKE . . . worth getting for one side only.

**HENDRIX**  
*and Landing* (Polydor)  
 It is that so many music fans want to produce more music like they have died? Excuse me, Jimi Hendrix and Buddy Miles, New Polydor have heaved the Hendrix aboard the same old bandwagon and released a number of albums from studio tapes and demonstrations before the death of popular Hendrix. Could it be these recordings — usually unheard of in any form — were of such poor quality that Hendrix fans have preferred them to what's been left at the back of some record store's record department? The night "new" tracks on this record are all Hendrix compositions with musicians (some of whom played with Hendrix before he died) being dubbed in on the top. They include Buddy Miles and Billy Cox. Not especially recommended unless you can't say so to Hendrix.

**THE MOMENTS**  
*Shy* (All Platinum)  
 Good new album from this US trio who have had several hit records since their formation in 1969. Their most recent success was *Daddy My Love* and this new album promises to increase their longevity.

**OHIO PLAYERS**  
*Honey* (Mercury)  
 They've been called the most "complete" musical group in the world. They can play anything, sing anything, do anything with complete expertise and success — which explains, perhaps, why they're one of the top rhythm 'n' blues bands in America today. What's more important is that their music can travel, as is amply demonstrated on their latest album (nicely packaged in a honey-cad model). Best cut is the title-piece *Honey*, echoed in *Sweet Sticky Things*; and you'll like the upbeat *Let's Love and Ain't Givin' Up No Ground* as much. Other tracks are *Alone* and *Love Rollercoaster*.

**MILLIE JACKSON**  
*Still Caught Up* (Polydor)  
 Here's a name to remember, if you've not already been "Caught Up." That was the record-breaking title of Millie Jackson's last album and it was a difficult album to emulate. She called it a "concept" piece — that is, the album as a whole had meaning, telling the story of the eternal triangle. The sort of story, as she puts it, which has to be told with "fire and ice, rough and tough." Take note: Millie Jackson is as good as her word — all fire and ice, very rough and very tough

This time *Still Caught Up* tells it from the wife's point of view, then from the other woman's — and I guess it's the wife who wins here because *Loving Arms* is such a strong opener and *Tell Her It's Over* is so convincingly urgent. But there's a good showing for the other lady too, particularly on *Do What Makes You Satisfied* and *You Can't Stand the Thought*. Millie Jackson is certainly the new Queen of Soul and you must hear her soon — like on this album, in all of her angry or bad moods, or at her sweetest, earthiest, nicest best — or (which you've got her here!) at her bitchiest. Whatever the mood, it's well worth it!

\*\*\*\*  
**DUKE ELLINGTON/ RAY BROWN**  
 This one's for Blanton (Pablo) Two of the greatest talents that jazz has produced kick off together on *Do Nuthin' Till You Hear From Mr. Brown* booting it along with the deep, plunging resonance you can only get from a string bass — when played by some one like Ray Brown. The beat in his hands is not only swinging, not only exciting, it becomes something gorgeous — precisely suited to the elegantly sumptuous — Ellington Piano. Which is neither so elegant nor so sumptuous, however, that its roots in the stride style of the Harlem speakstoes do not sometimes emerge into full sight, as on *Peter Panher Patter*. An all time great record? Well . . . not quite. A despairing *Downbeat* critic once wrote of Norman Grant, who produced this album, that with every opportunity to produce great jazz records, he

- ★..... Rubbish
- ★..... Fair
- ★..... Good
- ★..... Very Good
- ★..... Superb



OHIO PLAYERS . . . play anything, sing anything, do anything.

only produces good ones. A lifeless jazz fan himself, Grant tends to be over-indulgent towards his artists, allowing them to get away with easy ways out, like his once notorious "ballad medleys" and perfunctory routines needing little preparation or forethought. Side 2 is a glaring example of this. The title *Fragmented Suite for Piano and Bass*, which occupies the whole side, barely disguises the lack of planning. After attempting to build an improvisation on a fragment from the old Ellington hit, *Caravan*, the two greats tend to meander through the four separate "movements." In sum, one excellent side and one that is only good. With these two artists, that may be enough for you.

\*\*\*\*  
**20TH CENTURY STEEL BAND**  
*Warm Heart, Cold Steel* (United Artists)  
 This is the first album by a group of nine guys from the West Indies. The first track on the album is an interesting arrangement of the Isaac Hayes classic *Shaft*. Next is their single release *Endless Vibrations* which, along with *Lazy Days* has vocals which are very hard to decipher. Barry White's *Love's Theme* has also been treated to the steel drums or

pans sound. The four numbers written by the band's leader are not strong enough for this unique type of sound.

\*\*\*\*  
**MANDRILL**  
 The Best of Mandrill (Polydor)  
 This is a soul band that use the chunky sound of funky music to perfection, using a very light rhythm and a very good brass section. *Ape* is *High* proves this completely with a fast exciting funky beat. Most of the album is in this vein, apart from *Symphonic Revolutions* and *I Refuse to Smile* which show their excellent vocal abilities. A very good album from a very together band.

\*\*\*\*  
**QUIET SUN**  
*Masterstream* (Island)  
 Nearly all of the tracks are far too long and this makes the album very boring. The only exception to this is *R.F.D.* a soft melodic keyboard solo. Numbers like *Mummy was an Asteroid*, *Daddy was a Small Non-stick Kitchen Utensil* and *Sol Caliente* unlike their titles, are most uninteresting after the first two minutes.

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The surest way to feel the pulse of America is to travel. You get to some airports like O'Hare in Chicago and you can walk for five miles, just catching your connection. No one is available to tell you where to go. If you are pressed by nature's call, you look for the rest room and when you get there it says *men* (not *genits*) and *women* (not *ladies*). And that tells you there is no nonsense here. Men are men generally and the rest room is for all men, not a few *gentle* ones.

You see the big jets in a go-



## CYPRIAN EKWENSI

# How America is changing

slow. In Lagos we cry about cars in a go-slow. In America, it is *planes* that have their go-slow. I have been in a plane that circled Chicago airport for 20 minutes before it was allowed to land — because the airport was congested. For a plane which can fly ten miles in one minute, you can see that in those 20 minutes the plane could have covered the distance from Lagos to Liberia.

I have also been in a plane in which the pilot announced that there would be a delay in taking off on schedule (*sked dool*) because we were eighth in line. And you look outside the win-

dow (I always take a window seat) and you see the monsters. Not one with a propeller. All are big jets. All of them.

See the lurid colours in which they are painted, proclaiming the names of the airlines — Braniff, Allegheny, American, United, North-Western, Texas International, Ozark, Delta. Round and round they go. The one in front stops. We all stop. Then it begins to rev its engines and slowly moves forward, then gains speed, and before you look again there are two fat streaks of black smoke issuing from the tail — it has taken off. (And added to the pollution).

If you are illiterate in America today, you must be a dead man. To obtain a driving licence, you must pass two tests. One is written. You sit down before an invigilator. He places before you a question paper with multiple tests. True/False. Yes/No type questions. Maps and diagrams of how you would behave in certain traffic situations. Traffic signs. Traffic laws.

You are made to know all the while that the driving licence is *not* your property but the property of the state, that driving is a privilege which can be withdrawn at any moment. You hand in your paper. The invigilator marks it there before your eyes. No bribery situation of 'come tomorrow'!

You fail — fair enough. Try again tomorrow. You pass — and you get a date for the practical test. In other words, even before you do get that licence, you already know what it means. I drove in America for six months, and not once did I hear a horn being sounded — except in some kind of emergency. Not once did I see anyone lean out of his car and make the waka sign at the next driver; or get out and seize the man following him and start pummeling him. Yet there are traffic violations. Insurance companies pay out large amounts, tens of thousands to cover liabilities. They don't just sit there with their mouths open waiting to swallow fat premiums.

Without a driving licence in America you are lost. You have no status. Show your driving licence and you can be identified as a responsible person. You can write a cheque. It is the next thing to having a passport. (Incidentally, passports are issued in the post offices. You

fill in forms in the post office and your passport is mailed to you. No long queues).

Until you discover that the automobile is at the centre of the American economy, you will be an inefficient and unhappy man. What can you do without a car? Can you go on paying the luxury fares of three to five to seven to ten dollars?

What is going to happen to the three million cars per year produced by just one of the three big auto giants? Driving is taught in schools. The Cadillacs cost \$12,000 and are driven by rich old women. They have no muscles, but that does not matter. Although the car weighs three tons, it has electric windows, doors, seats, transmission, brakes and air. So the old rich woman just sits and the car moves.

She drives into a bank, gives a cheque to an automatic teller. The cheque is cashed, the money is given her and she drives off. Total time taken three minutes — not three days. She needs to make a telephone call. If there is no telephone in her car (there should be one in a Cadillac) she drives to a telephone booth and remains in her car to make the call.

A car owner can post letters from his car, go to church and worship without getting out of his car, visit a restaurant and eat in his car, go to a drive-in cinema, and of course, take his girlfriend to each and every one of these places in a car.

Your Nigerian friend whom you saw off at the airport with his GCE and his ambition to obtain a PhD is already driving a car in America before the year is over. He cannot function without one. A Nigerian student told me that he bought his first car for 50 dollars, that is N31.25, and he used it without trouble for three years.

The words you keep on hearing in today's America are 'gas-millage', 'energy crisis', 'recession', 'inflation', 'weight watchers', 'Third World', 'recycling'. Words which used to be common five years ago, like 'black power', are scarcely mentioned. Instead you hear words like 'aliens', 'chicanos', 'minority groups'.

These new words paint a picture of a society in change. It is not just a question of cutting down the size of American automobiles. It is a question of realising that the dollar is no

longer almighty and adapts the stark truth. Just the other day it was announced that employment had hit its high mark — 84 per cent — the end of World War Two.

'Energy crisis' is the term used for the rising oil since the last Arab-Israeli war in which the Arab use as a negotiating weapon. It had some incredible rich Arab billionaires are evicting America today, buying up what they can of American business. Recently a haul Detroit was saved from collapse by an Arab entrepreneur who provided capital, and obtained a portion of the shares, a trolling position.

The energy crisis has the American consumer a careful about his driving but more cautious with his energy. He now cares.

Rising prices have led to inflation, which in turn has led to the recession. And America must sell, and the auto industry is at the heart of American business. The three car dealers are vying giving their cars away. A dealer is having a car campaign. You buy a car, and you get a cheque for five hundred dollars back.

Weight watching? Americans are more concerned in about heart disease, the environment, lung cancer, overweight, vitamins, longer life. There is hardly an American executive who does not take physical fitness training programme. He is either member of a gymnasium or he goes to once a week, or buys and uses some form of exerciser like the Bullworker a has a work-out every day. Or plays tennis at his sports club. And always he watches I weight, takes a check-up.

The old spirit of adventure and discovery is there. It is America that any new form of knowledge is fashionable and discipline in which you get degree. After all, America is the first country to organize journalism and writing of academic courses. You can obtain a master of fine arts degree as a writer, but that does a better job, or make you a better writer.

When you study at class quarters, you will find class differences. The American student is not so ostentatious. He father may have 50 acres of land, and an industry worth millions of dollars worth products monthly. He may come to classes in a automobile, but the way he dresses and behaves makes you think.

### NEXT MONTH

Why it's tough for students in America

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# WOMAN'S DRUM

## Sad confessions of a gay divorcee

...what you could call a beautiful woman, but I am not so ugly. I have a good figure, I am young enough to give the impression of almost everything a woman needs to look attractive. I am not married. These admissions were no problem for me, supported by the opposite sex.

...I was how I came to meet Rex and it was love at first sight for me. It was a beautiful and lonely heart. I told you how I met Rex and it was at a friend's party. I was alone there alone. You know why I went alone? I can quickly say that I was going over what I will write as a 'sad affair' when the divorce came.

...I would not have gone but it was not to honour my invitation, more when I was in a place to get to be a good groovy. So, that was the reason to the party. I had a good time for quite some time when I was alone.

...I don't know for how long I was drinking until I was asked, "Hello baby, can you come company?" He was really added. I said, "That is, if you can." It was supposed to find a man built, handsome young man. Apparently in his late 20s standing before me with a smile that sent shivers down my spine.

...I could take a breath, I sat in a chair near my table. "Hello baby, my name," he said. "And yours?" "Victoria," he said. "I liked."

...I had a pleading look in his eyes. "I wish we could be friends," he said. "I wish we could be friends," and so on. At that moment he was Rex to me. We talked a lot and I left the rest of the evening we were chatting about this and that and it was during our conversation that he told me why he was alone.

...I had a friend had left him alone. I was determined not to miss a word. When he said, "I am a gay," I told him about myself. I was there was not much to talk. That was how we started our friendship and, in no time, we were engaged. My body, including our hearts, were happy about us. In no time began to make our wedding plans. In no time we were married.

Victoria is a very pretty woman with a good job, nice clothes and all a woman needs to be noticed by any man worth his salt. Little wonder then that she was able to hook up with a man like Rex, who was handsome, had a nice job with a good future and a decent family background. It was not a surprise to me that she became spoiled and, before you could say Jack Robinson, she became a nag, followed bad company and ended in divorce to her regret. Here is her story.

With Rex life was never at my time boring. Sometimes we would go to the theatre or parties, visit our friends or stay at home in the world of our own. We were so happy together and Rex gave me enough freedom, which goes to show how considerate he was. Though my freedom was limited, I made sure I enjoyed every bit of it while it lasted.

One thing with me, however, is that I have lots of friends and I like outdoor life. I also have a habit of buying uniform dresses (also eh) with my friends whenever we have a party to attend. My dad did not approve of this but at least my mum was in support, so I couldn't care less. Rex, too, always told me it was a bad habit and he described, *ad hoc* as "stabby clothes", but I just couldn't be left out when my other friends were buying.

When Rex discovered I was spending too much on *ad hoc*, he was disappointed, but I didn't care a hoot. He tried to make me see reason but, fool that I was, I misconstrued his intentions and so we started arguing over trivial matters. He tried to put up with me but when he couldn't stomach my extravagance any longer, he reported me to my parents.

As usual, with the excuse that I was on my side, with the away with my could not do the away with my girlfriend friends so soon. My girlhood friends with my mum dad was angry with my recklessness for condoning my recklessness and but that was soon settled and my dad apologised to Rex and so we left and went home. I could have apologised to

Rex on our way home but my pride wouldn't let me. When we got home, I was too tired to discuss anything with him so we went to bed that night. As for him, he was willing to forget whatever had happened but when he reached out for me in bed that night I pulled away from him and I knew he was hurt.

In the days that followed, Rex tried not to mind my withdrawal from him and in the end I realised I was undoing myself so I begged for forgiveness, which he willingly gave and, to assure me further that I had nothing to worry about, he took me out that night. The months that followed were blissful and it was during that period we had our first baby — a boy. Rex stayed with me in the hospital until my baby was born and when the sister announced to him that it was a boy, he smothered me with kisses and was mad with joy because he had always wanted our first child to be a boy.

With the birth of Kuntle (that is his name) our whole life appeared to be complete and for some time we had no cause to quarrel because my baby was such a company for me and so I couldn't even bother my head about going out with my friends.

About a year after the birth of our son, I was already expecting our second child, which turned out to be a girl. Rex was very loving during my pregnancy and when Toyin was born we were a complete family. In the evenings, Rex would bath Kuntle while I would wash Toyin and, once they were in bed, we would have the rest of the evening to ourselves.

Rex and I decided not to have another baby within the following two or three years of the birth of Toyin and so that afforded me some freedom.

Since we had a maid who could look after the children while we were out, Rex decided we could go out on weekends. I made new friends and even met some of my old ones who were happy to see me back in circulation.

In no time history started repeating itself. I craved to go out with my female friends without Rex accompanying me. You see, we just had fun together, gossiping about our

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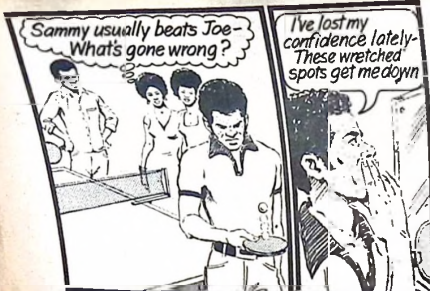
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# WOMAN'S DRUG

Told court he still loved me

*continued*  
men and other things. Then, all of a sudden a change came over me and I wanted to be completely free like most of my friends.

In my desperation I neglected my two children and this angered Rex. He reported me to my parents but I was bent on being "liberated." Most of my friends were not married and some of them lived in flats rented for them by their boy friends. One of them promised to spare me a room until I could get a place of my own.

I told my mum about my plans and, as usual, she was on my side. I then made sure Rex and I had a row and so, before he could think of any settlement, I packed my things and left him with the children. I went to stay with one of my friends as planned but I soon discovered I had to find a place of my own because I was becoming a thorn in my friend's flesh.

So I went out in search of a flat of my own and, before too long, I got one and, fortunately enough for me, I had a man who was prepared to pay my rent and furnish the flat. In no

time, everything was sorted. I felt on top of the world.

All the while, I made a did not by any chance across Rex, least talk of to make any settlement.

After some time, I filed divorce suit against Rex. He was surprised to hear his magistrate that he still loved me and didn't want a divorce. He also pleaded with me to put our two children consideration and, at that the court advised me to reconsider everything before next hearing. Since my was made up, I told it there was nothing to fear on and the judgment day was granted a divorce, but Rex the custody of our two children was even happy that children were not with me.

Now I have realized my take, because I have not any man as loving and considerate as Rex since we parted. Even the man who promised the rent on my flat, since stopped. Add to that I am already an outcast from father's house. I am now in with a heartache and missing I have found my time I could go back to wishing I could go back to But it is too late now because has remarried.



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one of the most necessities of life, it has two functions. It is used for the very existence of life and also for pleasure to the palate. According to dietetics, there is only one thing in life that gives pleasure!

As countries there still exist a gap between the very rich and the very poor. We are getting numerous letters on the subject of contrasting substances. Those who are affluent are over-weight and those who are poor are underweight. The latter are much larger than the former. These facts afford a balanced answer to all these questions relating to malnutrition and obesity.

People are deeply rooted in their ideas about food and these ideas are related to the social conditions in which one grows up. Individual preferences, availability of foods, and preparation and cooking methods and all these have a great influence on the eating habits of

A balanced diet is composed of various nutrients which the body needs for its maintenance and the repair of its tissues. An ideal diet, therefore, have the right amount of each quality to satisfy the body's needs, provide energy, promote growth and repair, and prevent malnutrition diseases.

People can, incidentally, be made to take a day but this does not satisfy the palate and it is important to realise that the quality of eating food are as important as its nutritional value.

The quantity of food an adult should take is enough to provide energy with about 2,500 to 3,000 calories in 24 hours. A sedentary worker may be satisfied with the lower limit of 2,000 calories, while a man engaged in hard work may need about 3,000 calories daily. The popular belief that a sedentary activity draws very little energy is incorrect. The quality of



**IF YOU READ OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS THEY MAY HELP YOU**

# Doctor Drum

## BALANCED DIET

food must be such that it provides a person with the right proportion of carbohydrates, fats, proteins, minerals, vitamins, fluids and roughage. These seven are the main components of any balanced diet in any country.

Carbohydrates are the cheapest source of food and each gram of carbohydrate contains about four calories. It is usual for a person to have about 400 grams of carbohydrates per day. This provides about 1,600 calories. Since carbohydrates are cheap and usually sweet, the problem of modern diet is its excess intake. Carbohydrates are foods which contain starch and sugar and are present in large quantities in cereals such as rice, wheat, maize, oats and potatoes.

They are present in the same quantity in cereal products such as spaghetti, macaroni and all types of breads. They are of course present in sugar and sugar products, fruits, vegetables, jams and honey.

Fats are visibly present in oils, fats, butter and margarine. What is more important for people to remember is the amount of invisible fat present in meat, milk, cheese, eggs and nuts. Each gram of fat contains about nine calories and up until a few years ago it was recommended that an adult should take about 100 grams of fats and thus add 900 calories to his daily diet. With the advance of knowledge of cholesterol which is present in certain types of fat and the diseases that come with it, intake of any amount of fats is being discouraged.

Proteins are mainly obtained from animal food like meats, liver, poultry, fish, eggs, milk

and cheese. There are slightly inferior proteins present in non-animal sources such as beans, peas, peanuts, almonds and similar nuts. They are the most expensive items in any diet and probably the healthiest. Each gram of protein contains about four calories and if they can be afforded, at least 100 grams or more of proteins should be included in a normal daily diet.

Coming to the fluid requirements, an adult needs about two and a half litres per day, a little more in hot weather and a little less in cooler climates. This fluid can be through food which contains fluids or in more visible form through water, squash and drinks which are slightly stronger!

Vitamins are accessory factors in foods which are vital to life and good health. They are described by alphabetical symbols — A, B, C, D, E and K. A and D are present in milk, milk products, eggs, fish, cheese, carrots, tomatoes and leafy green vegetables.

Vitamin A is necessary for growth and good eyesight, while Vitamin D is necessary for bone and tooth development. Vitamin B is present in cereals, whole meal grains and milk. It is necessary for good appetite, good digestion, sound nerves, blood formation and a stout heart. Vitamin C is necessary for vitality, clear skin and healthy gums. It is present in all fresh fruits and vegetables.

If one takes food that contains the above four vitamins and calories divided correctly into fats, proteins and carbohydrates with the right amount of fluid the diet will contain the other two vitamins, minerals and the necessary amount of roughage.

**Stomach ulcer**  
I was two years since the doctor has diagnosed my peptic ulcer. I need your help.

I get a very of my stomach to get your diagnosis of an ulcer. Treatment thereafter, is quite different in the way of drugs and diet.

**Too fat**  
I am 35 years old and very fat. Are there any pills which can reduce my weight?

**Weight loss**  
I have not got to be attacked by a disease from — dietary discipline — the way of reducing the weight as well as cutting down the intake of carbohydrates and increasing the proteins, exercises in

### YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

the way of sports and games to utilise the excess fat. Lastly, the use of drugs, first to cut down the appetite and secondly to dissolve fats. You can get these drugs from any reputable chemist.

**No periods**  
I am a 21 years old girl and started my periods in 1965. For my monthly periods, I have had the last three months. I have had no period and I would like your

advice  
**Martha, Ghana.**  
The first thing is to rule out pregnancy. If you are not pregnant, then I think you must consult a gynecologist.


**Big tummy**  
I have a very large tummy. I would like to slim myself. Which slimming tablets should I use?

**Miss R.D., Lagos.**  
I do not think slimming tablets will help you to get your tummy down. You will need what is known as suction, whereby vacuum cups are placed on your tummy to suck away the fat. Thereafter, electric aided technique is used to stimulate the muscles of the abdomen. These help to reduce the waistline.

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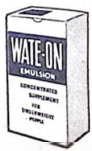
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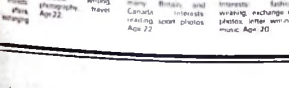
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Scheme, Block 2 Flat  
15, Little Ojo, Surulere,  
Lagos, Nigeria, wants pen  
pals from USA, Ger-  
many, Britain, and  
Canada, interests  
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## Dear Dolly

### I don't satisfy my girl in bed

I am 24. I have married a girl of the same age. We already have two kids. What bothers me is that she always complains that I do not satisfy her sexually. I am afraid she is going to look elsewhere for satisfaction. We have sex regularly. Dolly, please help me because I do not want to lose her.

**Cyama, Liberia.**  
*If she loves you she should try to adapt herself. You could ask her what she is not satisfied with and try to adjust.*

### Another girl tempts me

My girl and I are 18. We love each other very much and we hope to get married in future. Some months ago, another girl proposed marriage to me and said that she would pay her own dowry. Please tell me what to do for I am perplexed.

**E., Orlu, Nigeria.**  
*There is nothing to be confused about if you really love your girl. All you have to do is to be faithful to her and resist temptation.*

### I haven't enough education for her

She is 16, while I am 18. We fell in love when we were both in primary school. She is now a form four student in a secondary school while I have not gone further than elementary six. My fear is

that she may not keep her promise after she leaves school. I will greatly appreciate your advice. Dolly.

**Johnny, Calabar, Nigeria.**  
*Her faithfulness to her promise to you depends on how much you try to make a success of your life. As a primary six certificate holder you should not rest on your oars. Some of our successful men in society have the same primary qualification but they have worked very hard to get to the top and they have graduate wives. What I am trying to say is that if you cannot further your education because of finance you could at least do something that would place you in a responsible position in life.*

### She doesn't like my bed-wetting

I am 18, in love with a 17-year-old girl. She loves me too, but whenever I ask her for sex she refuses because I always pass urine on my bed at night and I am unable to sleep on it. Should I leave her? **Kenyan Boy, Mumbias, Kenya.**  
*The first thing I would do is consult a doctor at the earliest opportunity, as you are much too old for bed-wetting. Leave sex alone until you have this problem sorted out. Your girl will understand.*

### Too young for sex

I am a boarding student of 19 and my sweetheart is 16. She loves me dearly but the problem is: whenever I talk to her for about 30 minutes she becomes very hot and wants me to have sex with her. I always refuse but she becomes angry. She told me she was not circumcised, her clitoris becomes erect when she hears me talking sweet words to her and it is difficult for her to control her feelings, for nature is uncontrollable. Dolly, I don't want to have sex with her before we marry.

so should I have her circumcised secretly? should I leave my sweetheart?

**Peter M. Mutunga, Makuroi, Masaka, Kenya.**  
*In the first place, circumcision such as you suggest is against the law, so forget that idea. You love this girl as much as you say you do and she loves you, I suggest that you make arrangements to marry in the near future.*

### My cousin takes an interest

I am 20 and in love with a girl of 18. We have promised to marry after school. But the trouble is that my cousin is trying to love one of my girl sisters before we have married. Is it good? Please help me.

**Mike, Nigeria.**  
*What is it to do with you what your cousin does and likewise what is it to him what you do. Carry on and don't ask stupid questions.*

### My fiancée has many boyfriends

I have been in love with her for two years and I intend to get married. I am surprised to discover that she has got many boyfriends. Please advise me what to do. She is 20 and I am 21.

**O.B., Calabar, Nigeria.**  
*At her age she should be steady with a boyfriend. Talk to her and if she still keeps the other boys, am afraid she is indirectly telling you that she does not want you.*

### Here's a question that needs no answer

I am in love with a 13-year-old girl I am also 13. My problem is that I am too shy to speak to her about sex. Advise me to tell her about it.

**Isaac, Lusaka, Zambia.**  
*In one word, no!*

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