

History of Biafra plight

by sebastian ekenobi

1914 was the amalgamation of different groups, in fact nations, into one country called Nigeria with Biafra as the Eastern Region. The differences between the peoples of Nigeria were abundantly clear, and Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the first and last Prime Minister of Nigeria, spoke of the situation in his speech to the legislative council in April, 1947.

"Since the amalgamation of the Southern and Northern Provinces in 1914, Nigeria has existed as one country only on paper. It is still far from being united. The country is inhabited by peoples and tribes who speak different languages, who have different religions, different customs and traditions and entirely different historical backgrounds in their ways of life, and who have also attained different stages of development." Balewa said.

The cause of the different stages of development are worthy of note. The British ruled Northern Nigeria indirectly through the "sultans" and the South she ruled directly. To retain the good will of the sultans, the British kept Christian missionaries out of the Moslem north. In the south, the missionaries worked, and Biafrans took best to education and Christianity. They soon moved into administrative jobs in the colonial government, became doctors, lawyers and engineers. Most Northern Nigerians remained illiterate. A conflict between Biafrans and the rest of Nigeria was inevitable.

Well, that artificial creation, Nigeria, was the work of Britian, the colonial master for economic and administrative convenience. The mistrust among the components of the federation showed in the inflation of population census figures (1962) and in the rigging of the federal elections (Dec, 1964). Unrest in the country continued until the intervention of the Nigerian army in January, 1966, about five years after Nigerian independence. There was a counter-military coup in July of the same year, and that marked the beginning of a

series of massacres of Biafrans living outside Biafra. The official figures of the dead were 30,000. The two million who ran from lives back into Biafra were people who had lost their husbands, or their wives, or their children, and their property.

Biafra, to cope with the chaotic situation, demanded the federal government's help in the rehabilitation of the people, and also asked for a loose federation (or confederation) at least for the period of time necessary to heal the social and political wounds.

In answer to this request, the Federal government announced the division of Biafra into three new states. Seeing that she was actually dealing with an unscrupulous government, Biafra declared herself independent of the Federal government on May 30, 1967.

A month later, the Nigerian army moved in "crush" Biafra. It is interesting to note that for this war, the Nigerian bomber aircraft are supplied by Russia, her pilots by Egypt, and her war-ships and rifles by Britian. Biafrans, facing extermination by bombing and starvation, are still fighting for their survival.

Esbastian Ekenobi is a Biafran student at UNB.

Biafran speaker visits Fredericton

Winston Fubara Bellgam, an official representative of the Biafran government and a member of the Biafran delegation on tour of Canada, arrives in Fredericton March 2.

Mr. Bellgam makes several public appearances, while in the city. He addresses the Rotary Club at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel at 12:15 P.M. on Monday and will appear at the SUB at 7:30 Tuesday evening.

The Biafran tour is subsidized by the American Student Association.

Sebastian Ekinobi, (Room 313 Harrison), coordinator of the Fredericton area tour, said that Mr. Bellgam will be available to any one or any group who would like to speak with him.

Coed week features coffeehouse, sew-in

For all the kids who didn't have fun at carnival for everygirl who is still waiting for that SPECIAL GUY to notice her for everyone who wants one more fling before exam cramming Coed Week is the answer.

Fun begins on Wednesday night March 5, with a coffee house in the SUB coffee shop. Starting at 8:00 P.M., it will feature some of the best campus folk singers, plus an auction of 'priceless' items gathered from profs. Best of all, it's free!

An army of girls will descend on the various residences to stage a 'sew-in' on Thursday between 6:30 and 8:30. It's the boys' chance to have buttons sewed on socks mended etc for a small fee

(and to meet some girls). Any girls who would like to take part can call Lydia Brown 454-5626. Wednesday the Penny King race begins. It ends Friday. Last year the Forresters were tops.

Later on Thursday a Sadie Hawkins 'Hard Times' dance to be held in the SUB where your oldest jeans are 'Just right'.

Friday, March 7, is TAKE-YOUR-GUY TO-THE MOVIES night at Head Hall starting at 8 p.m. For 50 cents per person you can see three full length movie (or any one you choose). They are 'The Chalk Garden' (Haley Mills), 'Marnie' (Sean Connery), and 'Bus Riley's Back in Town' (Ann-Margaret). Cartoons and refreshments will be included!



The task force for international night are (left to right): K. Talabany, Julius Ogunlami, Clara Puis, Shankar, Salah Hassarien, Will. C. van den Hoonard, Mrs. Verma and Ansar Quarchi.

Less summer jobs than ever before

by audrey hutchison brunswickan

Summer employment for university students will be more difficult to obtain this summer than last.

"We don't see much room for improvement" stated Mr. McCrae of the Fredericton Manpower branch. "Chances of employment will be equally good as last year, but not better. Three other councillors and myself are making every effort to find more employees and job opportunities." He felt that the development scheme of Corporation Fifty-Four

would provide some job vacancies in the city. Mr. Eric Pinfold will be director of summer employment for students in the city.

In liason with Manpower is the UNB Placement Officer, Mrs. C.R. Spicer (located in Annex "B"). Mrs. Spicer described a recent symposium of employees-employers held in Halifax as "one of the most forward-thinking things in summer employment." Key speaker was Bill Rutledge, president of UCPA (University Career Planning Association.) Two points were strongly emphasized: that students as a

group were unreliable (leaving jobs early or not showing up at all) and, tied in with this, school terms don't fit in with the peak employment seasons.

Approximately 30-40% of Canadian students were unemployed last summer and the overall employment rate has shown an unusual increase during the winter. Although last year's situation was described as unusual... it was reported that some 2,700 women with BA's were unemployed in Toronto alone... there don't appear to be any more opportunities opening up in 1969.

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