

## African Extravaganza '86

By KRISTINE HIEW  
 Brunswick Staff

African dancing, food, drama, and issues of global concern made up for an energetic and interesting Africa Nite '86 at the S.U.B. last Saturday night.

Sponsored by the African Students Union, Africa Nite is an annual event to bring the African culture closer to the community to promote a better understanding among the students on campus and the citizens of Fredericton.

We showed up at 7 pm sharp and found the line-up at the door stretching up the stairwell to the Blue Lounge. It was a nice surprise to see such an excellent turnout. The crowd consisted of a collage of Asian, African students, interested Canadian students as well as many of the local townspeople who all seemed to enjoy the evening's festivities.

The night began with a film entitled *Woza Albert!* starring Mlongeni Ngema and Percy Mtwa. The film consisted of a variety of views of everyday life in South Africa, each followed by Ngema & Mtwa doing an improvisational skit using the vignette's characters. The subject of each skit was a small part of a larger story, outlining the Second Coming of Morena the Savior. Exploring the results of Morena returning to Earth - especially South Africa. This was a sometimes - funny, often thought-provoking film.

Ever present throughout the

evening was Ahmed Ferej, as Master of Ceremonies who made smooth work of filling any gaps between productions and introducing each of the dances and displays with a concise explanation of their origin. Ferej, the many people who worked behind the scenes, and of course, the performers, hopefully had as much fun putting on the show as the guests did watching it.

The dances included the *Isikuti* from Kenya which is performed to celebrate the birth of a first-born boy in a

*Game*, a play by Femi Euba about a confidence man getting the best of the village rich man, his unfaithful wife and her lover. Idikoko, the con artist (played by Ruhundwa Ruganda, (who also directed)) accepts money to cover up the wife's rendezvous and then sells part of what he knows to her husband, then to the wife and her lover. So in this game of pretense, infidelity, and greed, Idikoko emerges the richer.

Following the play, the dance began in earnest.

A more serious aspect of the



Scenes such as the one above, made this year's Africa Nite an Aesthetic pleasure. Photo by Cal Johnston.

family because such a family is considered blessed. The *Adowa* is the Royal Dance of the Ashanti's in Ghana and is the climax of any celebration at which a King is in attendance. The performers were vibrant and full of energy.

The last production was *The*

evening however was the keynote address by Prof. Ben Amoaku-Adu of UNB's Business Administrative Faculty. In his address he spoke of the region in Africa south of the Sahara desert and the many problems it is facing. These include the mounting



Mixing drama with art and ethnicity the participants in Africa Nite put on quite a show. Photo by Cal Johnston.

debts many of the nations have incurred and now must borrow money to pay off the interest on precious loans.

One of the underlying themes of the evening was that of South Africa continuing its apartheid policy. The best display of this was the film *Woza Albert!* It is hoped the ASU will show this film again, and everyone is urged to see it.

In short, Africa Nite '86 was the cumulative effort of the

ASU, its members, and friends; we would like to thank them for putting on an excellent show that was entertaining and provocative. *ASUSCOPE* a magazine by the ASU, contains information on the dances and plays of Africa Nite '86 as well as essays on sanctions, how foreign students benefit Canada, poetry, humour and descriptions of African nations. It is available at the Brunswick offices for a mere one dollar.

## TNB poster collection

The Playhouse is pleased to be exhibiting in its side galleries,

Theatre New Brunswick's Poster Collection for the month of February. Posters from shows as far back as the 1972 season will be exhibited.

Posters from such popular shows as *On Golden Pond*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The King and I*, *Eight to the Bar*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Miracle Worker* and *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* will be on display.

Established in 1968, Theatre New Brunswick has been proud to be guided by some of Canada's most outstanding Ar-

tistic Directors. The alumni of TNB include Walter Learning, Malcolm Black and now Janet Amos. Stars who have graced the Theatre New Brunswick stages include Barry Morse, Viola Leger, Don Harron, Catherine McKinnon and thousands of other professional actors. Over one hundred plays have been produced by TNB, some memorable ones being *A*

*Christmas Carol*, *The Melville*

*Boys, Arms & The Man*, *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* and, more recently, *The Tomorrow Box*.

Theatre New Brunswick's Poster Collection will be exhibited throughout the month of February, Monday to Friday, 12 noon to 5 pm at the Playhouse and in the evenings when a performance is scheduled at the Playhouse.

Enquiries regarding the Theatre New Brunswick Poster Exhibit may be directed to Marlaine Roberts of the Publicity Department at TNB, on 458-8345.

### 1986 FREDERICTON

#### WINTER OPEN CHESS

#### CHAMPIONSHIP

DATES: February 15-16 1986

SITE: Room 203 S.U.B.

FORMAT: Four round swiss system

TIME CONTROL: 50 2 25 1 thereafter

SCHEDULE: Registration - Sat. Feb. 15, 9:30 - 10:00 am

Round 1 - Feb 15 10:00 am

Round 2 - Feb 15 3:00 pm

Round 3 - Feb 16 10:00 am

Round 4 - Feb 17 3:00 pm

PRIZE FUND: \$180.00 (Based upon 15 entrants)

1st	- \$90.00
2nd	- \$45.00
top under 1500	- \$45.00

ENTRY FEE: Senior - \$16.00  
 Junior - \$12.00

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: Mike Hale

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 457-0968

