

# NIGERIA : NO NEWS - GOOD NEWS

by Michael Greenfield  
Lambros Hadzis

There we were, spending time in the Green lounge, when a friend suddenly asked, "What the hell is going on in Nigeria? Have you heard anything about them after the Biafran war? It seems as if they all dropped dead." That sparked our curiosity. We had to find out why there is so little publicity about the largest black African nation -- the potential spokesman of black power. The simplest way to find information was to talk to the approximately fifty Nigerians on campus. And that is not difficult, (or is it)? So, we started tracking them down, in the Sub, the library and Howe Hall dining room.

The Nigerian students first reaction was one of surprise that any non-African would be interested in Nigeria. The second reaction was that they did not want to discuss the matter. Their third reaction was to avoid us as if we were police investigators. After we finally managed to talk to them we found that their fear was partly due to the mistaken assumption that we were interested in only the gory details of the war, in which most of them fought. No only did they not want to discuss the war, but they were always on their guard not to give any strong personal views on the present government. They were just stating common knowledge.

Evidently the war which ended in January 1970 was a national catastrophe. It created a bloody gap between the eastern section of Nigeria (Biafra) and the rest of the country. However the Nigerian people, sick of war, readily agreed to Head of State, General Yakuba Gowon's plan for total reconciliation although it appears that the plan for total reconciliation was not entirely out of compassion.

It is true that millions of dollars in aid poured into the eastern region (Biafra). But, at the same time oil once again flowed into Nigeria through eastern region (Biafra) oil fields. Most of Nigeria's natural mineral wealth lies under Eastern Nigeria (Biafra).

General Gowon has divided Nigeria into twelve states, out of which three were what used to comprise the eastern region (Biafra). Each of the twelve sections has its own government. Seemingly, this is to allow a certain amount of self determination. On the other hand, people from one section have a hard time settling in another section. The point of dividing the eastern region (Biafra) into three separate states was made with the intention of dividing the once united eastern region. General Gowon's attempt to bring about a one state mentality has apparently succeeded. When we talked to the former rebels they stated that they were Nigerians first and Biafrans

second. General Gowon seems to be respected by all Nigerians. Even though General Gowon just recently announced that he has abandoned plans for a return to civilian rule by 1976, the Nigerians here claim that the move was to avoid conflict that a civilian election could create. Generally they have a "wait and see" attitude as to future political questions.

Meanwhile, as one Nigerian put it, "the worst is behind us", the tension of the war and the immediate post-war period is over. Nigerians who were once fighting against one another are now eating, studying, and laughing together here at Dal. Part of this apparent euphoria stems from the economic boom Nigeria has experienced since the war. Nigeria is sitting on the biggest and richest resource base of any black African nation. In 1973 Nigeria was the worlds eighth largest oil producer, and much of its natural gas lies untapped. As resource is converted into money, a new and growing bourgeoisie class is rising. The golf courses are full and the nouveau riche are driving their Rolls Royces in downtown Lagos (capital city).

However, General Gowon has used much of Nigeria's wealth to the advantage of low class and rural areas. Although his efforts have often not been that gracious, (there are

still many people living on the breadline), the public appreciates the effort. Most Nigerians at Dal anticipate economically satisfying careers back home. Due to the success of re-unification and the economy most Nigerians and many outside observers feel that Nigeria is destined to be the future leader of the black African world. The Nigerians here are blotting out the past and looking toward the future.

Whenever somebody has undergone such an experience as a civil war, it's impossible for him or her to talk "cooly" about it, just "stating facts". So it was inevitable that certain personal comments and attitudes were gleaned. The Ibos (Biafrans) seem to have a certain lingering fear of discrimination. It is hard for them to totally erase the bitterness of the war. Another general feeling is the sense of uneasiness at having military rule, no matter how benign.

Our ambition has not

been to express the entire spectrum of Nigerian feelings (we could not do it anyway). The Nigerians we talked to were relatively few, and do not represent all Nigerian viewpoints and classes. We feel, however, that the question of "what the hell is going on in Nigeria" has somewhat been answered -- it is obvious that all Nigerians have not dropped dead. After examining some of the aspects of present day Nigeria, the war wounds are apparently healing fast, unlike many war torn countries which seem to be hemophiliacs. Nigeria seems to be making steady and silent progress toward the future.

The word "news" often conjures up images of the outbreak of a war, the resignation of a president, or the destruction of eggs. In this sense, Nigeria has not been newsworthy since the end of the Biafran conflict. Indeed, Nigeria seems to exemplify the old adage - no news is good news.

## Psst Kid Wanna Join the All New CKDU?

By Doug Wavrock

If you had a chance to read last week's Gazette, you would have noticed that Dal Radio now has a new name; i.e. CKDU. The committee in charge of the restructuring and revitalizing of the station felt that not only was a new structure needed but also a new name as well to fit the new image. Hopefully, this will cause people to have different impressions and also different expectations as well concerning CKDU.

Last Tuesday (Oct. 15) the committee met with the former members of Dal Radio to discuss what progress had been made, the new structure being proposed as well as a chance for these people as well as any other person on campus to gain more information on not only what was happening but also to alleviate any rumors that always have a habit of occurring. Although the majority of the people in attendance were ex-members of Dal Radio (which showed that they were

concerned in what direction CKDU would be going) it was disappointing to note that only two persons from the university community turned out to hear what was going to happen to their campus station.

More of these general information meetings will be called in the near future to let the people know what the radio committee is doing and also to take any suggestions from the people present at the meetings which could be instrumental in later decisions and restructuring policies.

Also I should say that many people have approached myself and other members of the committee and expressed their concern on our closure and also asked when we would be back in operation again as a radio station. It is really hard to say definitely when this will happen but I believe I can safely say that within two weeks time we will be on the verge of resuming regular broadcasts

Within the next couple of days, or by the time this issue of the Gazette hits the stands, posters will be placed on bulletin boards all over campus to solicit new members. You don't necessarily need any experience to apply so long as you have the desire to contribute something worthwhile to the university community in the way of information, news, reviews, etc., etc., are urged to apply. Application forms will be made available at the S.U.B. Enquiry Desk as well as a number of application forms being attached to the posters themselves. You are asked to return these applications to the Enquiry Desk so that they can be looked after. They will be handled by our interim Recruitment Director Peter Cameron.

If you have any questions concerning applications, meetings or the progress of the committee, I urge you to leave a message or a note at the Enquiry Desk and I'll get in contact with you.

## MR. DARKROOM

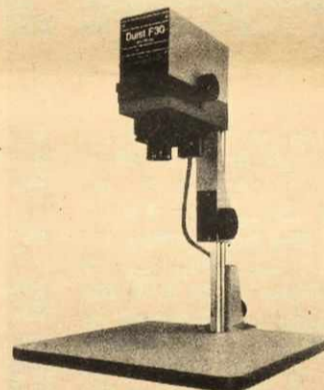
Over the years that I have been conducting darkroom printing sessions, first in black and white and now in colour I have stressed to the audiences that darkroom work is not only a rewarding hobby but is easy and fun. This three letter word was used in two of our show slogans: "Taking Pictures is Half the Fun - Making Prints is Twice the Fun", and the current one "Let's Turn out the Lights and Have Some Fun - with our Durst Enlarger".

People who are fascinated watching a print being processed and express amazement at the equipment used would do well to compare the first steps to a photographic process they themselves may well have done many times - the projection of a slide or movie film onto a screen. If you look at an enlarger, used to produce prints of varying sizes from a negative, it has precisely the same make-up as a projector. A lamp to provide illumination, condensers to intensify the light, a carrier to hold the film in place while enlarging. Projectors do their work in a horizontal position, while most enlargers are vertical, but the operation is identical. The farther the projector from the screen, the larger the projected image.

The enlarger works in exactly the same manner, with the image arriving at an easel. Instead of being viewed, the image is burned into a piece of sensitized paper which then goes through chemical baths under "safelight" conditions and after being dried is a finished print, ready for your wallet or album. So, even if you have never seen a darkroom door from the outside, you have gone through the fundamental steps when you showed your slides to friends.

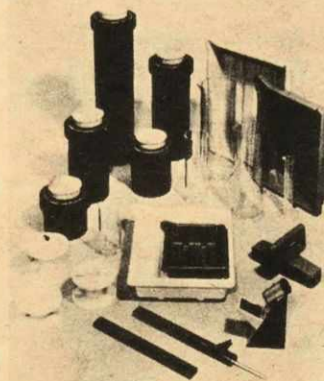
The second 'stumbling block' to many is the fear of expense involved with photographic printing. A darkroom need be neither fancy, nor expensive, the most important factor is that it is functional, having the necessary equipment to do the type of work required. Great strides have been made recently in colour printing. Trays are no longer required and all processing is done on a countertop in a small drum that is rolled back and forth to provide proper agitation. This system also eliminates complicated temperature controls and is most efficient from a point of time and economy of chemistry.

Many apartment dwellers have designed portable bench-tops for bathtubs on which to do their work. This is an ideal situation, being close to running water, and a room that requires a minimum of lightproofing. Equipment costs can range considerably, depending on your needs and budget. Good equipment is a good investment as product quality



will determine the efficiency and durability of most major items. Photographic printing is a matter of gaining experience, and the best equipment will not automatically improve a mediocre darkroom man. However, look for an enlarger that offers lifetime durability and avoid frills that really give no true assistance to printing. Durst is such an enlarger.

When selecting darkroom accessories consider the famous Paterson products from Great Britain. They are the result of design experience and proving in actual working conditions. This broad range of darkroom equipment utilizes the advantages of plastics in the production of 'designed for the user' items.



During the balance of this series I'll outline the simple stages of producing a print and discuss other interesting aspects of this fascinating part of photography. For those already interested in darkroom work, Braun has a twin-sided wall chart detailing and illustrating procedures for developing film. It's called Mr. Darkroom's 9-step wall chart, and is yours for the asking. Please write direct to them: Braun Electric Canada Ltd., 3269 American Drive, Mississauga, Ontario L4V 1B9.