

African diversity celebrated

by Chris Tumwine
for *The Brunswickan*

This article will try to focus on African culture and other important facts about Africa. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to African Nite '96 which will take place on Saturday, February 17 in the SUB cafeteria starting at 6:30 PM. Come and enjoy an evening with traditional dishes from various parts of Africa, live entertainment, dancing, a fashion show, and more in the warm and friendly atmosphere of African hospitality.

Africa is blessed with rich cultures which we and the future generations should endeavour to preserve. It is these traditions that give us our basic identities and define our behaviour. It's from this background that the African Student Union endeavours to promote cultural awareness through annual festivities at UNB. We believe that this is one vehicle that can be used to encourage and promote a better understanding between African and non-African students, between Africans and the Fredericton Community, and between Africa, Canada and the rest of the world.

As the Minister of Education in Ontario observed: "For me,



Another scene for Africa Nite '95

Photo courtesy Chris Tumwine

multiculturalism is a positive dynamic force, a philosophy that should permeate all curriculum. It's a philosophy based on the concept that each and all of the diverse cultures now present in our country have something of value to offer,

something to share with other cultures, as together we strive to build a new and better way of life together, a more ideal society."

In addition to the diversity of the cultures of Africa, there are many similarities across the continent such as social structure, customs, beliefs, wise sayings, religious practices and ceremonies, family units, clans, kinship marriage and rites of passage as well as child rearing and indigenous education. The arts of Africa act as a unifying factor through which we understand and appreciate our rich cultural heritage. African music and dancing play a major role in defining the common interests that Africans share.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the community of Fredericton, and all of Canada, for being instrumental in assisting many Africans who live in

Fredericton. I would particularly like to applaud the assistance Canada extends to many African countries. And, my special thanks to Canada for helping African countries in their quest for development in the areas of education, health and technology.

However, the struggle still continues. Africa still needs your support, especially now when there is a positive wind of change. The struggle against poverty, illiteracy, and disease must continue. We must continue working together as partners for Peace, Development and Prosperity.

Long live co-operation between Africa and Canada.

A few facts about Africa...

1. The size of Africa is 11.7 million square miles. It is over three times bigger than Canada.
2. The population of Africa is about 600 million (1993 estimate).
3. It is 5,000 miles from Africa's most northern point to its most southern point; Africa's greatest distance east to west is 4,700 miles as compared to the Canadian cities of Vancouver to Halifax, which is 3,000 miles.
4. Africa occupies a fifth of the earth's total land surface.
5. Lake Tanganyika, right in the heart of Africa, is the world's longest fresh water lake (420 miles long). It is also the world's deepest, reaching 4,700 feet in some places.
6. Lake Victoria is shared between 3 countries, Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania, covering an area of 6,820 square miles and is the second largest lake in the world, second only to Lake Superior.
7. South of Sahara alone there are some 800 different languages.
8. Most spoken languages in Africa include: Swahili, Hanza, Wolof, Bantu, Lingala and Youruba.

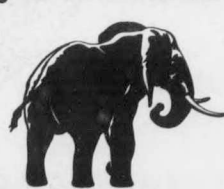
AFRICA NITE

'96

Saturday February 17th, 6 pm
SUB Cafeteria, UNB

A Special Evening Of...

- Authentic African Dishes
- Traditional Dances
- Fashion Show
- Poetry & Proverbs



Tickets: Adults \$10 Children \$5
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Hosted by African Student Union Members

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This Issue Dedicated to:
Rose Gardens and fertilizer. We
have lots of both.

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The opinions contained in this newspaper are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Brunswickan.

The Brunswickan, while being an open forum for the viewpoints and opinions of all UNB students, may refuse any submission that is judged to be racist, sexist, libellous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit for brevity. Letters generally shouldn't exceed 300 words in length and must contain your signature, student number and phone number, or it will not be printed.

All copy submitted must be double spaced, on one side of the page only and must be legible. If we can't read it, we won't print it. The Brunswickan now accepts copy on 3.5 inch disk, either Macintosh or MS-Dos format.

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