

## Rise Of Universities In Today's West Africa

Although Africa was the seat of ancient schools of learning, the start of modern universities in West Africa is a thing of the recent past. For a long time, African students have studied both in the U.S.A., Europe and other parts of the world. As far back as 1914, talks went on in Lagos, Nigeria, in regard to the founding of a University in Nigeria. In 1920, West African students in London, England, petitioned the British Government for the establishment of a University in West Africa. This petition was not granted under the pretence that resources were not available.

In 1930, the British government, who ruled Nigeria then, established the Yaba Higher College in Lagos, Nigeria. This Yaba Higher College was planned to be the nucleus of a university for Nigeria.

Yaba College was established during the slump of the late twenties and its annual budget was below \$30,000. The expected elevation of the college to a university status did not materialize and the students became frustrated. Furthermore, Yaba College graduates were made by the British government to start work in Nigeria at a pay rate much more below that of those who trained in Universities in England. Young nationalists who saw in the treatment of Yaba graduates an extention of colonialism attacked the arrangement as unacceptable and short-sighted. Before long, the agitation for universities in West Africa was renewed.

In 1943, the British Parliament (Congress) set up two Commissions to study the need for Higher Education in what they called the "less developed countries of the Commonwealth." One of the Commissions, the Elliot Commission, was asked to look into the possibilities of promoting Higher Education in West Africa. Many West African students in those days believed that the whole business of setting up a commission to study the need of Higher Education in West Africa was a delaying tactise by Britain to keep things as they were.

In 1945, the Commissions reported and recommended the establishment of universities having special relations with the University of London, England. Another recommendation was the establishment of inter-University Council for higher education in the colonies.

The Elliot Commission, recommended and it was approved by the Parliament, that a University be built in Nigeria. In 1947, the inter-University Council visited Nigeria and approved at university site in Ibadan, Nigeria. But all these were only on paper and in reality, there was no student, no vice-chancellor, no faculty, and more important perhaps, no fund.

In late 1947, the British government, provided a military hospital at Ibadan to the Nigeria government for the purposes of housing the University College at Ibadan. Also, the Yaba College was recommended to close and its assets and personnel transfered to the University College Ibadan.

In 1948, with 104 students and 50 faculty and staff, the University College at Ibadan was formally inaugurated.

Today, Nigeria has many universities and teaching hospitals and every West African country has universities of their own. Students from West Africa are still going overseas to study (there are over 1500 African students in North Carolina) but a lot more are now studying in their own countries.

African universities have produced men and women whose contributions helped to achieve the independence of their nations'. And today, in many African Universities, it is not uncommon to see American students studying along side other Africans.

#### The Winston-Salem Chronicle

### Nursing Program At NCCU Receives Full Accreditation

North Carolina Central University's (NCCU) four-year baccalaureate program in nursing has been awarded full accreditation by the North Carolina Board of Nursing.

The university was notified of the accreditation in a letter from the Board to Mrs. Helen S. Miller, Chairman of the department of nursing.

The university first began to

offer a four-year program, leading to licensure as a registered nurse (R.N.) as well as to the bachelor of science degree in nursing, in 1969. Prior to that year the school enrolled only nurses holding the R.N. license, offering them a bachelor's degree program.

Temporary accreditation has been accorded the school since the program began. The graduation of the first

four-year class in 1973 saw full accreditation, for an eight-year period, extended by the National League for Nursing.

Currently the department of nursing enrolls 183 students, with 11 full-time and four part-time teachers. The department will admit 75 freshman in the fall of 1975, and that class has been filled since February 1.

#### **Dance Classes** Are Planned

The Winston-Salem Recreation Department is continuing its spring program of dance in the various community centers. Classes have been scheduled in modern dance, ballet, soul dance, ballroom, Afro-modern, square dance and tumbling.

Yoga classes are available for senior citizens at Crystal Towers, and classes in rhythmic movement for senior citizens at Sunrise Towers.

The classes are not formal and are designed to give basic dance skills.

**FDR** Advice When his son, James, asked for dad's advice on speechmaking FDR said: "Be sincere, be brief,

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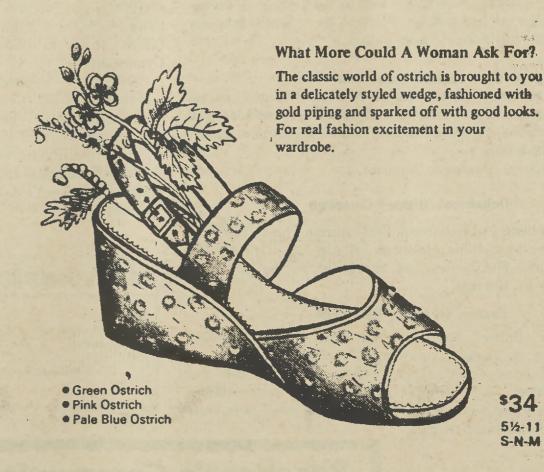
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