

# Nigerian's Scholarship Ended

A foreign student at Montana State University has had his scholarship terminated because a letter containing his political views reached the Agency for International Development (AID) which sponsored his scholarship.

Abubakar S. Ibrahim, a 25-year-old Nigerian student, had written a letter to his father in early December expressing disenchantment with certain US policies and discussing South African politics.

The letter reached the university's Foreign Student Advisor, Helen Simpson, who said it had already been opened by the post office. She then telephoned AID in Washington and discussed the letter with Robert Doan, Program Specialist for

International Training, because, she said, it was "something I had to do." She said she felt AID should be informed of Ibrahim's attitudes because the federal government was picking up the tab for his education.

Ibrahim received a call from Doan who told him, "If I hear any more about you I am going to create enough problems for you in Nigeria so that even your country won't accept you."

Dr. Richard B. Landis, director of the university's Center for Intercultural Programs said Simpson had "acted highly irregularly" in reporting the contents of the letter to Doan. Landis later contacted Doan, who informed Landis that Ibrahim

should not stay on at MSU and that his AID funding would expire on January 23 anyway.

However, AID terminated Ibrahim's funding in late December, thus preventing him from registering for the winter term at MSU. He is now in Washington meeting with the Nigerian ambassador to see if his country will pay for his education.

University authorities are still investigating to determine who opened the letter.

In a letter to his fellow students at MSU Ibrahim wrote: "It is better for foreign students to realize they don't have the right to their own views in the land of the free."

# Universal Sabbatical

(CPS) A Universal Sabbatical Plan that would allow all Americans to have one year off every seven, as is the custom for college professors, has been proposed by author Kenneth Lamott.

Senator William Proxmire (D-WI) referred to the proposal as "the funniest put-on since the crusade against naked animals and the drive to make animals wear clothes." Several "distinguished" Americans, however, have endorsed the plan, which was published in February's Esquire.

Lamott called for all wage-earners, house wives, executives, professionals, and self-employed to enjoy a government financed sabbatical every seven years. During this leave of absence, each person would receive a stipend equal to two-thirds of his average salary during the preceding six years. Lamott estimated that the yearly cost of the sabbatical would reach \$75.6 billion.

"A quarter of the program will be rendered self-supporting," Lamott said, "by virtue of those who choose to work at paid sabbatical jobs. Another quarter will be generated by surtaxes levied on workers who decline to take sabbaticals and on their employers. Still another quarter will be raised by progressively closing the loopholes in the income-tax system...which currently account for the loss to the public coffers of \$77 billion annually--enough to support the entire Universal Sabbatical System with about a billion left over." Additional monies would accrue from a redistribution of current budgetary allocations and, as new jobs open, the resultant decrease in funds for unemployment insurance and welfare.

Projected benefits of the System include the reduction of welfare rolls as vacated jobs are filled by the previously unemployed; an increase in the gross national product as those on stipend pump money into service, travel and educational industries; and the stemming of inflation as individuals saving money for their sabbatical leave withdraw an estimated \$34 billion a year from circulation.

Requirements on the individual would be few, the article explained. Each person would be responsible for how he spends his leave, and each person would be encouraged to spend his time in activities that would broaden his outlook and would be quite the opposite of his quotidian chores. No one would be allowed to profit while on sabbatical leave.

"The Universal Sabbatical System," concluded Lamott, "is one of those rare proposals that will truly benefit both the individual and the nation. Its costs are considerable, but the advantages--to society, to the economy, and to the human spirit--are even more considerable. The long and arduous task remains of arousing the voters to demand such a system from those who make our laws."

# enrollment questioned

(CPS) The University of Michigan fell substantially short of its goal of enrolling blacks as ten percent of its student body by the fall 1973 term, the director of the school's Opportunity Program reported in late December according to Higher Education Daily (HED). The actual black enrollment was 7.3 percent.

Although program director George Goodman had predicted last spring that the school would be behind in its minority enrollment program and blacks would make up only 8.6 percent of enrollment, even that goal was missed. Goodman blamed the school's failure to reach the goal on competition from other schools which are also trying to enroll more blacks, substantial growth of enrollment, and unrealistic predictions.

The university set the target of 10 percent black enrollment by 1973 after a student strike led by the Black Action Movement in 1970 demanded increased efforts to recruit and financially help black students.

Last spring Goodman had pointed to the large dropout rates for minorities and the high

standards of the university as explanations for falling short of the goal, according to HED. Now, Goodman said he thinks the 10 percent goal would probably not be met by next year either, despite an increased budget for



minority student assistance. Goodman said the school is spending \$310,000 on black recruitment and providing \$5 million in loans. When the program started three years ago it was budgeted at \$115,000.

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