African students celebrate 2nd year

By Lynn Eichelberger  
Lantern campus reporter

The All Africa Students' Association, an organization of students from Africa that has entered its second year of activities at Ohio State.

Patrice Tagro, a graduate student in economics and the outgoing president of the association, said the organization was established September 1988 after a group of students noticed there was no association representing students from Africa at Ohio State.

The group conducted its second ceremony for the installation of officers Saturday and presented awards to faculty members who lent moral, physical and financial support to the organization.

Tagro said the goals of the group are to maintain unity among students, to improve the knowledge and the image of Africa, to provide a forum to discuss issues affecting African students and to provide a supportive social network for its members.

Josaphat Kubayanda, acting chairman and associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese and associate professor of Black Studies, said last year he was not sure the association would be coherent in a year, but that it is vital it exists.

Awards were presented to five OSU faculty members to recognize them for their help in establishing the association.

Sue Blanshan, executive officer for human relations; Tina Love, director of Minority Services; Issac J. Mowoe, director and associate professor of International Affairs and associate professor of black studies; John Greisberger, program director for International Students and Scholars; and Kubayanda all received awards.

Incoming President Emeka Anigbogu, a doctoral student in political science, said this year the group will try to increase its visibility on campus.

Extending contacts with similar organizations and attracting new members are also goals for this year.

Kubayanda said African students at Ohio State have obstacles to overcome, as well as opportunities to take.

"Obstacles can be stumbling blocks or stepping stones," he said, citing adjustment as a problem facing all African students.

Specifically, African students face racial and prejudicial obstacles while adjusting to the fast pace of American society.

Kubayanda said to overcome these obstacles, African students need to be more aggressive in their pursuit of quality and excellence, attempt better time management, set a list of career and long term goals and remain loyal to their continent.
Student march protests false rape claim

By Lisa M. Lomax
Lantern Staff Writer

"No More Lies" was the theme of a march sponsored by the Black Association for North Campus Students and the African American Students of Ohio State on Thursday.

The march was in protest of a false report made to campus police on Oct. 24 in which Michele Ann Yentes, 19, said she had been raped by a black man on the Oval on her way home from the Main Library.

Marchers assembled in front of the library, then marched to the site of the alleged rape.

During the march, students held signs and chanted, "No more lies," while moving toward the center of the Oval.

Some of the signs read, "We Love Our Black Men" and "No More Lies."

Joseph Smith, president of the Black Association for North Campus Students, said there were three purposes of the march. The first purpose was to make America aware of its history of falsely accusing and/or prosecuting blacks for imaginary crimes or crimes committed by the majority race, he said.

Smith said the second purpose was to warn the OSU community and all Americans that the arbitrary prosecution of blacks will no longer be tolerated.

The marchers also demanded that the university fully investigate and examine this incident, he said.

Members of The Black Association for North Campus Students want the OSU community to recognize that Yentes used a stereotype of a black man as her rapist, and think the black community has once again suffered negative repercussions, Smith said.

Gloria McCauley, co-ordinator of the "Take Back The Night March," which protests the violence against women, supported the march.

"Any event that works against oppression, I support," she said.

McCauley said the protest also helps the women's movement. Dissolving the oppression of racism can only benefit and erase other forms of oppression, she said.

McCauley would not pass judgment against Yentes, but felt a case like this was not typical.

She said most women that are raped don't lie about it.

OSU Police Deputy Chief Richard Harp said earlier that the university police have shown their reaction to Yentes' accusations by filing charges against her.

Fodall Mboge, a graduate student, said the false accusation was an insult to black community and further serves to create an atmosphere of fear and suspicion among black people.

"In light of the fact that this is not the first time the Pan-African community has been wrongly accused and harassed, and subsequently depicted as barbaric, we demand this institution take serious actions that demonstrate its commitment to cultural diversity," Mboge said.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Fred Hutchinson said in a written statement, "When an individual member of the Ohio State community acts in a manner that can be construed as racist or stereotypical, including the false reporting of a rape, the university commits itself to deal with the pain and anger of all persons hurt by the event."

Larry Williams, assistant director of the Black Cultural Center, said he is glad the students took the initiative to do something about the falsehood Yentes created.

Cynthia Rawls, a junior from Cincinnati, said, "I wanted to come to the march and to help take a stand with other African-Americans."

The Black Association for North Campus Students and other black student groups plan to follow up on the actions made by the university following the march, Smith said.

At the end of the rally, David Harrison, program coordinator of the Office of Minority Affairs, said, "United, we become strong."

Joseph Smith, center, president of the Black Association of North Campus Students, leads rally on the Oval Thursday afternoon. The rally was in protest of a false report made to campus police on Oct. 4 in which an OSU student said she had been raped by a black man on her way home from the Main Library.
OSU panel discusses immigration

By Chlaki Tateamoto
Lantern staff writer

The new immigration reform bill signed by President Clinton was the topic of discussion for Ohio State students, faculty and staff Saturday.

The panel discussion was to make people ask questions about the issue, said Stephen Kande, president of All Africa Students' Association, sponsor of the event.

President Clinton signed the illegal immigration reform bill aimed at cutting down student visa abusers and their access to public education programs last September.

The legislation also imposes a new fee on foreign students and their dependents who enter the country to collect more information about them.

Sharon Subreundu, moderator of the discussion said the United States says it's opening up the window for all immigrants, but will be harder for them to remain due to so many technical difficulties for them.

Under the new immigration law, students can only get a new visa in their home country if they lose their status in the new country. Students can be out of status if they are not taking full-time classes, if they are illegally working or if their student status has expired.

Helen McKnight, a graduate student in journalism said she became concerned about the immigration legislation after Ohio's administrative ruling last fall to deny driver's licenses to non-permanent U.S. residents, including international students.

"The message that I got from the whole experience was whoever is the-power-that-be is saying we can do whatever we want, guys," she said.

Cynthia Newbury, a graduate student in public policy and management said it is important to educate white Americans about the issue.

"To me, it's clear that the See Immigration Page 2

changes today in immigration policy has to do a lot with irrational fear that a lot of white Americans have about America being comprised more of people of color," she said.

Alex Adusei, a graduate student in multicultural education, said he thinks it's wrong to determine who is acceptable to the country based on where they are from and how they are perceived by immigration officers.

Isaac J. Mowoe, an associate professor of black studies, however, spoke about the political reality of the world.

"Immigration laws written in this country have one special purpose: keep out everyone," he said.

"No matter how much it would be painful (for foreigners), it is a right that the American government has," Mowoe said.

He warned international students to stay in contact with international-student offices on campus.

The panel discussion was part of the celebration to commemorate two experts in African studies: the late Josephat Kubayanda and the late Richard Bjornason, both OSU professors.

"I want to congratulate all of you. This would have made Professor Bjornason and Professor Kubayanda very, very proud," Mowoe said.