

MAIDEN ISSUE NO. I

PERSONAL

Towards Workers -
Student Alliance.

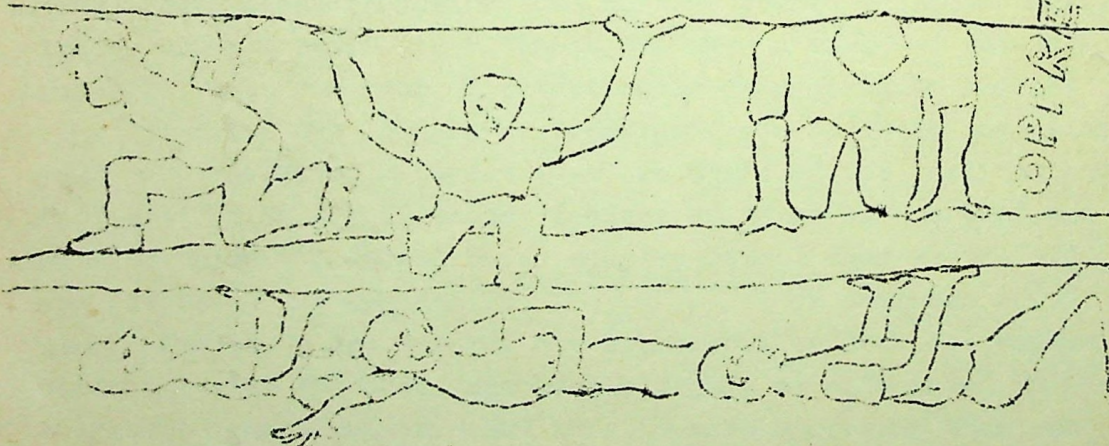
HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRESS

AN ORGAN OF THE MOVEMENT FOR A PROGRESSIVE
NIGERIA (M/P/N) UNICAL



2634



1. Need for workers - student solidarity
2. NANS or NUSA - which way?
3. The Belgore report on Unife.
4. Unical Students Union Crisis
5. Alienation and our Educational System
6. Racism, Ideology and Socialism.
7. May day Address.

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EDITORIAL

A CALL FOR WORKERS - STUDENTS SOLIDARITY ON CAMPUS
AND BEYOND

The preponderant majority of Nigerian students are often oblivious of some concrete realities as they touch on them in the present economic and socio - political system. For one, they are unconscious of the fact that the Universities, Colleges of Education and Polytechnics are within the context of this social milieu. Infact, these educational institutions are just prototypes of the larger society, and all that manifest on these campuses are reflections of same society. The peripheral capitalist society of Nigeria has historically stratified the country broadly into classes of oppressed and oppressor, the exploiter and the exploited, the excessively rich and the extremely wretched. This ideological stratification is inevitably accompanied by its concomitant symptorms of object poverty, squalor, violence, insecurity, inflation, fascism, corruption, unemployment and a numerous host of others.

That students are unconscious or imbued with false conciousness in appreciating societal issues is not by accident. We know that in a capitalist society, education is designed as a tool among others to sustain the social, political and economic oppression on which the system feebly rests. The institutions are primarily established to manufacture academic robots and voiceless orons to serve as labourers, technocrats and at best bureaucrats in the various estavlishment whether private or public. To the ruling class in this country, colonial or neo-colonial, educational policies have always meant producing just another factor of production., labour and NOT patriotic citizens who have a stake in the fate of the country. When you hear of pathetically retrogressive slogans like "Students are leaders of tommorow", you begin to wonder whether youth who unwillingly parrot them are aware of the implications. The question is should these "leaders of tommorow" be deaf and dumb to today's problems which equally affect them as the old oppressors ? The systematic ^{depoliticization} of campuses is the most overt attempt on the part of our oppressors to deny the academic community even the basic democratic rights as entrenched in the bourgeor's constitution. But this is more agonising when one sees that students accept these repression hook; line and sinker.

On our campuses all the foregoing decadence in the social order are daily being reflected among the various strata in the academic Communities. The administration of our campuses are run with high-handedness, in the most undemocratic fashion! Students are seen as being too inferior to participate in decisions that primarily touch on their fate.

THE ETHNIC DIVERSION

The greatest threat to the existence of this country today is not from Libya via Chad, or from South Africa or Cameroun for that matter. The threat to our very existence as a Nation is from the band of corrupt, selfish and gluttonous politicians that now rule this country.

In all parts of the country (particularly poor people) are being made to hate each other. The politicians (who are infact, self-appointed leaders) of different ethnic groups make public statements to incite one ethnic group against the other. These have often led to armed clashes resulting in loss of lives of innocent poor people. These leaders who forment trouble have no problems serving together as board members of the same company:

In order to maintain their position, our politicians, will stop at nothing. It is not that ethnic (or what some people call tribal) politics is new to this country. What is alarming is the fact that under different guises the ruling class is pushing the case for ethnic divisions. At present all the five political parties are helping to build a country in which the individual's worth is measured not according to his contribution and sacrifice to the betterment of the country but according to his ethnic background. There cannot be any improvements in the living conditions of any people who live in a country in which ethnic groups are always fighting each other. In this type of country you will find very few rich ethnic "leaders", and the majority of people living in abject poverty. These rich ethnic "leaders" know that if our people are united, they will have to surrender most of their ill-gotten wealth. So that ensuring that our people are divided has become the only job for them. How are they promoting this type of divided Nigeria?