

Tanzania limits education, maintains control for rich

By Colleen Pohlig
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

SALAAM, Tanzania — It's been six weeks since I've stepped foot in this East African country to study for one year. My first thought off of the plane was that this is definitely not the national news anymore — the pain of third-world poverty is now staring me in the face and there is no remote control to flip the channel.

Tanzania, with a population of 25 million and still widely agricultural, is one of the poorest countries in the world. With a gross national product of \$572 a year, Tanzania relies on donor aid for 83 percent of its budget.

The now multi-party government, run by the Chama Cha Mapinduzi party, controls its people by whatever means necessary. The CCM owns and controls the media, and most newspapers have nothing but token articles praising the government. Any private papers that dare to criticize the leaders are often shut down or their advertising is banned.

The government also had a large Field Force Unit, which is a group of men trained specifically to suppress protests by means of physical force.

Since arriving in Tanzania the word "corruption" has taken on a whole new, human meaning for me. Here, the rich are

few but have all the wealth; the poor are the vast majority, and every day is literally a struggle to survive.

This is proven daily as CCM drive their shiny, new air-conditioned Mercedes past severely malnourished children in the streets and young pregnant women straining under the weight of the child on their backs and water buckets on their heads.

Students and professors alike at this university, the only institution of higher education in the country, seem to hover in the balance between free thought and personal safety. In the United States, I never hesitated to rip on the greedy and destructive politics of George Bush and Ronald Reagan.

Here, people carefully measure their words. When someone dares to criticize the CCM, shy and nervous giggles are heard from the rest of the students, their eyes darting to the door as if Field Force Unit soldiers would appear with sticks.

This image isn't unrealistic either as a police station is conveniently located on campus. Any protests against the government are strongly discouraged, with threats of permanent expulsion from the university.

What more could be expected from President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, who only has an eighth-grade education. Although the government says Mwinyi was "democratically elected" two years ago, the

choice for Tanzanians on the ballot sheets was either Mwinyi or the "shadow box," which was a blank space because no candidate was allowed to run against him.

Even more absurd, Mwinyi is also the chancellor of the university and has the power to shut down the school at any time for any reason, as he did two years ago to punish protesting students.

I remember other things I took for granted only a few months ago at the University of Oregon — things like available books, computers, desks and even professors.

A huge shortage of books results in an over-crowded library, and there are very few computers here, which students have no access to. It's also common to see students hoisting desks on their shoulders, walking from classroom to classroom because of yet another shortage. And professors are paid so little that their other jobs sometimes conflict with their class times, forcing them not to show up and teach.

I recall being happy when a professor at the University failed to come to lecture; here, students go to class and wait for half of an hour, and then leave, feeling frustrated.

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are few jobs once students graduate, education at least offers some hope for the future.

However, this is even questionable as a good Tanzanian friend said to me the other day that "we study so hard — doing nothing but studying — and for what? To graduate knowing many things, but no jobs to expend this knowledge."

Tanzanians jokingly refer to their country as "Ubongoland" because in order to live here, one has to use their brain — "Ubongo" in the national language of Swahili — to survive in such a poor country.

But unlike most jokes, the reality of "Ubongoland" brings little laughter.

Colleen Pohlig, a former Emerald staff member, is on exchange from the University of Oregon to Tanzania for a year.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Greek system implements policy

By Daniel West
Oregon Daily Emerald

In fear of losing University recognition, the Interfraternity and Panhellenic councils are taking steps to successfully implement their new alcohol policy.

This policy was created by the two councils, governing the social atmosphere through stricter regulations of alcohol at chapter parties.

Although the policy was drafted last year, this is the first year the policy took effect. In the beginning of the year, a couple fraternities violated some of the regulations of the policy.

This caused the University administration to react with a letter to each member of individual chapters. The letter was sent from the office of Gerry Moseley, the University vice provost.

"The letter suggested that the greek system had failed to uphold the regulations of the policy.

Also, if the greek system wouldn't follow these rules that they created and agreed upon themselves, then the University would have to take actions into their own power. This may include revoking the charters of individual houses who were repeat offenders," Gordon Seeley said in summary of the letter.

Seeley is the current Interfraternity Council president and a member of the Delta Upsilon fraternity. He has also been his chapter's president, public relations chairman and complex coordinator, the person who makes sure all house jobs are completed.

"I was excited and nervous about being president. I had talked to a lot of people. They said it was a lot of work and commitment. But, I was honored by the fact that I was chosen," Seeley said.

The new social policy has

become a major issue for the greek system. Although the president has plenty of work, he has already devised a plan to successfully implement the policy.

"The letter was a wake-up call for the greek system. It kind of gave us a goal to accomplish. This isn't the image that we want to portray. It tears down all the positive we've done," Seeley said.

"Currently, we're trying new ways to implement the policy," he said. "We're trying to change the image that greeks have of the policy. Some of the chapters view the policy as 'us against them.' This isn't the case.

"The policy is actually risk management that follows the policies set by many national fraternity organizations. We also want greeks to understand that the policy isn't taking away from the fun and excitement, but a measure of protection," Seeley said.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

• Lane Transit District is offering free bus service Friday through Sunday to avoid traffic jams after the Thanksgiving holiday.

LTD buses will take people to the Festival of Trees at Valley River Inn, the Tree Lighting Ceremony in downtown Eugene and the Tree of Joy at Gateway Mall, along with any other LTD destination.

• The United Way needs volunteers for the following positions: craft bazaar coordinator for Emerald Nursing Home, one to two hours per week; gift wrapper for Easter Seal, two hours per shift; holiday tree cutter, Dec. 12 from 1 to 5 p.m.; advocate for crisis line or child care volunteer for Womenspace, two to four hours per week; warehouse assistant for BRING Recycling, four hours per week. For more information call the Volunteer Connection, 683-9000.

• The U.S. Marine Corps Reserves is asking the community to donate gifts for the Eugene-Springfield Toys for Tots program.

Donated toys will be distributed to parents and guardians who would otherwise not be able to give their children a Christmas toy. Wrapped, new toys can be dropped off before Dec. 17 at all Eugene and Springfield fire stations or the Marine Corps Reserve Center, 1520 W. 13th Ave.

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