

Window On The World

Kenya: Indian And Islamic Influences

By MARK DEMORANVILLE

Though Kenya is a country rooted in a rich history and culture, there is a great deal more to it than the Black African aspect. Indian and Arabic influences also play a strong role.

Throughout Nairobi, there are curry houses, small restaurants and curio shops, Indian cinemas and Mosques. It is easy to get caught up in this part of Kenya, mainly because it is so unexpected after the orientation one receives.

Indian films are a fascinating experience. Though they are never in English, it is nevertheless quite easy to sit through one because they are so completely different from anything which Hollywood has ever produced. They are made up of lavish sets, beautiful women and constant twists of plot. In these theaters, women cover their faces, men wear turbans,



and no one eats popcorn. The curry houses are cheap, often filthy and overcrowded, and are not exactly the

strongest tourist attraction. But the food is usually excellent, rice and khima curries served with chapatis, and if you can get over the fact that there is no way of telling what is put into these curries, there is a good chance that you will find yourself going back for more.

The Islamic mosques are often large, colorful buildings which provide needed relief from the dominant British influence on architecture in Nairobi. Unfortunately, they can only be viewed from the outside. I was once told that if I ever stepped inside of one of these mosques with a camera and shoes on, I could quite easily be killed by a group of angered Moslems.

On the coast of Kenya, from Mombasa to Malindi to Lamu, the Arabic influence is even stronger, to the point where it almost totally overshadows the African tribes. Coastal Swahili is a great deal different from

the rest of the country, favoring Arabic words over certain Swahili words. It is also a lot harder to find someone who speaks English.

Lamu, certainly one of the most beautiful island fishing villages in the world, is almost completely Arabic, and mosques of all shapes and sizes are scattered throughout the island.

Young people are often very friendly on the coast, holding no prejudices or assumptions of any kind. It is amazing how closely they stick to the principles of their religion. They smoke a lot of bangi and listen to Bob Marley.

To those of you who are going to Kenya in the fall, or who are thinking of the Nairobi semester in the future, it is strongly suggested that you pay some attention to the Indian and Islamic influences in the country, as they are an integral part of Kenyan culture.

Forum Of Contemporary Thought: A Success

By LYNN WASHBURN

The Eighth Annual Forum of Contemporary Thought was held recently at SLU. This year's theme was "North-South Relations." Students from over 40 universities were invited to submit papers pertaining to

this theme.

The forum officially opened April 6 in Hepburn 218 with a keynote address by Father Bob Ogle, a New Democratic Party member of Canadian parliament from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Dr. John Gitlitz, guest lecturer from SUNY at Purchase, delivered a lecture Wednesday, April 7, on "U.S. Policy in Latin America." That same afternoon, Mr. John Rezelman (Economics) spoke in "Economics of Dependence."

All the student papers were read and judged by faculty members, Dr. J.J. Jockel (Canadian Studies), Dr. Brian Kirby (Philosophy) and Dr. Lewis Guarasci (Government).

On April 8, students who wrote the top four chosen papers presented their topics before a faculty panel of Dr. J. J. Jockel and Dr. Bernard Lammers (Government). Dr. Louis Saltreli presided over the panel discussion.

That afternoon, Dr. Robert Wells (Government) spoke on "North-South Issues" in Lee Lounge. Immediately afterwards, Dr. Leslie King spoke on "Environmental Development."

The Forum was brought to a close with an award banquet held in the Formal Lounge. The

first place paper was "Approaching Rural Development in Kenya" by Eileen Nolan ('83). Second place was shared by Mary Krigbarum ('82) and Dale Murphy (Middlebury, '82) for their papers, "United States Policy toward Rampuchea: A Moral Critique" and "Environmental Health and Nutrition in the Third World" respectively. Greg Gulino ('83) received third prize for his paper, "The World Population Crisis." Papers were judged on preparation, content and presentation.

This year's Forum of Contemporary Thought was sponsored by the International House. They extend many thanks to all who helped and participated at the events.

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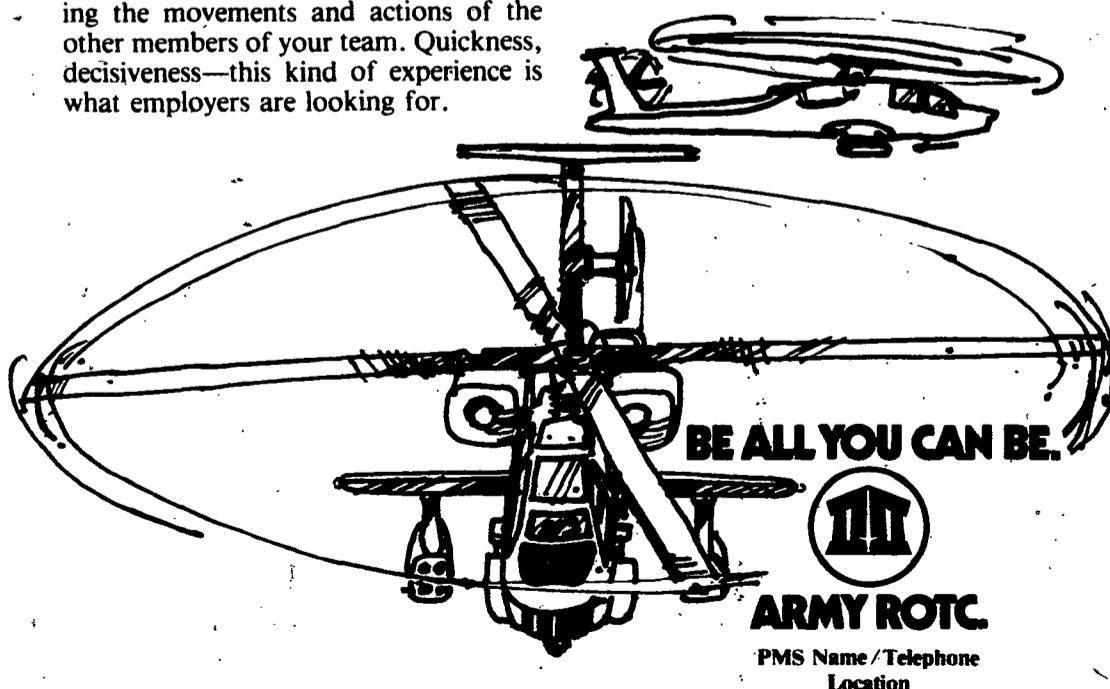
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