Never mind the G8. Here’s the W8

EIGHT WOMEN WHO
COULD CHANGE THE
FACE OF AFRICA

WANGARI MAATHI – Nobel Peace Prize Winner & Green Belt Movement founder, Kenya – Page 4
ALIVERA KIIZA – Karagwe District Coffee Co-operative for Café Direct, Tanzania – Page 14
WINNIE BYANYIMA – Women’s Director, African Union, likely Presidential candidate, Uganda – Page 12
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Let the real experts heal Africa

By Linda Wambuka, Uganda; Bimbo Oloyede, Nigeria and Abigail Wild, Scotland

There is a popular saying in Uganda that you cannot re-lease a man, meaning a woman cannot say “no” to a man’s sexual advances. Local legislators have extend-ed this argument to the legal realm: they say that when a woman says “I do” they consent to sex any time, any place and any how. Consequently, there is no such thing as abstinence. When women see violence as innate to marriage and that’s why the women who could change Africa are present on our front page. The Ws are representative of the hundreds of women activists praised by leaders but rarely backed with big cash programmes. To demand that this changes is not special plead-ing for women. It’s a special plea – this time — to back the peo-ple who produce results.

*Like Graca Machel (Page 11):* She married Nelson Mandela on his 80th birthday. Before that she lived in Mozambique, married to its President Samora Machel who was killed in a plane crash. She was the Minister of Education who persuaded the government to devote 12% of the national budget to education, a rare feat in Africa. Within five years she cut illiteracy by 2% and increased the school-going population from 400,000 to 1.6 million. Result.

*Like Nobel Peace Prize Winner Professor Wangari Muta Maathai from Kenya:* She started the Green Belt Movement planting seven trees in her garden in 1987. Since then 30 million trees have been planted — mostly by women - in 30 countries across Africa. Every tree earns the planter 2p. 700 trees pay for a beehive, a pot or an oven. That’s 43 thousand small businesses created by helping the environment. Result.

*Like Lornah Kiplagat (Page 5):* Kenia’s superlong dis-tance runner who won the New York Marathon in 2006. Her performance prompted others to come forward as role models: “You can do anything”, she says. Result.

*Alviva Kiiza (Page 14):* Graca Machel’s “fused” by government, AMARC has backed local people to set up community radio stations in the world leading. Every tree earns the planter 2p. 700 trees pay for a beehive, a pot or an oven. That’s 43 thousand small businesses created by helping the environment. Result.

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*Alviva Kiiza (Page 14):* Graca Machel’s “fused” by government, AMARC has backed local people to set up community radio stations in 100 countries, read the evidence in this paper and spend the equivalent of their donors’ budget on a committee composed of these women. Then use their recommendations as a guideline for spending at least half the enlarged aid budget.

There is an old African saying; Heal a woman – you heal a village. It’s time the G8 let the women heal Africa.

Being married should not be a death sentence for African women

By Linda Wambuka, Uganda; Bimbo Oloyede, Nigeria and Abigail Wild, Scotland

There is a popular saying in Uganda that you cannot re-lease a man, meaning a woman cannot say “no” to a man’s sexual advances. Local legislators have extend-ed this argument to the legal realm: they say that when a woman says “I do” they consent to sex any time, any place and any how. Consequently, there is no such thing as abstinence. When women see violence as innate to marriage and...
The mobile revolution

Mobile phones revolutionise a continent struggling with poor state systems

The typical UK mobile phone user mutters about five minute train delays. But in Africa mobile phones are creating e-money, getting mums with difficult births to antibiotics and making elections fairer. Grace Githigia – the only woman to get within miles of Gleneagles – tells how the mobile has already transformed Kenya.

"YOU have the power to sack useless workers. Exercise your right now by voting..."

Imagine the impact of receiving such a message several times a day from friends, colleagues and relatives. That was the impact of the mobile phone in 2002 — a special election year for Kenya because the long term President Moi had completed his final term. Excitement was high as Kenyans campaigned and made guesses about who would be the next President. But a new campaign tool was suddenly at hand — the CELL PHONE! And it changed the face of the election result.

Apart from the text messages being forwarded, the phone allowed people to take part in election phone-ins. Especially on community and commercial radio people were able to say exactly what they thought of Moi’s appointed successor.

And on polling day the cell was useful as an anti- rigging strategy. Advance parties would be sent out to monitor security instead in volatile areas and would give feedback if it was safe for a candidate to proceed to the area.

One of the cell phone providers ‘Safaricom’ established a news service where people could dial 411 to get the latest information on the results. Even ring-tones brought a political and cultural perspective to the election. Someone would hear ‘cock crowing’ as their ring tone. That let you know automatically that those people were supporters of the former government — the cockerel was KANU’s party symbol.

People were phoning relatives in remote areas reading out chunks of newspaper information and election analysis over the phone. In the past they would have had to wait several days to read a paper due to transport problems.

The Electoral Commission of Kenya (ECK) was also conscious of the cell phone and decided to announce election results at the polling stations, instead of having them sent in to the ECK HQ which would delay results sometimes a day.

In 2002, as soon as counting of the ballots was complete at any polling station, and even before the media could get the results, word would go round instantaneously on who had won — courtesy of the cell phone!

Finally, the cell phone was used to mobilise people to get out and vote on the day — and the result?

A surprising change of leader and ruling party in Kenya.

Three years after those elections, the cell phone still remains the greatest ‘revolution’ due to its availability and interactive nature — and not just for politicians.

Traditional problems of how to pass information to relatives for example on death and funerals have been resolved. Even more than that, people living in cities like myself are buying phones for their relatives in rural areas, and using them to transfer phone credit.

In effect we are creating e-money with the cell phone!

How does it work?

There are two ways:

1. I can buy a scratch card here in Nairobi, then text my mum the pin number upon which she will use it to re-load her credit wherever she is. Or, I can buy a scratch card, then text the pin number to a service provider like Safaricom, insert the hush command (H) found on every phone, and the phone number for my mother. She will then receive an update of the top up credit on her phone with my number or the number of the person who has updated her credit.

2. This is a minor revolution concerning Western Union charges 12% to move cash and banks charge to transfer between accounts — and most people like my mum don’t have bank accounts anyway.

In fact, my mum can use the phone credit as a form of barter — so many people want to use the phone, minutes of talk time are like a currency. But there are problems.

Affordability and recharging

For those who cannot afford handset there is ‘Simu ya jamii’ (community telephones). This is a public service that allows people to call cell phones at low prices. It’s cheaper than the state landline service and means no queue for telephone booths. It used to be very frustrating wanting to call only to find that the booth has been vandalized.

The community cell phone does not require lines to be laid down. It is a phenomenon found even in very remote villages. It also allows for people to be called back by their relatives in the cities at a very minimal fee. It uses solar power and car batteries in remote areas.

There is no village in Kenya where you will not find at least one person is the proud owner of a cell phone. It may be the teacher or the chief. In this case, the phone becomes the centre of action — if relatives in the city send a money order, the information is communicated to the chief or the teacher who in-turn delivers the information.

Prices for the hand-sets have gone down and one can acquire a set for as little as US$ 25. But in a country where clean water is a priority, US$ 25 can still be difficult to get.

The cell phone is a revolution for the gadget presents its own challenges in areas where there is no electricity, and majority of rural folks in Kenya have no electricity. There are places where charging is done communally for example if there is a car battery several people use it to charge their phones. Some guys ride motor bikes from village to village to let folks charge up.

Others have to wait for someone going from the village to a town where there is electricity and the person will be sent with the phones to go and charge.

The challenge would be for manufacturers to be creative and come up with sets that can probably use kerosene since it is readily available in rural areas, or use normal batteries or solar cells.

The cell phone is a revolution for Africa. And women are at the forefront — how else do you think the deadlines on this paper finally happened — ed?

GRACE calls her mum in rural Kenya after sending her e-money African style

Africa the fastest growing mobile phone market in the world

MORE than 70% of all phone lines in Africa (75% in poorest and unstable states) are mobile because handset production costs dropped, corrupt and inefficient state provision concealed the true demand for telecoms services and pay as you go phones arrived.

The number of phones per head of population in Africa now exceeds the figure for South East Asia. And women are at the forefront.

UK users make 1 mobile call per 5 text messages sent — African users make 5 mobile calls for every text sent. Where literacy levels are low, voice is supreme.

Mobile phone benefits according to DFID research are reducing the need to travel, access to health and emergency services, improving personal relationships, getting business information including market prices for crops, shopping around to get lower prices for travel and postage.

Is Mobile phone banking next? Africans working abroad send $12 billion back home every year — more than the total value of world aid to Africa. But companies like Thomas Cook and Western Union charge 12% commission — even on small amounts. That means every year Africans pay $1.5 billion a year in charges. Mobile phone operators think they could process credit transfers for 4%. The Africa Commission wants the introduction of local electronic payment systems.

www.sendmoneyhome.org for cheap transfer advice
Wangari Maathai is the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Her Green Belt Movement encourages people to plant trees – and challenges African leaders to stop betraying their people.

Nobel Prize challenge to African leaders

When we got independence, leaders failed to see the lifestyle the colonial administrators were living was exploitative, undemocratic and brought conflicts. In many African countries we talk of the change of guards. But there was not a change of thinking. We changed guards and continued with the lifestyle. That lifestyle can only survive if you don’t have democratic governance and if you don’t share resources equitably.

Quite often what happens is that those in power get in business with outsiders and benefit at the expense of the majority.

It is only the African leaders who can change that. If they do not shift their consciousness, if they cannot see that that is intolerable for a few of them to live so comfortably and the rest of their people to live in such poverty – then it is very difficult to ask outsiders to come and change that system for them.

Wars that never end

It’s very important for citizens to understand that, even in Western democracies, those who were in power did not give that power freely. Citizens sometimes have to come to terms with the fact they cannot tolerate misgovernance. And they cannot be engaged in wars that never end. The developed countries know very well what Africa needs. There has been so much debate about it. We all know that their excuses have been corruption, misgovernance and money being used for weapons. Excuses, but to a certain extent legitimate. Nobody’s going to pour money into a corrupt government - meant for development and then used for buying weapons. Nobody’s going to pour money into a country impoverishing itself by destroying its environmental base.

What would be the excuse if we really ensured resources go to the purposes for which they are intended? What would be their reason not to give, not to raise their contributions? It would be interesting! We would be talking about a different era altogether. We would be saying, “OK, what you give, it’s used for what is intended. There is no corruption (in Africa) any more. There is no misgovernance.” Then the developed countries would be challenged to meet their commitments.

We know better

The African people have been so trusting of their leaders. So many of the leaders are like me. They have come to the West. They have studied in the West. We gained skills and knowledge and we were expected to go back and help our people. But many of us went back and took advantage of their confidence in us believing that we knew better than them.

We were coming to deliver them! Well, we didn’t. We took advantage of them and we used them. Because they trusted us, it took a long time for them to believe that we truly betrayed them. We now need to tell them we are sorry we betrayed them.

Development to me is like an African stool with three legs. On one of those three legs is the peace. Another is good governance. And the other is management of our resources. The basin that sits on the stool is development. It may be very small, it may be very wide but if it is not resting on the three legs it will collapse.

Will the governments in the industrialized countries address these issues at the G8? I hope so. Will African governments address this challenge? If they do, then we will have reached a new level of consciousness.

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How the Green Belt Movement works

Planting trees protects the environment, provides wood, stops soil erosion, and pays planters 2p per tree to buy equipment and start small businesses. 700 trees pays for a beehive, a pottery or an oven to make cakes. 1,000 trees pays for a reporter, a pottery or an oven to make cakes.

The professor’s grassroots movement was seen as a challenge to the authorities — under the rule of former Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi, she was arrested several times, and on the eve of her 60th birthday knocked unconscious by police while planting trees in Nairobi. Maathai was finally elected to parliament in December 2002, and appointed to the environment ministry.
Glasgow 10k run winner funds girls’ training

Lornah Kiplagat won the recent Britannic Glasgow 10k run for the sixth consecutive time, she’s world record holder at ten miles and 20 kilometres, and has her heart set on Olympic gold for Holland. But success for Lornah also means a chance for other young women to shine – Lornah and husband Pieter fund the High Altitude training camp so Kenyan women can match the achievements of male long distance legends like Kip Kano

Did anyone ever try to stop you running? Not really ... No. My mother, my father always supported me, but the only thing is that we had a kind of – not a fight – but we could not agree with each other after my high school because they didn’t believe in running. They didn’t know I could make a profession or career in running. So they wanted me to go for further studies. And I had got a scholarship to go to India and study medicine ... they were telling me I have to study, but I wanted to run. So you were lucky enough to have parents who didn’t want to marry you off immediately? My father is not that way. And my mother – she is also not that way, and my sisters got married pretty late. My place was on a farm. Most of our athletes come from the farm. It’s not in a city. It’s not in a village. You are in the middle of nowhere, and no roads come there, and you have no transport. Nobody from my family was bringing me to training – and I was still young. I had to travel by myself by public means for 350 kilometers to Nairobi. And it’s a big city – it’s a huge city, it’s our capital city – and I really didn’t know anywhere to go. The race was the next day and it was late and there was no place to sleep. For men, it was not a problem. For women, it was not a problem. For further studies. And I had got a scholarship to go to India and study medicine ... they were telling me I have to study, but I wanted to run. So you were lucky enough to have parents who didn’t want to marry you off immediately? My father is not that way. And my mother – she is also not that way, and my sisters got married pretty late. My place was on a farm. Most of our athletes come from the farm. It’s not in a city. It’s not in a village. You are in the middle of nowhere, and no roads come there, and you have no transport. Nobody from my family was bringing me to training – and I was still young. I had to travel by myself by public means for 350 kilometers to Nairobi. And it’s a big city – it’s a huge city, it’s our capital city – and I really didn’t know anywhere to go. The race was the next day and it was late and there was no place to sleep. For men, it was not a problem. For women, it was not a problem. For

So where did you stay? Well, I spent a night in a toilet. A restroom.

How did you do the next day? Um, made the team for Kenya world record holder at ten miles and 20 kilometres, and has her heart set on Olympic gold for Holland. But success for Lornah also means a chance for other young women to shine – Lornah and husband Pieter fund the High Altitude training camp so Kenyan women can match the achievements of male long distance legends like Kip Kano

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Did a male athlete ever say to you, “Lornah, please clean my shoes”? Absolutely. But my father would always split the jobs between girls and boys. And he would tell us, “If I see you doing something like washing clothes for your brother, I will break your hands” I really didn’t understand how it came that my father was like that. He died two years ago and he was 81 already. My father – he wouldn’t allow my mother to overwork.

Still in Kenya and most parts of Africa, many women are still being circumcised. And my Dad didn’t want that. My dad was the oldest guy around, and the girls that had to be circumcised are often of older parents. But he never did that to us. He said, “It’s your choice. You want it, you can do it. But if you don’t want to, you don’t have to.” And we were so happy.

So I had this idea, why should I do for someone else what my father didn’t demand and what I don’t even do for my brothers? When I went to Europe I stayed in a camp where a manager had athletes from Kenya. There were men and girls. The men tried to get me to clean for them ... but they really had no chance. I never did that for anybody. What would happen if you find that in your camp? There’s no option. They can leave the camp. Just stay away from us. He either washes his shoes or he stays away from us. We had quite a few cases like that. And the girls come and say, “Oh, he’s telling me to wash his shoes.” And we ask him, we just confirm, “Did you do that?” And he says, “Yes, I did.” And we say, “OK, find your own place.”

Do you think coming to your camp not only improved the girls’ running, but also gave them confidence as human beings? We really don’t care if there is an Olympic champion there or if there is a girl coming from the village – we treat everyone the same. And there is no “You are so-and-so, you are treated differently.” We try to educate them. They are always very shy. They can’t look you in the eyes. By the time they leave, they’re asking a lot of questions.
Drugs giant and Africa policy

Pharmaceutical companies have been attacked for not giving free or cheap drugs to Africa. Jack Watters, a senior executive at Pfizer, the world’s largest drugs company, answered critics at the Scottish Executive’s conference on Africa at Holyrood in May.

Taking part in the recent Commission for Africa summit at the Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh was one of the highlights of my life. As I took my place in the impressive new debating chamber, I wondered what my old Mum would have made of it. Sadly she died six years ago, but I know that she too would have been incredibly proud.

I was born and brought up in Crieff, and studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh before joining the pharmaceutical industry to help drive the development of the new medicines that now offer hope to many millions of people. As Vice President of Medical and Regulatory Affairs at Pfizer, I am in charge of all our clinical operations in Europe, Canada, the Middle East and Africa. As a Scot, I was enormously encouraged to see how my compatriots are responding to the considerable health challenges that are affecting so much of the rest of the world.

Listening to Sir Bob Geldof, First Minister Jack McConnell, and a host of other Scots debating the issues with representatives of the African countries that are engaged in the day-to-day battle against killer diseases was inspiring. It proved to me that the people I know who are involved in the frontline fight are not working alone. Indeed, they cannot. If we are to relieve the terrible burden of illness and death that is devastating the under-developed world, we have to do it together.

Although I am based in New York, I spend a great deal of my time in Africa, helping to devise ways of preventing disease and treating its consequences. I make sure that the research that needs to be done gets done, and that the resulting medicines actually make it to those who need them most.

I know I am making a difference when I walk into a hospital in Uganda, and a patient who previously couldn’t open his eyes because of the headaches caused by meningitis greet me with a hug because one of our medicines has relieved him of his pain.

HIV and AIDS is a notorious scourge in Africa, but there are other diseases that kill even more people each year – deaths from malaria, tuberculosis and respiratory infections outnumber AIDS fatalities many times over. Although the conditions may differ, the approaches to tackling them are broadly the same. Let’s look at AIDS. Right now, it is affecting around 25 million people in sub-Saharan Africa alone. It is devastating families and wiping out whole communities, and unless we do something to control the spread, it is estimated that a further 80 million will be infected by 2025. Simply throwing drug treatments at the problem will not solve it. Instead, such an unco-ordinated approach could actually make things worse.

It is critical that people who start taking these powerful medicines keep taking them, or else the virus that causes AIDS becomes drug-resistant and mutating into even more deadly forms. But how do you ensure that someone who lives hundreds of miles away from any healthcare, in a region without roads, has access to proper treatment?

The global pharmaceutical industry, in partnership with governments and international agencies such as the World Health Organisation and the United Nations, is working hard to address the question, but it can be a huge sticking point.

My particular interest is in education and prevention, where I believe many of the solutions lie. One of the most important things that can be done is to educate and empower these women who can do a great deal to protect them from contracting disease.

Pfizer trains counsellors who work in the community, and they are making an incredible difference. African women often are not asked what their husbands are doing when they are not at home; they cannot insist on their partners using a condom – and that’s assuming that they know about them in the first place. By educating and empowering these women we can do a great deal to protect them from contracting disease.

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No pharmaceutical company can do that alone, and it is vital that we work in partnership with local public sector organisations to develop effective distribution channels. We supply the medicines, the training and the vital patient information that ensures the treatment is used to best effect. In turn, the national agencies ensure the programme is fully integrated in their health system, and that the benefit actually reaches those who need it.

Many people in the affluent world, faced by the challenges of relieving death and disease in underdeveloped countries, may be tempted to throw up their hands and say ‘nothing can be done’. Together, we are proving that is not the case.
Nigerians compare their First Lady’s attitude with past military wives accused of being co-dictators with their husbands. Now Stella Obasanjo has jailed a publisher; and the Kenyan First Lady attacked a cameraman on the eve of World Press Freedom Day. Do the charitable works of the First Ladies excuse their bad behaviour? Lesley Riddoch, Scotland, and Ada Agina-Ude, Nigeria, report

The First Lady Syndrome …

First Lady Stella Obasanjo is on the warpath – not because 70% of Nigerians are still poor in the world’s seventh largest oil exporter. But because a journalist described her as “Greedy Stella” and failed to apologise even when she had him arrested.

Midwest Herald publisher, Oro- bosa Omo-Ojo, was jailed on the orders of First Lady Stella Obasanjo when security forces burst into his office and occupied it for an hour before taking him to prison.

On the same night – May 2nd – hundreds of miles away in Kenya, First Lady Lucy Kibaki went on the warpath, too. She entered the premises of the Nation, Kenya’s largest newspaper, and the Nairobi police chief. She spent five hours scolding about “unfair” press reports, had the journalist described her as “Greedy Stella” story. She alleged the First Lady was involved in a scam to sell government-owned property to her relatives. Omo-Ojo rejected the offer. Later President Obasanjo said, “I feel personally embarrassed that almost all members of my wife’s family are on that (duffer) list,” and he sacked the housing minister, Mobolaji Osomu.

Meanwhile, in Nigeria, Oro- bosa Omo-Ojo was freed after 12 days in jail without being formally charged, and slapped a Kenya TV cameraman filming the scene. Earlier, several newspapers had reported she tried to stop a farewell party because of noise. She entered the premises of the Nation, Kenya’s largest newspaper, and the Nairobi police chief. She spent five hours scolding about “unfair” press reports, had the journalist described her as “Greedy Stella” story. She alleged the First Lady was involved in a scam to sell government-owned property to her relatives. Omo-Ojo rejected the offer. Later President Obasanjo said, “I feel personally embarrassed that almost all members of my wife’s family are on that (duffer) list,” and he sacked the housing minister, Mobolaji Osomu.

The President was re-elected in 2003 on a “beat corruption” ticket. When Obasanjo was elected President in 1999, he said his wife would not be known as first lady. But a year later, Stella set up the Child Care Trust Foundation and wives of governors followed suit. One has been particularly successful – Mrs Ighe- dion set up a scheme to stop girls being smuggled to Europe for prostitution.

According to African feminist writer Amma Mama, the world of powerful First Ladies is a democracy: “an anti-democratic female power structure, which claims to advance ordinary women, but cannot because it is dominated by a clique of women authoritative through marriage to powerful men, rather than actions or ideas of their own.

Africa’s main First Lady success story appears to be Rwanda’s President not because she’s working with Rwanda’s new parliament where 48% of MPs are female. Next month though, First Ladies have the chance to be truly life changing when they meet experts in HIV and girls education in Africa during the G8 summit.

Will they use personal influence to demand their husbands put ordinary women in Africa first for a change? We eagerly await such a demonstration of real First Lady power.

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University leaders from Africa are set to deliver a ‘blueprint’ for expansion to world leaders at the G8 summit in July. While the political leaders will stay in the fortified surroundings of Gleneagles, the “U8” African and UK academic leaders will meet 30 miles away at Dundee’s Abertay University where senior staff from 60 African universities have completed development programmes in recent years. It’s expected the group will devise a blueprint to spend the extra investment in higher education called for by Tony Blair’s Commission for Africa in March. The Commission’s proposals for developing universities and research centres have been widely welcomed in Africa as essential to economic growth and social development. But there is less consensus among UK aid agencies about whether university funding should be top priority and whether investing in higher education leads directly to poverty relief. Two pioneering projects in Zimbabwe and South Africa are leading the way in giving higher education to poor students. The Women’s University of Africa near Harare recruits 70% female, mature students, working at nights and weekends – Taddy Blecher’s CIDA campus in Jo’burg aims to deliver the first self sufficient university offering degrees at zero cost. Will they be on the U8’s development map?

As a private University with no public funds like State Grants, the problem of adequate resources remains a perennial problem

Women’s University in Africa faces challenges in several areas. One is of women not believing in themselves, and not believing that they are capable of efficiently running a University. Looking for resources and creating a University for women, run by a Board and Council made up of professional women and only few men is a challenge. The other challenge is gaining credibility in a male dominated field of tertiary education.

“A as a private University with no is still going down. With high levels of inflation, projections of working capital have been futile with inflation making nonsense of projections and financial plans. This has led to lack of equipment, dependency on donors, high staff turnover and low staff and student morale as women make do without the right levels of sustenance. Having come this far, however, it is unlikely that the women behind WUA will be fazed by the challenges they face.

“My vision as founder of WUA is to see it grow in admissions to about 2000 in the next five years. I hope to see other critical faculties like Science and technology being taught at WUA. I envisage a critical mass of first-degree students attaining Masters Degrees in 10 years and some women getting doctoral degrees.

“Right now we are proud to have the Vice President of Zimbabwe Joice Mujuru as a Management degree student. I hope to see more politicians, more young women attaining higher degrees and being ambassadors in the African continent from the first Women’s University,” said Dr Sadza.

With Information by David Dickson of SciDev.Net
www.scidev.net
Scottish students do part-time work and leave with massive debt. Students at CIDA campus in Jo’burg grow vegetables, cook, clean, administer their own courses and teach what they’ve learned back home. Could South Africa be on the verge of developing the sustainable free degree? Sheila Robinson reports

A degree for free

Even Virgin boss Richard Branson is a convert. He’s to open a Technology Centre at CIDA Campus in October. But for its founder, success is creating a cash-free degree.

TADDY BLECHER is already delivering degrees for £2,800 per four year course at CIDA City Campus in Johannesburg. He’s got a big social incentive. There’s no shortage of employment or opportunity in South Africa today – if you are qualified. The 40% unemployed don’t have training, and only 4% of black South Africans have a post-secondary education qualification. The demand Taddy is trying to meet is huge on a local level and gigantic in the context of Africa.

Five years ago Taddy Blecher was employed by one of the world’s most prestigious consulting companies, poised to pursue a stellar business career (he had 6 job offers to choose from on three continents, and the USA beckoned strongly). Just two weeks before he was due to leave Johannesburg, however, and with his life already packed into 43 boxes in his mother’s basement, he changed his mind. He went to see his boss and said he wasn’t leaving – instead, he was going to work in the townships, educating kids.

He joined Richard Peycke (another CIDA founder and director), already working in education for 20 years. Their efforts increased pass rates by 4% of black South Africans have a degree for free.

He decided the only solution was a university where students help with cooking, cleaning and a lot of work. Not just the study, but students give up their time to work on the campus a few hours a week. They wouldn’t see the cash but they would see the benefit in cheaper education. Critics say students are being asked to get more involved in the university than they want. There is less freedom and independence, more focus on the college and its world. And how would students here handle the commitment to teach in their own communities during holidays when schools might be on holidays at that time?

There is evidence, though, that the approach works in Africa. A secondary school in Botswana needed pupils to build the school before education could begin; now half of the present government are graduates of that school. It’s the same self-sufficient, community-engaged approach that is working for CIDA.

Uniquely African?

Taddy believes he is creating a uniquely African delivery of education. Communities are engaged in the way their own students are learning: a whole village may save up to sponsor a student and grandparents show up at college review sessions to check on progress.

So is this a lesson for the West? Would ‘free’ education work in Scotland? After all it might be better to learn about running your own college than serving burgers. Would western students give up their time to work on the campus a few hours a week? They wouldn’t see the cash but they might be able to afford. It might not transfer to the West – it might not even be offering ‘perfect’ education – but its graduates get jobs. Moving into a 30-60,000 rand a year job guarantees the village will see its sponsorship back, the student will be able to buy a car and build their parents a new house. That’s not bad payback by any economic standards.

More importantly for the future the students who have ‘created their own college’ have learned a lot about empowerment. The African business leaders of the future may understand cost effectiveness and sustainability in a way we have never seen before.

For more information about CIDA City Campus, please call Nadia Ammar, Development Director or CIDA’s UK charity, CIDA Foundation, UK, on +44 (0) 1865 736 207 or email nadia.ammar@cidafoundationuk.org

**THE ROUGH GUIDE TO A BETTER WORLD** is the essential guide to how the world can be a better place for everyone. Poverty in the developing world is well known, but less publicised are the success stories and the continued efforts to combat hunger, disease and illiteracy. This guide gives you the background and shows you how you can get involved.

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**BE A PART OF IT.**
Africawoman’s favourite men (actually there are quite a few ....)

Pius Ncube, Archbishop
The recipient of the Robert Burns International Humanitarian Award for 2005 is Archbishop Pius Ncube. Pius collected the award at a Gala Concert at Culzean Castle in Scotland in May.

The Robert Burns Humanitarian Award is Scotland’s only true international award. It is not sponsored or supported by any business or corporate entity. The winner receives 1759 book, with a soft leather cover inscribed with the Burns poem “A Man’s a Man for a’ That”.

Archbishop Pius Ncube says, “I feel from the bottom of my heart that I don’t deserve this award but I accept it on behalf of those in Zimbabwe whose suffering is unabated and whose struggle continues.”

Pius – the Catholic Archbishop of Bulawayo - is one of the most vocal figures in Zimbabwe’s civil rights movement. Before this year’s elections he criticised government officials for using food aid as a political weapon and called for South Africa to cut off electricity supplies to Zimbabwe to make Mugabe hold talks with the opposition. In criticising Mugabe, Ncube has consistently risked his life, and both he and his mother have been threatened with death by the Zimbabwean security service. He has helped to mobilise a multi-denominational church coalition in Zimbabwe.

Stephen Lewis, UN envoy
Stephen Lewis, UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, gave a bold speech on African women’s health to American politicians in April. This is an extract.

“Let me be clear: with HIV/AIDS what we have is the most ferocious assault ever made by a communicable disease on women’s health, and there is just no concerted coalition of forces to go to the barricades on women’s behalf.”

I see the evidence month after month, week after week, day after day, in the unremitting carnage of women and AIDS – God it tears the heart from the body ... I just don’t know how to convey it ... these young women, who crave so desperately to live, who suddenly face a scourge which tears their life from them before they have a life ... who can’t even get treatment because the men are first in line, or the treatment rolls out at such a paralytic snail’s pace ... who are part of the 90% of pregnant women whose infants are born positive ... who carry the entire burden of care even while they’re sick, tending to the family, carrying the water, tilling the fields, looking after the orphans ... the women who lose their property, and have no inheritance rights, and no legal or jurisprudential infrastructure which will guarantee those rights ... no criminal code which will stop the violence ... because I have observed all of that, and have observed for four years, and am driven to distraction by the recognition that it will continue, I want a kind of revolution in the world’s response, not another stab at institutional reform, but a virtual revolution.

Let me, therefore, put before you two pragmatic responses which will make a world of difference to women. The Kingdom of Swaziland recently made history when it received from the Global Fund on AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, money to pay a modest stipend to 10,000 caregivers, looking after orphans, the vast majority being women. Every nation in the African Union should follow suit.

I would also recommend, with every fibre of my being, the International Partnership on Microbicides – a gel or cream or ring, which will prevent infection, while permitting conception. Partners need not know of its presence – microbicides can save the lives of millions of women and may be only three to four years off. That’s almost miraculous. What’s needed is science and money. World leaders can help with both."

Jerry Boweh, Musician
Jerry Boweh came to Glasgow in 1992 via Cote d’Ivoire and the USA after Scottish friends arranged for him to leave Liberia during the civil war. He had been a part-time youth worker at a school in a suburb of Monrovia, which involved running music, drama and sport programmes, and as rebels encroached the campus became trapped. Boweh eventually escaped after six months.

Now he’s set up the African Youth Development Action Project (AY-DAP), an exchange programme for young Scottish and Liberian people. Its aim is rehabilitation of young offenders from Glasgow and ex-soldiers from Liberia, through annual three-week projects.

“Young people from Scotland will go there and understand why we had to leave our homes,” he says. “It’s not because we didn’t have dreams or goals but because we didn’t have an option.”

Boweh hopes that the first group of volunteers from Glasgow will fly out in January next year. The first two weeks will involve working on a project, for instance building a school, on the mainland under the supervision of skilled volunteers and the final week will be a festival week on Providence Island, linked by a bridge to Monrovia.

The festival will involve cross-cultural arts and sports events which will be open to all Liberian youths and open debates on local and development issues.

“Scottish people didn’t know me or Liberia but they looked after me as if I were family,” he says.

“I wish I could take every Scottish person I know to Liberia. Being patriotic is not just about standing for your country but sharing it with other people.” – Beth Pearson

Tony Sutton, Publisher
Tony Sutton is an award-winning publisher and newspaper and web designer who prefers NOT to layout Africawoman on his laptop in airport lounges … but has made this copy look great for five long years....
African city slums are doubling every year because migrants are running away from starvation in country areas. Executive Director UN Habitat, Prof. Anna Tibaijuka – a member of Tony Blair’s Africa Commission – gave her message to the ‘Get on Board’ bus campaign team – a team of five Africans travelling by bus through seven African countries collecting views of poor people on what they want the G8 to discuss at Gleneagles. By Helen Archer

**Special delivery for Gleneagles**

Get on board – the bus with messages for G8 leaders

The ‘Get on Board’ bus campaign began four months ago in Johannesburg, South Africa – since then the brightly decorated matatu – a 16 seater African bus – has travelled through Mozambique and Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda before departing from Mombasa by boat to Europe, driving north, crossing the Channel and finally arriving at Gleneagles in early July.

Their mission – to ensure the G8 leaders hear the voices of the men, women and children they encountered on the way:

“The aim of the campaign is to get away from the usual statistics and reports that are used by the big nations to fund poor countries,” said Rose Mashi of ActionAid International Tanzania.

Launching the bus on its way in Tanzania, Prof Anna Tibaijuka – also a member of Tony Blair’s Africa Commission – outlined what her message to the G8 summit would be.

“Over 8,000 children die everyday in Africa because of waterborne diseases. About the same number of Africans will die today because of HIV/AIDS. They will die today, they will die tomorrow and they died yesterday.”

“The G8 will be judged by the way it treats the weakest. My message really is first of all to thank the G8 for their efforts, but to tell them that they are not doing enough and they must act quickly, because we are talking about a tragedy. There is no need to doubt a man of the status of Mr Blair in campaigning about Africa. He’s staking his own integrity and honor on the African Commission. He will be judged in 5 years or 10 years time – history will judge him tomorrow and they died yesterday.”

“I have been telling my fellow Africans we need friends. I was afraid of any G8 trip – it is a foolish person who turns away from an extended hand before you know it is empty.”

Ivy Maina – a 26 year old ActionAid worker travelling on the bus – has meant plenty of people living on hope. Having studied international relations and journalism, in her home country of Kenya, she is daunted by the task ahead of her. “We have real problems in Kenya in terms of job opportunities, you can be very educated but to get a job is really, really difficult. So this ties with the rest of the team who have never done anything like this, it makes you feel a little less scared and nervous.”

Ivy speaks admiringly of Graca Machel, the wife of Nelson Mandela, who she met in South Africa – “very quiet, very warm, very beautiful. Very humble and very human.”

And that is very rare to find in a leader. I was glad to meet someone so wonderful who really took to heart the lives of the poor. We never get to hear so much of what she does. I’m hoping for more people to listen to or to emulate a leader like Graca, because she was an inspiration. And she is truly a true leader and true woman. For Africa.”

Ivy tells of one woman who was trying for a family, and eventually managed to get pregnant, but her child became ill, and was diagnosed with HIV. The woman herself then found out she, too, was HIV positive. Her husband was tested and was found to be negative. “So the minute she lost her son, her first child, her husband told her to leave because he could not be with someone who was HIV positive. And when she was telling her story, and you could really feel her pain. But even in that moment of despair, she still knows that she has rights, she still knows that she’s entitled to something and that was uplifting. So sad, but uplifting.”

Ivy speaks of another woman, from Malawi, who was HIV positive. “She kept saying ‘I live positively. I may have HIV, but there’s no difference between you and me. The only difference is our blood. My blood is dirty.’ And that was so simple and yet so beautiful. What she wants from the leaders is just food. As part of the project, ActionAid is getting the people of Africa to write down simple messages pieces of white paper. “Most of the people are saying they need food,” says Ivy. “They want nutrition, they want basic health care. They want basic education. They want access to markets for farm produce. They want farming incentives, like fertilizers. They want a proper infrastructure and electricity to be more developed.”

“I’m hoping to get those messages to the summit – these people are asking for straightforward and very simple things that can be done.”

Ivy is looking forward to the following day, her ‘rest day’. The team have already driven 5,390 kilometres, and she’s exhausted. “We’re working all the time.

“We try as much as possible not to travel at night. Night time is the time to do the reports and to have briefings about the day, and the sharing of the experience and understanding of the particular issues we encountered. We have cushions and most of the time we sleep on the bus during the day because we’re really, really, really tired. We listen to some music – we have some nice African music. Plus the scenery is just so, so beautiful. It’s the journey of a lifetime.”
A young woman lawyer who won Amina Lawal’s reprieve from stoning to death for adultery in Nigeria two years ago. **Hauwa Ibrahim**, the first local female lawyer in Northern Nigeria persuaded judges the case was not proven under Sharia Law. Now she’s in Edinburgh to speak to Scots about human rights for African women.

**Nigerian lawyer tackles stoning sentence and wins**

**Hauwa Ibrahim** – the Nigerian lawyer who saved Amina Lawal from stoning, will speak on women’s rights at an African woman conference on June 23rd in Edinburgh. Sambaza ticket details on back page.

A young woman lawyer who won Amina Lawal’s reprieve from stoning to death for adultery in Nigeria two years ago. **Hauwa Ibrahim**, the first local female lawyer in Northern Nigeria persuaded judges the case was not proven under Sharia Law. Now she’s in Edinburgh to speak to Scots about human rights for African women.

**A young woman lawyer who won Amina Lawal’s reprieve from stoning to death for adultery in Nigeria two years ago. Hauwa Ibrahim**, the first local female lawyer in Northern Nigeria persuaded judges the case was not proven under Sharia Law. Now she’s in Edinburgh to speak to Scots about human rights for African women.

**Winnie Byanyima has changed her mind many times. In 1982 she left behind a degree in aeronautical engineering and the prestigious Amelia Earhart Research fellowship to join the National Resistance Army that finally toppled the dictatorial Ugandan President Milton Obote in 1986 – himself the man who toppled the brutal Idi Amin. She was Ugandan Ambassador in London and Paris and an MP for 10 years.**

Now Winnie is deciding whether to oppose the man she once supported, President Museveni. And just to complicate things – her husband stood against him last time, failed and fled the country, claiming harassment. Can Winnie win – why does she want to stand?

**On life in the Ugandan Resistance Army**

After my first degree, I joined Yoweri Museveni in London; at that time, he was building the political movement that would lead to the armed struggle. I assisted him for six months as he held meetings with several exiled Ugandans and raised funds for the armed struggle, which he had already launched. When it was time for him to return to the bush, he claimed conditions were unsafe for women. We had a major debate over this. I did not understand how a woman could hope to be an equal participant in this Uganda that he was trying to build, if she could be told “you cannot participate in the struggle at this stage because it’s too rough”. I was 22, and had been exposed to some feminist ideas as a university student, reading books like Simone de Beauvoir’s The Second Sex. I couldn’t accept his position. If we were going to be equals in the Uganda of the future, we had to be prepared to struggle side-by-side with men at every stage. Some women were sent to locate enemy positions and to determine their strength. They also went behind enemy lines to look for food, and some were involved in political organising. When soldiers were injured, they needed to be hidden with families, treated, and taken to hospital for surgery, and women did those tasks. I was involved in the peace process negotiations. The diplomatic work was not simple, because Museveni was perceived as a communist.

**On Uganda’s current leadership**

When we took the capital, Kampala – that was a big achievement. But 18 years later, I’m at a point where I feel that those who died did so in vain. Politicians do not respect people’s rights. They oppress and cheat the poor. Poor people are still powerless, poverty is deepening, and armed conflict is still raging on in parts of the country. So now I find it hard to look at the fall of Kampala on 25 January 1986 as a success. I see it as an adventure that I was involved in as a young and idealistic girl. I feel that those who led us, if they once had true aspirations to liberate and empower all Ugandans, they have long since abandoned them. In the first few years after that war, peace and stability was restored by putting the army back in the barracks. There was also some economic recovery but these gains are being threatened by growing militarism, runaway corruption and civil strife.

We need leaders who are able to say, “I’m going to push the envelope as far as I can. It may cost me personally, but if there is a gain for the continent, then that’s fine.” Instead, we have people who want to consolidate their own personal power. But women’s lives drive us to question and to develop feminist consciousness, which can lead us to offer powerful alternatives.

**From an interview with Amina Mama carried in full at:**

www.feministafrika.org

**Winnie Byanyima is currently Gender Director at the African Union in Addis Ababa.**
Nigeria = e-mail scams. Why?

1. DO NOT RESPOND TO THE 419 SOLICITATION
2. If you are at all suspicious, simply hit the delete button.
3. If the contact is via email: write to the provider at their "abuse" address (abuse@yahoo.com, abuse@onebox.com etc.) and include the message with its headers, complain about it and ask that the account be shut down.

Victims apart, the scams have done immense damage to the image of Nigeria, casting a shadow of suspicion over all business dealing with that country, legitimate or otherwise. Even though Mr Collins emphatically says he has been nào hooded, the truth is 419 scams are perpetrated by a tiny percentage of Nigerians.

The Metropolitan police claim some 60 Britons were stung last year alone, to the tune of £3 million. But the police force the amount reported to them is just a fraction of the real losses sustained by people tempted by "get rich quick" proposals who are often too embarrassed to admit they've been conned.

The Nigerian email scam surfaced mid-80's when the oil price collapsed and left professionals without jobs

The phenomenon of the e-mail promising mythical millions has also worried Scottish law enforcement agencies. Intelligence reports indicate that Scotland has become a prized market for the scammers after the Metropolitan Police managed to crack down on fraud emanating from London.

Dramatic increase

A spokesman for Strathclyde Police said all UK forces had experienced a dramatic increase in the number of unsolicited correspondence to professionals and corporate bodies. She added, "The e-mails often allege that a large sum of money remains unclaimed in an offshore account. The victim is asked for personal details in return for a substantial reward."

"It is known that a large number of individuals in the UK, who have responded in pursuit of a reward, have ended up in financial ruin. There is very little they can do to put things right."

The Nigerian Government has been under pressure for some time to tackle the scourge of 419s, yet has done very little. Worse still, many reports state the Government is in on the scam since 419s currently qualify as Nigeria's third largest industry.

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"Knowledge is like a garden; if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested."

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Dr Aydin Kurt-Elli, Chief Executive of business ISP Lumison says 419s are no different from any other scam. "The Nigerian e-mails are the easiest to spot. They are random. Why would someone approach you to sell gold? It doesn't make any sense. The trouble is people want to believe they can get rich quick, without doing anything. The common only need to get five or six replies out of millions and they're making money."

Forget losing money, these scams can be extremely risky. Some 'marks' have been invited out to Nigeria or other places to meet the 'grafter'. Since 1995, there have been numerous reports of people who have been murdered after travelling to Africa in pursuit of their fortune. Others have been beaten, made bankrupt or committed suicide in despair.

The Nigerian e-mail scam surfaced in the mid 80s when world oil prices collapsed. The dramatic loss of income and employment caused many highly educated professional people to turn to a life of crime. If Nigeria is serious about stopping the scammers, then it must pursue them aggressively and relentlessly. Otherwise vulnerable, desperate people the world over will continue to suffer as a result.

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To subscribe to the FREE quarterly magazine, please go to www.developments.org.uk
Growing confidence and coffee

CAFÉ DIRECT was created at the height of the ‘coffee crisis’ in 1991 to buy direct from coffee growers and sell the pick of their crops to western consumers. Fourteen years its the UK’s largest Fairtrade hot drinks company bought by over 1.5 million households.

Greater market share means less poverty – Oxfam estimates that if Africa could increase its share of world trade by just 1%, it would generate five times more income than it currently receives in aid and debt relief.

But developing countries face tariffs, which prevent them from trading freely in the West whose farmers still receive in aid and debt relief.

Greater market share means less poverty – Oxfam estimates that if Africa could increase its share of world trade by just 1%, it would generate five times more income than it currently receives in aid and debt relief.

Cafédirect and other Fairtrade brands are winning awards for the quality of their teas, coffees and chocolate – and creating successful community enterprises that should attract the attention of any passing G8 politician.

But expansion can’t happen without fairness for all involved – especially women.

It took 10 years for men in the Karagwe District Co-operative Union (KDCU) to take the radical and non-traditional step of making their wives owners of trees. And it took a lot of patient work from the trainers of Café Direct.

Karagwe is in the remote area of north-western Tanzania – the Union represents 67 individual co-ops with over 17,500 coffee farmers.

Cafédirect started trading with KDCU a decade ago, and for years was the only direct buyer. After training the export manager and introducing him to other buyers sales grew from 2 containers a year in 2000 to 18 containers in 2004/5.

Business realities

The next big barrier to better sales was communication between the co-op management and farmer members on everything from market information to coffee quality. Members were ignorant of the business realities facing the co-op, and could be unrealistic and suspicious of management arguments. Equally, management was ignorant of the issues facing members.

Rumour dominated over fact, and self-interest of individuals over the collective interests of the membership as a whole.

Members were each asked to send three women and three men to Cafédirect Producer Partnership workshops. The officials tended to be men. The ordinary members tended to be women but this was their first chance to talk to other women about their organisation.

The women soon spoke out. Although women do much of the work in the farm, the coffee crop traditionally belongs to the man. Women often do not benefit directly from coffee sales. One woman told how she was beaten by her husband when she asked what had happened to the money she got from selling the coffee.

As the coffee is owned by the man, the woman does not have the right to join the co-operative, since she has no coffee. Most women members were widows. Women were very rarely selected to the primary co-operative committee, and almost never as delegates to the union AGM or committee.

Out of 67 co-op societies only one had a woman chair.

Women now own trees

There was a great deal of debate between the men and women – but three resolutions were agreed:

Men should give their wives some of the coffee trees, so that the women can join the primary society in their own names and benefit directly from the sale of the coffee they work to produce.

There should be two places reserved for women on the committee, both at each primary society and at the union.

Women should put themselves forward for election more boldly than in the past.

The challenge then was to make these resolutions happen. In Karagwe Café Direct staff spotted a young woman in the KDCU coffee procurement department, Alivera Kiiza, as someone with strong views on women’s empowerment.

Alivera agreed to help facilitate the workshops, and she was then chosen to attend a Fairtrade conference in London. This made a huge impact on her authority within the co-operative. Here is what Alivera wrote when she returned to Karagwe:

“I am the first woman from my community here in Tanzania to go to the UK, to go very far from my place. No woman has gone from here representing the women of Karagwe until me. As a result women coffee farmers are joining their co-operative societies. I tell them it is the women in UK who buy Fairtrade products – I have seen this with my own eyes.

I will encourage women to sell the coffee they have in their own names instead of the names of their husbands. They will become leaders of their co-operative societies ... They will be able solve their problems at home without asking their husbands every time.

They will become more educated by going to seminars and workshops when they are coffee owners themselves and members of their co-operatives. They will be able to buy what they want themselves, they will have power; they will have a say.

www.cafedirect.co.uk
Scottish Projects Database: Part 2

Malawi Millennium Project
The University of Strathclyde’s collaboration with the College and University of Malawi began in 1999. Malawi Millennium Project aims to educate teachers, nurses and other educators, who, in turn, train future generations to help Malawi gain a skilled workforce in order to advance socially and economically.
www.strath.ac.uk/projects/malawi/

Mary Slessor Foundation
Inspired by the work of the famous Scottish missionary, the Dundee-based Mary Slessor Foundation aims to help the people of Akpap Okoyong. A medical centre has already been built along with a staff accommodation house. Instructors and VSO teach locals tailoring, carpentry, cabinet making, welding & mechanical skills.
www.maryslessor.org

Mary’s Meals
Mary’s Meals provides around 20,000 children in Malawi with a meal when they go to school. The campaign, which is funded by Scottish International Relief also operates in Liberia, Democratic of Congo and Uganda. It has proven to be an effective way of encouraging children to go to school. The meals are funded by public donations and served by volunteers.
www.myscharity.org

Mercy Ships
Mercy Ships is a global charity which has been converting old car ferries into floating hospitals for the developing world since 1979. The hospitals’ crews of medical staff perform thousands of operations and support the training of local doctors and nurses.
www.mercyships.org

Mercy Corps Scotland
Parent Teacher Partnership Programme in Eritrea works with Parent Teacher Associations on projects like new classrooms, desks, books and blackboards. Programme reached over 40,000 beneficiaries esp girl students. Afar Veterinary Outreach Network, Eritrea improves vet networks through training and better equipment. This should lead to better herd survival rates and an increase in milk production to benefit vulnerable rural communities.
www.mercycorps.org.uk

One World Shops
One World Shop in Edinburgh is Scotland’s biggest fair trade outlet. Tea, coffee, chocolate and crafts from Africa. One World Shop now open in Glasgow’s Byres Road.
www.oneworldshop.co.uk

Pax Warrior
James Gillespie’s High School in Edinburgh has been piloting a new media educational tool that simulates the Rwandan genocide of 1994. “Pax Warrior” is the computer simulation that puts 16-year-old pupils in the role of a United Nations military commander who has to make difficult decisions that affect the outcome of the genocide. The purpose is to confront young people with tough choices involving moral judgements.
www.paxwarrior.com

Phelohepha Health Train
This customised train travels through rural areas of South Africa, providing health care. ‘Phelohepha’ means ‘good clean health’ and the 16 carriages and staff of nurses, dentists, opticians, physicians and medical students travel for nine months of the year, spending a week at each stop. More than 50,000 people have received treatment since it began in 1993. ‘Edu-clinics’ also operate at each stop, where 25 community volunteers are selected to be trained in health care, meaning that expertise is left behind, to be built up in rural areas. ACTSA, Scotland are Scottish contacts
www.paxwarrior.com

Scottish Borders Africa AIDS Group
The Scottish Borders Africa AIDS Group aims to increase the understanding of the effects of HIV/AIDS in Africa and is chaired by Dr Dorothy Logie. Dorothy lost her husband Sandy to AIDS in 2001 after he was accidentally infected while performing an operation in Zambia. Fundraises and works in Zambian hospitals with Lothian Health.
www.signpost-international.org

Scottish Borders Zimbabwe Group
Scottish Borders Zimbabwe Group fundraises to support non-governmental projects in Zimbabwe. These projects include an HIV scheme in the Manicaland region & youth theatre in Bulawayo. Also social centre for the growing Zimbabwean community in Scotland including visiting Zimbabwean asylum seekers held in Dungavel.
www.scottishborderszim.co.uk

Scottish Zimbabwe Group
Scottish Zimbabwe Group fundraises to support non-governmental projects in Zimbabwe. These projects include an HIV scheme in the Manicaland region & youth theatre in Bulawayo. Also social centre for the growing Zimbabwean community in Scotland including visiting Zimbabwean asylum seekers held in Dungavel.
joanweir@yahoo.com

Street Child Africa
Father Patrick Shahanah established Street Child Africa six years ago. They reject the notion of street children off to places with which they have no association. Instead, an African adult is selected to be accessible to the children. They are prepared to learn the streets, earn respect and give respect, so that further steps can be taken in providing children with advice, healthcare and education. They also support NGOs which look after the needs of street girls who fall pregnant, and their babies.
www.streetchildafrica.org.uk

Theatre Festival Ya Basta
Theatre Festival Ya Basta (Enough Already) aims to raise Scottish concerns about global issues through political theatre. Morven Gregor, the artistic director of the theatre company Birds of Paradise is behind the festival which includes performances across Scotland. Venues and theatre companies participating in the festival include Globalise This? ’s Theatre Company, Citizens Theatre and The Arches.
www.yabasta.org.uk

VSO
We have volunteers from all over Scotland working alongside local communities in several African countries - currently Uganda, Nigeria, Malawi, Eritrea, Ghana, Cameroon, Zambia and Namibia. The volunteers are experienced professionals and are sharing their skills in areas such as agriculture, engineering, maths, science and English teaching and teacher training, special education, education management, social work, speech therapy, accountancy, HIV/AIDS, and nurse training.
Key contact Kate O’Brien (Scottish Representative)
Kate.O’Brien@vso.org.uk www.vso.org.uk

Women’s University of Africa
The Women’s University of Africa was founded in 2002 and currently has 500 students primarily from Zimbabwe. The University is privately funded and offers vocational courses in subjects as diverse as information technology and horticulture. The university, like many others in Africa, is very short of computers. Jeremy Schmid is working with BBSO from Dundee to develop a cost effective computing system.

World Swim For Malaria, 3rd Dec 2005
In December this year a million swimmers from across the world are being encouraged to take part in World Swim for Malaria. We are raising money to buy mosquito nets to help protect people from malaria, which currently kills over 2.5 million each year. 70% of the deaths are children under 5. 80% buy a mosquito net that can save a life. 100% of the mon ey we all raise buys nets.
www.WorldSwimForMalaria.com

Compiled by Nicola Carfrae and Lynsey Bews

The complete database is available at www.nidos.org.uk

Thanks to NIDOS for their help
TIME TO TALK

• PROGRAMME OF EVENTS • EDINBURGH • JUNE / JULY 2005 •

Making Poverty History – and a G8 for all

The G8 Summit will be held behind closed doors at Gleneagles. Edinburgh Council, Make Poverty History (www.makepovertyhistory.org) Liveaid and Africanwoman believe the agenda deserves wider debate. The men behind LiveAid – Midge Ure and Bob Geldof – are planning televised gigs in cities of the G8 countries on July 2 TV links will let millions watch. The message this time, according to Bob – “We don’t want your money, we want your support.” And that’s all kinds of support to press leaders to double Africa’s aid budget.

There are plans for a flotilla from Europe to Leith headed by Scots world record breaker yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur and Midge is planning a final eve of Summit gig on Wednesday 6 at Murrayfield in Edinburgh – headline acts currently being finalised. There’s talk of a Long Walk for Justice to Gleneagles – all these have to be checked with police to make sure large numbers of people don’t swamp safety arrangements but do let people power have a chance. Live8 will be gigging in Rome, Philadelphia, Berlin, Paris, London – so Scots can watch on wide-screen after the M8 march in Edinburgh which starts at noon, July 2nd. What a day!

And thanks to many organis-

ers including Edinburgh Council – what a three weeks before that day too! Edinburgh is hosting a programme of G8 events to talk about Africa and encourage public involvement, particularly by young people. The full programme and latest details are available at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/G8Summit and in programmes distributed throughout the city.

Sambaza –Women in Africa
Africanwoman and Edinburgh Council are holding a one day conference focusing on the issues, needs and solutions of women in Africa. Journalist and broadcastor Lesley Riddoch will chair. Keynote speakers include Haowa Ibrahim – lawyer who successfully defended Amina Lawal in Nigeria and prevented her from being stoned to death. Grace Sithiga of Kenya and the World Association of Community Broadcasters. Sambaza is Siswili for sharing. The Hub, 23 June, 10am – 4.30pm

Limited number of public tickets available via Sambaza@blueyonder.co.uk

The Edinburgh Africa Conversations
Edinburgh Council with Africanwomen have arranged a series of public lectures on G8 issues by:

- Ladies Detective Agency writer and Zimbabwean, Alexander McClure-Smith, “Finding a piece for orphans”.
- City Arts Centre, 2 Market Street, 18 June, 12.30 – 1.30pm
- The Traverse, 21 June, 7.30pm

Authors, Jonathan Falla, “Out of control in Africa”, The Traverse, 29 June, 7.30 – 8.30pm

“The Forgotten Woman”, 2001 Fiona Lloyd Davies (Gradual Films) went to the Eastern Congo (DRC). She found a town haunted by war where 2000 women had been raped as they looked for food. In 2005 she went back to find what happened next. St Giles Cathedral, 25 June – 30 June Get the latest on the gigs and marches from www.makepovertyhistory.org

Africa: my home, my hope, my future
A seminar for young people. Delivered by young people from Rwanda and South Africa. Includes theatre production "Rising from the Ashes" – story of the Genocide through the eyes of a child & debate, use of theatre in reconciliation process and ’Ten years of Democracy’ with young people from South Africa. Traverse Theatre, Mon 20 June Time 1000 – 3pm 8 Schools also time 7pm – 8.30pm Gen Public

Fairtrade Gathering and World Music Concert: A Fair Trade contribution to the Make Poverty History Campaign. The event will have speakers including Bianca Jagger talking about justice and fair trade. Musicians from around the world include fourteen strong Cuban band Candido Fabre and many more. Usher Hall, 1 July, 7pm

Black Sun Over Genesis: play about anti-G8 demonstrations in Geneva 2001. Based on documentary accounts, it portrays the hope of protesters and the tragedy of a young man who died for his belief in a better world. This community production includes a mass choir, haunting film footage and a huge cast of people from all ages and backgrounds. Festival Theatre, Edinburgh 30 June, 1.30 & 7.30pm

Tramway, Glasgow, 5 July, 7.30pm

Making Connections: An evening of vibrant music, poetry and visual art. Pupils at Drummond Community High School accompanied by young people from Rwanda and South Africa along with Kakastis’ acclaimed drumming and dancing group from Ghana. Drummond Community High School 21 June, 7.30-9.30pm

Putting Poverty in the Past – Politicians or protesters: Edinburgh’s Active Citizen Group public debates to make sense of the events taking place on our doorstep. Speakers include journalist Joyce McMillan, Euirg Scandrett FCO, Angela O’Hagan, Oxfam and Morag Gillespie, Scottish Poverty Information Unit. City Chambers, 22 June & 20 July 7.30pm

J8 Summit: Two winning teams from each of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland will attend the Junior 8 Summit in Edinburgh. Young people will attend from each of the other G8 states and from African countries. A J8 Communiqué, agreed by all participating schools, will be sent to the G8 leaders. Pollock Halls, 3 – 5 July

Secondary Schools Child Soldiers Project, Schools will work with materials provided by UNICEF, Save the Children and others to study child soldiers and the rights of the child. Children will work on creating a tree of weapons and work with an artist to create a tree of weapons. The resultant works will be displayed publicly. Venue tbc, May – June


Time to Talk – Visual arts workshops for schools. Primary and secondary school pupils will work with an artist to create new art work based on the theme of the exhibition. The resultant works will be displayed at the City Arts Centre. City Arts Centre, 20 – 25 June

*Diversity*, An evening of Dance, music, drama and media presentations celebrating African / Scottish cultural Diversity. Involving young people from Edinburgh, Rwanda and South Africa. James Gillespie’s High School, 23 June, 7.30-9.30pm

Filmweek: Special screening of films and documentaries at the Edinburgh Filmhouse, as part of a G8 week, supported by Q & A sessions with key speakers. The Filmhouse, 3 – 9 July

Multi Faith and Spiritual Forum on the Millennium Development Goals
Can spirituality help to eradicate poverty and hunger? St Georges West Church, 58 Shandwick Place, 30 June – 7pm

Obaleya: Presented by Chickenshed Theatre. Children will bring songs and music – Obaleyaes weaves a story of unerring passion for the beauty of life against the challenging value society can put on it through crisis, poverty and war. Production sponsored by Gordon and Anita Reddick, supporters of Trade Justice. Royal Lyceum Theatre, 22 June – 2 July, 7.30pm. Matinee, Saturday 25 June at 2.30pm (audio-described)

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