

EDITORIAL
E-Journal Fall 2011 Edition

By: Ewa Unoke Ph.D. (Editor)

This **human rights** thematic edition is unique in many ways. First, it is published when Moammar Gadhafi's era comes to an end. After 42 years of despotic rule and destabilization of many West African nation-states, the Libyan dictator had no more place to hide. On Thursday, October 20, 2011, Gadhafi was captured, stripped, tortured and killed by his fellow Libyans whom he had exploited, marginalized and neglected for four decades. This is reminiscent of the treatment meted out to such absolutist rulers in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, and the Congo. Absolutism does not seem to learn anything from history.

However, Gadhafi's death raises both new and old questions. Victim families want to know the details of the Lockerbie Flight bombing that killed mostly American passengers?

As citizens celebrate the dictator's death, what is the future of Libya? After his brutal reign and bizarre life-style, are there still pockets of pro-Gadhafi fighters who could later wage revenge warfare? If it is true that the Libyan dictator was killed by a child-soldier, is this child-soldier a hero or a criminal? What is the role of the African Union in the demise of the Libyan ruler? Does the AU Charter not guarantee that an attack on one member-state is an attack on all? Getting rid of an authoritarian ruler might not be a bad idea. But, what could be a bad precedent in international law is the idea of violating the sovereignty of an independent nation-state with impunity. Is Libya a member of NATO? If not, on what legal grounds did NATO invade the sovereign state of Libya? Can it be argued that the UN, U.S. and NATO are justified to intervene on humanitarian grounds? Did the United Nations approve of the assassination of Moammar Gadhafi? Did his killing constitute human rights crime actionable at the International Criminal Court, ICC?

Second, as we celebrate the arrival of our first-female, first African-American President, Dr. Doris Givens, the e-journal is in the process of publishing its first hardcopy of all the editions from 2007 to the present. You will be informed when it rolls out from the printers' press.

Third, in this edition, Mehdi Shariati, a Professor of Economics takes a critical look at the Obama presidency from the structuralist perspective. In his postscript essay entitled, "**Obama, Structural Contradictions, and Imperatives**," Mehdi posits that, while it is absolutely true that race matters, "a class analysis in light of the structural contradictions and imperatives can better guide the discourse and result in concrete humane, socially responsible and an all inclusive approach to the problems of alienation, powerlessness and apathy."

In the epic essay, "**Biafran Refugees: A Tale of Endurance and Brutality**"

Philip U. Effiong, a Professor of English at Maryland University, refuses to applaud General Yakubu Gowon and his army for "their humane and compassionate" handling of Biafra's surrender and the subsequent conclusion of the war. Rather, Philip, the son of General Philip Effiong Sr, former Head of State of Biafra (after Ojukwu's exit) laments that after over four decades, justice has not been done to the victims of human rights abuses during the war. Effiong and Raph Uwechue warn that, "the collapse of Biafra put an end to the military aspect of the Nigerian drama. But the end of the war has not removed the cause of a conflict born of long-standing political problems.... It is on the type of solution achieved that the political future of Nigeria [depends]."

In her timely essay, ***Making Life Better: Faculty, Responsibility, and Students in Effective Library Use***, Barbara Stransky, reminds the faculty and students that the library is one of those important academic tools necessary for student success. "And, it is our responsibility to promote effective library use as an integral part of a successful educational experience. Sometimes students do not appear to be aware of this fact, and it is up to our faculty to make this clear."

Andrea M. Hunter is not afraid to take a stand on a very controversial issue. In her interesting but polemical essay entitled, "**The Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender Question,**" she argues that, "For many years the American society has denied gays, lesbians, and transgender people the same rights as heterosexuals. The LGBT community contributes to our society just as much, if not, more than heterosexuals. These individuals have to fight for the simple rights we take for granted. This year alone there have been so many suicides in the gay community that celebrities are now stepping to build awareness. A young male at Rutgers University met his demise by jumping off a bridge after his roommate caught him making out with his gay lover. The roommate posted on the social website known as Facebook.com about what he'd seen his roommate doing. This type of bullying pushed this young man over the edge literally. When is enough, enough? What more is it going to take," asks Andrea.

In early April, 2011, the *Intercultural Center* invited **Mike Kim** to speak at the Performing Arts Center on the Main Campus. In **Escaping North Korea**, Mike, an author, consultant, and North Korea specialist bares his mind on his perilous and secret journey which almost cost him his life. Mike is the author of the Wall Street Journal featured book "Escaping North Korea", a current events memoir about his experiences at the China-North Korea border helping North Koreans escape the regime. The salient themes in this edition revolve on human rights, justice and the quest for the good life. Enjoy the essays.

Finally, I am now receiving articles for the next edition due for the Spring 2012 Semester. Please forward your manuscripts to: eunoke@kckcc.edu or call me: 913-288-7119