

# UBUNTU2010

voice of the people



Decembre Issue No. 3

November is over, the first term is almost over, all of us are waiting for Christmas and for the break. We wish you will enjoy the winter break; both those going home and those staying with host families.

We also hope that you will enjoy this edition, and continue contributing to community's newspaper, UBUNTU. This newspaper is a stage on which every community member can express his/her opinions. Second years, you have only one more term to bless our community with your articles, writings or anything that you want. First years and second years, we would like to invite all of you to share your experience during the break with the community, whether you are staying or going back home because we learn not only from IB classes, but also from

our experiences in our everyday lives.

UBUNTU is always happy to receive contributions from the great 180+ minds that we have on campus. Those international minds are able to open our eyes to view new things. You can write about anything;

**“The great 180+ international minds that we have on campus are able to open our minds to new things”**

international issues, as well as issues that relate to our local community.

We would also like to thank the faculty for their contributions this term, and we hope they will continue to do that.

This term, we, the community, have done very important and beautiful things, such as the regional days, successful projects during project week, the Metchosen concert, and most of those things have improved our involvement as Pearson College community in the local community. We hope to continue doing more things that connect us more and more to the local community. In addition, we have published three editions thanks to collaboration of the community as a whole.

Once again, we hope you will enjoy the much anticipated break, and come back with new ideas for One World, project week and the UBUNTU newspaper.

**Raied H. Yahya.**

**“The question of whether members of the community, and the community itself, have adopted the UWC values can be really answered only from the souls, minds and hearts of each of us.”**



## AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID HAWLEY RAIED H. YAHYA

### -Towards the end of the first term.

UBUNTU: What do you think about November, is it really a very stressful month for the second years or it is more that people talk about stress in November and get affected by that?

DAVID: I think it is more the psychological effect than any other element that we have because we have the power to choose how to feel. Pearson College scholars were selected because of their ability to be resilient. But although we have the power to choose, we may be affected by the feelings of others. It is largely in our mind that sunny days and snowy days make everybody happy, but in fact, that's not what makes us happy, the people around us do, the sun and the snow are used as triggers to change the feelings, but in fact there is something inside our minds, and the triggers can be changed to make rainy days happy days as well.

There are ways to have a peaceful November, for example being well organized with time, getting enough sleep and exercising daily. In addition, students who did there EEs during the summer break and started to work at their universities at home, had a peaceful November.

UBUNTU: What were the good things that satisfied you this term? What things need to be improved?

DAVID: One of the most important and good things is that the 2nd years challenged themselves to make a healthy environment for the 1st years at the beginning of the year. Also, that many students challenged themselves at the 56 km Great Lake Walk, and 21 day habit challenge. The well organized expedition and service

project week, the Saturday house events at the common room, and the food that has been getting better for almost 4 years and the 3 great regional days.

But there are areas of growth in our community though, for example, working on being more organized so that we will have less stress and finding more ways to do things as a community. People got out of shape because they didn't sleep very well; I think we need to work at those things.

UBUNTU: Do you think that Pearson College community is involved enough in the local community? If not how can we make this involvement more active?

DAVID: We are not involved enough, we can get more involved in the community through things like introducing children from Metchosin to a kayaking activity. We need to get 183 minds to think about it.

UBUNTU: To what extent do you think the values of the UWC movement were carried out this term?

DAVID: The best measure for whether members of the community have adopted those values is how people behave when there is nobody around to notice. This question can be well answered only from the soul of each community members.

Another way is to say that if somebody feels that the community influences people to live the UWC values and if the individuals help the community to live UWC values, then it is the most beautiful dance in the world. We are on the dance floor

together. Sometimes people can dance and sometimes the individuals help the group to dance.

UBUNTU: Do you think that the village meetings are enough time for us as a community to meet together and discuss the actual issues in the community?

DAVID: Probably not, but many things can be discussed in smaller groups, like house meetings. We will get better with the time; we should also have village meetings in different languages.

UBUNTU: Has your view about Pearson College changed during the time you have been a director?

DAVID: Like the experience of others here, it is evolving. I see more and more possibilities every day. I think the main thing for me that has changed is the realization that we need to be more intentional about what we do and how and why we do it. Yes we want this place to be magical and unique for everyone but I also think we all need to be clear about what we are striving for. Our mission is ultimately human development. We have lots of work to do to define what human competencies or as Lester Pearson put it "finer human hungers" we need to nurture and develop here.

UBUNTU: What do you think is the greatest challenge of being the director of an UWC College in general and Pearson College in Particular?

DAVID: The first part is a boring answer : finding money. It is quite daunting to be offering full

scholarships then having to fund raise for these scholarships. The second part of the answer is that everyday I think about whether we are truly living up to our mission and values.

UBUNTU:What do you see as the function of UBUNTU and how significant is it to the community?

DAVID: It is an increasingly important way to "hear" the voices of our community and one of the ways in which we can express ourselves. We have begun sharing this with alumni and I think they enjoy seeing what is on the minds of students these days.

UBUNTU: Thanks for your time David to share and review the whole PC experience this semester with us.

DAVID: Pleasure is all mine.

# MEMOIR FROM A SECOND YEAR

HECTOR SANTIAGO  
BAUTISTA ANICETO

Today, I woke up at 7:00 a.m., thank you fire drill!- well it was not unusual, that is the time I usually wake up- Though, it does not matter, the pain in my leg did not allow me to sleep well during the whole night. However, it was probably not even the pain in my leg. After my bicycle accident last night, what else could not appease my sleep but the nostalgia that comes to me when thinking that almost three quarters of my Pearson experience have gone with the wind.

I still remember my first day here; I was nervous, excited, happy, sad, and desperate, confused; but that was normal considering the amount of people waiting for my arrival. The picture becomes confusing for one when looking at the diversity of colours, heights and shapes that characterised those one calls second years. However, I think that it was due to the unusualness of the welcome that I consider this moment as one of the best in my life: the hugs, the smiles, the questions and the hellos were what made me get immersed in the new environment that Pearson offered me from the first time I set foot on this ground. One of the best things of being at Pearson is that one can be object and subject, at first I was the object, I lived what my second years had prepared for me such as the welcome on my first day here. However, now as a second year, I can say that I have experienced what it means to be the subject. I now comprehend how exciting is to know about whether one will get a first year or not; whether it will be a "she" or a "he"; whether or not one will get along with that anticipated person. Probably, it is due to these questions that one explodes the first time one sees the first Pearson band arriving at the college, with a bunch of dreamers and bright minds unaware of the situation.

However, the former is just the beginning of two years full of challenges, strong friendships, anguish and success. Among these elements, I will miss "challenges" the most. I think that the opportunity to expand one's self to discover the secret parts of what one calls "I" is the most interesting aspect of Pearson. Who would have said that I could run 56

kilometres in less than 9 hours, considering that the longest distance I had ever walked was from my house to my school? The answer for this, I ignore, but it just makes me admire the strength that is hidden in oneself. This admiration grows even more, when I reminisce and realize that I have been able to give a presentation in front of the whole school, when about a year ago I could hardly express myself in English; or when I realize that I also have artistic skills and that playing the piano or

But looking on the positive side, I can say that those bad notes always pushed me to give not a hundred but two hundred per cent on the other exams. And even, when I felt that I could not give anything else, I always found support in my teachers and in my friends.

Those people, whose smiles were always there for me; whose support made me come out of any bad experience and whose wise words made me realize

my mistakes, are the biggest gifts Pearson has given to me. Among all the success, challenges and even pain that I could find at Pearson, I think that the strong friendships I made here are what will always remain with me "Los loquitos y Las loquitas", "Los mantos y Las mantas".

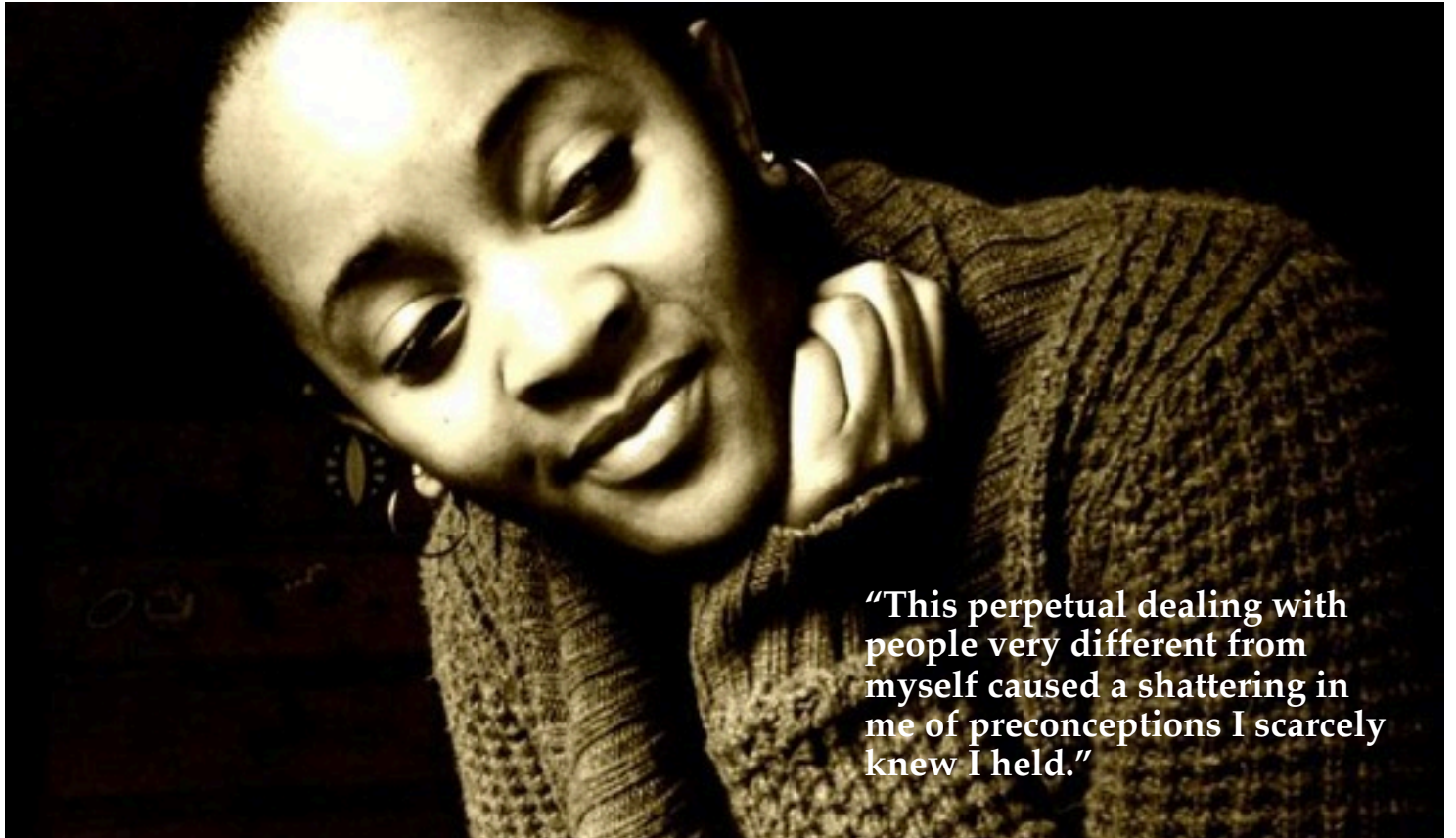
I know that I still have one quarter of my Pearson experience left. However, I still have to accomplish several things and learn more to be able to say that I finally got to know what Pearson college means, or maybe I have already found the answer.



**I think that the opportunity to expand one-self to discover the secret parts of what one calls "I" is the most interesting aspect of Pearson.**

dancing contemporary dance is not impossible in a place like Pearson.

But, of course, as in any other part of the world, my time at Pearson has not always been pink coloured: anguish, disappointments and sadness have been the antagonist in my Pearson story. Probably, many others will empathize with me when I talk about my conflictive relationship with the so called "Emily Edilson" (EE), a relationship of anguish when I did not know what to write, but also success when I finally submitted it with a sigh of relief. Furthermore, the ambivalently regarded tests, hated by some people and loved by others; those also gave me some disappointment on certain occasions.



**“This perpetual dealing with people very different from myself caused a shattering in me of preconceptions I scarcely knew I held.”**

## SOMEBODY TO LOVE

SHANIECE PINDER

DISCLAIMER; Shaniece N.E. Pinder is not a certified life coach or relationship guru . If negative results arise after taking any of the following advice, the responsibility rests solely on the idiot that chose to do so and all consequences are due to their own stupidity, ignorance, and lack of discretion. That is all.

So, here we are. Sharking and whaling season has ended, fifth roommates have taken up permanent residence and the gossip mill is running faster than one can blink. Its not February, but love has already saturated the air. We live in such a diverse community. The most beautiful relationships bloom during these two years. Its interesting to see two different people, from two different ends of the earth, of different ethnicities and backgrounds find a romantic relationship budding between them. To those who have been fortunate enough to find a

romantic partner, cherish every moment, and make the best of what you have.

However, all my single ladies put yo` hands up! Be proud of who you are and I will repeat the classic line-you DON'T need a partner to complete you. I like to think of partners as complements to an already beautiful work of art. Single Gents; You never know if that girl (or guy) who gives you that occasional glance or wink at lunch maybe that special one. Just be yourself! Lad or Lady Luck, Mrs. or Mr. Right may be right around the corner.

Even though being in a relationship is nice, I must emphasize that friendships are important. At the end of the day when academics or distance causes the romance to fade, or the love line begins to tether, friendship is what counts. Invest in friendship first, and if love wants to

happen, it'll happen. The strength of our community is strengthened by our friendships.

In some cases, (well, a LOT of cases at PC) I am reminded of a quote from James Baldwin's book, "Nobody knows My Name" "This perpetual dealing with people very different from myself caused a shattering in me of preconceptions I scarcely knew I held."

For those of us who come from countries where homosexuality is met with animosity, opening up to different sexualities has definitely been an experience. At Pearson, you realize homosexuals aren't any less of a human being than a heterosexual. They aren't any less intelligent, amazing, or capable of doing what a hetero can, and most of the time they can do it even better. We're all beautiful people, regardless of our sexual orientation.

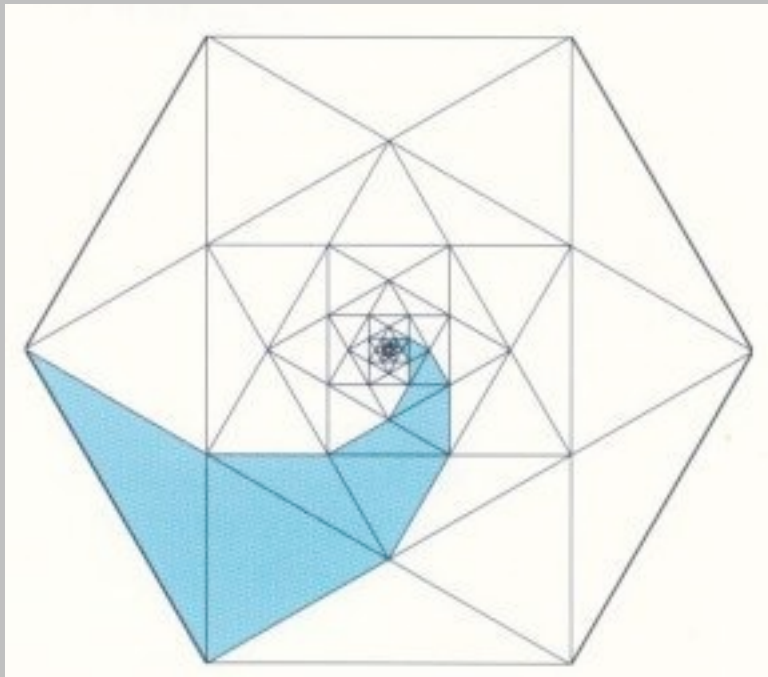
At the risk of sounding cliché, I will say (primarily because its true) you are here to get an education, that is your foremost priority. Everything else is secondary, and anything that interferes in probably unnecessary. I'm not saying that having a romantic partner interferes with your academic life, just as long as you've established a balance between the two.

As always, continue to make the most of your PC experience, single or not, just being the best person you can be!

# El Rincón del Faculty

## INSCRIBED NUMBERS

NAZIM ACAR



It is not always reason that triggers what is happening out there; they are hard to pin down anyway but "I think" one of the reasons why I love this place is because it reminds me of my –not all the time; I used to like circles more- favorite shape: ellipse.

A good way to start teaching the geometry of circles –I thought- was to ask what the most common shape in the universe was. People come up with odd things. The list stretched from the most simple to the most complex – dots, lines, planes, triangles- eventhough I expected them to identify it as the circle. Because it is the perfection I would say –ah! and our desperate pursuit of it- and the most related number to it –they would say- is Pi! Now here in our short lives, with confined means, we are trying to understand what is around us. The result of ages- long curiosity and culmination of studies of our ancestors which we built upon for our civilization; not only Science or Math, also Geography, Arts and History and Philosophy try to understand what is going on: The limits of our imagination. The world we live in and the most common shape in it being the circle, are the walls we hit! Our inability to express Pi in terms of our counting system. Pi still stays an irrational number. It is at its best a cheap magic trick:

The mathematicians tell you that it is the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle. Could it be just an invention of an idle mind, a lever that moves nothing but itself? It is like saying that objects fall because there is gravity? Well, what is it? To this day it stays elusive to our square minds. So there I would conclude that we are still at square 1; Infants at awe in the face of what is surrounding us and incapable of getting in touch with it.

**"I know people said that God was a Mathematician but I don't think anything infinite would be interested in counting."**

Another indication of the fact that we are trapped somewhere is our dependence on Mathematics and false love for it! I know people said that God was a Mathematician but I don't think anything infinite would be interested in counting; at least it wasn't applied to the world, I like to believe, but let's not digress...the need for counting is the result of our insecurity and limited resources. People started to count and measure because they wanted to know how deep the water was, how long the night was going to be, how many enemies they had...there were some areas of mathematics that went totally ballistic! And stayed only in the minds of mathematicians but even they contributed to our grasp and "control" over what is around us. And we still, by our nature are in capable of tackling the mystery of the circle, the most common shape in the universe!

Later, I don't know what happened, but I arrived at the point of thinking that it wasn't the circle which imposes a conservative view; single and self centered but rather an ellipse was the most common shape. And what is cool about it is that it doesn't impose a distance from a single center rather it compromises, it produces a stereo sound. And I think it suits our humble nature better. The comfort of not knowing –don't worry, it is okay, someone else will know it- or not taking the whole burden or sharing someone else's load...I know I started to sound boring so I will stop here but before I do that, I will fire another shot...here is my description of what is halal: 'the food that you are not prepared to share is not halal and the place where you don't have guests in is not a home.'

image from [www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project\\_ideas/Math\\_p043.shtml](http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_ideas/Math_p043.shtml)

Share your ideas, thoughts or concerns. Send your contributions to [ubuntu.news@gmail.com](mailto:ubuntu.news@gmail.com)

# ECONOMY OF LIBYA

SHATHA SBETA

The Libyan economy depends primarily upon revenues from the oil sector, which contribute practically all export earnings and about one-quarter of GDP. These oil revenues and a small population give Libya one of the highest per capita GDPs in Africa, but little of this income flows down to the lower orders of society. Libyan officials in the past three years have made progress on economic reforms as part of a broader campaign to reintegrate the country into

the international fold. This effort picked up steam after



UN sanctions were lifted in September 2003 and as Libya announced in December 2003 that it would abandon programs to build weapons of

mass destruction. Libya faces a long road ahead in liberalizing the socialist-oriented economy, but initial steps - including applying for WTO membership, reducing some subsidies, and announcing plans for privatization - are laying the groundwork for a transition to a more market-based economy. The non-oil manufacturing and construction sectors, which account for about 20% of GDP, have expanded from processing mostly agricultural products to include the production of petrochemicals, iron, steel, and aluminum. Climatic conditions and poor soils severely limit agricultural output, and Libya imports about 75% of its food.

Image from: <http://www.clker.com/>

# THE SOUTHERNER'S PRAYER

UJAMAA JURCKUCH

Our Father who art in Heaven;

Hallowed be thy Referendum;

Thy independence come; thy will be done on January 9 as it is in the CPA [Comprehensive Peace Agreement].

...Give us in this country our daily peace in the south Sudan. Forgive those who have been oppressing us since 1819;

Lead us not into UNITY but deliver us from marginalization. For thine is equality, justice & prosperity, forever & ever.

Amen.



# LIST OF THINGS I NEED TO DO LEVI WESTERVELD

Read only if you're interested in my life at Pearson today...

Prepare for the Biology exam. Topics : Cells, Chemistry of life, Photosynthesis, Plants, Genetics....

Prepare for the Philosophy essays on the Core Theme and on Political philosophy

Finishing 4 sculptures in art, 1 pot, a mobile and start to do war Children drawings + work on my workbook

Write 9 reports for the people in my activities and write my own reflection for those activities also

Write a french essay

Prepare an English presentation

Write my Common App essay and the supplements for 8 schools.

Get my Canadian working visa for my summer job

Tell and explain to my mother about the CSS forms

Study for TOEFL set for Friday afternoon

Finish my philosophy I.A.

Finish my Biology I.A.

Plan an end of the term Non-Talent show

Play the violin

Keep in touch with my second years: send them some e-mails and phone calls

Call my mother, my brother, my dad and my sister. Also I would like to call my grand father

Put some pictures on facebook for my friends back home

Edit the video I took with the helium balloon

Eat 3 meals a day

Get 8 hours of sleep a day

Take a shower every day and brush my teeth

Meditate on my life here

Write for UBUNTU about what we have to change at Pearson

Start thinking about One World

UWC values

Enjoy time with my friends...

Study for my math test on everything I've been taught since first year

Go to classes

Care about my Christmas buddy

Decorate our boy's floor and prepare the Christmas party for my house

....

I don't know how much longer I can do this for, when I read the list I'm quite impressed with myself and the amount of things I get done.

Now I have a problem. Soon it will just not be mathematically possible for me to do all of these at the same time. Today and the past couple of weeks, I already gave up on any physical activity. Is that right? Looking back, a month ago, I also stopped being as involved in community development as I used to be at the beginning of the year. What should I sacrifice? I received advice from many adults and friends (everyone is an adult and a friend on this campus). Some said just focus on the one you're doing and forget about the others. Others said: You're doing too much stuff, if you did less community things and if you were not a leader for two activities then you wouldn't be that busy. But is that not the reason why I came here: to develop leadership skills and follow UWC ideologies?

Around me, I see people who give up sleep and eating time some students give up any community time and friends and care only about their academics and universities. Some people try to get EVERY THING DONE but this leads to their failure to get anything done correctly. What should I do? Care more about where I would be next year or about where I am now? It's not a Rhetorical question, I don't know the answer. Today I drank coffee for the first time ever; I thought it would help a bit even though I didn't like its taste. Today my relationship with my family is getting worst because I don't put time aside for them. I feel very bad about this.

Sometimes I think: 'you know man, this is just normal: this place is challenging and you knew it when you came here. Just do your best'. Is that right? Should it be challenging to the point that I decide to follow Peter Gardner's advice last year: « Guys and Girls, don't get into any relationship

with a first year or a co year because that will just make your life impossible at Pearson ».

Yesterday I really wanted to read the Lord of the Rings books in my bed but I was too tired for that. Today I would have liked to bake a cake and tonight, I wish I could go to the Observatory with a friend and enjoy viewing the stars. All those tiny magical moments that was once everywhere in my life, I have difficulty finding them now. However, I sometimes do when I play the violin, or go out like I did last week with 4 friends of mine and a teacher to a restaurant.



*Is it going farther than what I thought I would find at this place ?*

Is this a problem or part of the Pearson experience? How bad is depression? Is it a good or bad sign; that we have (and need) two counselors at Pearson? Should I start drinking alcohol to alleviate the stress or drink coffee even though I don't like its taste? Am I being immature and abnormal if this affects how I'm acting towards the people around me? Is this just making the problem look bigger than it really is? How do you want me to feel secure if the teachers tell you that they learn as much from you as you do from them? Who is wise here?

I know I'm just one among a bigger group of people feeling the same way. I hear people saying: "This is to get you used to what you will have at university level". If it is, then I don't want to go to university. I just want to take a sail boat and sail around the world and then make my own farm



# Reason with Me

## RELIGIOUS CONFLICTS??

FELIX TETTEY

It took a number of women to protest against the then Charles Taylor's administration. It was a faction of both Christian and Muslim women: a force too strong to reckon with, Taylor would confess. Their praises can't be sung enough. How does one even begin? Even if one starts, where does one end, since their accomplishment is fathomless?

It baffles me whenever I read of or hear of war cries stemming from religious conflicts. Why should there be a struggle over whose religion is superior? Is it not of one's purpose in life to alleviate suffering, just as Buddhism has it? Wouldn't the world be a better place to live in if we are at peace with others as Islam preaches? Imagine we loving one other like we do our individual selves as in Christianity; wouldn't there be paradise on earth? With the "Abrahamic faith" portrayed in Judaism, I bet we would give off our very best till we achieve what we hope and strive for... The list is infinite.

Clearly, the world would definitely be a better place with the adoption of all these values. The purpose of religion I believe is to make the earth safer for man to dwell, definitely not for war! This is why I find it incomprehensible whenever I read of the Christian-Islamic conflict in Sokoto, Nigeria, the Jew- Christian-

Islamic conflict in Palestine, the Hindu-Islamic conflict in South Asia, the Protestant-Catholic conflict in Northern Ireland,... Indeed the power of religion can't be over emphasised. As to whether its power is being exploited by selfish wolves under gentle sheep disguise embalmed with honourable blankets of leadership is for you and I to realise. It is said, and I do believe that, religious conflicts are just shadows shrouding the personal greed and power starvation of supposed leaders which are artistically engineered to manipulate those at the grassroots. Had that not been the case, all the fighters on the warfront would know exactly the course for which they slander their fellow humans, be they Jew, Muslim, you name it!

Come to think of it, why can't it be just as beautiful as it's supposed to be; with the diversity of religion contributing to the betterment of the world as a whole? Why can't we mix them up for our own good? The answers to these questions I don't have. (I would be glad to hear yours though.) Nonetheless, the unsung heroines of Liberia have a lot to teach and it's up to us to learn. That's just one of the instances were two religious factions united to chalk great success. This would however never have happened should there have been a green mamba lying

within overgrown grass and putting spanners in the work intelligently.

Of course there is war in the Middle East, most often than not linked with religion. Categorising one sect of lovely humans as threats to the whole human race to me seems like a well calculated manipulation of the world at large. The saddening aspect of this whole issue is the fact that no empirical evidence can be provided to substantiate such claims. Whether or not the United States invaded Iraq for the black blood of the earth or not, we just air of views or opinions. One thing I do pray and hope for, that soon my Muslim colleague would walk through immigration not feeling harassed and my Jewish colleague would be at peace with himself as he traverses the hills and valleys of Europe. We can strive for religious tolerance, coexistence and ultimately peace, but not until the green mambas exposed. But until then, Reason with me!

Image from Cleveland State Univeristy