

The Ugandan PEN

Newsletter of International PEN Uganda Centre

Vol 2 No. 1

January 2003

PEN UGANDA HOLDS ITS FIRST YOUTH CLUBS ANNUAL WORKSHOP

By Danson Kahyana

P.E.N. Uganda successfully conducted its first youth clubs annual workshop between 30th August and 2nd September 2002, at St. Lawrence Citizens' High School, Horizon Campus, fourteen kilometers off the Kampala-Masaka highway.

The workshop attracted at least 40 participants and facilitators from eleven (11) schools. The participants came from Nabumali High School, Iganga S.S., Ngora High School and St. Katherine's S.S. Others came from Kibuli S.S., St. Lawrence Citizens' High School and Ntare School.

The facilitators came from Makerere University, Kyambogo University and Kumi University. Others came from Lango College and Makerere College.

The workshop, which centred on the three major literary genres (poetry, drama and fiction) on which presentations and panel discussions were done under the theme "**Writing for the World, Writing the World**", was covered by Uganda's national Television station, U.T.V.

The guest of honour at the workshop's opening ceremony was Ms. Gorreti Kyomuhendo, the project Co-ordinator of the Uganda Female Writers Association (FEMRITE) and a practicing novelist whose first novel, *The First Daughter*, won high critical claim in Ugandan and East African Literary Circles.

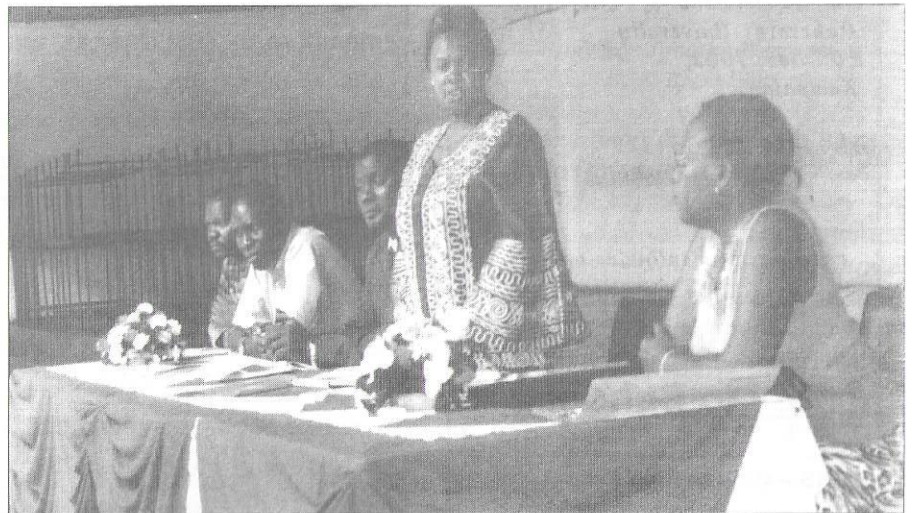
In her key note address entitled "**Why Write Anyway?**", Ms. Kyomuhendo highlighted the beauty of creative writing and encouraged the workshop participants to be aggressive in their creative writing endeavours.

"I think of the numerous advertisements on radio and Television.

They need creative minds like you to write," she said, citing the example of Crane Bank's Advertisement – **growing to serve and serving to grow.**

The workshop comprised four main sessions - Poetry, Drama, Fiction and the Plenary.

Continued on page 4



The Guest of Honor delivering a keynote address at the opening of the youth clubs annual workshop

Who is Who among Ugandan Teens

By Amaguru Olanya – GHS

In physics and mathematics, the letter 'X' usually refers to an unknown variable. The teenage generation has widely been referred to as 'generation X'. Adults hardly understand the choices teenagers make and sometimes have to figure out whether to say 'yes' or 'no' to them by principle rather than through understanding.

Radio, television, and the internet, among others, have opened up the world to this generation – a world that is not their own, a fictitious world in the form of American, European or Australian comedies and soap operas among others. This has left them lacking knowledge of themselves.

Teenagers in Uganda today have their own ideas of adding value to

themselves as well as their ups and downs. They live in their own world: with their own clichés, their own slang so rich in vocabulary that they can discuss forbidden topics in the presence of their bewildered parents. Depending on whether they live in town or in the countryside, they have their own standards, expectations, dreams and pastimes.

The urban teenagers are deeply fascinated by being en vogue, be it in the way they walk or even which celebrities they can talk about with authority. The wardrobe definitely matters to them. Oversized clothes are preferred by guys and undersized ones by girls.

Continued on page 12