

perennially absorbing subject of provocation as a defence in murder or assault charges, tracing the growth in our law through *Tenganyika's* and *Nangani's* cases, as it develops differently from the South African law.

Finally in this section of the *Review* there is a reproduction of an address by Shadreck Gutto to the 1984 Summer School on 'Law and Legal Education in the period of transition from Capitalism to Socialism'.

The next section of the *Review* is entitled 'Dialogue' and contains an 18-page article by Kempton Makamure and Shadreck Gutto. I am not sure that it is a dialogue unless you define dialogue as a monologue by two people. The article is well-constructed although for my taste spoiled by the use of emotive language in place of reasoned argument. It criticizes the foreign policy of the United States of America.

The student contribution section which follows shows the value of the Department's requirement of a dissertation from its students as part of the BL course. The three articles are, in fact, expanded and polished dissertations by students, two of whom are now on the staff. They are well worth reading.

Ben Hlatshwayo gives a critical historical analysis of the Hire-Purchase Law of Zimbabwe from a 'historical materialist' point of view; Welshman Ncube has some useful and thoughtful comments on the Legal Age of Majority Act and the decision in *Katekwe v. Muchabaiwa*; and Moses Chinyenze discusses a book on *lobola* by the ever-controversial and stimulating Ignatius Chigwedere.

At the end of the volume there are four comments on decided cases. There should, I think, be more. An article by Felicity Rooney on the Legal Aid Clinic is valuable because it is a practical commentary on a most important aspect of the University's work — its contribution towards society which at the same time provides practical training. The *Review* ends with a reproduction of the text of the Nkomati Accords, a Survey of Legislation during the period 1980-4, and two book reviews.

I have said that this first edition of the *Zimbabwe Law Review* scores well as a constructive and creative outreach towards practitioners. I think it succeeds almost equally in its effort to show us, outside the University, what the Department is achieving and trying to achieve. I hope that in the next volume we may hear more about the proposed changes in the curriculum and the reasons for those changes.

Supreme Court of Zimbabwe

Mr Justice N.J. McNALLY

Two Minutes to Midnight Various authors. Harare, Gemini/Kailani Publishers, 1985, 184pp., Z\$11.50.

Ivory Madness By David M.H. Lemon. Harare, The College Press, Modern Writers of Zimbabwe Series, 1983, 146pp., Z\$4.95.

So much of contemporary publishing in Zimbabwe is naturally concerned with great issues that it is something of a relief to turn for a moment to some lighter literature, and both *Two Minutes to Midnight* and *Ivory Madness* are very light literature indeed, albeit for different reasons.

Two Minutes to Midnight is a polished collection of short-short stories chosen,

says the introduction, 'from a wide range of material...including the prize-winning entries in several "horror competitions"'. International experience on the part of most of the authors is evident in an assured handling of material and the skilful introductions of the chilling climaxes, evident too in the originality and the variety of the themes. This is reading admirably suited to the odd idle moment, though perhaps, for the nervous reader, rather less admirably suited if those odd idle moments lie in fact around midnight!

In *Ivory Madness*, on the other hand, the author's lack of experience and even more his lack of exposure to competent writing by others, is equally evident. In place of the cosmopolitan gloss of the short-story collection, it is an uncompromisingly indigenous product, in its mores as in its setting. A first novel by a Zimbabwean writer, it suffers from stock types in place of characters, an unskilled prose and a liberal use of clichés. Despite these handicaps, however, there are hints of future potential. The plot is imaginatively devised, the story-line moves steadily, and the author's real feeling for his subject comes through. David Lemon should persevere.

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