

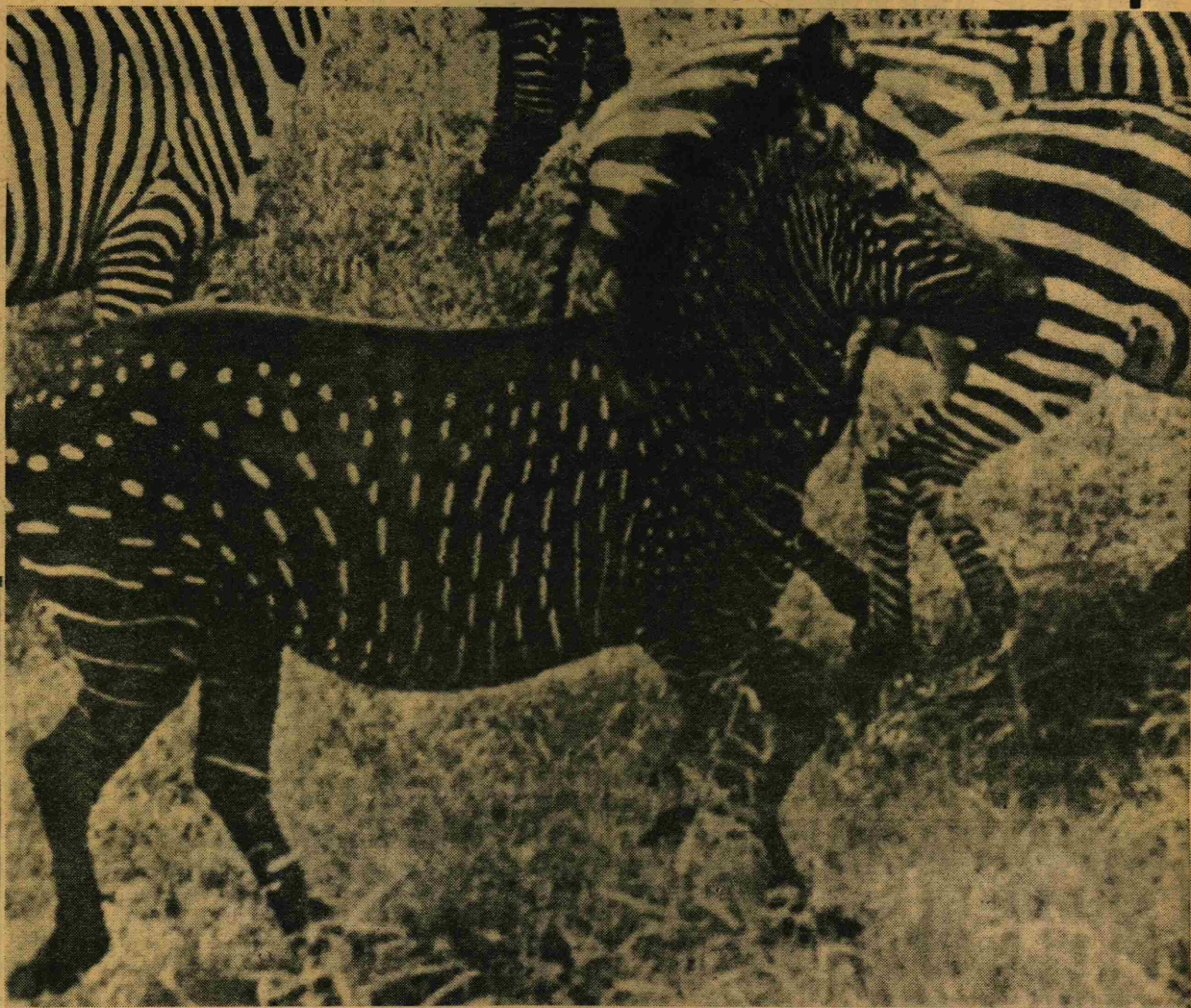
Standing out in a crowd comes naturally to a zebra that is a bit dotty

IN even the best-ordered society you do get the occasional rebel, the one who won't conform.

And there is much to admire about this zebra which turned up in a herd roaming the Rukwa Valley in Northern Zambia.

Its polka dots and dashes make such a change from the traditional stripes . . . and they guarantee the wearer instant recognition in the biggest crowd.

As it happens, though, this zebra is starting no minority group, no protest movement against stripes. It was just born that way.



THOSE 9lb BABIES MAY BE BRIGHTER

By DAVID WRIGHT

BOUNCING babies may grow up to be brighter schoolchildren, a child-research expert said yesterday.

Mr. Ronald Davie, principal research officer of the National Child Development Study, said that there appeared to be a link between low birth-weight and poor reading ability at the age of seven.

He added that studies showed that children who had weighed 9lb. at birth seemed to read better than those born smaller.

Traced

Mr. Davie was reporting to a London conference of the College of Special Education on his team's research into lives of the 17,000 children born in the first week of March, 1958.

When the children were seven, the team traced them to schools all over the country and conducted reading and other tests.

Mr. Davie said after the conference: "Brightness does not appear to increase over the nine-pound level—but it does shade off correspondingly below it."

By MIRROR REPORTER
IT looks as if strongman Mike Okpala has met his match.

He can carry six men on his shoulders. He can pull five men with his teeth.

But he CANNOT, it seems, push the weight of the Home Office off its course.

For Mike, born in

Nigeria, has been ordered to leave Britain by January 14.

"I'm very upset," 28-year-old Mike said yesterday. "It's not costing this country anything to keep me."

Mike—his professional name is Power Mike—

arrived in Britain four months ago with £200 in his pocket.

He got the order to quit the day after television viewers saw him stop two cars from driving off by holding them with ropes.

"When I arrived I had a one-month visitor's permit," Mike, who claims his strength is supernatural, said at his hotel in Liverpool.

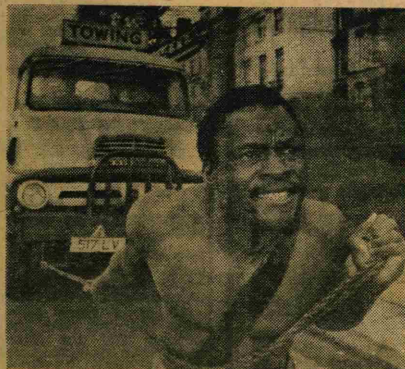
Extension

"But I gave up my passport while they thought about giving me an extension of time."

A Home Office spokesman denied that an extension had been considered.

The spokesman added: "He did not apply for an employment voucher before coming to Britain."

Now, Ted Ansel, Liverpool's overseas welfare officer, is to try to sort out the problem for Mike.



Power Mike . . . 12½st. of "supernatural" strength pictured yesterday with a heavy lorry in tow.

Driver chases his runaway train—by bike

ENGINE driver Gustav Krahl was having a shave in the station when the train moved off. HIS train.

There was no one else at the controls, either.

Gustav, 37, dashed off in pursuit—by bike. The nearest one he could find.

For eight miles, from Auer, in the Italian Tyrol, he puffed and pedalled.

And, eventually, he caught up with the electric goods train. But by then it had stopped. Someone had switched off the current.

Now officials are trying to find out why the train went off on its own—and Gustav has resolved never to leave his train again. Not even for a shave.

FOOD LINK HIT BY FARM PLAGUE

By CHRISTOPHER DRAKE

FOOT-AND-MOUTH is forcing drivers to go up to 100 miles out of their way to move livestock between the north and south of England.

Monday's isolated outbreak on a farm at Woodbridge, Notts, has closed the disease-free

"corridor" through the Midlands.

Throughout yesterday Ministry of Agriculture and livestock market officials worked with police to find a new link route away from affected areas.

They decided that it

would still be possible for trucks carrying live animals to travel through the "safe" parts of Lincolnshire—along roads which would take them all the way to the east coast at Boston.

A Ministry spokesman said: "It is a very long way. But there is no alternative."

Fourteen new outbreaks were reported last night, bringing the total to 2201.