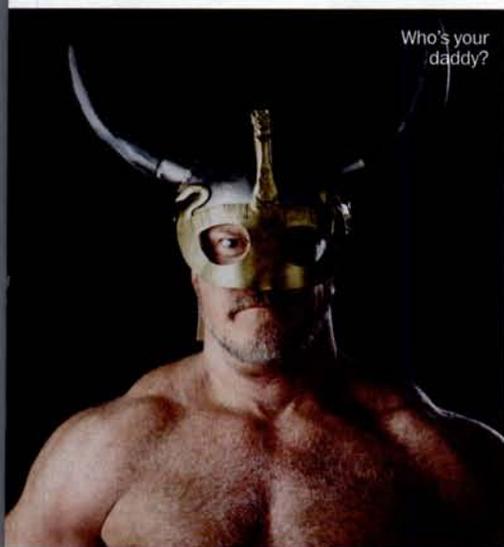


DISPATCH: AFRICA



Who's your daddy?

The Vikings ARE COMING

Why women around the world want babies with Danish DNA

THE NEXT BIG THING to come out of Denmark (after pastries, beer, and Helena Christensen)? Sperm. The tiny Scandinavian country has become the world's leading exporter of donated sperm, thanks to an army of willing young male donors and a superefficient sperm-bank industry. With a population of just 5.5 million people, Denmark has far greater reserves of deposited sperm than it can use at home. Now the country is trading on its reputation for Nordic good looks and healthy living to export its gene pool around the globe. The slogan of one major sperm bank is "Congratulations, it's a Viking!"

Ole Schou, the founder and CEO of Cryos sperm bank in Aarhus, Denmark's second-largest city, has 439 approved donors on the books and exports sperm to fertility clinics and private customers in 65 countries. "We are the world's largest sperm bank. Around 2,000 babies a year are born as a result of our product," he says proudly. "The vast majority of our donors are young male students who aren't interested in becoming fathers—they mainly want to earn some extra cash." The quality of their semen is "exceedingly high," he adds, since the young donors are "in the prime of health." One of the most enthusiastic donors at Cryos has so far produced 101 children... and counting. —Abigail Haworth

Harvard Students Hit South Sudan

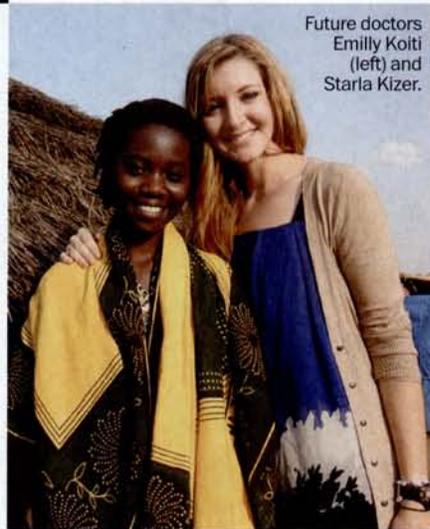
In a country where medical students have to do their homework in the dirt with a stick, American students are changing the future

■ Emily Koiti, 22, and Starla Kizer, 25, stand over a dead man's body. "Now what?" asks Koiti. Her huge, dark eyes blink, fending off beads of sweat in the 107-degree heat of summer in South Sudan.

"Slit the chest from here," says Kizer, her red fingernail pointing just below the corpse's chin. "To here," she says, drawing a straight line in the air to an inch below the belly button. "And be careful. Don't puncture the bladder."

Koiti and Kizer are not murderous coconspirators. This dissection scene is taking place in the anatomy lab at the University of Juba in South Sudan, where Koiti is a medical student. Kizer, a graduate of both Harvard Medical School and The Kennedy School, is volunteering as an "exchange teacher."

Kizer is part of the Southern Sudan Medical Education Collaborative, a program founded by Harvard professor and physician Dr. Thomas Burke, who launched the initiative two years ago after he watched local medical students drawing biochemistry problems in



Future doctors Emily Koiti (left) and Starla Kizer.

the dirt with a stick. With only six books for 196 students, they had no classroom and just one teacher. Now, thanks to Burke, medical students from Harvard, Tufts, Johns Hopkins, and Boston University, among others, are volunteer-teaching here. Together, the students have taught more than 1,500 hours of medical school.

The future Sudanese doctors are badly needed: For the past 40 years, two bloody civil wars have displaced or killed 2 million people in Sudan. This year, South Sudan

Currently, South Sudan has 10 million people and fewer than 20 fully trained physicians.

was granted its independence. But there's a long way to go. The country has 10 million people and fewer than 20 fully trained physicians. One in six women here die in childbirth; one in four children die before the age of 5.

For Kizer, the exchange program has been an eye-opening experience. Even though she grew up in a poor community in rural Appalachia, she was shocked to see the problems her fellow students in South Sudan were facing. "Some were literally starving," she says. To find out how you can help, go to ujenzi.org. —Karen Day

Better Way...

...To Clear Your Closet

Don't trash that pantsuit of seasons past just yet—it could help a homeless woman land a job. Through **Chrysalis**, a California-based nonprofit group, you can donate your business clothes to low-income and homeless women to help them shine at job interviews. In June, Chrysalis celebrates the 10th anniversary of its annual fundraising bash, the Butterfly Ball. What better time to get involved? Go to changelives.org for more info. —Lauren N. Williams