**Varsity students**

**introduction of …**

Family Life Education has

been prescribed as the

most viable and cost-effective

mode of curbing

Aids whose spread

threatens to wipe out the youth

in this country.

However, students attending

the first international conference

on Aids said FLE should not be

treated as an independent subject

but should be integrated into

other subjects.

The FLE, the students recommended,

should not be examinable

but should be taken as an

integral part of education necessary

to produce wholesome and

responsible citizens.

The students said the need for

FLE was particularly urgent

bearing in mind the fast spread of

the HIV virus in Kenya. They

noted that since 1985 when the

first HIV case was identified in

Kenya there were more than

700,000 HIV cases most of whom

are youths aged between 18 and

25 years.

Participants at the five-day

conference carne to the conclusion

that the youth lack direction

because there are no particular

persons in the society who are

charged with the responsibility of

giving them the 'right information especially on sexuality.

They decried societal double

standards of morality, where the

youths are advised not to engage

in irresponsible sexual behaviour

yet their seniors are victims of

the same.

The group said it was improper

to pretend that the youths were

pious and therefore did not engage

in sexual activities but instead

the youth should be 'given

the right information to make informed

choices. They said studies

had indicated that many youths

engaged in sexual activities irrespective

of their religious

affiliations.

The conference organised by

the University Students Aids

Control Association and attracted

students from polytechnics

and the universities from

Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and

South Africa said it was inappropriate

to assume that FLE was

bound to fail in the region as it

had not worked in the Western

countries.

The participants resolved that

there should be no subject known

as FLE hut its components

should be integrated into other

subjects which were compatible to the subject such as Religious Education, Biology, Home Science and other subjects.

The students said the Governments should only develop the curriculum with proper consultations with other concerned bodies such as the church and the' parents. They said the top-down a

approach created conflict between

the various parties.

The Church was under fire criticising what the government:

came up with without giving it an alternative. They said the Church should be a partner in the drafting of what is to be taught rather than being a critic all the time.

The students said the programme should not be based, on the Scouts Movement which they said was not acceptable to all since it carried some aspects which were not considered compatible with people from all faiths.

The group recommended that the FLE should not be left to the teachers alone but parents have

an important role to play since

FLE starts immediately after,

birth. They said FLE should not'

be narrowed to sex education only but should cover all areas off youth sexuality.

Delegates from Makerere University which has an FLE

Flanked by Mr Ephraim Imaya, an official of the University Students Aids Control Association (USACA), Conference Centre in Nairobi. The delegates (right) carne from Uganda