

Four Feared Dead In Auchi Cult Clash

BY PATRICK OCHOGA, Benin City

No fewer than four persons have been reportedly killed in a renewed cult war between rival groups at Auchi in Edo State

It was gathered that the victims were killed in different locations during violent clashes between the Black Axe and Supreme Vikings confraternities.

It was learnt that the incident that led to cult killings occurred on Saturday, June 24 when a National Youth Service Corps member alleged to be a member of the Black Axe confraternity was shot by the rival Supreme Vikings Confraternity.

The alleged NYSC member according to sources was later rushed to hospital for treatment and had since been discharged.

In a reprisal, a member

of the Vikings group was reportedly killed around Mr. Biggs in Jattu, Auchi, while three others were shot dead around Mechanic Site, Vacchi and Winners Road, all in Auchi.

There was a report yesterday alleging that some lecturers of the polytechnic had abandoned invigilation of the SPAT examinations over their alleged involvement in cultism.

The assistant public relations officer of the institution, Mrs. Adebola Ogunboyowa, debunked the allegations, maintaining that the school ended its SPAT examinations yesterday as students were expected to vacate halls of residence today.

She said: "The allegation is not true. But in the first place, whatever is happening, maybe the issue of cult clashes, nothing happened in the polytechnic community.