



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

# news & views

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# EXTRACT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH GIVEN AT A KENYA PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON

Given the rising demand for accountability in Universities, the very legitimacy of the Institution may hinge on its willingness and sincerity in providing specific goal statements for its various constituencies. As those formally entrusted with the reins of power, administrators must bear the burden of responsibility for clearly identifying the goals of the institution.

The University exists in order to supply persons duly qualified to serve society. Therefore, the University tries to focus its efforts on:-

- (a) Advancing technological independence which will make it possible to step up the whole of society's material and intellectual production.
- (b) Making continuing critical analysis of the objectives and instruments of economic development based on a knowledge of social realities and individual aspirations.

Our University at this stage in our development is primarily a centre of training the high level manpower required by our nation for its social and economic development. The idea of an 'ivory tower' university which is so often glibly and gleefully affixed on the University by its critics is a myth. One only has to look at the variety and content and orientation of courses that are being offered at the University and how directly they relate to our environment and national requirements to explode this myth once and for all. Actually, if one looks at the University the immediate impression is one of breathtaking diversity of courses.

We offer courses ranging from astrophysics to agronomy, from medicine to engineering, from ecology to economics, from advanced nursing to adult education. We teach almost every professional course imaginable; including journalism, librarianship, social work, pharmacy, etc., because we are committed to solving national problems.

We offer a complex of qualities useful to society, but we will not be wise to claim uniqueness, nor a higher standard of performance than honesty allows. We provide for the highest levels of professional education, and for the preparation of an intellectual elite. We give to many other students some of the preparation of the mind, and the intellectual tools which will enable them to respond flexibly to the varied needs of working life.

The preparation could be, and often is, provided in other ways, but that fact does not negate the value of what the University does. Within the traditional limits of the curriculum, which are open to question, we do help many to be more intelligent citizens, neighbours, fathers and mothers; and sometimes the more intelligent will also be better, even though intelligence is not the same as goodness.

We provide a home for basic research and it is probably rather efficient to link it to teaching — the diversity of tasks can sustain a liveliness which would be lost in a specialized research institution.

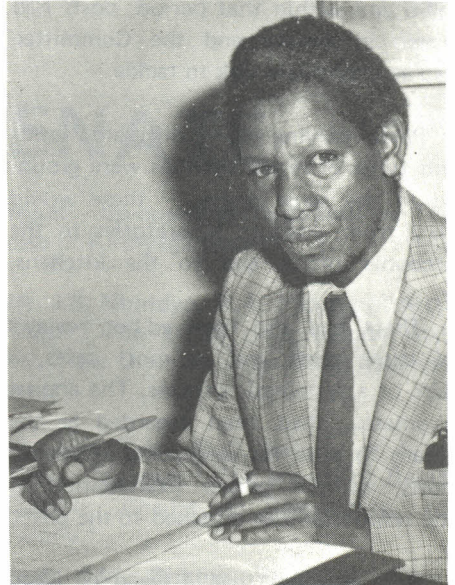
Finally we offer a service to the memory of civilization, and as the guardians of high standards of intellectual rigour and of quality of exposition.

We are, alas, much less effective as guardians of high standards in the creative arts; but that we could rectify. Perhaps history tells us of an inevitable process of rise and decay in civilizations, of the substitution of poor standards for good and of the forgetfulness of

greatness; but we have no right to accept historical inevitability as an excuse. We may not be perfect or wholly effective, but the University can claim by its scholarship to provide something without which this nation would be poorer.

# NEW REGISTRAR APPOINTED

The University has announced the appointment of Mr. Murigu K. Ndoria as the University Registrar.



Mr. Murigu K. Ndoria

## FROM THE COUNCIL

### Oyugi Committee

The General Purposes Committee of Council meeting on 29th April 1975 received a report from the Standing Committee on Staff Terms of Service (**Oyugi Committee**.) It is expected that the final recommendations will be discussed by the Council when it meets in June.

The Committee on Staff Terms of Service has been discussing two very

important subjects, namely (i) Job Classification and Grading of non-teaching jobs and (ii) Remuneration.

### (i) Job Evaluation

When the Maina Terms of Service were released in 1971 it was felt that some related matters needed closer scrutiny, particularly as a result of the evidence received from members of staff on various problems. Resulting from this, the General Purposes Com-

mittee agreed to set up a Committee whose primary job was an evaluation of non-teaching posts at the University.

## Background

Job Evaluation was last done in 1966 and within that period, posts had grown in variety and the Committee had an unenviable task to tackle.

Posts carrying very different levels and types of responsibilities were grouped in the same grades — these would vary from posts in laboratories to the accounts office and to the kitchens.

There had also been ad-hoc reviews of some posts and in most cases, a lack of a systematic process. The annual Estimates had been regarded as the means to push for up-grading of various posts, without proper examination of the responsibilities attached to the posts.

It is possible that a Dean or Head of Department would by his power of persuasion or oratory manage to up-grade some posts. There has also been a tendency not to look at the responsibilities attached to a post, but to feel that the holder of a certain post deserves more money and his Chairman of Department must therefore get the post up-graded.

With this background the Committee has produced a report and made recommendations using a classification and Ranking method. The committee spent a lengthy period studying the present organisation and grading, and we hope to publish the recommendations when Council has given approval.

## Continuity

One of the points raised very strongly is that the evaluation of jobs should henceforth be a continuous process at the administration level.

## (ii) Remuneration:

The Maina Committee recommendations on University salaries were implemented with effect from 1st July 1971. The salaries in operation then had been set up in 1964. The salaries for the Unionisable staff had up to 1970 periodically been negotiated with the Domestic and Hotel Workers' Union.

The 1971 salaries had only been in operation for less than three years when it was felt that they were overdue for revision. The reasons for the inadequacy of salaries are many but mainly they were found not to compete with openings elsewhere.

The University could only attract the right calibre of staff by offering them considerable increments or senior positions and this was having unfavourable repercussions, particularly on staff already in post. Coupled with this the cost of living over the three-year period mentioned, has risen at a reported rate of 39% for low-income group, and 34% for the middle income group. Over the period, upward revision of housing benefits to staff had been made but they were insignificant in relation to the improvement desired in staff emoluments that would keep pace with the rise in the cost of living and secondly, enable the University not only to recruit but also to retain staff. Although the problem could be tackled for the present situation it was also necessary to review the long-term solution. It was recommended that the salaries should

be reviewed periodically by a Standing Committee.

At a University Council meeting held on 1st August, 1974 Council was persuaded of the above problem. Already the Committee of Staff Terms of Service set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. Oyugi was in operation and Council instructed the Committee

to study the problem and make recommendations as soon as possible.

The Committee has now produced its recommendations on the revision of salaries. One of the main hopes is that the new salaries will arrest the problem of resignations and outside work which have unfortunately been on the increase.

# NEWS FROM SENATE

## UNESCO COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Senate has appointed Dr. W. Senga of the Department of Economics, and Dr. D. Odhiambo, Dean of Faculty of Science to represent the University on the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO.

## Higher Degrees

Faculty Boards have been requested to study the recommendation making provision for downgrading Ph.D. registration to Masters level when necessary, and for awarding Masters degree to a candidate whose doctoral work may not be considered to have made the desired grade but to be deserving of a Masters degree.

## Higher Degrees Awarded

The following Higher degrees were awarded by Senate at the 29th Meeting held on 11th April:-

**Mr. J.K. Keter, M.Sc.** Agriculture:  
Thesis "A Study of Soil Phosphorous Forms in Kikuyu Red Loam and their Surface Activity"

**Mr. S.K. Gatangi, M.A.** Faculty of Arts:  
Thesis "Members Participation in Kenya

Rural Co-operative Organisation. The case of Kirinyaga District."

**Mr. J.S. Mbindyo, M.A.** Faculty of Arts:  
Thesis "The Effect of Extension Worker, Role Orientation on Rural Development"

**Mr. Van Tate, Ph.D.** Faculty of Arts:  
Thesis "Kangemi: The impact of Rapid Culture Change on Community of Family."

**Prof. P.M. Githinji, Ph.D.** by thesis, Faculty of Engineering "Drying of Pyrethrum Flowers."

**Dr. Jane Reriani, Dr. P. Ngumbi, Dr. W. M. Ngoka, Dr. S. Sethi, Dr. W. Nyakeri** — Master of Medicine (M.Med) in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

**Dr. A.D. Said, Ph.D.** Veterinary Medicine:  
Thesis "The Nutritive Value of some Kenya Foodstuffs and the Effect of Protein and Energy Rich Concentrate Supplementation on the Utilization of Chloris Gayana Hay by wether Sheep."

**Dr. J.C. Kiptoon, M.Sc.** by thesis in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine: "Pathogenesis and Pathology of Bovine Petchial Fever (Ondiri Disease) in Cattle."

## Postgraduate Scholarships

Senate has approved a recommendation to Council on the need to review the stipend paid to postgraduate scholarship holders. The present stipend is £900 p.a. tax-free so long as the students are not in receipt of any other income. Students, like other citizens are experiencing hardship due to increased cost of living and it is hoped an increased allowance will alleviate the problem. More important, an increased allowance should enable the University to attract more postgraduate students, particularly in the professional fields where the stipend has relatively failed to compete with alternative occupations.

## Admissions

Did you know that 4,576 students (school and private) have applied for University admission for 1975/76? With the minimum requirements of 2 principal passes, 2,289 have the necessary qualifications. Yet we shall have places for only 1,537 new students!

The Acting Registrar, Mr. Ndoria took time off from his desk to speak at a Workshop for schools' Heads and Career Masters on the subject to Ad-

missions and other related matters. He stressed the point that entrance to the University is becoming highly competitive as more schools produce sixth form graduates.

The Government had also requested the University to reduce the intake of Arts-based students in preference to the professions and the sciences.

Answering questions on the image the public had on University students, Mr. Ndoria emphasized that there was a tendency to treat students as a separate society while they were a product of the society we live in. He said that he thought it was too much to expect young people, growing up in today's society and being trained to be inquisitive and critical, to be silent on the problems that face any developing country like ours.

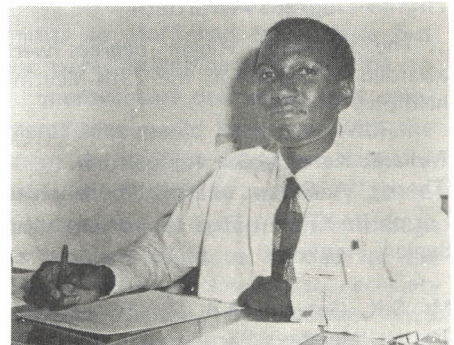
The Schools put in a plea for details on the admissions when they are complete. The University has in the past only communicated with the applicants and not the schools. The schools would also appreciate details on the number of students admitted for various courses and other related statistics.

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# STAFF NEWS

## Senior Appointment for Kenyans

**Ambrose E.O. Wasunna**, a Kenyan, has been appointed to the Chair of Surgery, becoming the youngest full Professor in the University. Prof. Wasunna graduated from Makerere in 1965 and proceeded to Britain where he became a Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and England in July and December 1969 respectively. He joined the University of Nairobi



**Ambrose E.O. Wasunna**

as a Lecturer in February, 1971. Later he undertook further research and submitted a thesis for which he was awarded the Doctor of Medicine degree in 1972 being the first such degree awarded by the University of Nairobi. He was appointed Senior Lecturer in the same year. He was appointed Professor with effect from 1st February, 1975. Subsequently, he has been appointed Chairman, of the Department for the period up to June, 1977. Professor Wasunna was born at Maseno and is married with four young children.

**Abdalla S. Bujra** is expected to return to this University in June, 1975 on appointment as the Director, Institute of African Studies. Dr. Bujra was born at Malindi in 1938 and had his higher Education in England obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1961 and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1965 at the London School of Oriental and African Studies. He came to Nairobi as a Special Lecturer in September, 1968 and was appointed Senior Lecturer in 1970. In 1971 he left Nairobi for the University of Dar es Salaam where he worked as a Senior Lecturer and then Associate Professor and Head of Department of Sociology.



**Dr. Phillip Mbithi**

**Phillip Mbithi** has been appointed Associate Professor in Sociology. Dr. Mbithi aged 33 was born in

Machakos and is married with three children. His first degree was Bachelor of Science in Agriculture at Makerere, from where he proceeded to Cornell University to study for a Master degree in Rural Sociology. He stayed on at Cornell and obtained his Doctor of Philosophy degree in development Sociology. His University career started in 1970 when he took up a Research Fellowship in the Institute for Development Studies. In 1971 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Sociology and was appointed to the Chairmanship of the Department in July 1973. His major contributions have been in Rural Sociology.

Other Senior Appointments have also been made of:-

**Micere Mugo**, Ph.D. as Senior Lecturer in Literature and **Florida Karani**, M.A. as Assistant Director, Institute of Adult Studies.

### Academic Staff Development Scheme

Nine offers of appointment have been made to Tutorial Fellows in Mechanical Engineering, Pharmacy, Linguistics, Mathematics, Medicine, Education (2), and Surveying and Photogrammetry.

### CIDA

In March this year, Professor Sommers under Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) sponsorship visited Kenyans currently engaged in post-graduate studies in Canada and had a chance to review their progress. There are eleven candidates sponsored by CIDA through the Faculty of Commerce Project, seven of whom are studying towards a Masters degree and four are pursuing Ph.D. Studies.

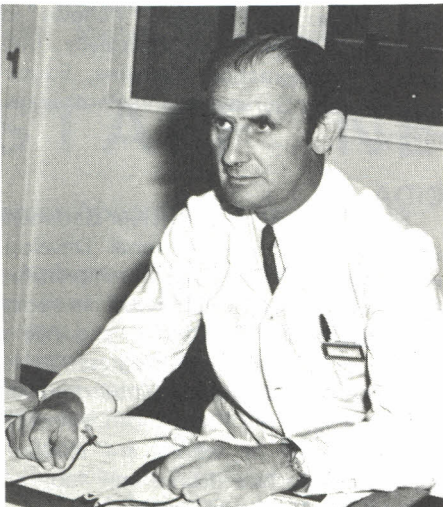
The students are engaged in various aspects of Business Administration and four of the M.B.A./M.Sc. candidates are expected to take up posts in the Faculty here within the next few months.

### Staff Exchange

**Arthur Kakwadi** is visiting the Department of Literature as a Lecturer under the auspices of the Inter-University Committee for Africa.

### Departures

**Professor Donald A.M. Gebbie** will be leaving the University in June after eight years. He joined the University College as a Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in April 1967. He has therefore been with the Medical School since its inception. He was appointed Professor and Head of Department in July 1969. He has taken a keen interest in Obstetrics outside the University, particularly at Machakos and at the Karen Maternity Unity. He launched the Master of Medicine in Obstetrics in July 1973 and the first graduates from this course finished early this year. Professor Gebbie came to us from the University of Glasgow in the United Kingdom.



Professor Donald A.M. Gebbie

**Professor Magne Fjeld** has been in the University for two years, firstly as an Associate Professor and since September 1974 as Professor of Electrical Engineering. Professor Fjeld's appointment was made possible through assistance from the Norwegian Government (NORAD) and he will be going back to Trondheim where he works in the Institute for Industrial and Technical Research.

**Professor Philip Hill** of the Department of Medicine will also be leaving the University. He has been the Head of the Canadian Team from McGill in the Faculty of Medicine. Professor Hill graduated with a Doctor of Medicine from McGill in 1934 and the Faculty has been grateful for the wealth of experience he brought with him. He has also acted as Head of Department. Prior to his coming here, he was Professor of Medicine at McGill University to which place he is returning.



Professor Philip Hill



**Mr. M.G. Gethoi**, the assistant Registrar formerly in charge of the 'News and Views', resigned from University service at the end of March 1975. Mr. Gethoi was instrumental in launching 'News and Views' and for communication of information on the University. He had worked in the Civil Service between 1966 and 1971. He joined the University in January, 1972 and initially worked in the Personnel Section of the Registrar's Department.

**Mr. G.O. Glasspell** left the University after a period of 18 years as Chief Technician in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He left at the end of March and plans to retire in Britain.

**Mr. F.S. Edmunds** is leaving the University after 9 years. He has been Chief Technician in Chemistry and has lately been engaged in moving Chemistry Department from its old home in Hyslop Building to the New Complex at Chiromo.

**Mrs. Evelyn D'Souza** has worked in the University as a Secretary for eleven years, in the then Faculty of Veterinary Science between 1964 and 1967 and since 1974 as Secretary to the Dean, Faculty of Medicine. She is leaving the University next month. She tells me her new job will be quite a change — she is going to work for a flower exporting company.

**Dr. Mugo-Gachuhi** who has for the last two years been Acting Director at the Institute for Development Studies has left the University to become the Regional Communication Advisor (Population) with UNESCO. Dr. Gachuhi worked as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Development Studies since 1970.

## 'Meet the Staff'

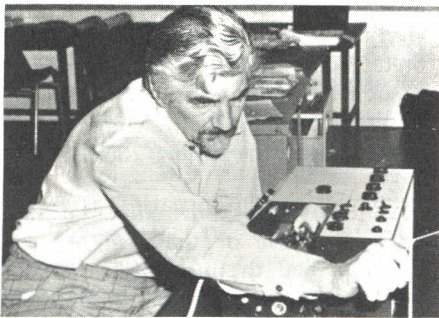
In the middle of April this year, the Department of Architecture welcomed a new member of staff, Dr. Harold Charles Pinfold, who has come as an Associate Professor in the Department. Dr. Pinfold holds a doctorate in acoustics and is also well-known in architectural environmental studies. Before coming to Nairobi he was teaching in the University of Liverpool.

"News and Views" called on Dr. Pinfold in his temporary "office" (it is actually a seminar room) on the second level of the Architecture Building on State House Road. It is understood he is soon to get a proper office. Being an architect he may be weighing ideas on how to convert the seminar room.

To many of us, environmental studies evoke the idea of the struggle against pollution and the protection of natural beauty as far as is possible. Architectural environmental studies as Dr. Pinfold explained relate to buildings in general (the environment) and how the occupants feel inside them, in other words, the relationship between buildings and their utilisation by humans and the attempt thereof to make use of or control the elements, i.e. wind, sun, rain and so on.

To make full use of the local knowledge available in environmental studies, Dr. Pinfold plans to embark on research which he hopes to complete during his two-year stay in Nairobi. He will not find a dearth of materials or information in his endeavour, considering that the U.N. Secretariat on Environment is here and also from such studies as have already been done by Mr. K. Andersen of the Department of Architecture.

Diverting a little from environment, Dr. Pinfeld talked about some useful work which has been done in the local architectural scene. He talked of the efforts being made to adapt architecture to the local situations, how the 'barefoot architect' is already being seen going out to the rural areas seeing what building materials and methods are being used and perhaps how all that can be improved. With all the variations of African, Oriental and European ideas, the field should be wide open.



**Dr. Harold Charles Pinfeld**

Turning back to his own field of architectural environmental studies, Dr. Pinfeld had a few remarks to make. He lamented that most text books are written in Europe or America where climatic conditions are completely different from tropical conditions. The socio-cultural background of a people also influence architectural plans so that what is good for a Finn may be no good for an Italian let alone an African in say, Kenya or Zaire. The person who wants to build with ice-cold winter in mind or a biting easterly wind will think up something quite different from someone who wants to build a bungalow in Mombasa or an office block in Nigeria. Arabic is not the same as English or French either in intonation or in the manner it has to be spoken in

communication. As far as possible, these factors should be taken into consideration by an architect, hence the need for background or, shall we say, environmental studies in planning and building.

Dr. Pinfeld seems very well equipped with all kinds of paraphernalia to assist him in his studies. He has recording machines for determining acoustics and temperatures and thus he will be able to come out with quite some useful recommendations.

The Architecture Department in Nairobi is already quite well supplied with all types of equipment. This, I understand, is being augmented by additional equipment, thanks to an £8,000 Grant from the British Government.

Back home, Dr. Pinfeld has been doing research in his field of traffic noise — a factor that must be in every architect's mind in these days of the motor-car and the jet. He has also been engaged in the study of open air theatres and arenas in Turkey and Greece. Some of these treatres were built as long back as the time of Christ or before when the knowledge of acoustics can hardly be expected to have existed.

Dr. Pinfeld is married to an architect who will be joining him soon in Nairobi. His daughter is studying landscape architecture at Cheltenham and his son is studying naval architecture (design of ships etc.) at Glasgow. All in family, it appears.

We wish Dr. Pinfeld all the luck and he should find in Kenya a most interesting achitectoral environment.

# VISITORS

**Kenneth Harrison**, President of the Commonwealth Library Association visited the University Library on 23rd and 24th April during which time he was also able to meet our Vice-Chancellor, **Dr. J.N. Karanja**. Mr. Harrison is City Librarian of the City of Westminster, London.

The Library also had a visit from **Mr. O.O. Ogodipe** the University Librarian at the University of Zambia.

**Professor Sydney Irvine**, Dean of the College of Education, Brock University, Canada visited the Department of Educational Psychology recently. Professor Irvine who is Professor of Psychology at his University was here to discuss the 2nd Pan-African Conference on Psychology to be hosted by the University of Nairobi at the end of 1975.

The **Catering Manager**, University of Lagos, **Mr. Akibola** paid a one-week visit to our Catering establishment here. He and **Mr. Ng'ethe** our Catering Manager had useful exchange of ideas while Lagos caters for 2000 people the Catering Department here caters for a number in excess of 4,500 per day.

**Mrs. Doreen Mullins**, the Officer responsible for Canadian Projects in Kenya and **Miss Mary Fletcher**, First Secretary in the Canadian High Commission called on the Vice-Chancellor in April. They discussed the progress made in the Commerce project at the University. They were accompanied by the Head of the Commerce CIDA Project, Professor Tyndall of the Department of Accounting.

# STUDENTS' PLACEMENT OFFICE

The Students' Placement office has been engaged in arranging for potential employers to come and interview final year students. The employment is offered subject to the students finishing their courses successfully.

For Kenya students interviews have been conducted by Kenya Breweries, Mowlem Construction, Mumias Sugar Company, James Warren & Co. Arrangements have been made for the Kenya Public Service Commission to conduct interviews between 6th and 20th May, 1975 and approximately 360 students will be interviewed. Students in the

Faculties of Engineering, Medicine and Agriculture are however interviewed separately by the particular Ministries requiring their services.

Interviews for Tanzania finalists have been conducted and so far 53 Tanzanians have been placed in jobs subject to their obtaining degrees. The list of those already placed has been posted on the notice-board near the Dean's Office.

The Placement Office has also published a list of vacancies in the Uganda private sector and are holding application Forms for any final year Uganda students interested in joining the Uganda Public Service.

# NAIROBI UNIVERSITY

## 'FREE TRAVELLING THEATRE'

Once more, a group of 20 actors and actresses from the University's **Free Travelling Theatre**, have volunteered to devote their annual vacation on a theatrical venture on the 10th of September, the company will be setting out on a month's 3500 miles-long trip around Kenya, giving free performances in schools and social halls, in factories and football fields — anywhere, a theatre-thirsty audience can gather to quake with laughter or with tears!

### The company's aim?

To stimulate more interest in, and to indiginize theatre in the countryside — an unprompted communal service, if you like. Last year some critics termed their 2500 miles-long maiden venture, 'taking the University to the people' perhaps it's reverse: they are bringing the people to the University — some aspects of it, at any rate.

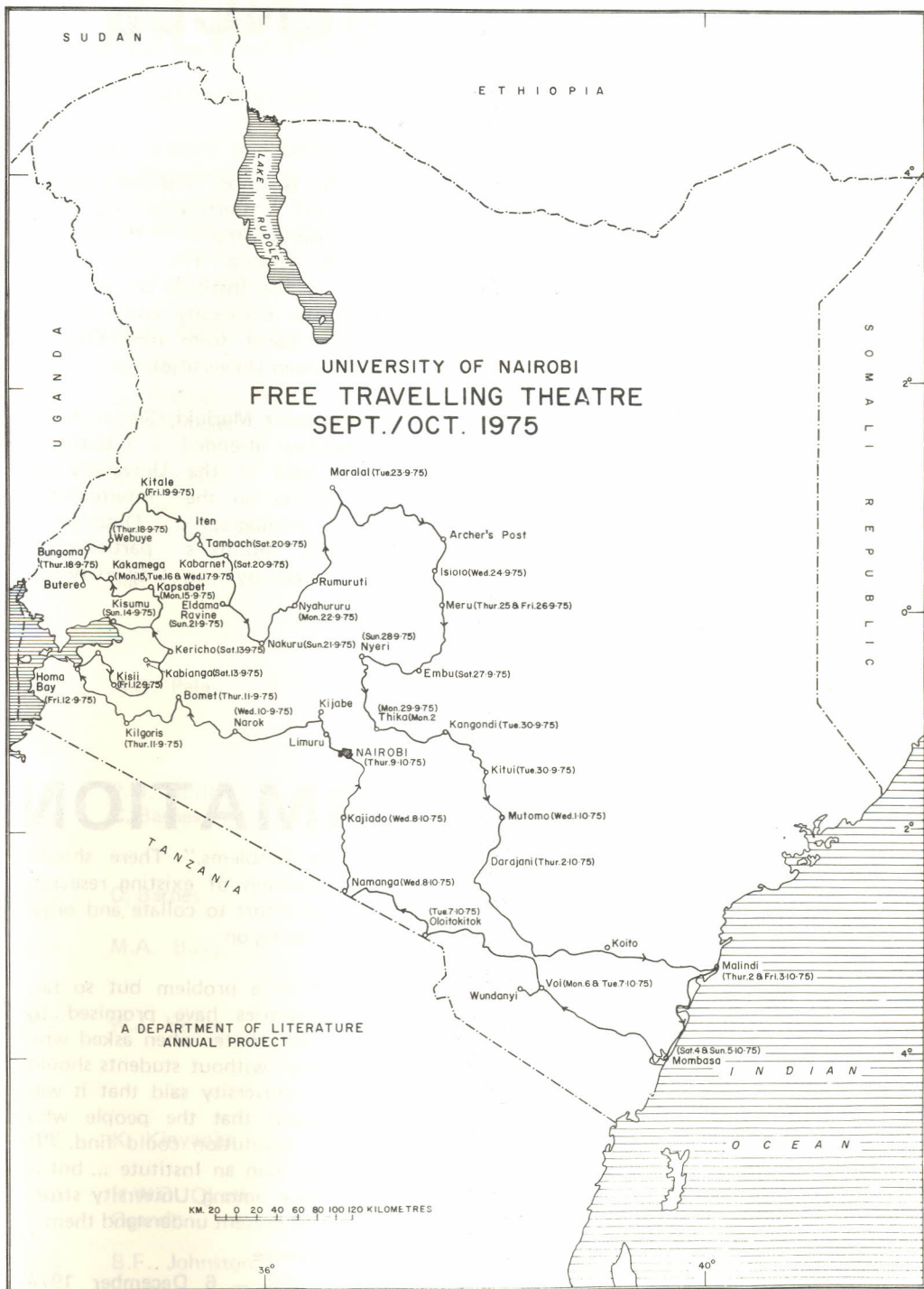
Their repertoire of 8 plays (Kiswahili and English) written or translated by East Africans, will be performed to thousands in the 40 different towns and centres they are visiting. Last year,

(thanks to the patronage of East African Literature Bureau and the Kenya Breweries; Coca Cola and Comb Books; the University of Nairobi and Oxford University Press; East African Publishing House and Textbook Centre; Hinmann Educational Books and the Goethe Institute; and many individuals) the company was able to spend three weeks on the same kind of exercise.

This year, they have had to respond to requests from farther afield — hence their lengthy itinerary (see Map). They have the plays, they have the people and the programme — **They need your Patronage**, and — they deserve it. Any kind of help of information sought, should be directed to the Literature Department (the organizers) — Nairobi University Free Travelling Theatre.

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(See a map on the next page).



# TRAVEL, CONFERENCES AND PROJECTS

**Miss Teresa Knapik** attended a Workshop in Ibadan, Nigeria organised by the World Health Organization. The Workshop was on Health Education to Nurses in the African Region. Participants came from eleven Anglophone countries of Africa.

**Dr. O.K. Mutungi**, Acting Dean in the Faculty of Law and Senior Lecturer in Commercial Law attended a week's Symposium in Geneva. The Symposium was organised by UNCITRAL — the United Nations Commission for International Trade Law and Dr. Mutungi represented Kenya at the symposium. One of the highlights of the symposium was the teaching of International trade law in Universities.

**Mr. G.S. Ngombo**, Assistant Registrar attended a Certificate course in University Administration at the University of Ife, Nigeria. The Course was organised by the Institute of Administration at the University and had sixteen participants from nine English-speaking African Universities.

**Mrs. Margaret Muriuki**, Senior Assistant Librarian attended a Librarians' Workshop held at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria on the International Standard Bibliographic Description (ISBD). Mrs. Muriuki's participation was sponsored by the University of Nairobi.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Dr. James Hester, President of New York University and a specialist in International Relations is to be the first Head of the controversial United Nations University. The University was proposed by the former United Nations Secretary-General, the late U Thant in 1969. The main centre will be in Japan, with a world-wide network of Research and training programmes in national Institutions.

The University is described as an "attempt to bring the most creative minds from all parts of the world to stimulate and to lead each other on to more effective ways of looking at

the world's problems." There should be no duplication of existing research work but an effort to collate and organize already going on.

Money will be a problem but so far, over 30 countries have promised to co-operate. Dr. Hester when asked why an organisation without students should call itself a University said that it was the only word that the people who planned the Institution could find. "It will be more than an Institute ... but it will be unique among University structures as we at present understand them."

Source

THES — 6 December 1974

# PUBLICATIONS

## From the Institute for Development Studies

**Education, Society and Development: New Perspectives from Kenya**, edited by David Court and Dharam P. Ghai, has just been published by Oxford University Press, Nairobi, on behalf of the Institute for Development Studies. This volume includes some of the best recent research on the quality and social impact of Kenyan education which has been done at the Institute. Contributors come from the fields of economics, political science, sociology and education.

In addition, the following I.D.S. Discussion Papers have been issued recently:

No.	Author	Title
200	S. Schonherr and E.S. Mbugua	New Extension Methods to Speed up Diffusion of Agricultural Innovations
201	L. Mureithi	Demographic and Technological Variables in Kenya's Employment Scene (originally issued as I.D.S. Working Paper No. 135)
202	J.M. Gachuhi	Social Characteristics of Patients Seeking Venereal Disease Treatment in Public Health Centres (originally issued as I.D.S. Working Paper No. 144)
203	A.O. Pala	The Role of African Women in Rural Development: Research Priorities (originally issues as I.D.S. Working Paper No. 156)
204	P.M. Mbithi C. Barnes	A Conceptual Analysis of Approaches to Rural Development (originally presented to the 1973 U.S.S.C. Conference and I.D.S. Working Paper No. 154)
205	C. Barnes	The Introduction of Coffee in Gusii land, Kenya 1933-1942
206	M.A. Baily	Capital Utilisation in Kenya Manufacturing Industry: Summary of Main Conclusions
207	W.J. House	The Determinants of and Changes in the Sturcture of Wages and Employment in the Manufacturing Sector of the Kenya Economy, 1967-1972 (originally issued as I.D.S. Working Paper No. 150)
208	K. Kinyanjui	The Distribution of Educational Resources and Opportunities in Kenya
209	H.W.O. Okoth- Ogendo	Property Theory and Land-Use Analysis (originally issued as I.D.S. Working Paper No. 164)
210	B.F. Johnston	Objectives and Scope of a Food and Nutrition Policy
211	B.E. Kipkorir	Nonformal Education in Kenya

# UNIVERSITY TELEPHONES TO IMPROVE

As a result of many complaints about the old telephone system, both for internal and external communication, the University Council have voted a sum of £120,000 to enable a complete re-organisation and extension of the existing facilities to be carried out. The University Building Committee asked Dr. Fjosne, formerly of the Department of Electrical Engineering and an acknowledged expert on telephone systems, to advise it on the most suitable equipment to give the best possible service. As a result of Dr. Fjosne's report and subsequent tendering, Messrs Plessey Limited were engaged to supply and install a new system, which is now taking place.

Installation of the new telephone system requires a closely co-ordinated operation involving two separate branches of the Post Office together with Messrs Plessey's own Engineers. Already a 100 line extension exchange is being installed at Kabete to replace and extend the two separate exchanges that have served the Faculties of Veterinary Medicine and of Agriculture. At Chiromo a temporary 100 line exchange has been installed in the new Physical Science Complex to serve that area immediately and, when a new cable system has been completed by the Post Office engineers, the whole of the Chiromo Campus for an interim period. On the Main Campus a brand new 600 line exchange has just been delivered from the manufacturers, Messrs Oki Limited of Japan and the installation of this by the Pressey Engineers, in the basement of the Hyslop Building formerly occupied by the Department of

Chemistry Store, will commence in the near future. Once this new exchange is installed and "cut in" the Main Campus should enjoy a greatly improved internal telephone system and the expected provision of additional external lines, by the Post Office, should bring to an end the complaints by outside callers concerning the difficulties of reaching the University.

Once the Main Campus is completed later this year, the present 300 line exchange will be renovated and transferred to Chiromo, thus allowing an adequate service to be available at that Campus. Additional and existing tie-lines will be provided to link the main Campus with Chiromo, the Architecture Building, Kenyatta National Hospital, and the African Studies Institute at the National Museum Site. This means that any member of staff of the University at any of these points will be able to dial directly to an extension elsewhere in the University except for Kabete. Unfortunately, owing to the limited number of public lines serving the present Fort Smith exchange, the Post Office is unable to allow the University exclusive use of any of these, and therefore, calls routed to the Kabete Campus will still have to go through the overloaded public exchange.

**By Professor Peter Robins,**  
Department of Chemistry.

Professor Robins has been a member of the University Building Committee for over 10 years and for the last two years has been in constant consultation with the telephone experts on behalf of the Building Committee.



# BUILDINGS

## Library Extension at Chiromo

Work will start soon on the extension of the Chiromo Library. The extension which will cost some £120,000 is expected to provide space for an additional 380 reading spaces. The extensions will cater for the new department of Pharmacy and Dentistry as well as the Physical Science department which moved to Chiromo towards the end of last year. The project is financed by the Kenya Government.

## Public Health Building

A new home for the Department of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology will shortly be built at Kabete. The building is expected to cost some shs. 4.6 million. The entire cost of construction of this building will be met from a generous donation by the Norwegian Government.

## Halls of Residence

Plans are already approved by the Building Committee for the construction of a new Women's Hall of Residence. It is expected that some 320 students will be accommodated in the new hall.

## Water Supply at Kabete

The University Community may be aware that we have been faced with inadequate water supply at the Kabete Campus for the past few months. The University commissioned an expert to work into the long-term solution to this problem earlier this year and subsequent to this assignment, work on the improvement of water supply and in particular storage facilities, was started in February. Among the improvements is a 150,000-gallon storage tank and boosted pumps. The project is estimated to cost some £18,000.

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# OUR FEATURE:

## Environmental Health Engineering

The field of environmental health engineering involves human efforts to control, preserve and harness his environment. The basic elements involved in his environment are water, air, food and land resources. The problems human beings have to tackle are provision of safe and adequate water supply, removal and hygienic disposal of waste, protection of human health, elimination or minimization of health hazards, pollution control and others which contribute on a national scale towards not only the mere absence of diseases but promotes a complete state of physical, mental and social well-being of populations.

It is important to note that the Kenya Government in the next development plan has estimated to spend about K£55 million in the water supply sector and about K£30 million for sewage disposal.

The manpower requirement has been estimated to be about 150 professional engineers in the water supply section and about 130 in the sewage disposal sector for the next decade. The private sector would also require equal number of professional engineers in these fields. Other sectors of environmental health engineering field will require additional manpower.

In view of the importance of this field the Faculty of Engineering in its Department of Civil Engineering has instituted a postgraduate programme in Environmental Health Engineering. The basic courses in public health engineering and

water resources are included in the undergraduate curriculum. The Environmental Health Engineering programme will prepare engineers to tackle some of the problems mentioned above and reduce the reliance on foreign personnel.

The programme will have two parts. During the first part candidates will study the following subjects: Unit operations and processes, Sanitary Chemistry and Biology, Environmental Sanitation, Water Quality, Water Resources Engineering, Stream Sanitation, Applied Hydraulics, sanitary Engineering Design and Environmental Health Engineering Laboratory. Candidates are expected to take examinations in these subjects before embarking on a Part 11 of the programme. The second part consists of the following research project and the

study of some of the following courses: Water management and Administration, Industrial Waste Treatment, Ground Water Technology, Vector Control, Solid Waste Disposal, etc.

On satisfactory completion of the above courses and theses, the candidate will be awarded an M.Sc. degree in Environmental Health Engineering.

It is anticipated that candidates will be sponsored by the employers in the public and private sectors.

#### **Rajni P. Patel**

Dr. Patel is Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering and is the Dean, Faculty of Engineering.

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### **“Communication.”**

Once there is interaction between two or more human-beings (without precluding of course other mammals or even reptiles and birds), communications will have been established. This could be by speech, sounds, written-word, electrons (radio/television), or by signs. These are all different methods of communication. Speech and signs seem to have been with us from time immemorial. Communication is supposed to invoke reaction from the other party. It could be an answer, thought, fear, sympathy, intelligence or some type of reaction.

It is, however, regrettable that with the improved means of communications in the modern society, man has become even less tolerant of the other man than his ancestor of a thousand years ago.

It is now possible for over 100 million people to speak the same language; belong to the same nation, profess the same religion or political thought. With improved technology, especially in the field of electronic media, it is now possible to communicate with the outer-space. It is possible to know what is happening around world instantly. Presidents, politicians and other leaders can address their nations and constituents, and influence the mood of the nation. Religious leaders or preachers have now a wider congregation than the church with the use of the press, electronic media and publications.

In some countries, especially in the Western world, the press and the electronic media are now veritable tribunes of the people. They are now the watchdogs of the people against abuse of power by leaders. Presidents and governments have been removed as a result of the inquisitive eye of the media. Decision and legislative systems are no

longer confined to a privileged few. These modern communication systems have sharpened the thinking of man. They have also been used for the opposite effect in some countries. They could be the most powerful instruments for covering-up mischief, misconduct, fraud, murder or corruption by a privileged few.

A university as a centre of higher learning, communication is a vital constituent. The degree to which good communication plays a role in teaching and running of the institution, determines its effectiveness in society. While teaching is the corner-stone in this communication system at the university, it is equally important that meaningful and flawless communications between various people, departments, faculties, institutes, schools and strata of the employees that constitute the university must flourish for the maximum good.

Communication is not complete nor enough if it only consists of instructions, orders, commands or a record of happenings. It must be a two-way system; unlike a river that flows in one direction only. A dialogue is a means of communication between two parties that seem to have something at variance; while a discussion could be an exchange of information by considering different alternatives and options. But semantics and polemics are inimical to good communications.

#### **Aggrey Awori**

Mr. Awori worked as Director of Uganda Television for he is a Lecturer in the School of Journalism, University of Nairobi.

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## **HUMOUR**

From an academic phrase book on University Committee language — for the benefit of novice Committee Members:- What is said means what is in brackets.

“Thank you for raising the matter, we shall certainly bear it in mind”  
(Forget it)

“He writes with such mastery detail”  
(He has never had an original thought in his head)

“I acknowledge that he has a high reputation as a scholar”  
(Over my dead body)

“He is widely known as a sociable colleague”  
(He can't hold his drink)

“He is widely known as a very sociable colleague”  
(Lock up your wives and daughters).

# A STUDENT'S VIEW

'the well'

is praise our gods  
for inviting you to their well  
when you arrive yonder  
drink, drink vastly my son  
until you can drink no more

when others idle  
or even sleep  
when they aimlessly shout  
just drink, drink  
for what is there to shout about?  
even when the water's unclear  
when those who've drank before  
or drink from elsewhere  
or those who devotedly guard the well  
have allowed garbage into the well  
just keep on drinking  
because if the gods learn  
of how you drink in calm  
they may call you above  
into their warm bossoms  
drink, drink vastly my son  
until you can drink no more

when you see weird shadows  
dancing frenziedly on the water  
when you hear tumultuous footsteps  
and struggling, cursing, crying  
swearing, mourning frightfully close  
behind you  
just stay composed if you can  
even if meandering streams of blood  
violently rush into the well  
don't you also know  
the wonders of our gods are many?  
just try to avoid the blood if you can  
and drink, drink furiously my son  
until you can see no more blood

how ... how did you get maimed, child  
is this really the son I send yonder?  
tell me son  
did you carelessly shout with the idlers?  
then why, why were you maimed?  
why did the gods maim their won child?  
all ... all the same ...  
we ... we praise our benevolent gods ...  
drink, drink furiously my son  
until you forget you were maimed