



Varsity Focus

A Newsletter from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

University of Nairobi

MAR/APRIL 1992



The Vice-Chancellors of the four public universities see it all happening: Students being served with food in one of the Cafeterias of the University of Nairobi under the new PAYE system. From right: Prof. Shellemiah Keya (Moi University), Prof. Richard Musangi (Egerton), Prof. Gichaga (Host, Nairobi) and Prof. Phillip Githinji (Kenya)

As the new cafeteria system is implemented at the University, many students think that there is plenty of room for improvement of the system. P. 3.

INSIDE

Three high ranking officers of the University are appointed by the Chancellor of the public Universities. P. 5.

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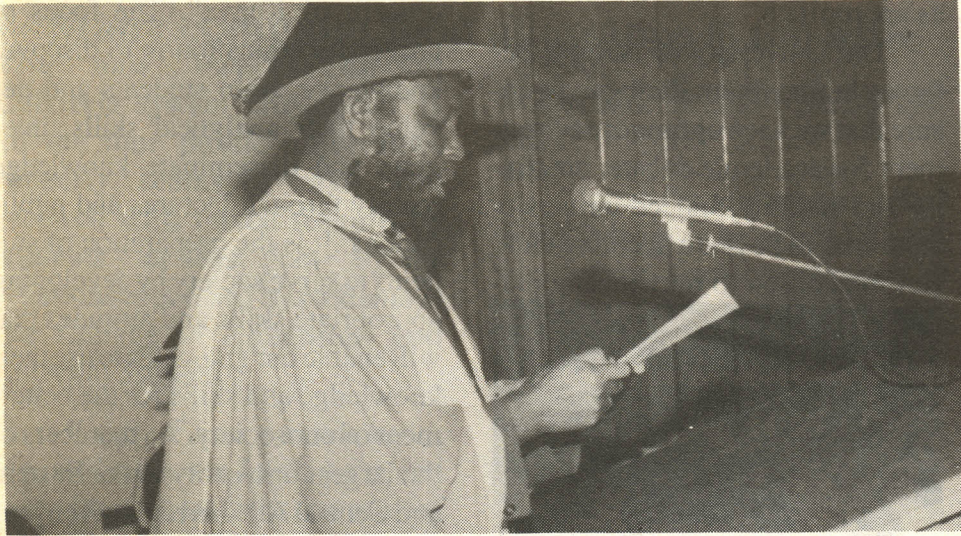
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VARSITY REOPENS DOORS AFTER EIGHT MONTHS



The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. F.J. Gichaga addressing First Year Students in Taifa Hall on 11.3.92

The University of Nairobi has since Monday 9th March 1992, been a beehive of activity as fresh and continuing students registered for admission following a long closure of the university brought about by student disturbances last June.

By the third day of registration, 7,073 students (over 73%) had registered for various courses.

Welcoming the first year students to the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Francis Gichaga revealed that in the 1991/92 academic year, the university of Nairobi had admitted 3,200 8-4-4 candidates. Prof. Gichaga took the opportunity to inform the students that the University believed in maximum dialogue so that an environment of free academic debate, creativity and stability is created. He asked students to make great effort to maintain the excellent scholarship standards that had so far been kept at the university and to avoid confrontation and intolerance.

The following is the full text of the vice-Chancellor's Speech

"On behalf of the entire University Community I would like to congratulate you for obtaining a place at the University of Nairobi despite the stiff competition for admission to public universities. You have joined an academic community made up of over 15,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students and about 1,500 academic members of staff and about 4,000 administrative and support staff. I would there-

fore like to formally welcome you to the University of Nairobi and wish you success in your just beginning university life.

In the 1991/92 Academic year, the University of Nairobi has admitted 3,200 8-4-4 stream of candidates most of whom are with us here today.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that you are the second group of 8-4-4 candi-

dates to be admitted to the University. The country as a whole and the University in particular will be watching you with a lot of interest to assess how well you have been prepared to undertake university education. You should also be conscious of the importance Kenyans attach to the new education system. In this respect, I would like to urge each student to establish his goals and interests which are consistent with the objectives of the universities. Such priorities should also be consistent with the expectations of your families and the nation and you should strive to live up to them.

College Students' Organisations

Due to the decentralised structure of the University of Nairobi which consists of six campus colleges in seven campuses, students in each campus college have distinct interests which are different from the rest. As such, there is no single umbrella organisation which represents all University of Nairobi student interests. Rather every college has a student organisation which serves as a forum where students' academic and welfare matters are addressed.

These college-based student organisations are:

Organisation of Nairobi University Science Students (ONUSS) for those at the Chiromo Campus.

Students Organisation of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (SOCHSS) - for those in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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Due to the decentralisation of the college we have faculty-based student organisations at the main campus, at Lower Kabete and at Parklands.

Kabete Campus University Students Organisation (KCUSO) - for Agriculture and Veterinary Students who are based at Upper Kabete.

Students Organisation of the College of Architecture and Engineering (SOCAE) - for students of Engineering and Architecture.

College of Health Sciences Students Association (COHESSA) for students in the Faculty of Medicine.

College of Education and External Studies Students Organisation (CESSO) - for students studying Education at Kikuyu Campus.

In the course of this First Semester you will be introduced to your respective college-based organisations and professional associations and I would like all of you to have an interest in the activities of these organisations to make them effective forums of representation. Once you have organised yourselves sufficiently at the college level, there are mechanisms for sending your representatives to the two highest academic and administrative organs of the University as provided for in the statutes. These are the University Senate and University Council. You will also be represented in your Halls of Residence, and Kitchens. All statutes governing the setting up of

University Disciplinary Committees provide for student representation as appropriate.

The University of Nairobi believes in maximum dialogue to ensure that we have optimum environment for academic debate, creativity and stability. Indeed university continues to be like a debating club. But in addition to maximising dia-



Students undertaking registration exercise at the Main Campus

logues, we provide other services to make student academic life in this University meaningful. These include free medical services with in-patient facility at the Students' Sick Bay, weekly cinema, Student Centre and Junior Common Rooms and transport facilities for clubs, retreats and field excursions and church services. Many other clubs provide theatre, drama, games, music and we expect you to feel that you belong and that you are in your own university.

Objectives of the University and the Role of the Students

The central objective of the University, according to the University of Nairobi Act 1985 is, among others, "to participate in the discovery, transmission and preservation

of knowledge, and to stimulate the intellectual life and cultural development of Kenya". The focus of university education is to discover knowledge, train students and develop their analytical skills, integrate and disseminate knowledge mainly through lectures and publications. It is the preparation of students to serve society by developing appropriate skills and attitudes that will enable our graduates to use their knowledge and skills for the betterment of our society. As members of the largest university in the Eastern and Central African region Kenyans are looking to us to influence the academic climate in the country in a positive, stimulating and creative manner. This is an extremely serious challenge, which you as students must take seriously. You will be with us for between four to six years at the least. How will you leave this University? What will be your contribution?

A stable undergraduate learning environment gives opportunity for students to be creative, to act as animators to their teachers, and does directly influence the research productivity of our teachers and post-graduate students. You have been fairly well trained in logic and in the use of your minds and we all, therefore, expect nothing but intellectual output of the highest order from you.

As you settle down in this environment, we would like to point out that you will be compelled to make decisions with far-reaching consequences than hitherto. For instance, it is your responsibility from now onwards to chart out the path which your academic life is going to fol-

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Students Want New Cafeteria System Improved

Many complain food allowance is too little

The new Pay-As-You-Eat Cafeteria system introduced by all the four public universities recently, seems to have been received with mixed feelings by students - at least going by the reactions expressed by students at the College of Education and External Studies.

Varsity Focus interviewed a few students over lunch hour and learnt from the students that most of

food as was the case in the old system.

Varsity Focus team later talked to the Principal, Prof. F.A. Karani who echoed similar sentiments to those of the students. Prof. Karani said that the PAYE system is cost-effective and prepares students well for the world outside campus where resources were bound to be few. She reiterated that the University and

A few students, however, raised several issues regarding the scheme which they thought the University authorities should address themselves to. One student who had settled down on a meal of *githeri* complained that meat was too expensive at Ksh. 7.00 a meal. In any case, he argued, the quantity of a meal in general was less and appealed to the kitchen staff to be more generous. A lady student complained that rice served with sausages was too dry. Reminded that the cafeteria actually offers free soup, she responded by saying that the free soup had an ugly appearance.

Most students interviewed called for the hiking of the daily food allowance by at least Ksh. 5.00.

As for keeping their money, all the students interviewed said they had no problem with this. But some third year students pointed out that a recent case where two rooms were broken into and Ksh. 1,800 stolen could be attributed to the fact that thieves now thought that students had more money which could be fodder for easy picking.

Shopping Centre

Meanwhile, Prof. Karani informed *Varsity Focus* that arrangements were already complete for the setting up of a shopping centre for students at Kikuyu. Lack of a student centre and a limited business acumen on the part of the University to run a viable tuckshop had seen to the mushrooming of kiosks around the

Cont. on page 4



The Principal of the College of Education and External Studies Prof. F.A. Karani, talking to third year students during lunch in one of the cafeterias

them cherish the spirit in which the system was introduced. Students now feel that they are more responsible and they can plan in advance on what to eat at what time. This prepares them better for the world outside campus. When they are not around campus, especially during weekends or during Teaching Practice, or when one simply does not want to eat, they could save the meal money and use it for something else. All the students interviewed agreed that the new system does not result in wastage of cooked

indeed Kikuyu Campus had something to be proud of as the College was a pioneer in the inception and management of the PAYE programme. As a result, she added, an accumulation of experience had made it possible for the College and indeed University administration to know and appreciate areas of weakness in the system and identify possible remedies. Prof. Karani gave the *Varsity Focus* team a tour round the cafeterias where she mixed and chatted freely with students enjoying their meals.

Cafeteria

Cont. from page 3

campus. These kiosks are not able to cater for the needs of an average student sufficiently. This has resulted in large numbers of students travelling to Nairobi to purchase their wares. The Principal said that when the new shopping centre opens up, this problem will come to an end. The University had signed an agreement with an individual to run the shopping centre for a period of two years renewable thereafter. The old garage had been renovated for purposes of acting as the new shopping centre.

When *Varsity Focus* informed a group of students that the Principal had consented to alcoholic drinks being sold in the new shopping centre, they were delighted. One student announced that his trips to the nearby Thogoto market for an occasional beer would be a thing of the past as the road between Thogoto and the campus was dangerous in the evenings. The Principal had informed *Varsity Focus* earlier that the



Prof. Karani: Agreement signed

initial opening hours of the shopping centre would be 8.00 am to 7.30 pm.

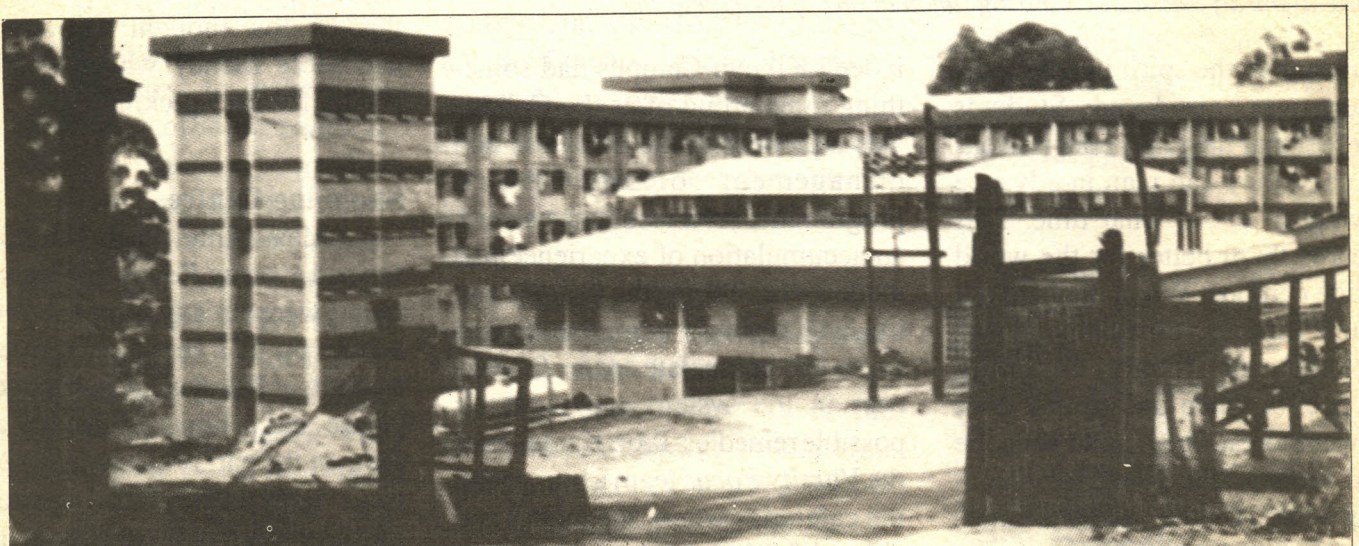
Unisex

Another important feature that Kikuyu Campus is venturing into is the establishment of a unisex hair salon within the Campus. The Maintenance Superintendent had already been directed to assess the cost of renovating certain premises and converting them into a hair salon, the Principal said.

The setting up of the salon is also calculated at ensuring that trips to Nairobi by students are minimised

so that they can concentrate on studies and other activities within the college.

One female student, however told *Varsity Focus* that she was pessimistic about the success of the soon to be opened salon. She felt that the proprietors of the salon may not make enough money because students did not have as much money as they used to have in the past. She also added that certain students will deliberately avoid going to the salon precisely because it was situated in the University.



The ultra-modern University Hall at Kikuyu Campus with the Cafeteria in foreground

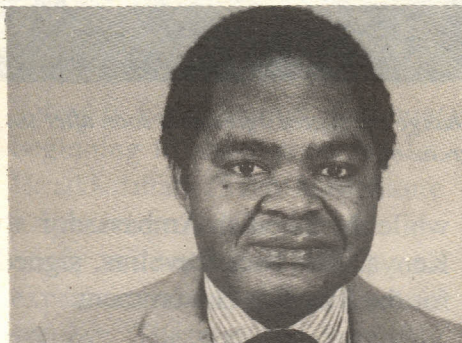
TOP VARSITY APPOINTMENTS



Prof. Mutungi in his new office



Prof. King'oriah



Prof. Nyasani

His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, who is also the Chancellor of the four public universities, recently approved the appointment of Professor Onesmus Kimweli Mutungi as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs) of the University of Nairobi. The appointment, which will last for a period of five years, was contained in a press release signed by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. F.J. Gichaga and dated 24th January, 1992.

Until his appointment, Professor Mutungi was the Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, a position he had held for

the past eight years.

Prof. Mutungi, 51, is a Professor of Commercial Law, and holds an LLB (Hons.) of the University of East Africa, LLM (University of Columbia) and JSD (Yale University).

President Moi also approved the appointments of two more high-ranking officers of the University. Professor George King'oriah was confirmed as the Principal, College of Architecture and Engineering, a position he has been holding in an acting capacity since April last year. Prof. King'oriah holds a PhD in Economic Geography from the Indiana University.

NEW DEAN



Professor Dunstan A. Obara of the Department of Geography was recently elected Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Obara, 47, is an Associate professor of Agricultural Geography. He polled an impressive 88 votes, trouncing two other contestants, Professor Mureithi (Economics), and Dr. Robert Obudho (Geography) who polled 42 and 6 votes respectively.

Professor Jesse Mugambi, the Academic Registrar, who was the returning officer, announced that one vote was spoilt.

Professor Obara replaces Professor Joseph Nyasani who was recently appointed to the post of Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

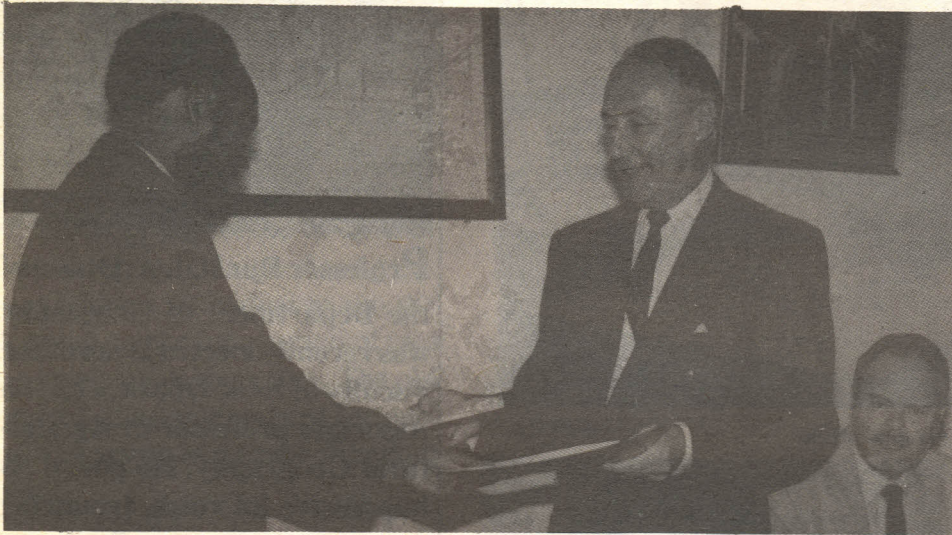
Prof. Obara obtained his BSc (Hons), MSc and PhD degrees from the University of Nairobi.

The other appointment was that of Professor Joseph Nyasani who took over from Prof. Mutungi as the Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Prof. Nyasani holds B.A. (Urbanian), LLM (N.Y.) and PhD (Gregorian) degrees.

The appointments took effect immediately.

Postgraduate Programme gets Hefty Boost



Ambassador Revelius and Prof. Gichaga exchange the signed agreement soon after the signing ceremony

The Department of Agricultural Engineering will benefit from a nine million Swedish Kronor (KShs.44.1 million) following the signing of an agreement between the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC) and the University of Nairobi. The funds will be used to support two Master of Science courses (MSc) in Land and Water Management, and Soil and Water Engineering.

The signing ceremony took place at the University of Nairobi on 19th December, 1991. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. F.J. Gichaga signed on behalf of the University

while the Swedish Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Nics Revelius, signed for the Swedish Government.

The Vice-Chancellor noted with appreciation that this was the second three-year phase assistance programme, the first one having expired in September, 1991.

Prof. Gichaga expressed satisfaction with the manner in which the Swedish Kronor 8.0 million (K.Shs.19.0 million) given in the First Phase had been utilised and assured the Ambassador that the University will continue to put into good use any assistance extended to it.

In his response, His Excellency

the Ambassador thanked the Vice-Chancellor for the warm welcome accorded to him by the University.

Ambassador Revelius emphasized that the SAREC project was rated as one of the most viable undertakings by the Swedish Government. The signing of the agreement was thus proof of the importance SAREC attached to the project.

The Ambassador took the opportunity to announce that the Swedish Minister for Environment was due to arrive in Nairobi for the UNEP talks later on in the year, and invited the University Administration to meet him while he (the Minister) was in Nairobi.

Present at the ceremony were the Academic Registrar, Prof. J.N.K. Mugambi, the Principal, CAVS Prof. Oduor-Okelo, the Principal, CA&E Prof. G. K. King'oriah, and the Chairman of the Department of Agricultural Engineering Dr. D.K. arap Some. Others included the Acting Administration Registrar Mr. J.G. Waciira, Prof. Ackello-Ogutu and Prof. D.B. Thomas of CAVS.

Later, the entourage made a conducted tour of the SAREC sponsored project sites at the Kabete Campus.

VEGETABLE KIOSK

The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences has opened a vegetation kiosk at the main Campus where the College will be selling its produce. The kiosk, located at the ground floor site office opposite Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library, opened its doors to the members of the university staff last February.

The Principal of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Prof. Dominic Oduor-Okello, told the *Varsity Focus* that the kiosk would be selling fresh farm produce from the Kabete Field Station. The produce, he said, will include *sukuma wiki*, spinach, onions, tomatoes, English and sweet potatoes, bananas, cabbage, milk and milk products.



Jolly buyers stack their groceries before carrying them away

Professor Oduor-Okello assured staff that there was enough produce supply to the kitchens and to sell at the kiosk even when the university reopens.

When the *Varsity Focus* visited the kiosk, there was a queue of staff members who were scrambling to buy various products. A

cross-section of customers praised the authorities for setting up the kiosk which sold fresh farm products at reasonable prices. One elderly lady who sought anonymity commended the authorities for starting the facility saying "the University is taking care of our welfare". But a young man who wanted to buy *sukuma wiki* was disappointed when told that it had been sold out by 10 a.m. He complained that some people were buying too much stuff and urged for rationing.

Meanwhile, Prof. Okello has revealed that the 12,000-acre Kibwezi Field Station was now beginning to show good results. He added that a 25 acre horticulture irrigation project which was recently undertaken at Kibwezi on experimental basis was great a success. "The produce sells readily both locally and internationally", he said.

The Principal said other research projects were going on at Kibwezi with promising results. The projects, he added included a study on camel and goat rearing, and weather and water research units. The Kibwezi Field Station also houses a modern primary school and a health care facility which are of great benefit to the surrounding community.

Professor Okello said the University has been allocated another 500 acres of land by the Government to be used as a research field station at Machanga, Embu and funds for its development were being sought.

New Drug Research Unit

Chemists at the University of Nairobi's Department of Pharmacy are undertaking a KSh. 15 Million research project to analyse the quality of drugs available in the Kenyan market. The five-year project which commenced last April, is funded by the Belgian Government through the Catholic University of Leaven.

Dr. Isaac Kibwage, a Senior Lecturer at the department and head of the project, confirmed in an interview with the *Varsity Focus* that the research includes the study of quality control of parenteral products and the preparation of tetracyclines. Dr. Kibwage noted that the drug analysis research unit (DARU) set up in 1971 to analyse drugs for the Ministry of Health and the University of Nairobi for tendering purposes lacked the resources to carry out the market surveillance. "In DARU we encounter a number of drugs which are substandard", the Pharmacist commented.

Dr. Kibwage further disclosed that his project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, would attempt to investigate the stability problem of the Ministry's kit transferred drugs. Kit transferred drugs, he said, experience stability problems due to the diverse climatic conditions experienced through the distribution channels to various parts of the country.

The project also includes two scholarships for three technicians from the Department of Pharmacy who will undertake a one year technology transfer training course at the Catholic University, Leaven, he concluded.

VICE-CHANCELLOR OPENS GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING WORKSHOP



Participants of the workshop listen carefully to a presentation

The University Administration will continue to encourage holding of conferences, seminars and workshops as a means of developing and disseminating knowledge through discussions and exchange of ideas and opinions.

This reassurance was given by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. F.J.Gichaga when he opened a workshop on Guidance and Counselling on 7th January, 1992.

The Workshop, held at the Parklands Campus between 7th and 9th January, was attended by Wardens and their Assistants, Faculty Deans, Directors of Institutes, Chaplains, officers from SWA and Dean of Students offices and other staff who meet students in their day-to-day activities. Resource persons were drawn from the University and were led by Prof. A.A. Mutere.

The Vice-Chancellor ex-

pressed the hope that the Workshop would come out with a package that would benefit a wide variety of University staff members who would like to take part in counselling students. Prof. Gichaga took the opportunity to explain and clarify University policy and the functions of various organs of the University

The following are the highlights of Prof. Gichaga's speech:

"When the idea of holding a workshop on Guidance and Counselling was floated it was not quite clear who would be the resource persons and who would be the participants. It was also not clear whether the subject matter should be tackled from the theoretical standpoint, or whether emphasis would be placed on how guidance and counselling is supposed to be practised among the student community.

I recall College Academic Board meetings we held in the College of Architecture and Engineering where we required our academic staff to act as counsellors to students. It transpired that few, if any, academic staff had training in counselling. The meeting recommended that academic staff be given training on some rudiments of counselling. It was noted that academic staff command respect among students and therefore many students would prefer to be counselled by their academic staff. However, it was unfortunately noted that not only are academic staff not equipped to provide professional counselling but also that some of them may need counselling.

I am therefore pleased to note that we have come up with a package which I hope will eventually be made available to those members of staff who would like to take part in counselling students.

Permit me to dwell a little bit on the functions of the University so that we can see where students welfare and student guidance and counselling fits in in the overall structure .

The University of Nairobi Act of 1985 stipulates the functions and objects of the University which include the following, among others:-

- a) to provide directly, or in collaboration with other institutions of higher learning, facilities for university education, including technological and professional education, and for research;

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- b) to participate in the discovery, transmission and preservation of knowledge and to stimulate the intellectual life and cultural development of Kenya;
- c) to conduct examinations for and to grant such academic awards as may be provided



Participants of the workshop pose for a group photograph

- for in the statutes;
- d) subject to the Universities Act, to co-operate with the Government in the planned development of university education and, in particular, to examine and approve proposals for new faculties, new departments, new degree courses, or new subjects of study submitted to it by any constituent college or other post-secondary institution;
- e) to determine who may teach and what may be taught and how it may be taught in the University.

The control and administration of the University is vested in the Council of the University. The Senate has the power to control

academic standards and academic programmes in the University and reports to the Council. The University Council makes Statutes for the Government, control and administration of the University.

Units of the University

The University broadly consists of academic units (i.e. academic

departments, faculties/institutes/schools colleges), the central administration, which includes the Finance department. The overall co-ordination of the University administration is vested in the Vice-Chancellor. Those matters relating to administration and finance are co-ordinated through the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Finance) while academic matters are co-ordinated through the office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs).

The academic units are concerned with issues such as:-

- Student admissions
- Teaching of academic programmes
- Examinations
- Student learning facilities (li-

braries, bookshop)

- Student welfare (e.g. Professional organisations, games, clubs, etc.) through the Dean of Students and the Games Tutor
- Student health through the Chief Medical Officer
- Postgraduate Scholarships and Fellowships
- Research.

The academic units are also involved in the appointment of academic staff as well as technical and support staff for those units.

The central administration services the academic units as well as its own operations. The Estates Department looks after the University buildings and maintenance works, while the Students Welfare Authority (SWA) also administered through the central administration, is responsible for student accommodation and catering.

The Finance Department is responsible for managing finances for the University. The department is responsible for budgetary planning in consultation with the Development Planning and Establishment Committee. The department is also responsible for monitoring and controlling expenditure by all departments of the University. The expenditure of university funds is audited through the internal audit section whose section-head reports directly to the Vice-Chancellor. External audit is done by the Auditor-General (Corporations).

The academic department of the University is the basic unit of

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administration with clearly defined goals and objectives and is managed by a chairman who is appointed by the Vice-Chancellor in consultation with the Dean and the Principal. The Chairman of the department is given power in the terms of service to allocate duties in the department on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and to ensure that procedures and regulations including the provisions of the University Act and Statutes are observed.

Campus Colleges

The setting up of the campus colleges at the University of Nairobi was done to decentralise the administration of the University and thereby bring the administration and financial management closer to the academic units of the University.

The University generally operates through a committee system which ensures that issues are discussed at various forums to ensure input from all interested parties.

The overall co-ordination of University operations is done by the Vice-Chancellor who chairs the University Management Board which consists of Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Principals of Colleges.

The Vice-Chancellor, who is appointed by the Chancellor, is the accounting officer of the University and reports to the University Council.

Having briefly described the structure of the University we can now return to student welfare where the subject of student guidance and counselling fits. When we talk of student welfare we mainly focus on

the office of the Dean of Students, the Chief Medical Officer, the Games Tutor and the chaplaincy. However, student welfare permeates the lot of student activities in the University. The Dean of Students office has been a centre of interest where students who have problems that cannot be resolved by academic staff are referred to. It is, however, interesting to note that the office of the Dean of Students remains non-recognized by a large majority of students mainly because they have not realized that the office is able to offer guidance and counselling services. Some students do not like talking about their problems with those they consider "strangers". "Strangers" because they do not have other contact with them, either in lecture theatres or in the halls of residence.

When students have had their share of the academic worlds they retire into the halls of residence to "relax". It is during this period that guidance and counselling services can be provided to give students the courage to meet the challenges of University academic life. This is the area where Wardens can contribute greatly either by giving the service themselves or by inviting others to provide the service.

The demand for student counselling has many dimensions. I have met many students who I believe needed counselling and I have referred the same to the Dean of Students Office. In one case I did not know that the student required counselling and I asked my Senior Administrative Assistant to talk to the student to find out what was wrong. It turned out that the student had failed in an examination while his

brother, who was regarded inferior to him academically, had passed his examination in another faculty. The student was not willing to go home to face his parents and kept asking me when Senate was due to meet to approve the examination results.

The most common problem has been on the choice of degree programmes. We have had students going to the extent of attempting suicide because they feel that they are pursuing wrong courses.

I look forward to your recommendations in respect of this difficult area which is compounded by the high demand for high profile degree programmes.

A major problem now facing the University is that of drug abuse among the students. A number of students who faced the student disciplinary committees that I chaired when I was DVC (Academic) showed evidence of drug abuse. This is another area where I am looking forward to your recommendations.

Looking through your programme for the three-day workshop I note the wide variety of topics and after reading some of the abstracts I get the impression that you are in for a real professional treatise. This is as it should be because as you know we have in the University experts in many areas whose talents we can exploit for the benefit of our students.

As I conclude my address, I wish to restate that the university encourages holding of conferences, seminars and workshops like this one as a way of developing and disseminating knowledge through

Professor Gichaga Meets Pressmen

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. F.J. Gichaga, on 16th January 1992, met members of the local Press and took the opportunity to highlight the plans the University was currently implementing. He informed the Pressmen that the two college campuses that were prematurely closed last July following student disturbances, the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences at Kabete and the College of Education and External Studies at Kikuyu, had reopened on Monday January 6th, 1992. Prof. Gichaga pointed out that postgraduate programmes in the University were not affected by the closure, which had been occasioned following students rioting over the introduction of the new student loan and fee structures for undergraduates.

The Vice-Chancellor revealed that the new loan structure had three major components: The Pay-As-You-Eat Cafeteria System, the

Bursary Scheme and the Book Allowance (which would be tied in the Bookshop). The new PAYE Cafeteria System was already in effect at the two recently-reopened campuses, Prof. Gichaga said, adding that the University was closely monitoring the system with a view to improving its efficiency. The University subsidizes the cost of meals for students in the cafeterias, and in order to cut down on the cost of food, the University had set up a bakery at the Lower Kabete Campus which now produced bread and *chapatis*.

With respect to the Bursary Scheme, the Vice-Chancellor said that between 70 and 90 per cent of the students had indicated that they would like to be considered for award of bursaries by filling forms B1. Forms B2, which have detailed questionnaires, were being sent to students who would be expected to fill and return them toward the end of January. The information received from interested students would then be analysed to give a ranking of

students in order of need for the bursary. This exercise, Prof. Gichaga added, would be completed in good time and, in any case, well before the beginning of the 1991/92 academic year.

Regarding students book allowances, Prof. Gichaga pointed out that necessary arrangements had been made to purchase the necessary books and that students will find the bookshop well-stocked when they reported for the new academic year.

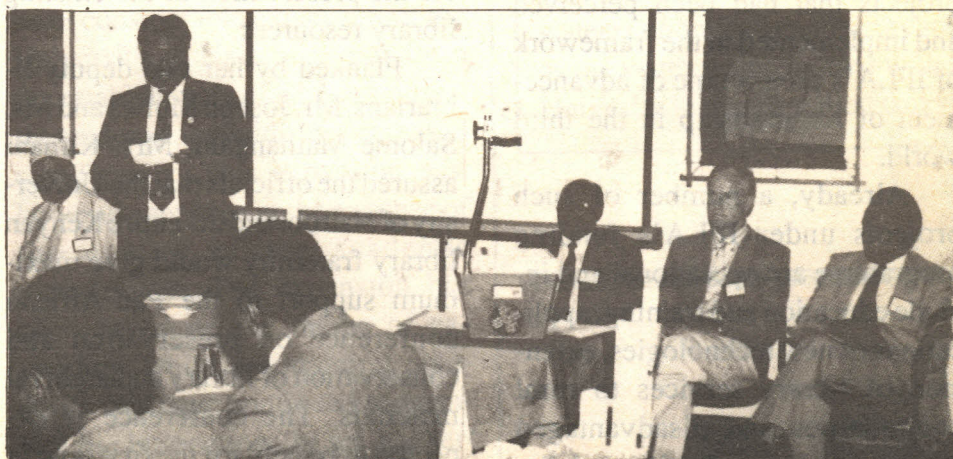
STANDARDS

The University of Nairobi has ensured and maintained high academic standards by adhering to internationally recommended staff/student ratios in the various teaching faculties and by ensuring that academic contact hours required by Senate are achieved, Prof. Gichaga said. A rigorous examination system which involves external examiners ensures that academic standards comparable to those of other universities in the world is strictly enforced.

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discussions and exchange of ideas and opinions. I look forward to seeing the conclusions and recommendations that will emerge from your deliberations for which I wish you success.

And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in declaring the Workshop on Guidance and Counselling officially open."



Prof. Gichaga: Holding of Workshops stressed

VICE-CHANCELLOR TOURS BAKERY UNIT

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. F.J. Gichaga on 20th December 1991 made an extensive familiarisation tour of the Bakery unit. The unit, situated at the Lower Kabete Campus, has a capacity to produce 4,000 loaves of bread per day and 30,000 *chapatis* per week, which would meet the Students Welfare Authority's requirements.

During the inspection tour, the Vice-Chancellor was shown the full process of bread-baking.

The Vice-Chancellor recalled that the idea of setting up a bakery was mooted by his predecessor, and promised that he (Prof. Gichaga) would see to the commissioning of the unit. He thanked members of staff of the unit and promised to come and open the unit at a later date.

During the tour, the Vice-Chancellor was accompanied by among others the Director of SWA Mr. J.L. Laanoi, the Clerk of Works Mr. G. Mwaniki and the acting Chief Catering Officer Mrs. Kimbui. The

tour team was conducted round the Bakery unit by the Chairman of the Department of Food Science, Dr. Karuri and the Bakery Manager Mr. Mbugua.

Introducing him to the staff of the unit, Mr. Laanoi informed the Vice-Chancellor that the Bakery had started off with a small but highly trained number of staff. He thanked the workers for the patience they had shown when they stayed idle for a long time after they were recruited.

LIBRARY MEETING

Officials of the Regional Standing Committee of the International Federation of the Library Association for Africa (IFLA) recently held a regional committee meeting at the University of Nairobi.

The three-day meeting, which was the first to be held outside its headquarters in Dakar, Senegal, reviewed the ongoing and new projects that had been perceived and implemented in the framework of IFLA's programme of advancement of librarianship in the third world.

Already, a number of such projects under IFLA's funding programme are operational and include education and training, applications of new technologies, extension of library services to rural communities and disadvantaged groups and the production and dis-

semination of reading materials.

Opening the meeting, Mrs. Mary Kimani, the University of Nairobi Librarian said library services played a central role in university education, adding that education standards depended greatly on library standards.

Mrs. Kimani told the 17 participants that Africa had limited budgets to buy library materials and called for the preservation of the existing library resources.

Flanked by her two deputy librarians, Mr. Joseph Mulwa and Ms. Salome Mathangani, Mrs. Kimani assured the officials that the University of Nairobi and the entire Kenyan library fraternity would give maximum support to the Pan-African conference on preservation and conservation of library and archival materials. The conference is expected to be held for the first time in

Nairobi in June, 1993. It will be a great honour to Kenya, she said.

Mrs. Kimani further noted that journals acquisition and maintenance was a major problem due to their high cost and appealed for assistance to acquire journals on compact discs.

The officials also held a meeting with the local planning committee charged with the preparation of the forthcoming Pan-African conference on preservation and conservation of library and archival material and finalised plans for the conference.

Mr. Liyai, College Librarian, College of Humanities and Social Sciences will represent East Africa in IFLA Standing Committee for Africa. Other representatives will be drawn from Senegal, Benin, Rwanda and Botswana. Others will come from the Netherlands, Sweden and France.

Cont. from page 2

Varsity Reopens

low. We shall, of course, give guidance and counselling to those who require assistance. Indeed, we would like to appeal to all of you to make use of your deans, chairmen of departments, cateresses and student counsellors based in the Dean of Students' office whose work is to solve student problems. But the University respects individual freedom and we shall be reluctant to interfere in issues that are better handled by individuals.

One of the questions first years ask upon arrival at the University is whether there will be any assemblies at all. The answer is obvious. This is a university where we train you to be an independent thinker and actor. Failure to achieve this may lead to discontinuation. Whether we will discontinue you from the University for failing or cheating in exams or breaking university regulations will depend entirely on your conduct. All students must contemplate about this awful responsibility and chart their course of action consciously and deliberately. This is simply because after you have been here for the first few weeks, the atmosphere in the campuses will deceive you. No one will take daily roll call. No one will supervise you. The lecturers will seem extremely friendly, casual and even negligent. However, in the lecture theatres, in tutorials, in laboratories and during Cats or at the end of every semester, you will be expected to deliver at higher intensity than what you did at Form four. A student who cannot successfully browse in the library and strengthen his lec-

ture notes is at risk. A student who cannot engage in lively debate on an intellectual issue or a point raised in class is perhaps in the wrong place.

I am, therefore, pleased to inform you that the University has maintained a record of excellence in scholarship that is acknowledged by other academic institutions all over the world. Our students continue to win prizes involving competitors from other universities. You should therefore make your contribution towards maintaining those standards by taking your work seriously.

It is in this respect that I must request you to avoid confrontation and intolerance. The beauty of a University Community largely lies in appreciating other peoples ideas, even when you disagree. The University community is composed of hard serving 'brain workers' and you should not succumb to rumour-mongering and crowd psychology. Any agitator should be quickly isolated and ignored. We are confident that you are intelligent enough to recognize facts and to draw your own conclusion.

In the last five years, there has been considerable expansion of the University of Nairobi. Apart from the establishment of new campuses, the student population has increased significantly. This expansion has, however, not been at the expense of the quality of the academic programmes. The expansion has been based on the theme of expanding while maintaining standards. We have continued to maintain the internationally set teacher/student ratios. This means that our

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LASTING SOLUTION TO WATER SHORTAGE AT MAIN CAMPUS SOUGHT

Over the past few months, Nairobi has been gripped by a severe water shortage. Commercial, industrial and public premises have had to do without water for days on end. The University has not been spared, and the main campus has been particularly hard hit.

However, there is reason to see light at the end of the tunnel as the university administration is dealing with the problem. The Vice-Chancellor Prof. F.J. Gichaga, is personally spearheading efforts in this direction. Already, the University, working in liaison with the Nairobi City Commission, is in the process of connecting the main campus water line to that of the Kabete Campus. Further, plans are underway for the University to drill two boreholes.

Meanwhile, *Varsity Focus* wishes to appeal to the University community to use the available water economically and with care as the water is transported to the University in tractor pulled tanks.

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Varsity Reopens

programmes are as intensive and as competitive as they have always been.

Changes

You have joined the university during a time when several changes which affect the university student have been introduced. We have for example the Pay-As-You-Eat Cafeteria system. This system has enabled the student to choose what he or she can eat and has led to a dramatic cut in the wastage of food. The paying of fees and the introduction of the bursary scheme have also been put in place. The University Bookshop is now maintaining student accounts to enable them acquire books using the book allowance which is credited in the student account.

You will undoubtedly find university life very strange from the one you led in secondary schools. The difference lies broadly in that, in school the initiative lies with the teacher to teach, whereas at a university, the student has access to lecturers, to libraries, to seminars and discussion groups (Tutorials) and is expected to explore deeper into the topics covered by his lecturers and professors and arrive at his own conclusions. Rather than being a pupil he becomes a 'scholar in training.' This new status has its attendant responsibilities which every student should be aware of.

A number of you will find university life a totally new system which provides you with many options. There will be the option to work hard in order to pass your examinations just like there will be the option to take life easily and therefore suffer the attendant consequences. There will be the option

to seek help from those appointed to help you i.e. lecturers, wardens and counsellors. In summary there will be the option to build yourself a lifetime career just like there will be the option to destroy your future.

Social Problems

With the above mentioned options, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some of the social problems which students must cope with. The first problem is how to cope with loneliness and frustrations. Most students are normally shy and are reluctant to discuss their problems with other people. But we have found that those students who form study groups and are social tend to sort out their social and academic problems best just as those who consult their wardens and teachers or develop friends within the university. Domestic problems tend to follow students to the University and strangely these difficulties cause more problems including suicides, than any other problem you may encounter here including tough classes. Indeed, lately domestic problems have tended to greatly influence the performance of students. Our counsellors are trained to also give counsel to your parents on delicate issues and we would like you to approach them.

The second problem which I want to bring to your attention is over-indulgence in social excesses such as drinking, noise, womanising (collecting), "manising", drug abuse and staying long hours in town.

It is now a fact that cases of pregnancies among our students have gone up. This has inevitably dislocated studies and has often led to failure. We are also aware of the AIDS scourge. You are extremely precious to your parents, to us and to this country and it is very painful to

lose anyone of you. You should therefore abstain from liberal sex. The days of zero-grazing are here with us. You must avoid social excesses that might ruin your own precious life and your university career.

The University has also been extremely concerned about the uncivil behaviour of some students, particularly during friendly games with other institutions. Such students have conducted themselves in a manner not expected of university students and have embarrassed the entire university community. We have maintained an Occurrence Book and kept all club outings under careful assessment. Any club causing embarrassment to the University shall in the extreme be de-registered and disciplinary measures taken against its members. I am, however, happy to note that since the introduction of these new measures, the behaviour of students during outings has generally been good. If this positive trend continues, we will review the measures.

In addition, it has been decided that students will only be allowed to attend funerals of fellow students and staff of the University. This move will minimise over-expenditure and avoid disruption of the academic programmes.

You have read, signed and sworn a statement that you will abide by University rules and regulations. But we sincerely believe that these rules are mere guidelines to assist you in charting a creative career for yourself while at this University.

Therefore, on behalf of us all at the University, I once again congratulate you for being selected to join us at the University of Nairobi and wish you every success in your just beginning university education."

FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLORS' VISITOR'S BOOK

The Vice-Chancellor has since the beginning of the year paid host to the following guests in his office

January 7, 1992: H.E. Somphand Kikilanon - Ambassador of Thailand

February, 1992: Dr. Michael Chege - Ford Foundation, Harare Office
and Dr. Peter Frey - Ford Foundation, Harare Office

February 6, 1992 H.E. Paulo Barbosa - Ambassador of Portugal

February 11, 1992: Sarwat Salem - IDRC, Canada
and Roger Finan - IDRC, Canada

February 18, 1992: Duncan Mugo - KUDHEIHA
William Walliane - KUDHEIHA
Mwari Njiru - KUDHEIHA
Amos Okello-Odongo - KUDHEIHA

February 25, 1992: Wilson Roberts - IFLA, The Hague
Brigadier Reydehl - Uppsala University
H. Kay Raseroka - Librarian, University of Botswana
G. Boyega Baajo - Nigeria Institute of International affairs

February 27, 1992: Hon. S.O. Oluoch, M.P. - Minister for Manpower Development and Employment.

University Participates in Exhibition

Four Publishing Departments of the University exhibited at the recently concluded three-day 2nd African Education and Training Exhibition '92 held at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre. The Nairobi University Press (NUP) and the publishing units of three research institutes, the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), the Institute of African Studies (IAS) and the Housing and Building Research Institute (HABRI) successfully sold the publishing aspects of the University at the exhibition. Publishing for the wider market is undertaken by the Nairobi University Press which is now equipped with modern desktop publishing computers. The other publishing units are research oriented departments.

Though mandated to publish and disseminate research materials, the institutes have had a huge stock of unsold publications due to lack of proper marketing strategies. But this is set to change. In recent times, as opposed to the passive practice in the past, the University has conspicuously exhibited its publications in various bookfairs. The University is therefore revamping its publishing units and repackaging its research publications in an effort to capture a wider market. The publishing units plan to satisfy the demand for books created by the 8:4:4 system of education and the expanded tertiary level education to expand their publications business.

The flame to open University publications to the public is fanned

by the editorial staff of the various institutes with the support of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

The exhibition, which was organised by the locally-based Marigold International and the London based International Conferences and Exhibitors Ltd, brought together about 80 organisations and institutions of higher learning from Kenya and overseas.

Most participants were universities and colleges who mounted a comprehensive display of study opportunities ranging from short term language courses to degrees and professional qualifications. There were also displays by manufacturers of related equipment and a programme of seminars. It was a resounding success as far as exposure of university publications was concerned.

"The exhibition was good as an exposure base for our publications. Apart from this we managed to publicise our anthropology programmes both for undergraduate and postgraduate studies", the IAS publications editor, Lucy Karuru told the *Varsity Focus*, adding that she was receiving more enquiries.

The HABRI publications editor Jane Abonyo told the *Varsity Focus* that the response by people seeking more information on low cost housing has been tremendous.

"It was a success," agreed the IDS publications editor, Kibisu Kabatesi, "But in future we must

realise that the exhibition theme covers the entire University as an institution of higher learning".

Though it was a pleasant surprise to many people to learn that the University is also a publisher, a lot more questions went unanswered on university entrance qualifications under the 8:4:4 system, GCE, A-Levels and so forth. "More information on the university's academic programmes should be availed in future exhibitions of this kind," the editors concurred.

"Although we did our best to answer the queries, we had to refer many people to the appropriate colleges or the office of the academic registrar," they added.

The question of education is still an issue pursued with a burning passion in Kenya. This was reflected by the heavy attendance and the many queries directed to the University stand on the external degree programme, the postgraduate scholarships and the possibility of pursuing a degree programme with a diploma from middle level colleges. About 30,000 scholars, trainers, researchers, parents and the general public attended the exhibition.

"Most local participants were very happy with the attendance. In fact we shall host another one come next year," a sales executive with Marigold International, Dan Riunga, revealed to *Varsity Focus*.

"Similar exhibitions have been held in Dubai and Taiwan", he said.

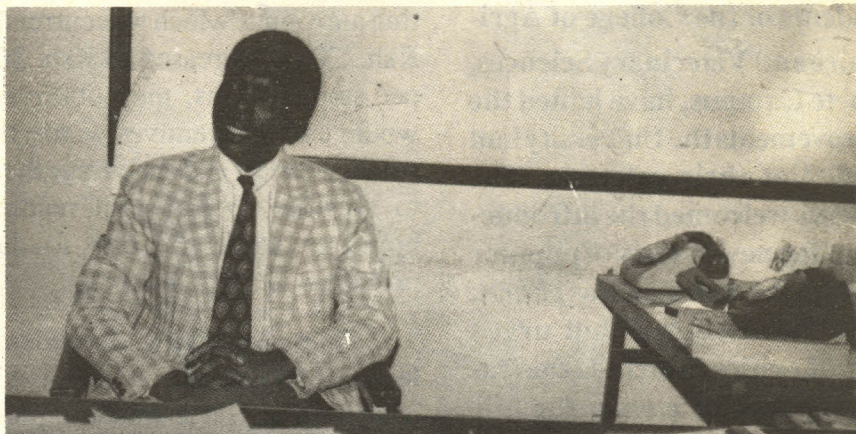
Law Students Seminar a big Success

The first ever seminar organised by students in the Faculty of Law took place between Friday 20th and Saturday 21st March 1992. The two-day event attracted participants from students representatives from each class in the faculty, with students themselves making the bulk of resource persons. Indeed, out of more than ten papers presented, only two were not by students.

Launching the seminar, Judge of Appeal Justice J.R.O Masime congratulated the organisers for identifying an impartial theme for discussion: *Legal Education and Legal Awareness*. Justice Masime gave an overview of the evolution of the legal system in Kenya over the years and gave students certain revealing statistics:

1. That today, out of 216 administrative divisions in Kenya, only 44 have courts.
2. Six out of the eight Provincial headquarters have high courts.
3. Four District headquarters have a high court: Kisii, Meru, Machakos and Eldoret.
4. 34 District headquarters have magistrates courts.

Justice Masime said that there was need to set up additional courts to serve the 24 million Kenyans in keeping with the policy of taking judicial services to the people.



Dr. Kibwana: Impressed

The themes of the presentations included the following:

- The Law Curriculum in Kenya
- The Woman, the Child and the Law
- Legal Awareness and Legal Aid in Kenya and the Role of the Law Student
- Legal Research at the University of Nairobi
- Legal Representation in the Administration of Justice
- The Challenge of the Legal Profession in Kenya Today.

The two papers by non students were presented by Drs. Kivutha Kibwana and Oketch Owiti, and two Nairobi Advocates, P. Nowrojee (an ex-lecturer in the faculty) and C. Ngugi of the Legal Education and Aid programme.

In a speech read by the acting dean of the Faculty, Dr. Kibwana, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) commanded the effort shown

by officials of the Kenya Law Students Society which depicted a professional students body at its best in carrying out a professional mandate. Dr. Kibwana expressed satisfaction with the high quality of the papers presented and took the opportunity to thank the law students for their ability to manage the Law to Schools Programme and publication of *Sheria magazine* and the *University of Nairobi Law Journal*.

The seminar organisers included W.A. Ngaira (acting Chairman of KLSS), A. Ndambiri and J. Gathi.

The seminar was sponsored by Textbook Centre, International Commission of Jurists, Legal Education and Aid Programme and the Law Society of Kenya. Others included the Legal Advice Centre, Mutula Kilonzo (Advocate) and the National Council of Churches Kenya (NCKK).

STUDENTS DIARY

KABETE CAMPUS STUDENTS HAIL CAFETERIA STAFF

Students of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Kabete Campus, have hailed the improvements the University had effected at their cafeteria. The students welcomed the introduction of the new variety of popular dishes in the menu such as *githeri*, chips and fried eggs but urged the authorities to include the traditional dish of *mbuta*, the Nile perch fish.

In another development, the student leaders of Kabete, during an executive committee meeting held at their campus last January, noted with satisfaction that the size of *chapatis* was now realistic and reasonable.

The meeting also recommended that student leaders' sit-

ting allowance which was currently Ksh.200 be increased to Ksh. 300 per student. This, they observed, would create incentives within the student leaders and encourage them to sacrifice their useful reading hours to solve the day to day problems within the college.

The Agricultural students leaders announced that they would organise an inter-hostel sports competition within their college and called for assistance from the University sports department. To improve on the security of the students at the college, the leaders appealed to the relevant authorities to install more security lights within the college and along the main route from Uthiru Shopping Centre to the College.



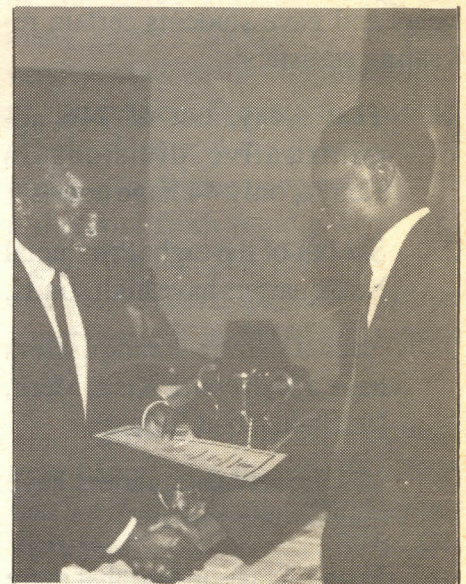
Students having a hearty chat with the Vice-Chancellor (standing, 2nd from left) and Mr. Laanoi (Director of SWA) (standing left) during meal time in one of the newly renovated cafeterias

STUDENT DOES VARSITY PROUD

Mr. Patrick Kairu, a student at the School of Architecture, has won the first prize of the prestigious *Commonwealth Association of Architects 2nd Inter School Design Competition, 1991*.

Fifth-year Kairu will get a reward of 500 Sterling pounds for his sterling performance.

Kairu's achievement is an important boost to the Department of Architecture and indeed to the entire University, as it clearly shows that our students can effectively compete with other schools of Architecture in the Commonwealth, and indeed the world.



Another winner: A past student receiving a merit certificate from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (A&F), Prof. S.O. Wandiga

SPORTS

SWA STAFF FOOTBALL CLUB CLINCHES TROPHY



The Vice-Chancellor (2nd right) accepting the trophy from the Club officials

The Students Welfare Authority Football Club has earned itself a place in this season's Nairobi Division One by clinching the KFF Nairobi Division Two Cup. This is an outstanding performance by a team that has often had to play against many odds, including unavailability of proper games kits. This achievement is attributed to sheer dedication and hard work on the part of the players and the officials of the club.

Presenting the cup to the Vice-Chancellor recently, the SWA Football Club Patron Mr. J.L.

Laanoi, who is also the Director of SWA, outlined the count-down of events leading to the current success of the Club. Mr. Laanoi thanked the Vice-Chancellor for finding time from his busy schedule to attend the cup presentation ceremony.

Present at the occasion were Mr. C.O. Ombati, Chairman of the Club and Deputy Director of SWA, Mr. J.K. Maiyo (Secretary/Treasurer), Mr. A. Chore (Captain) and Mr. P. Wandera (Asst. Captain).

In his brief address before accepting the trophy, the Vice-Chan-

cellor, Prof. F.J. Gichaga, commended the team for their sterling performance which saw them leap to the top of the league. He pointed out that being a sportsman himself, he knew how it felt like when one won in a sport, especially football. The Vice-Chancellor asked Mr. Laanoi to do all that was within his means to alleviate the most pressing problems the club was currently experiencing. He wished the club all the success and looked forward to a time when a University of Nairobi team would represent the country in international competitive soccer.

Nairobi University Press

PUBLISHED BOOKS

		Price	
		Kshs.	US\$
1.	An Introduction to Calculus R. Cowen , J.H. Were & P.T. Vaz	120	12
2.	Concepts of Jurisprudence R.S Bhalla	70	10
3.	Maisha, Kitendawili na Johari Daisaku Ikeda	250	12
4.	Manual on Microscopic Anatomy J. K. Kimani	120	10
5.	Comparative Study of Religions J.N.K. Mugambi	140	15
6.	Introduction to African History M.A. Ogutu & S. Kenyanchui	200	15
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9.	Basic Concepts of Microeconomics Ackello Ogutu	110	11
10.	The S.M. Otiemo Case: Death and Burial in Modern Kenya J.B. Ojwang & J.N.K. Mugambi (Eds)	120	12
11.	Casebook on Kenya Customary Law C.J. Cotran	280	25
12.	A Practical Manual on Animal Physiology J.M.Z. Kamau (Ed)	100	10
13.	A University Course in Academic Communication Skills Peter Bint, D. Greenhalgh & P. Robins		
	<i>Workbook</i>	56	8
	<i>Resource Book</i>	38	6
14.	Writing & Study Skills Okoth Okombo	70	10
15.	Techniques in Geography Richard T. Oganda	90	6
16.	Practical Physics Jenny S. O'Leary	120	12
17.	An Introductory History of Education D.N. Sifuna & J.E. Otiende	175	12.50

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2. **Working with Rural Communities**
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Edited by H. Indangasi, H. Mutoro and M. Munene
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