

The Anvil

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Vol. 21. No. 162

Price Sh. 20/=

Inside

• **Fierce competition between Coro and Kameme**

• **Alleged harassment from the men in blue**

• **New look for University of Nairobi.**

• **Rising costs for kidney patients.**

• **Council to evict tenants in Eastlands.**

Drug and sex dealers at National Theatre

By Amisi Otieno and Munyao Mutinda

Drug peddlers and commercial sex workers have invaded the Kenya National Theatre, investigations have revealed.

The drug dealers, masquerading as professional artists, are using the theatre grounds to lure their clients.

Source revealed to *The Anvil* this week that the tens of the said actors have been flocking the theatre from where they identify and con foreigners in the nearby Norfolk Hotel.

A number of drug dealers were said to have died after engaging in sexual activities with their clients. They are suspected to have contracted sexually transmitted diseases and drug related complications.

An official of the Kenya Cultural Centre (KCC) told *The Anvil* that some of the drug peddlers were also homosexuals and that they were known to deceive their clients that they were attached to the theatre.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, showed journalists a

business card left behind by a man who claimed to have been conned by an artist affiliated to the centre.

The official said a wrecked bus which had been abandoned behind the theatre had been used as a meeting point by some homosexuals and drug traffickers before it was towed out of the compound.

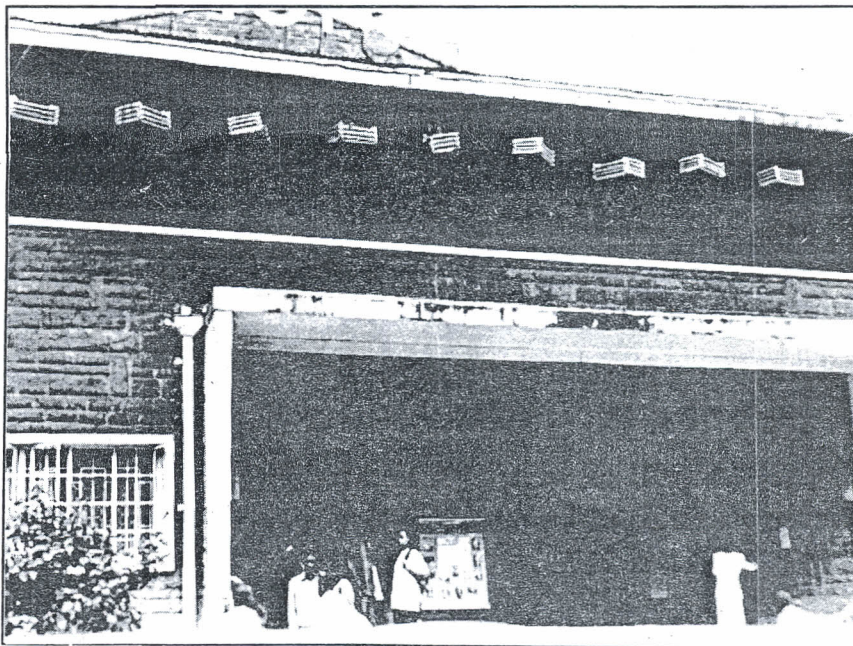
Contacted for comment, the KCC acting manager Emily Njeru said there were no artists officially registered with the theatre.

"Many of these dubious artists only use the premises and the centre name for personal missions," she told *The Anvil*.

A group of artists have over the past couple of years been engaged in a tussle with the management of the cultural centre. The latest episode revolved around an alleged grabbing of the theatre ground. Apparently, the artists were incensed by the renovation of the parking lot and the perimeter wall around the theatre by the Norfolk Hotel.

Njeru denied there was any tension between the KNT and the hotel. She said the initial plans were to have the hotel use the theatre grounds as a secure park for its clients at a fee.

Continued Page 2 Col 1



The entrance to the Kenya Cultural centre. The Kenya National Theatre has become a haven for drug and sex traffickers.

Shortage of lecture rooms hits campus

By Jackson Wafula

An acute shortage of lecture rooms has hit University of Nairobi following the introduction of module II, otherwise called 'parallel programme.'

The teaching of module II students is mostly done at the main campus due to its proximity to the city centre which is accessible to a majority of working students.

Faculties located far from the city centre such as Commerce and Education at Lower Kabete and Kikuyu campuses respectively, hold their lectures at the main campus. It is only the Faculty of Law that holds its evening lectures at its campus in Parklands.

In the evenings, the main campus is a convergence point for students from different faculties. As a result of this and

the increase of module II students, it has become increasingly difficult to have enough lecture rooms at any one evening.

At the Faculty of Arts, lecturers with fewer students have been asked to make arrangements to teach from their offices. Some departments have been forced to convert their departmental libraries and computer rooms into lecture rooms in the evenings to meet the demand. Some lecturers find themselves with no alternative but to hold their lectures on Sundays.

According to the module II coordinator in the Faculty of Arts, Mr. Edward Nyongesa, the problem is so serious that plans are under way to utilise available spaces at the Halls of residence. The Central Catering Unit,

Continued page 3 Col. 3

Varsity medical scheme collapses

By Mugure Kihika

University of Nairobi's staff medical scheme has collapsed.

The university clinic has now been reduced to a mere consultancy and prescription centre.

They then have to buy drugs elsewhere at their own expense.

Lecturers and their dependants are now required to pay deposits in order to be admitted.

Instead, senior university staff have taken hefty health insurance schemes for themselves and their families, leaving their colleagues at the mercy of a collapsing health system.

Investigations showed that principals and other senior administrative staff at the university are insured by reputable

health service providers like AAR at the university's expense.

A cross section of lecturers and other university staff told *The Anvil* that when they joined university, it had the best medical scheme in the country.

The scheme was backed by a well staffed clinic and a fully stocked pharmacy.

Although the money used is supposed to be refunded, the same takes months, and when paid, it is done in instalments. A lecturer in the History Department said his bill of Shs 39,000 took four months and four instalments to be paid. The process sometimes takes more than six months.

The bursar of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, J. Gachuna, admitted the refunds are paid in instalments but refuted claims that the same

was delayed.

"Claims are processed and paid out as soon as they are received. However, delays can occur along the line as the claims have to be certified by the Chief Medical Officer," he said.

The University's Public Relations Officer, Kimaita Kirimania, confirmed the claims, but quickly added that the changes were not unique as the same was happening in other sectors of the economy.

"The reality on the ground is that things are changing and our medical scheme is still one of the best," he says.

He said the University clinics are under pressure especially due to the Aids scourge.

A pharmacist at the Senior Staff

Continued page 3 col 1

NEWS

Theatre invaded

From Page 1

Recent media reports have accused the government of neglecting the 500 seat capacity auditorium and sidelining local artists.

However, Ms. Njeru explained that the government had funded the current renovations and landscaping at the gardens and that the charges of Shs 17,000 per day for the auditorium were moderate.

The centre, incorporating the KNT, was established under a colonial ordinance in 1951. It constitutes institutions of cultural, academic and philanthropic nature and seeks to provide a centre for use and enjoyment by Kenyan citizens. It was instituted at independence under the Kenya Cultural Centre Act (Cap 218).

Its title deed is still held by the British government. The British Council, which runs a training centre at the premises, has a 99-year lease which expires in fifty years' time. The Kenya Conservatoire of Music, also housed at the same venue, has a similar lease.

Meanwhile, the centre has embarked on a series of events geared towards making the centre more attractive to local patrons.

Activities lined up include an Aids extravaganza, talent shows, cultural festival and a concert featuring the best plays in this year's schools' drama festival. There will also be regular food festivals and fashion shows to promote African culture.

School delays exams again

By Joe Okong'o

The University of Nairobi's School of Journalism has once again postponed examinations. This is the third time that the exams have been rescheduled occasioning a change in the academic calendar.

According to the original academic calendar, the regular class programme was scheduled to commence on October 2, 2000, and end on July 6, this year. However, a fortnight later a new memo to all students dated June 19th, and signed by the Senior Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Lillian Mutull was posted. It indicated that examinations had been rescheduled once again from the July 16 to August 1, 2001.

Mrs. Mutull said the latest change has been prompted by a section of the students who felt they were not prepared to sit for an exam because they had not covered many topics in lectures.

The postponement was met with mixed reactions. Some students felt it was a fair move saying they should learn before they are tested.

On the other hand, some felt it was a waste of time, "what the hell are we doing here, asked an irate student.

This year the programme has been rocked by absenteeism on the part of some lectures. Thus, in a bid to recover the lost time students have to take more time at the School.



The gate under construction at the main campus, that will give the university a new look

New varsity gate to cost half a million

By Catherine Wanyama and Grace Akinyi

The University of Nairobi is to acquire a face-lift with a new look gate to the main campus currently under construction.

The entrance will be graced by two gates. In addition, there will be a gatehouse to control traffic in and out of the university. But the beauty of it all is the roof, which is constructed in the shape of an open book, to symbolise the accessibility of knowledge to all.

The project is the brainchild of Mr. Gitonga Mwaniki, the Clerk of Works at the University of Nairobi. Mwaniki says that the project will be completed by the end of July at a cost of 0.5 million.

It will also spot the University of Nairobi logo and name. The design, may be adopted for all the other University of Nairobi campuses as the identity tag.

Showdown looms at City Hall as NDP tells off DP

By Otieno Otieno

As election fever grips city hall, the National Development Party has thrown its weight behind the current deputy mayor, Joe Aketch, in an effort to recapture his seat.

In an exclusive interview with *The Anvil* at the party's headquarters in Philadelphia house, top party officials dismissed as "misplaced and unrealistic" Democratic Party of Kenya's (DP) intention to block Aketch's re-election bid.

The NDP's acting secretary-general, Sospeter Ojaamong said: "It is not possible for the DP to run the council in isolation of other parties. In any case they are divided along the River Chania. For instance, those from Nyeri are unlikely to support their counterparts from Murang'a."

Ojaamong hinted that the NDP would want stringent measures taken against the DP, accusing the party councillors of running down the city council.

"As one of the two ruling parties in the country, we shall not sit back and watch the DP mismanage the city. We may consider disbanding the council in favour of a commission to save city residents from more suffering."

Their sentiments were echoed by George Ouma, the NDP councillor for Nairobi West ward. Ouma said that although it was relatively early to announce their elaborate strategy for the election, all the nine NDP councillors had resolved to support Aketch. However, he refused to divulge their voting pattern for the committee posts.

But a spotcheck by *The Anvil* revealed that campaigns for the elections slated for the August 15 had begun in earnest. All but seven councillors reported to the councillors' room on Monday afternoon, with the rest out attending luncheons hosted by prospective aspirants.

The mayoral seat has attracted the highest number of contestants. Apart from the sitting mayor, John Ndirangu,

who will defend his seat, Dick Waweru, a former holder of the office, has entered the race.

Other hopefuls include David Kaberere, Dick Wathika, Muiruri Gitau and Josep at Kirago.

Last week, Mwai Kibaki, the DP chairman was reported to have instructed the party's councillors to use their numerical superiority to sweep all seats

for Aketch's downfall, reminding them to take into account his performance record.

Remarked John Kiema, the NDP's Executive Director: "Aketch has demonstrated competence for the job. He has been at the forefront fighting theft and graft at city hall. He has been everywhere attending and addressing functions to give hope to Nairobian who are desperate for services."

In what is being anticipated to be a grudge poll, the DP has indicated it would particularly seek to oust Aketch from office. It also wants all committee posts to be held by its councillors.

The move by DP is seen to be driven by the party's wish to consolidate its control of the city council and punch the first holes on the formidable KANU/NDP coalition.

Aketch represents Ziwani ward on a KANU ticket, but enjoys the solid backing of smaller parties at city hall.

And in a separate interview at his office, on Tuesday, Aketch called on the Democratic party to keep off city hall affairs.

Saying that he reserves a lot of respect for Kibaki as a national leader, he declared that any scheme to vote him out because of his party was doomed to fail.

"We need to face the problems affecting city residents as a team. This is what we have been working to achieve for the short period I have been the deputy mayor. We therefore do not want any divisions to be introduced due to elections."

Aketch maintained that he was not scared by the move by DP contending that it was unattainable.

"We in the smaller parties are a force to reckon with. DP may want to underrate us at their own risk. We have shown them enough respect by not fielding a mayoral candidate. They must reciprocate by leaving us the deputy mayor's and committee posts."

The NDP will consider disbanding City Council in favour of commission

including committee posts.

Out of the 73 elected and nominated councillors at the Nairobi city council, 37 belong to the DP, while KANU, NDP, Ford-Kenya, SDP, Ford-people and Safina share the other 36.

However, cracks have emerged within the ranks of the DP with some councillors reported to have broken camp with their party's common stand. Speaking to *The Anvil* at the councillors' room, Kamande the DP councillor for Mathare ward, revealed he would support Aketch.

"We do not care what the party's opinion is. The mayor is supposed to be like the father of all. We shall not consider one's party or even tribe. After all, city residents want services, not what party the mayor comes from," remarked Kamande

In the same vein, the NDP on Monday warned their rivals against plotting

No varsity admission for former mayor

By Linda Ochiel

The former Nairobi city mayor, Mr John King'ori, admits that he was denied admission to the University of Nairobi's Faculty of Law for lack of the right qualification.

Mr King'ori had sought admission to the parallel degree programme at the university last year but was turned away.

He scored Division Three in the Kenya Certificate of Education (KCE), but the university admits applicants with a minimum of division Two.

Speaking from his office in Accra Hotel, King'ori expressed disappointment at failing to secure admission inspite of a deep desire to pursue a degree course in Law.

King'ori said he had appeared in court on many occasions during and after his tenure to respond to charges on his own behalf or as a representative of the city council.

He lamented that on a number of occasions he had failed to receive satisfactory representation from his attorneys. This, he explained, had precipitated his desire to revive a childhood dream to become a lawyer.

Consequently, the former mayor has opted for a certificate course in law at the Kenya School of Professional studies

Kingori intends to climb the academic ladder until he attains a degree in law so that he is able to practice law.

But after being turned away, Kingori nurses a deep-seated discontent with the public universities. He indicated that he preferred private colleges to public ones.

"After all, there is a lot of animosity with the younger regular students stoning their parallel colleagues some of whom are as old as their fathers," he said.

He disclosed that he was satisfied with the kind of teaching he receives at the Kenya School of Professional Studies.

NCC to discipline demolition squad

By Abuna Ayiro

The Nairobi City Council will take disciplinary action against any of its officers implicated in the demolition of kiosks at Westlands last week.

Deputy Mayor Joe Aketch said the council was arranging to help the more than 100 victims rebuild their kiosks and carry on with their businesses.

Aketch said however, that City Hall would not offer financial assistance to the traders. Hundreds of traders recently lost property worth millions of shillings when city council askaris descended on their kiosks at night.

"The mayor should be informed of any plans to demolish structures in the city before the action is taken," Aketch told reporters.

Following the demolitions, Westlands MP Fred Gumo visited the victims and promised to assist them reoccupy the premise until the case pending in court is heard and determined.

Meanwhile, Aketch has expressed strong hopes of recapturing his seat during the forthcoming City Hall elections.

Speaking to the *The Anvil*, Aketch said he would marshal the support of councillors from all parties.

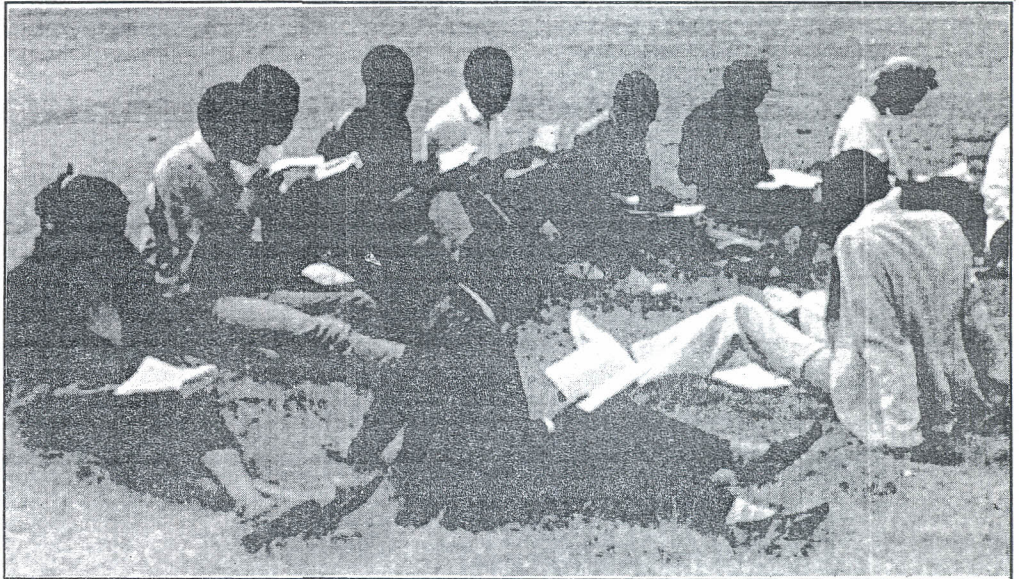
The deputy mayor said he reserved a lot of respect for Democratic Party Chairman Mwai Kibaki whose party forms the majority of councillors in City Hall.

"I have never insulted Mr Kibaki who is a national leader," he added.

Aketch said he did not support any candidate for the mayoral post but pointed out that he would only support one who would promise to deliver services to the city residents.

He said his first priority was to return to the council in his capacity to enable him continue serving Nairobi residents. He promised to serve the less privileged and to ensure that Nairobi regained its lost glory.

Aketch was born and brought up in Ziwani Estate, Nairobi.



Students are learning outside. Such cases are bound to increase unless more lecture rooms are put up.

Varsity hit by shortage of lecture rooms

From page 1

(CCU) and the kitchenettes are now targeted for subdivisions to create room for lecture halls. These facilities are underutilised as most regular students have resorted to cooking in their halls.

There are also plans to increase security lights along the road to Chiromo campus so that some faculties can be encouraged to hold their lectures from there.

"The Faculty of Arts had proposed that an extra floor be added on Gandhi wing building, but were advised that the building's foundation cannot support more than five floors. If there is space, there is money to put up new lecture rooms on the main campus," Mr. Nyongesa said.

Moses Anyangu, the co-ordinator of

Module II programme in the Faculty of Commerce agrees that the problem is real and something has to be done soon.

The School of Journalism, housed at the Main Campus, has only one lecture room although it has three classes - one regular class and two parallel classes. The school has recently lost one of its rooms to the Faculty of Commerce.

A number of students interviewed said the problem is usually worse at the beginning of a semester.

The shortage has occasionally led to near physical confrontations among the academic staff. A student told *The Anvil* of an incident where a senior professor abused and almost fought his colleague over a lecture room.

"In some cases, the lecturers use to evict others from lecture rooms allocated to them," said one student who sought anonymity.

These confrontations are becoming common and are bound to increase unless the University intervenes by providing lecture rooms to each faculty.

Ironically, the university has put up new buildings in other campuses such as Chiromo, Kabete and Parklands but not in the main campus where most of the teaching is done.

According to a senior administrator who sought anonymity, the problem would have been worse had the faculty of Engineering not mixed their parallel and regular students. Parallel and regular students in that faculty are taught together during the day. In the evenings, the lecture rooms are used by the Faculty of Education.

Lack of lecture rooms is likely to force some faculties to either reduce their number of intake or go back to their respective campuses.

Lack of computers hampers pensioners' payment

By Nkatha Gikunda and Mutinda Munyao

Poor record keeping and lack of computers at the pensions section of the Teachers Service Commission (TSC), is hampering prompt payment of retirement and gratuity benefits to former employees.

Records at the TSC indicate that only 67 cases have been cleared over the last four months, while hundreds of others are still pending.

A chief personnel officer in-charge of pensions at the Commission said poor recording and the use of a manual filing system has made it hard to effect the payments in time. The officer said some files could not be located.

The official attributed the delays to failure by relatives of dead teachers to avail the required documents to facilitate payments.

Recent reports in a section of the media have carried complaints over delayed payments of their retirement benefits. Most of them claimed they had spent over 10 years waiting for their pension. Cases of some dying before receiving their benefits have been reported.

The Pensions Act Cap 189 requires that public servants and teachers receive their terminal benefits as soon as they retire.

The personnel officer said the section had not been facilitated to handle pension cases promptly. She asked for more funding to enable both TSC and district education offices to facilitate faster payments.

Last week, the Government announced the establishment of a new pensions scheme, increasing benefits for retirees. The Commission has, however, not received any communication from the Ministry of Education, according to the official who requested anonymity.

Medical scheme collapses

From page 1

Clinic who sought anonymity said that supplies are no longer reliable as the University has lost credit worthiness among the suppliers. She intimated that suppliers, who are paid by cheque do not supply drugs until the cheques are cleared.

On complaints of absenteeism and lateness, the pharmacist said senior staff want to have their way and are not ready to follow the laid down procedures. "Even in major hospitals, one cannot be treated within 20 minutes. Some even spend four hours waiting for treatment," she noted.

Efforts to reach the Chief Medical Officer were unfruitful.

Debt, Aids a drawback to education

By Soyinka Lempaa

Huge external debts and Aids efforts are taking a toll on higher education in Kenya, says the Education Minister, Henry Kosgei.

In a speech read on his behalf by an assistant minister in the ministry, Adams Karauri, the minister further blamed slow economic growth for the woes of the education sector.

Mr Karauri, was addressing participants at the 2nd Symposium of the International Learning at the University of Nairobi's Taifa Hall.

The one-day symposium was also attended by Johnnie Carson, the American ambassador to Kenya, and scholars

drawn from 41 colleges in the Great Lakes region.

The minister expressed fears that Africa could lag behind in the globalisation process unless it embraced modern technological developments.

"There is need to upgrade skills and diversity in programmes offered by local colleges to ensure that they are relevant to the dynamic job market," he said.

He paid tribute to the US government for continuing to support Kenyan students pursue studies abroad.

Observing that the number of Kenyan students in American colleges had gone up, he noted that most leaders and professionals had received their educa-

tion in the USA.

On the negative portrayal of Africa in Western countries, Kosgei hoped those pursuing education overseas would help explain the correct image of the continent. "Western scholars sometimes define and describe Africa from a negative perspective. This is, to a large extent, a result of lack of appreciation of the continent's contribution and potential. I am hopeful that some of the myths and misconceptions about Africa will be dispelled at the conclusion of this symposium and we too, in turn, will be in a position to understand America better," he said.

NDP officials cry foul over attacks

By Jacob Awuor

National Development Party (NDP) top officials claim they are targeted by political thugs masquerading as criminals.

In what appears as the usual street muggings, the officials have been mugged and harassed, the latest victim being the party's secretary general, Odeke Ojamong. They now fear for their lives.

Ojamong who is currently recovering from injuries he sustained during an

attack outside the party headquarters at Philadelphia House two weeks ago, claimed the attacks were political. He said some people were not happy with the political progress the party was making.

During the attack, the Secretary General was robbed of valuables and after being stripped of his suit.

In a similar incident, the new Minister for Planning and National Development, Dr Adhu Awiti was attacked, beaten and stripped of his shirt at the same spot. He

was saved from the thugs by security personnel manning their offices.

Yet another victim of the attacks was the party's Executive Director, John Kiema, who has been mugged twice and on both occasions robbed of a mobile phone.

Ojamong, who reported the attack, has since recorded statements at the Central Police Station and has called upon the Police Commissioner to provide them with security.



Raila Odinga

Brain drain to blame for Africa's impotence

As African heads of state assemble for the annual OAU summit in Lusaka, Zambia, Soyinka Lempaa takes a look at the ever elusive dream of African unity.

Will the African continent ever be a competitor in the global arena? The new world order is a mirage to Africans. The continent is yet to play a central role even in social gatherings, like the olympics and the world cup. These events are supposed to promote international understanding.

Africans overcome the negative images which dominate the western media and prove that they are as competent as any other race in the world. Some countries like Cameroon, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Kenya have indeed done our continent proud by excelling in the international arena. This is putting paid to the racial prejudices that, by design, dominate most of the situations.

The international media has played a very prominent role in promoting racial stereotypes against Africa. The painting of an African as a primitive, barbaric, animist and insensitive zombie by the missionaries, continues to give the west a potent weapon for justifying imperialism. This has recently been seen through forced privatisation and structural adjustment programmes. The conditionalities enforced by the International Monetary Fund and the World bank are just not applicable in Africa.

The West, knowing that it has the necessary infrastructure and capital to loot the resources of Africa, has pushed for immature privatisation. The sale of national institutions to multinationals is tantamount to opening up the continent for a second phase of the scramble for Africa. The impoverished masses in Africa do not have the capital to buy the corporations. So they will simply go to already rich Europe.

"There are so many problems associated with misguided privatisation. African countries are experiencing serious problems associated with re-orientation," notes Prof Anyang' Nyong'o a political scientist.

In the international market, the west controls the prices of the raw materials imported from Africa and those of the finished goods exported to Africa. "The international class system has its roots in this privatisation business," observes another scholar, Abubakar Abdullahi.

The ruling class colludes with the international capitalist to entrench economic hegemony. That is why there is a wide gulf between the rich and the poor in Africa.

A major inequality in the international circles exists in communication. None of the African countries has the capital to launch a satellite, regardless of the fact that the geo-stationary



orbit lies above the equator, which runs across the continent. This has given the developed world means of promoting the negative images and stereotypes about Africa.

anybody who toses worms in the river is not a friend of fish.

In the Western media, Africa is portrayed as a lawless home of delinquents where tribal animosity and civil strife abound. "Images of political instability, tribal warfare, religious bigotry, public corruption, poverty and economic deprivation constitute the main substance and diet of international media," says Abubakar Abdallah.

The press in Africa has helped the West to defame Libya, whose contribution in the liberation of Africa can not be underestimated.

The late Afro-American human rights activist Malcolm X cautioned the Blacks that anybody who toses worms in the river is not a friend of fish. Any fish who think that the worms are free of baited hooks end up in the frying pan.

Some of the above sentiments about the Continent and its people, to a certain extent are valid. But to attribute them to the human or psychological nature of Africans is fallacious. The colonial governments deliberately created tribes and administrative regions in their famous divide and rule tactic.

The continent should rejuvenate the Pan-African News Agency (PANA) as an antidote of these invidious images against her people. Created in 1960s, Pana's objective was to liberate African countries and correct its image, which had been dented by the colonialists. When most of the countries got the flag, Pana died.

These goals can only be realised if the much touted African unity is implemented. The recent attempts by Col. Muammar Gaddafi of Libya is in the right direction.

If we had a strong African union like the European Union, the African dream would be realised.

The union would guarantee greater bargaining power. The continent has been experiencing brain drain. If only strong democratic structures would be put in place, such people would invest in the continent.

In his recent visit to Kenya, renowned Nobel laureate, Wole Soyinka, urged African governments to create conducive environment for its intellectual.

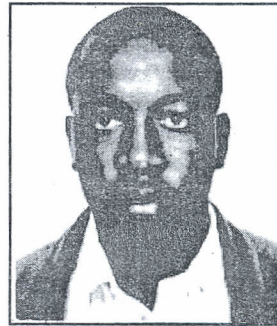
Eighth parliament's linguistic and professional challenges

By James Oranga

During the afternoon session of the Parliamentary debate on the 26th of June 2001, House Speaker Francis Ole Kaparo remarked that the National Assembly was an institution where the cream of the nation sat. The Speaker made the comment as off the cuff remarks - meaning it may not have been intended to convey the seriousness of its implications.

A significant constituency of the eighth parliament's legislators cannot be ranked among the nation's cream. There is manifest failure to exhibit professionalism, decency, and even linguistic competence in Kenya's parliament. The constitution demands that a prospective member of parliament must, among other qualifications, possess the ability to speak both English and Kiswahili - which are the working languages of the National Assembly. There is a further provision that should the ability of such a contestant to communicate in these two codes be in doubt, he or she should be subjected to a language test.

Sitting in the speaker's gallery on that day, I could not help but wonder who qualifies some of our Parliamentarians as able communicators in the queen's language. An assistant minister, while responding to a question raised by an opposition politician said, "we have not gone in the ground," to mean that they had not gone to the ground. Another one remarked, "the honourable member



for..... should understand what I am saying," to mean that the legislator should understand what he was saying.

On the other side, a respected opposition member said, "this question was raised in the house before and it has not addressed," to mean that the raised question was not addressed, while another spoke a tongue close to English saying: "there is no *galantee* for parliamentarian's safety." Unfortunately, for this case, I am unable to figure out what that very revered legislator meant to say.

With communicative inabilities as serious as these, one only wonders to what extent a prospective parliamentarian needs to be conversant with Parliament's working languages before they are qualified to contest seats. Whoever is

responsible for ensuring this quality should be reminded that one's ability to speak a language (in an official setting) is null and void unless he can communicate understandably.

Shouting and yelling - akin to those common in primary school debates are no surprises in the eighth parliament. Some members even go to the extent of assuming the Speaker's coordinating function. They shamelessly shout other members down. One M.P was 'ordered' to sit down by a fellow member when he rose on a point of order. Surprisingly, he respectfully complied. At one point when Bondo M.P. Oburu Oginga rose to ask a question, one heckler shouted, "*kaa chini wewe si tinga tinga.*"

Such incidents portray the improper performance of Parliament in only one afternoon. Should they be representative of the daily occurrences in the house, one wonders how much longer it would take our system to mould an admirable legislature.

The constitutional review process should consider an amendment to ensure that only those with proven communicative and professional competence sit in the house. This is the only way to ensure that Mr. Speaker's claim that in Parliament sits the cream of Kenya becomes a reality.

Program attracts the cream of the society

By Linda Ochiel

Walk into the parking lot at the University of Nairobi in the evening and chances are that the vehicles parked will overwhelm you. The parking lot displays long and wide vehicles hemmed together in a labyrinth of luxury. The sophistication exuded by the occupants warrants recognition. So, who is who in the evening classes?

The classes comprise members of parliament, assistant ministers, insurance managers, top personnel from the hotel industry, executive directors of banks and companies among others. At the Parklands law campus, members of parliament such as Stephen Ndichu, (Juja) and Mwangi Kiunjuri (Laikipia East) are enrolled.

Kiunjuri allegedly missed classes for three weeks so as to attend to the tribal clashes in his constituency. The main Campus on the other hand hosts a nominated Member of parliament Tabitha Seii and an assistant minister for water resources Kofa Tola. Seii is pursuing a bachelor of commerce degree while Kofa Tola is undertaking a Bachelor of arts degree in philosophy.

The parallel program is a challenge especially to the law lecturers who are accorded the onus of teach-

ing fellow academicians of such high calibre as professor Moni Wekesa and Dr. Kiama, among others. Representing the transport industry are the likes of Mark Obuya, the proprietor of Obuya express buses, and Karanja Kabage who is not only the proprietor Kenya Bus Service but a senior employee of the Communication Commission of Kenya.

At the law campus are also prominent people such as Jimnah Mbaru, secretary of the Housing and Finance Corporation of Kenya, Julius Onyango, an assistant commissioner of income tax, Jackline Akinyi a personal assistant to the executive manager Hilton hotel, and Rose Nyamunga a senior accountant with the United Nations.

The Commission on Land Reform is represented by James Gachangwa and George Njuguna while the military are confident that future litigation will be guaranteed by Colonel Amadi and Major Thenge both of the law class Parklands.

Key organizations lacking representation are the Teachers' Service Commission and the police force. Someone ought to advise KNUST chairman John Katumanga and the police boss Philemon Abong'o on the importance of sending one of their



own to attend the parallel class.

Unfortunately, the city council lacks candidates qualified enough for the parallel degree intake. Mayor Dick Waweru is undertaking a diploma course in philosophy at the university of Nairobi in order to qualify for the next parallel law intake. Mayor John Kingori on the other hand has exuded humility by beginning from a certificate course in law at the Kenya School of Professional Studies. The ultimate goal seems to be Parklands.

The business world is not to be left out in the rapid acquisition of degrees. Barclays bank is represented by a senior administrator in customer service, Moses Arogo, who is pursuing a degree in commerce. Florence Njau, the banquet manager of Utal hotel, is pursuing a degree in commerce.

There is hope that with increase education, there will be an improvement in public service delivery.

NEWS

Observe safe sex, students told

By Awuor Jacob and Abuna Ayiro

Sexually Transmitted Diseases are more prevalent among women students, compared to their male counterparts, a doctor at the University of Nairobi Health Centre told *Anvil* this week.

The medic who preferred not to be named attributed this to female students who he said are unwilling to encourage their partners to wear condoms during sexual intercourse.

He added that despite efforts by the health centre to provide condoms, the students were not willing to use them.

"It is very difficult to force mature students to use condoms," he said.

Asked to reveal statistics of STD infections among the students the doctor said "Some of them openly say that their partners are outsiders who can not be brought to the University for treatment. Therefore, we are unable to

maintain reliable statistics." On HIV/Aids, the doctor told *Anvil* that the laboratory had testing facilities but tests are done on request.

He revealed that there were few cases of HIV infections among the students who volunteer to be tested.

He, however, did not rule out the presence of HIV/Aids among the student population owing to high sexuality among them.

A fifth year Engineering student, when confronted with inquiries expressed disbelief at the existence of sexually transmitted diseases in the university.

"I don't believe there is a student foolish enough to play unsafe sex, especially, in this era of Aids."

Other common medical problems among the students include malaria; skin diseases and fungal infections to which the doctor attributed to lack of personal hygiene.

Mental illnesses have also been on the rise owing to economic strains facing

the students. Efforts by the *Anvil* to establish the number of students frequenting the health centre were futile. A clerical officer only identified as Maina declined to release the figures.

The Anvil discovered that about 120 students are attended to daily, with 50% suffering from heart burns and ulcers.

Attempt to obtain information from the laboratory proved futile. The attendant declined to be interviewed, arguing that the facility was "private" and she had no authority to talk to the press.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ochiel, could not be reached for comment.

City buses save the day

By Margaret Mathore

The recent threat to hike *matatu* fares did not take effect, thanks to city buses.

The *Matatu* Owners Welfare Association rescinded the decision for fear of losing customers to Kenya Bus Service Company, who had earlier announced that the 2% tax increment on regular and premium petroleum brands was no reason to raise commuter fares.

The bus company was not affected by the tax increment since their buses use diesel.

Last week, the *matatu* owners' body announced its intention to hike commuter fares in Nairobi and its environs by between 5 to 20 shillings. This announcement was, however, met by rejection from commuters and consumers' organizations, who termed it unreasonable and uncalled for.

Since last year, commuters in Nairobi have suffered three fare hikes although their purchasing power continues to dwindle amid harsh economic conditions.

The *matatu* operators asked the government to intervene, lamenting that the pathetic state of roads, corrupt traffic police and tax increments are bound to kill the transport industry.

Graduates advised to go into self employment

By Anne Kanyi and Ruth Mwhiki

Graduates have been advised to go into self employment, instead of waiting for white collar jobs. A senior training consultant with the Federation of Kenya Employers, FKE, Joel Momanyi challenged graduates to identify gaps in business to better their chances of succeeding in self employment.

He said was a major set back to career development and cautioned graduates against being forced to undergo an Aids test by potential employers. This, he said, was against the F.K.E code of conduct.

Momanyi, who was speaking during the University of Nairobi careers' day held at Ufungamano House, Nairobi advised students to match their qualifications to the jobs they apply for to avoid frustration.

The Vice Chancellor, in a speech read on his behalf by his deputy (Academic) Prof. Florida Karani advised students to acquire multiple skills to fit in the job market. She decried the current economic recession, unemployment and retrenchment in Kenya. She urged the university to face these challenges by

giving direction to students on their careers.

The DVC said there was a problem with packaging of courses and added that the university was meeting employers' interests by offering about 100 specializations.

"Subjects have been increased and training relates to the changing market. The curriculum is also being addressed. Students were also advised to be of service to the community through volunteer services.

The event, whose theme, 'Towards creating a prepared graduate' was organised by the Dean's Office and student organizations. It was sponsored by Ufungamano Christian Student Leadership centre.

The Dean of students, Emmy Sumbeiywo, said that the behaviour of university students had made employers to lose confidence in them. She said that her office was assisting students in career development through career clinics.

She lamented that the activities of the placement office were hampered by lack of sufficient manpower and facilities. She advised students to be flexible and appreciate themselves to succeed in their careers.

JKUAT and IAT in joint venture

By Catherine Wanyama

The Jomo Kenyatta University Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) and the Institute of Advanced Technology (IAT) are in a joint venture to introduce a new degree programme in information technology (IT).

The degree programme is focused to meet industry needs. IAT programme manager, Michael Chemonges, revealed that managers in IT want to employ graduates who will not need further training.

Speaking to *The Anvil*, Chemonges said that most graduates have technical skills which are obsolete and cannot be used to business.

This presents a problem in application development and training which add costs on employers. IAT is trying to address the gap, which is the major concern for the employers.

The joint venture also offers well rounded courses in Information technology to individuals as well as to corporate clients.

Skills exhibition at KICC

By Tom Arocho

Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC), last week hosted an exhibition for small scale businesses.

The one week event was organised by Skills Across Kenya, a branch of the USA based World Skills Organization, in conjunction with Micro-Enterprise Support Programme (MESP). The programme was funded by the European Union.

The event which ran between 2- 6 July, drew participants from all over the country. The products on display ranged from weaved baskets, carvings, textiles, cookery, and herbal medicine. There were also exhibitions by micro-finance institutions. There were competitions on the skills and finished products, between

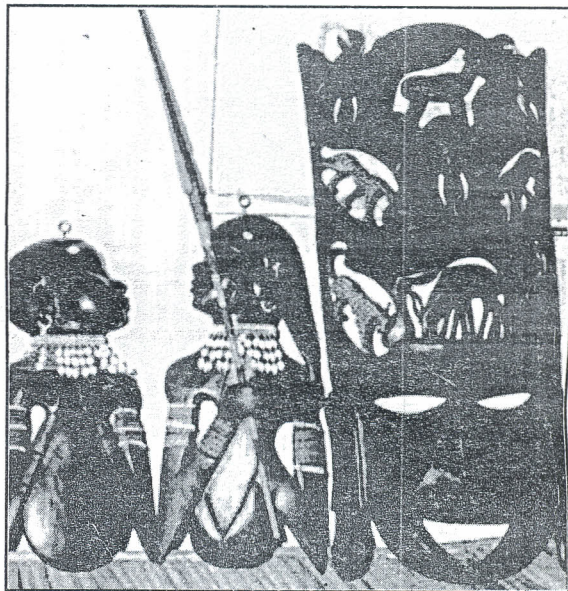
graduates of technical and vocational institutions and community based organizations.

Skills Across Kenya has, in the last one year, organised seven exhibitions, six of which were funded by the European Union. Each group pays a participation fee ranging from shs. 2,000, to 14,000.

The exhibition aimed at enhancing product and skills development and facilitating marketing strategies for small scale businesses.

"Our targets markets for the groups are regional markets such as opportunities in the Preferential Trade Area, East African Community, Comesa and African Growth and Opportunities Act," says Margaret Kirui, the Business Development manager of Skills Across Kenya.

The exhibition was opened by South Korean Ambassador to Kenya, the Minister for Trade, Nicholas Biwott and winner of the East African Chief Executive of the year award, Manu Chandaria.



Some of the artefacts exhibited at KICC by Skills Across Kenya.

Coro FM ambush Kameme

By Margaret Mathore

The battle for the airwaves in central Kenya is building up. Coro FM has declared war on Kameme FM. Serah Kihara, the head of Coro, said the station is giving Kameme a run for its money.

David Kimotho, a manager at Kameme said competition is welcome as it provides a chance for self-assessment and improvement. "As long as competition is fair, it is welcome." Kihara attributed Coro's success to its wide and exclusive reach, well-researched and presented programmes, as well as attractive rates for its clients.

Coro signal is received in Nyeri, Kiambu, Thika, Chuka, Embu, Nanyuki, Machakos and parts of Nakuru and Nyandarua. Plans are underway to cover the whole of the Rift Valley.

Since Coro hit the airwaves last

December, it has penetrated Nairobi and Muranga, zones previously Kameme's strongholds.

The station is making headways in Nyeri, since it has adequately provided for the niche left void by Kameme and Metro FM's. For Coro, Nyeri is an exclusive market, explaining why the station choose the location as its launch venue three months ago.

Kameme, whose reach is not as wide, as Coro's, appreciates and recognises the entry of Coro into the competitive and controversial market of vernacular stations.

As to whether the competition posed by Coro is fair, Kimotho was hesitant but admitted that Coro has an edge over Kameme due to its wider reach.

He dismissed the competition from Coro, and said he would rather agonise over competition from the Nairobi-based

Kiss and Capital FM.

Currently, Kameme signal is received in Nairobi, parts of Nyeri, Meru, and Nakuru. Their desire is to reach further out, to compete effectively with Coro.

Kameme was established in 2000, in the wake of liberalised airwaves. Soon after, the president threatened to ban vernacular stations claiming that they would cause tribal divisions. Kameme has since changed style, incorporating Kiswahili in its presentation. Ironically, the move has been to their advantage. "We have been able to accommodate non-Kikuyu in our programming," says Kimotho.

So far, there is hardly any difference in programming between Coro and Kameme. But Coro, determined to establish a difference, is set to introduce a news segment this July. The news bulletins will concentrate on human interest stories.

The pains of pursuing a masters programme

Allegations of sexual harassment, absentee supervisors and moonlighting have cast doubt on the quality of higher education in Kenya. Ruth Mwhiki and Njoroge Wachai investigate the agonies that post graduate students have to endure.

They come in droves, dignitaries and ordinary folks. It's a carnival fested by those who hunger for a degree. It takes years of sacrifice characterised by braincracking schedules. The climax of the tortuous journey is the pinnacle of academic feat which merely lasts two hours an annual rite - the graduation ceremony.

They are granted the power to defend and to do all that appertains to degrees and diplomas."

The President, who is also the Chancellor of all public universities, presides over these ceremonies. The ceremony paves way for graduands to pursue post-graduate studies.

But take caution before filling in the application form for post-graduate studies. You might save the 1,500 application fee. If you do not have Job's patience, you have no success undertaking a master's programme at the University of Nairobi, one of the oldest and most reputable public institutions of higher learning in Kenya.

It might take a lifetime for your proposal for thesis work to be accepted. For some students, studies in the masters programme have ended at the proposal stage; for others acceptance of proposal have been after innumerable attempts.

Although the scenario varies from one department to another, the mood is gloomy in the entire University.



A graduation ceremony at the University of Nairobi. The struggle to join the men and women of letters at the front row is agonising. (File picture)

According to a student at the Kikuyu campus, frustration from supervisors has forced some students to abandon the course. Some supervisors are not committed while others are slow in reading through the proposals.

For masters students at Kikuyu Campus it is a cry of discrimination. They are required to write a thesis with no option of doing projects like other departments. They are also expected to defend their proposals twice, at the department and faculty levels. More worse is the fact that the process is regrettably slow, it can take a year after submission before one is called to defend it. The source cited a case of a student who gave in his proposal in January this year, but is yet to receive feedback.

According to the university's procedure, the approval of a project proposal is a prerequisite for commencement of any research work.

Students attribute the lecturers' apathy to Masters students to a number of factors.

A number of lecturers are said to have multiple jobs or are constantly outside the country, making them ineffective. Casualties of such a scenario are students taking a course in International relations. Ken, who only wanted to be identified by one name, says "the faculty has only four lecturers who are taking the diploma, masters' regular and parallel group. Only two act as supervisors as the others are not devoted."

Ken, who enrolled in 1997, is not sure of graduating as his supervisor left the country and may not be back until later in the year. Their first year was extended by four months to allow a lecturer complete his work. Last year, for instance, only four out of 12 regular students graduated with none from the 16 parallel students.

The situation is worse for foreign students. The language issue and adjustment to the new environment helps to lengthen their stay. At Upper Kabete campus, a Burundian and an Ethiopian student have tasted the hospitality of Kenya. The Ethiopian has been at

the campus for 15 years, while his Burundian counterpart has been around for five years.

Although a masters programme takes two years, the lengthy time taken to finish leaves those who take double the time surprisingly relieved. And for a reason. Jane Ambuka who defended her thesis for Msc (horticulture) in March this year is assured of graduating this year. Even though she joined the college in 1997 she is upbeat that she has not taken too long. "I have finished within good time considering that most finish after five years." In the faculty, only one graduated out of five last year in the 1996 group.

While most students blame the supervisors for their predicament, others attribute their success to the lecturers' constructive criticisms. "The supervisors got me thinking, and made me work hard," says Jane. She was assigned three supervisors.

At the department of horticulture, there was no record of delay of course work as most lecturers finished their work in time.

Apart from the lecturers' sluggishness, other problems abound. Students taking plant breeding are expected to plant crops for two seasons and

uncontrollable conditions like rainfall can cause a delay. None of the four students taking course has submitted their thesis. It takes minimum of five years to complete.

The students cannot be absolved of blame. Some of them combine their studies with work making it impossible to finish projects within recommended period. Jane admits that she is lazy and after collecting data, she got a part time job last year, which she admits compromised her studies.

Alice Mwaniki, an agriculture student who started the course in 1997 but has not defended her thesis. She says she took up a job due to frustrations after it took too long before she was called to defend it.

Students sponsored by the university or other organizations claim they take part-time jobs when there is a lapse in financing. University gives sponsorship for two years, first year is automatic but the second year sponsorship is suspended until the proposal is approved. The delay in the approval has forced many to take up jobs.

To circumvent the delay, some students have turned to giving sexual favours. But it is not rosy. In Kikuyu, a source intimated that a supervisor misled a female student into a selection after a sexual encounter.

The proposal was rejected at the departmental defense stage as the topic was not within the scope of the department. The other supervisor was hard on her especially after learning the affair. She was forced to design a new proposal.

In some instances, other unorthodox methods have been employed. A student who was taking a course in M.A (Literature) put a knifed between the proposal after he had been frustrated by the supervisor. The supervisor picked and the proposal went through very fast.

But is the effort worthwhile? A master student, Jane Ambuka, who attended a job interview with four other master's graduates, was dismayed when a diploma holder was selected. Although she is currently lecturing at the college on voluntary basis, she hopes that efforts will pay someday.

It will be another colourful celebration year as many will turn to congratulate efforts of the graduands. The joy of the morrow will blind the pains of the long journey.

Palliative training key to terminal ailment management

By Wahome Thuku

adequate training in palliative care is a great hindrance to the management of terminal ailments particularly cancer in Africa, Medical experts have said.

A British university lecturer, Dr Appleton, said that the problem is not just limited to Africa but across the whole world. Palliative care is the process of catering for physical and psychological comfort of people suffering from incur-

able diseases. It also involves administration of appropriate drugs, done in accordance to the World Health Organisation guideline.

"At the point where patients can no longer respond to further treatment, palliative care becomes very important," says the Nairobi Hospice's Dr. Nizar Vergee.

He said that the pain experienced during the last stages of cancer ailment can be excruciating and unbearable, hence palliative drugs administration becomes very important.

The patient must be prepared in the

best ways possible, to accept the situation and face death. This must be done professionally," adds Dr Vergee.

Medical experts say that despite the escalating number of cancer, Aids and other terminally ill patients in Kenya, doctors are only concerned with the diagnoses and prescription of drugs while ignoring the social and psychological needs of patients.

At the University of Nairobi's Medical School, Dr. Vergee said that students are only exposed to four hours of training in palliative care during their five-year course period.

The latest reports indicate that about 36 million people are infected worldwide with

HIV/Aids. Out of these, 25 million are in Africa and about two million in Kenya.

Cancer, is also among the world's leading killer diseases with about eight million new cases being diagnosed worldwide, with about 3,500 in Kenya.

Currently, Nairobi Hospice, a charitable organisation established in 1990, provides palliative care to more than 400 cancer patients and offers emotional and medical support to their families. Other independent Hospices are in Nyeri, Eldoret and Kisumu.

Emphasising on palliative care attention, the Nairobi Hospice, signed an agreement with Oxford Brookes University of Britain on 15th June

2001, to train more medical staff in the field. The agreement was signed at the Nairobi Hospice offices. Experts from both institutions will be up to offer training to medical staff in Eastern Central Africa.

Drs. Appleton and Vergee who signed the agreement said that the expanded training target those already in the medical field.

The first bunch of 11 medical personnel from Uganda, Zimbabwe and Kenya completed first study session mid this month. The second session will be held in September while the third one will be in January next year.

Dr Appleton said that his institution will consider increasing the number of trainees with the first group clears their study

Moi's directive on Rape: its too early to celebrate

By Noelina Nabwire



President Moi

President Moi's recent directive on stiffer penalties against sexual offenders is a bold, positive step in the fight against rape. People who deliberately infect others with Aids should be hanged, while rapists should be sentenced to life, so went the president's order.

The president's charged directive was delivered on his arrival from a high-powered Aids summit in New York last week. He called for legislation to implement the penalties. This, he said, would especially protect vulnerable young girls.

Efforts by human rights activists to get stiffer penalties meted on rapists have always been nipped in the bud due to weak legislation. The president's intervention, therefore, could not have come at a better time.

Federation of Women Lawyers-Kenya chapter, supported the president's call. The organisation immediately asked Attorney-General Amos Wako, to put in place laws to implement the directive.

In legislating these sexual offenses, other issues that make the arrest and conviction of the suspects easier should be considered. This is because unlike other crimes, rape occurs in secrecy. The cooperation of the victims, immediate relatives, the police and medical personnel is essential to fight this crime.

Rape, defined as carnal knowledge of an individual without consent, is a complex issue as ascertaining that it occurred is no mean task. Unlike other crimes, gathering evidence and putting the culprit behind bars is long and tedious. This makes the implementation of the President's directive tricky.

Firstly, the complainant is supposed to report the crime to police immediately a rape occurs. Female complainants face a daunting task of explaining the ordeal to police officers, who by a stroke of bad luck, are mostly men. Victims are ridiculed and taunted beyond words, often ending up embarrassed and mentally traumatised.

Second is the fact that many rape and defilement cases go unreported, for

traces of semen, hair, fibres, finger scraping, grass, weeds and soil, is not possible. And even if the victim manages to get to hospital on time, the hospitals may often not have adequate facilities. Most of them lack refrigeration facilities, yet specimen for examination from the rape victim should be stored at freezing levels. The medical personnel on duty may not be skilled enough to deal with a rape case.

Rape cases are seldom treated with the urgency they deserve. Preference is given to other patients at the expense of the victims who are likely to be infected with HIV/Aids and/or STDs.

The requirement that both the victim and assailant be examined for corroboration is hard to achieve. In most cases, the assailant beat the victims, leaving them for dead. Therefore, by the time a case is reported, it is sometimes too late to get evidence from the assailant. The only evidence left in such a case is a DNA test, which is unaffordable for most people.

Thus, in addition to the stiffer penalties proposed by the head of state, there needs to be a new approach in dealing with rape cases so that evidence is presented on time. This will ensure that most rapists are arrested. Special centres should be set up to handle rape cases. Such centres could be managed by female and male officers to handle female and male victims respectively.

Support by medical staff should ensure that rape victims are approached in a non-judgemental manner. They should also carefully examine the patient and store evidence to enhance the law enforcement agencies' efforts to pursue and prosecute rapists and defilers.

The victims at the time of reporting should be protected against unwanted pregnancy and HIV/Aids through provision of prophylactic as well as access to counselling services.

And as we await the enactment of the new directive, caution should be taken. There is danger that assailants are likely to resort to murdering their victims in a bid to ensure the cases are not reported.

a variety of reasons. Among these are fear of social stigmatisation, lack of knowledge on rape, and the prevalent negative cultural and religious attributes to rape. The implication here is that it is hard to bring the rapists to book.

According to the Kenya anti-rape organisation (KARO), there are as many as 900-1,500 rape cases per year. These figures are far below the FBI documented cases of 109,602 in 1992 alone.

International Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU) in 1995-1998 documented that 75 per cent of all human rights abuses occur in homes and work places, a major reason why majority of rape and sexual abuses are likely to go unreported for fear of family conflicts.

So great is the social stigmatisation of rape that it takes immense social and psychological courage for the victim and immediate relatives to come out and seek redress.

Often, the victim is viewed as the villain. This makes it hard for the victim to report the case to the right authorities.

Corroboration of rape cases is based on science. Due to ignorance, some cases are not reported and when reported, it is too late because the evidence has been lost as the victim more often than not rushes immediately to shower and change clothes.

Lack of access to medical facilities is another obstacle in the fight against rape. Thus, timely examination of the suspect by a doctor for evidence such as

Police: are they public nuisance or friends?

By Joe Okong'o

A walk on down any of Nairobi's streets would send shivers down the spine of even the bravest of Nairobi's men. That is, if there are any brave men left.

Night begins any time between 8.00 p.m. and midnight, depending on the time and date of the month.

Producing your identity card on demand does not necessarily solve your problem. If you do not part with *kiuu kidogo*, (the amount demanded, which varies according to the day and time of the month and ranges from Ksh. 300 to 1500) you will go in for any imaginable offense. Or you could be forced to accompany the police on their duty all over town till the wee hours.

One is reminded of the local hit song '*Tafsiri Hii*' by Kalamashaka, a local pop music group. According to the song, one is normally in a dilemma on whether to run from the police, or from the robbers (thugs), as both pose a threat to one's life.

While the police force anywhere are charged with providing protection to tax paying citizens, ours are better at creating fear and terror. They are more feared than robbers.

"Unajua kwa magondi, unaweza jikata na utoroke, lakini polisi ukijaribu wana kushut," says Steve in sheng. (Translation: for thieves and robbers one has a chance of running away, but with the police, this is not possible, they will shoot you..)

Several cases of police harassment

have been reported in the city. The most dreaded areas include Gill house, along Tom Mboya street, Luthuli avenue, and Accra road.

Recently, we were told, security was beefed up, but ironically, these streets have become a den of muggers.

Kariuki, a vendor who operates in the city, says he is delighted because of the increased police patrol. "I can now carry on with my business up to as late as 9.00pm", he says with a lot of confidence.

However, Kimani, a matatu driver on route 23, says police harassment has increased since the alleged beefing up of security.

He says he has frequently witnessed the police whipping and handcuffing members of the public. "It's so sad, as most of these people as innocent, he laments".

Police patrols are heavier during public holiday eves, weekends and month ends. These times are characterized by many people going out to have fun.

Patrons of a number of pubs have been victims of police harassment. Patrons of Horn Bill, (Moi Avenue) Millennium Grand, (Mfangano street) Spiders (Tom Mboya) and Karumaindo (Moi Avenue).

Other than "chai", producing a university student's I.D card is perhaps the only other way out.

Attempts to find information from two police officers on patrol along Luthuli Avenue, almost landed this reporter into trouble.

Varsity press launches book

By Linda Ochiel

The Nairobi University press could soon be a leading publisher of academic books in the East Africa region, says the manager, Mr Omari Gichogo.

Omari told *The Anvil* plans are underway to launch a series of books for primary and secondary schools to supplement its list of academic texts.

He however decried dwindling sales, which he says has made it difficult for the press to realise its full potential. The Press has a capacity to publish 12 titles a year.

He warned that reader apathy and declining publishing standards could lead to further decline in standards of scholarship.

"Students do not buy or read textbooks," says Omari. "They spend most of their time reading lecture notes. Furthermore, the bookstands are crammed with plagiarised titles."

Most of the books are written by university lecturers in Kenyan Universities. A recent title is include *Daisaku Ikeda and Africa: Reflections by Kenyan Writers*. The book is edited by Masumi Odari and Henry Idangasi.

Every Friday, varsity car park turns to bazaar

"Don't look inside my vehicle. Your daughter may be inside"

The University of Nairobi's women's hall car park can pass for a car bazaar on Friday evenings. Only that there's more to buy and sell. James Oranga reports

As sunset falls over the city, a convoy of sleek cars drive in, one by one, their pot bellied owners watching behind dark glasses. They compete for space in the crowded car park, which now looks like a bazaar with its vast array of models.

One by one, glamorously dressed 'boxers' walk towards the 'bazaar', looking this way and that, as if selecting carefully the latest and dearest model. The door opens, and in steps the passenger.

As if in agreement, the men in shades have come to "collect" female students - popularly known as 'boxers' in campus parlance - to unknown destinations. The

scenario is more conspicuous during weekends when the 'boxers' and their 'collectors' meet in a carnival mood.

Interestingly, this bazaar has a special collection of cars. There is little room for the traditional old Volkswagen beetles and Dubai sales. These days, one meets such plush models like Nissan Patrols (GK's and diplomatic numbers included), Mercedes Benzes, and BMW's, complete with GK and diplomatic inscriptions.

Men in shades

Many a jilted male student has watched in disbelief as his 'boxer' sat in one or the other of the air - conditioned music - blaring limousines, looking rather haughtily at her less fortunate, barefoot colleagues.

One could mistake such a lady for the boss, being picked by a chauffeur for an important, urgent state function!

This common occurrence raises many fundamental questions on the social life at the university. Does this trend explain why many university beauties manage to attract a chain of mercedes Benz owners and yet languish in loneliness for many years after graduation?

The male counterparts of the boxers have a different story to tell. They claim that a very significant number of their female colleagues prefer the 'wheeled' fellows, for the simple reason that their economic power is more appealing. At this time when the economy is in shambles, university students are not exempted from financial hardships.

Some of the boxers are compelled to accept invitations from the car owners as

a strategy of earning extra money to supplement their limited finances.

Many movie-like episodes have transpired at this bazaar. On one occasion a shocked lady stepped out of the hostel to see her father's car leave with one of her friends.

Shocked

On another occasion, a man came to see his daughter but found her leaving, comfortably perched in the back seat of a posh range-rover. It turned out that the owner of the Range Rover was the father's work mate.

This trend is a cause of constant worry for many parents. A cross section of parents interviewed by *The Anvil* expressed shock and dismay at the practice, saying it is responsible for the spread of

Aids and a facilitator of moral decay amongst our country's upcoming female academia.

An irate lady student protested that not all vehicles parked outside the women's halls of residence belonged to hookers and sugar daddies.

"So what?" she retorted. We found this trend here, and it is bound to continue. After all, some of these vehicles belong to our relatives.

A senior official of the University Students Welfare Association (SWA) reacted angrily, saying that such reports are mere fabrications aimed at tarnishing the name of female university students.

Unfortunately, no rule can be imposed to safeguard against such social atrocities. A humorous sticker in a matatu says: *don't look inside my vehicle. Your daughter may be inside.*

KNH to sue musician

by Margaret Mathore
and Ruth Mwhaki

Kenyatta National hospital (KNH) is planning to sue musician, Erick Wainaina, for defamation.

In a local hit title *"Nchiya kitukidogo"* Wainaina, a renowned local musician decries the culture of corruption in Kenyan public institutions and services.

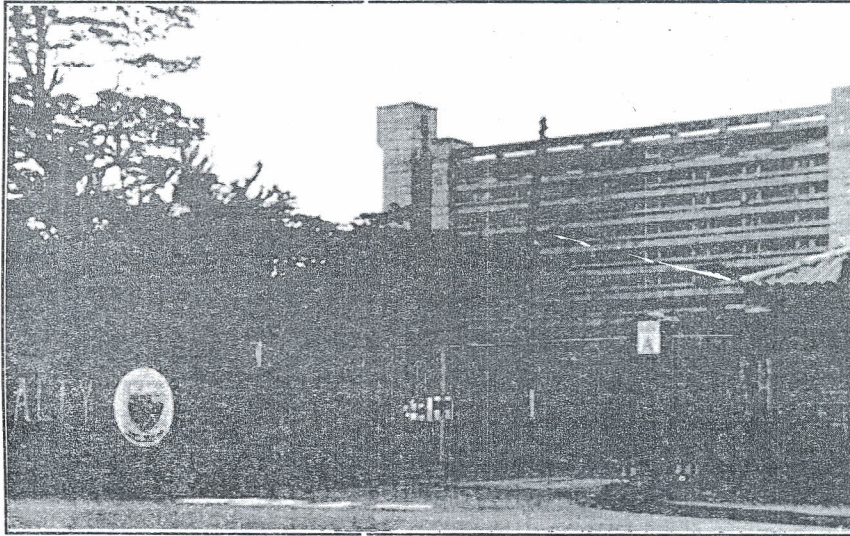
The song depicts KNH as an institution gone to the dogs and highlights smuggling of drugs and linen, substandard medical services and meagre salaries as some of the problems dogging Kenya's biggest health institution.

...*mashiti (bedsheets) za uzwa marikiti mia kwa mia, ni bahati ukiibiwa...* Wainaina alleges in the song.

The hospital administration has since denied the claim. In a brief interview with the *Anvil*, the hospital director, Mr. Hosea Waweru dismissed the allegations as "total lies", challenging journalists to buy the said bedsheets from the market as proof. However, he was not keen to dispel the allegations.

The hospital's public relations officer, Mr. Ndung'u Mungai, said the song is slanderous and the hospital will take action against Wainaina. He said they are looking for the original CD to present to court as evidence but it is not available in the market.

Ndung'u admitted that the problems



The Kenyatta National Hospital: A popular song has struck the wrong cord. (Picture by Linda Ochiel)

facing the hospital are normal, claiming that there is no system in Kenya which is clean. Ndung'u did not deny theft of linen from the hospital and pointed fingers at patients and their visitors as the culprits. "Patients run away in hospital gear" he disclosed.

A spot check by the *Anvil* observed unattended crowds of patients especially at the casualty section. A number of patients were seen lying on bare metal stretchers along the corridors. According to patients interviewed, it takes on average, three hours to be given a card. They

also blamed the delay on complacency and indifference on the part of the nurses in charge.

The public relations officer said that patients are dealt with on a first-come-first-served basis. However, one man confessed that it was through the help of

a nurse acquaintance that he was able to get a stretcher for a sick relative. A source who sought anonymity disclosed that it is normal for patients to die and women to deliver on the corridors while waiting to be admitted.

The staff and facilities at the hospital are overstretched by the overwhelming number of patients seeking medical attention from all over the country. A nurse confirmed that the available doctors and nurses can hardly cope with the large number of patients.

Kenyatta hospital is ill-equipped as the national referral hospital. Patients continue to share beds while others sleep on the floor in the wards. The congestion in the hospital is blamed on the collapse of most health facilities in the country, leaving Kenyatta as the only alternative for most Kenyans. Conditions in the general wards are a far cry from those in the more prestigious, private ward 10. Patients are comfortably accommodated, each with a private doctor in attendance. The ward is a preserve of the more financially able patients.

Contrary to the ministry of health's public statement that no patient should be denied medical care for lack of money, patients are turned away if they cannot pay a deposit or have a pending bill. The public relations officer had earlier claimed that a waiver system is in place to assist those who cannot foot their bills.

Gender stereotypes depicted in advertising have negative impact

From page 7

Other products are depicted as belonging to male consumers. Cigarette advertisements, for instance, enforce the stereotype that a woman should not smoke. Lucy Chinaa says that she smokes but does not buy cigarettes or smoke in the open. When she was asked if she would feel better if women were used to advertise cigarettes, she answered, "Yeah, that would be a good idea because people would understand that women too smoke."

Advertisers must, in addition, avoid excluding a certain part of the market as happens in vehicle advertisements. A beautiful woman is usually associated with the vehicle

in question. The advertisements ensure that a man gets attracted to the model and is more likely to remember the product being advertised. Women in the audience, however, see the woman as a challenge and have less chances of buying the vehicle. A sizeable portion of the market is, therefore, lost. An advertising executive says that this stems from the fact that initially most car buyers were men.

Advertisers must remember that the purposes of advertising is to inform, to persuade and to remind. They should, therefore, take into consideration the market and product to be advertised to ensure effectiveness of their adverts.



JKML Library faced with shortage of staff. (File Picture)

JKML jobs for students

By Mwhaki Ruth

Jomo Kenyatta Memorial library is using students to offer services due to the recent down-sizing of its staff.

According to the chief librarian, Ms Salome Mathangani, the library has recruited eight students who will work daily from 5-7pm. The students will be involved in collecting and sorting out books, which will be reshelved by the staff. The University will pay the students who are in the work study program.

In an earlier interview, a librarian who sought anonymity said the staff can no longer shelve the books on an hourly basis. Mathangani said the library was in a crisis as piles of books were left lying on the table and in shambles on the shelves. This forced the library to close for two weeks in a number of sections to enable the staff rearrange the books.

Security in the library has also lapsed, leading to an upsurge of theft cases. According to a B.A student, Salma Qudir, recently, three students lost their bags which cannot be left in the cloakroom, since there is no one working there. One student was caught stealing and taken to the security officer who asked the suspect to return the stolen bag. A law student, Paul Magu said he lost three books and a briefcase. Another lost foodstuff.

While admitting that there is a security problem, Mathangani urged students to assist by being alert and reporting any suspicious looking persons.

It will take almost four years to complete automation of all the University libraries due to financial constraints. However, the library is soliciting for donor support to speed up the process.

Council to evict tenants

By Grace Akinyi

ing to pay rents because of the poor services

The Nairobi City Council has threatened to evict all tenants who do not pay their rent arrears within the next three days.

In a circular dated 3rd July, 2001, the cash strapped council ordered all tenants to vacate its houses with immediate effect. According to an official at the Eastlands office, the council is owed an estimated 5 billion in rent arrears for over 5,000 residential and commercial houses in the city.

The official said the arrears had made it difficult for the council to continue offering services or pay its staff.

The *Anvil* found a number of panic-stricken tenants running up and down looking for funds in a bid to beat the said deadline.

The residents argue they are unwilling

The council has also lost huge sums of money in terms of uncollected revenues. The *Anvil* established that the water department rarely makes a follow up on the collection of water revenue. It takes about two months for the council to effect a payments made to them on their records and another three months for the tenants to receive their bills. There is little follow up of rent collection, a state which has resulted in many tenants accumulating huge rent arrears.

The council has now vowed to repossess its houses if the tenants do not meet the deadline.

Damaris, a tenant in the estate does not feel threatened. She says a few months ago, the council evicted some tenants. But they were pardoned after a day after intervention of a politician.

Students to establish centre

By Jackson Wafula

The University of Nairobi Economic Students Association is set to establish an Inventor and Investor Opportunity Centre (IIOC).

The center is to be launched in collaboration with Tandy Consultants, a Nairobi based consultancy firm, and will be based at the University of Nairobi's main campus.

The Tandy Consultants Director, Patrick Machyo, who is also an economics lecturer, said that the establishment agreement has already been signed and arrangements are being made to launch the center.

The Centre will bring together university graduates and local investors to explore ways of exploiting new investment opportunities in the country.

"Investment policies in Kenya mainly

focus on foreign business and little attention is paid to local funding opportunities. We intend to tap ideas from researchers at Universities and investors from all parts of the country," said Mr. Machyo.

According to Machyo, the centre would focus on organizing conferences, workshops and networking with other organizations in the country to offer training services to university graduates and other interested parties.

He said once established, the centre would also consider catering for young investors in the East African Region.

It would be managed by the consultancy firm which has also appointed M. Muthonda, P. Njoroge, M. Moni and R. Mbugua to act as the Centres' Treasurer, Editor, Publicity Director and Finance Director respectively.

University of Nairobi
P. O. Box 30197
NAIROBI



Tel: 334244, 226451, 334246
Telex: 22095 Varsity KE
Facsimile: (254)-2-336885

University of Nairobi

Module II Programmes at the University of Nairobi

Masters of Arts in Archaeology, Climatology, Economics, Economic Policy, Management, Economic Geography, Environmental Planning and Management, Geography, German, Government, History, Islamic, Civilisation, Literature, Swahili, Linguistics, linguistics, philosophy, religious studies, Transport Geography, women in history, Sociology (with specialisation in counselling, criminology and social order, disaster management, entrepreneurship development, labour management relations, medical sociology, rural sociology and community development).

Postgraduate Diploma in Women and History, Sociology with specialisations in Sociology above.

Bachelor of Arts in, Arabic, Archaeology, Economics, French, Geography, Government, History, Language and communication, Linguistics, Literature, Mathematics, Philosophy, public administration, Religious studies, social work, sociology, Swahili, and Tourism.

Ordinary Diploma: Armed Conflict Studies, Cultural tourism, Cultural resource Management, Philosophy, Religion and society, Social work and social development, Criminology and social order.

Certificate in: Swahili, Arabic, French, Natural Resource Management, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Drama and Theatre.

Masters in: International Relations.

Postgraduate Diploma in: Diplomacy.

Masters in: Development Studies.

Certificate in: Research Methods.

Masters in: Land Economics, Building Economics, Architecture, Design.

Bachelors in: Architecture, Design, Building Economics, Land Economics.

Certificate in: Real Estate Agency.

Masters of Education in: Educational Administration, Curriculum studies, Educational Planning, Economics of Education, sociology of education, Adult Education, History of Education and comparative issues in Education.

Postgraduate Diploma in: Project Planning and Management, Education, Sexually Transmitted Infections.

Bachelors of Education in: Arts, Science.

Bachelor of Psychology.

Diploma in: Early childhood Education, youth development work, Adult Education, Sales and Marketing, Business Management, Clearing and Practical Freight Forwarding.

Certificate in: Sales and Marketing, Business Management, Public Relations, Personnel Management.

Diploma in: Library and Information studies.

Bachelor of science in: Industrial chemistry, plant and animal sciences, Actuarial sciences, Statistics, Mathematics, Environmental sciences, Microprocessor and Instrumentation, Hydrology, Rural Ecology

Bachelor of Science in: Wildlife Management and Conservation, Wildlife and Fisheries Management, Wildlife and Wetlands Management, Wildlife and Tourism management.

Masters of Science in: Wildlife Health and Management.

Bachelors of Science in: Computer Science

Bachelor of Science in: Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, Surveying, Mechanical Engineering.

Bachelor of Dental Surgery, Pharmacy, Nursing, Medicine and Surgery.

Bachelor of Commerce Marketing, Management, Accountancy, Insurance.

Executive M.B.A. in Business Administration, Management science, and Accounting

Bachelor of Law: Private Law, Public Law and Commercial Law.

Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine.

Bachelor of Science in: Agribusiness Management.

Bachelor of Science in: Agriculture.

Master of science in: Applied Veterinary Parasitology.

Master of science in: pure mathematics, Applied mathematics, Biometry, Actuarial science, chemistry.

Postgraduate Diploma in: Mass Communication.

Minimum Qualifications:

Masters: A bachelors degree (Honours, Lower Division) or equivalent

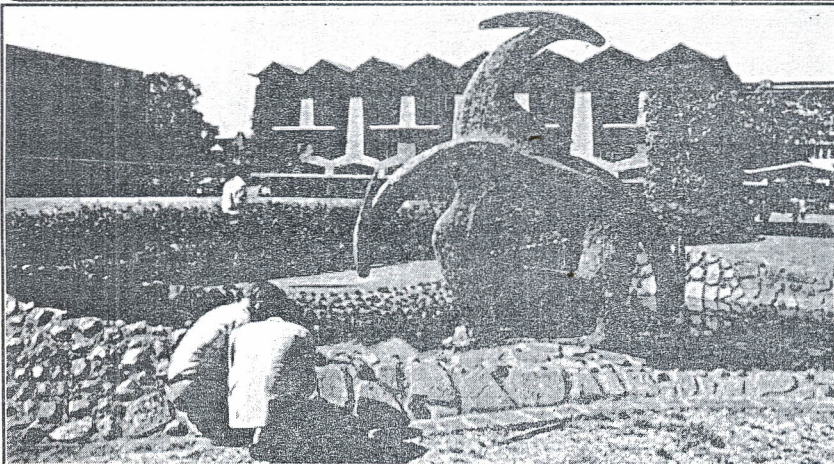
Postgraduate Diploma: A bachelors degree (Pass) or equivalent

Bachelors: KCSE C+ or equivalent.

Ordinary Diploma: KCSE C plain or equivalent.

Certificate: KCSE C- or equivalent.

For more information visit the University Website: www.uonbi.ac.ke



The fountain of knowledge.

For all your Printing needs

Come to the School of Journalism Printing Unit
We undertake quality printing of:

- ◇ Brochures
- ◇ Books
- ◇ Magazines
- ◇ Newsletters
- ◇ Posters
- ◇ Cards
- ◇ Calendars

SoJ Printing Unit
Where Quality meets Intellect