

The Anvil

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Services Deteriorate at Health Clinics

By DENNIS ONYANGO

Long queues of waiting patients. Lax staff trickling in one by one. Tales of betrayed hopes and complaints about missing laboratory test results. These are the daily features of the University of Nairobi's Students Health Centre.

A typical day at the Students' Health Centre starts with students streaming from eight o'clock. They would have to be very lucky to find it open. The centre opens its doors at nine and cleaners trickle in, followed about half an hour later by filing clerks. Patients are booked in, and the waiting for the medical staff begins.

On a lucky day, nurses and clinical officers arrive at around ten, greet one another, see a few patients then lock themselves in for tea. Afternoon session begins at around two-thirty. At four the sounds of files being shuffled and scenes of nurses with pouches dangling on their arms indicate that they are leaving.

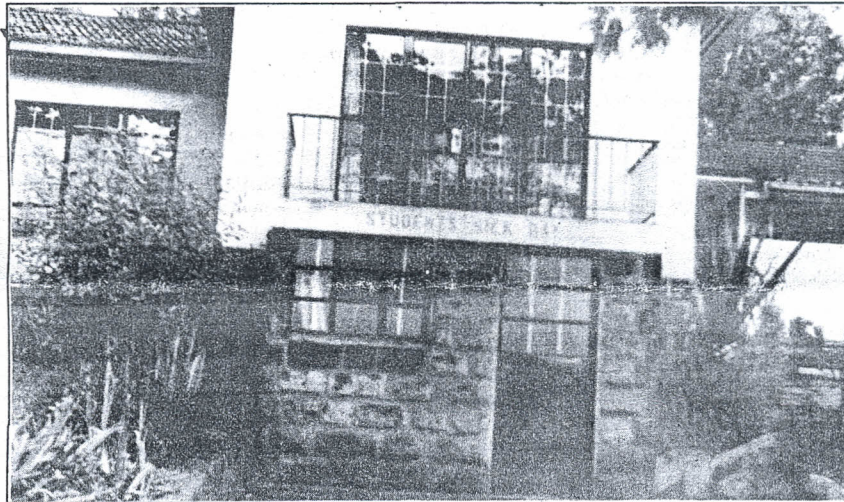
"It is a big joke," Mr. Johnson Kinywa, a postgraduate biochemistry student at Chiromo campus says.

Students complain that they waste a lot of time at the Health Centre and even miss classes. They also lament of the unhygienic conditions at the sick bay and the lack of concern displayed by majority of staff.

A student, Mr. Evanson Amudavi, says sometimes prescriptions disappear or are altered by those giving drugs. In some cases, he said, pharmacists give less potent drugs than the ones prescribed or keep the expensive ones for themselves.

A source at the School of Journalism said he has seen outsiders being treated at the Health Centre because they know particular doctors, a claim a filing clerk at one of the staff clinics supported.

"Outsiders come and get treated under other people's names. Some people have died, some have been sacked, but their files remain here to be used in dubious deals," a clerk said.



The Students Sick Bay: Theatre for the "big joke."

Picture by Hudson Liyati

Okigbo set to leave ACCE

By OCHUOGA OTUNGE

Dr. Charles Okigbo, the Executive Coordinator of the Nairobi-based African Council for Communication Education (ACCE) is quitting, *The Anvil* has learnt.

But he declined to give details of his resignation, saying he would do so only after consulting with the ACCE president, Mr. Polycarp Omollo Ochilo. Contacted for comment, Mr. Ochilo declined to comment, saying he had not received Dr. Okigbo's letter of resignation.

However he said he had a discussion with Dr. Okigbo last week about his quitting.

Dr Okigbo told *The Anvil*: "I'm moving to new challenges and greener pastures."

The former university don disclosed that he would be taking up a fellowship at the Leicester University in the United Kingdom.

In the recent past, two members of the ACCE staff Mrs Phyllis Gichimo, a deputy documentalist at the ACCE library and Mrs Beatrice Gichohi, a secretary, were given retirement notices effective in August.

The organisation's Publications Officer, Mr Charles Nyambuga, also resigned to take up a job elsewhere.

Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), ACCE's main financier has notified the continental body that it will not continue funding its programmes. The withdrawal of FES is likely to destabilise the organisation as it pays most of the employees' salaries."

HELB to launch Trust Fund



Prof. Chacha Nyaigoti Chacha

By LUCY NDICHU AND
EVERLYN KEMUNTO

The Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) has increased loan recovery by 50 per cent in the last three months, the Secretary, Professor Chacha Nyaigoti Chacha, says.

Professor Chacha who was speaking to *The Anvil* reporters in his office, said the board was receiving Sh10 million up from Sh5 million from the past loanees.

He attributed the response to the recent advertisements in the local newspapers calling on past loanees and their employers to get in touch with the board.

"Since the adverts were run in the papers we have been able to improve the loan recovery as more and more graduates can be traced easily," Prof Chacha said.

The secretary noted that the improved recovery system would enable the board to avail loans to all applicants without difficulties. HELB, Prof Chacha said was seeking to have a law enacted to empower the

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Services Deteriorate at Health Clinics

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"Some students never come here for treatment throughout their stay on campus, and there are no checks to reveal what goes into their files," Amudavi said.

The source said the services have deteriorated so much that Aga Khan and Nairobi hospitals where serious cases were referred have suspended their contracts with the university. Sometime last year, the source said, there was a notice at Gertrude's Garden Children's Home indicating that they no longer treat university staff.

According to this source, the doctors are holding the university at ransom. They feel it is the university that needs them, not the other way round. This is why they come late or do not come at all.

The doctors spend more time running their clinics than they spend in doing the work they are paid to do, one nurse said adding that sometimes people are booked in the morning and told to come in the afternoon.

While the patients feel they have been wronged, the staff feel they are more wronged. Low pay and lack of promotion are the major complaints the workers have against the university.

A nurse at the Health Centre said

they are frustrated as they never get promoted, unlike their colleagues in other universities who are assured of promotion every three years. She also said their pay is lower than that of their colleagues in other universities.

The junior staff complain of discrimination. A clerk said they are never paid when they work overtime. "Even a simple thing like tea is only meant for doctors at ten. Not even the cooks are supposed to taste it," she said. Sometimes, the clerk explained, they work both as clerks and pharmacists but they are only paid for one job.

Sources at the hospital revealed that there is an acute shortage of staff because many have moved to other institutions where they can get better pay. The few remaining feel neglected and unmotivated.

Sometimes, one nurse or one clinical officer work for over twelve hours due to the shortage of staff. This, one nurse said, is unethical and unprofessional. Under normal circumstances, they should work from morning to midday.

Officer, the university's minor theatre is operational. Practically, however, the facility is closed. This is due to shortage of staff, the nurse explained.

A first-year student of medicine said she spent two weeks at the Sick

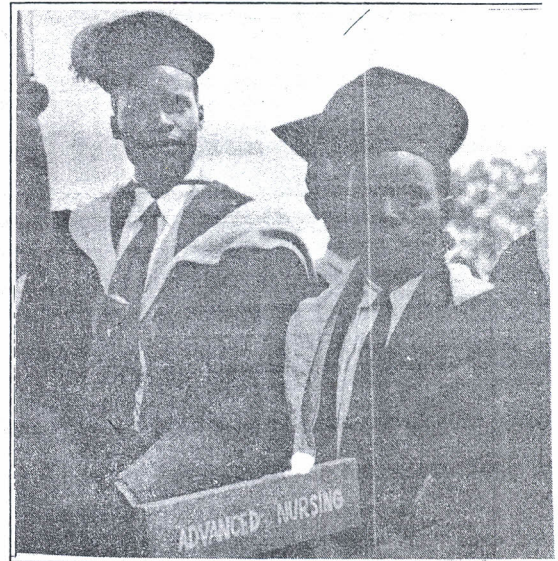
Bay where she was attended to by one nurse for the whole period. The nurse, she said, kept complaining that she was supposed to be on leave but could not because there was nobody to replace her.

The student complained about poor food and dirty linen at the Sick Bay. "I was given two slices of dry bread on some days and black tea on other days. In the evening, it was always poorly cooked *matumbo* and rice." For one week, she said, she used the same linen.

A nurse explained that linen is supposed to be taken to the laundry but university launderers are reluctant to do the job because they are never paid promptly.

After Professor Raphael Munavu's announcement that the university is broke, no organisation is willing to do anything for the university on credit, the nurse explained. Professor Munavu is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of administration and finance.

The Chief Medical Officer was unavailable for comment. However, the hospital administrator, Mr. Mbugua said they have 20 doctors and a similar number of clinical officers, a situation he described as superfluous. He could not however explain how this very 'lucky' situation was not visible in the services rendered.



Graduates of the University of Nairobi now placed Picture by Jemosbey Misoi

Placement Office Now Revived

By JEMOSBEY MISOI

The University of Nairobi has re-established a Placement Office answerable to the Dean of Students' Office. This office, headed by Mr Jamleck Njoka, was put in place early last year after a break of almost two decades.

According to Mr Njoka, students graduating are expected to register with the office and leave their addresses for future contact when prospective employers request for candidates.

"This office acts as a liaison office between graduating students and prospective employers. Unfortunately, not many students are aware of the existence of this office and therefore do not register with us," said Mr Njoka.

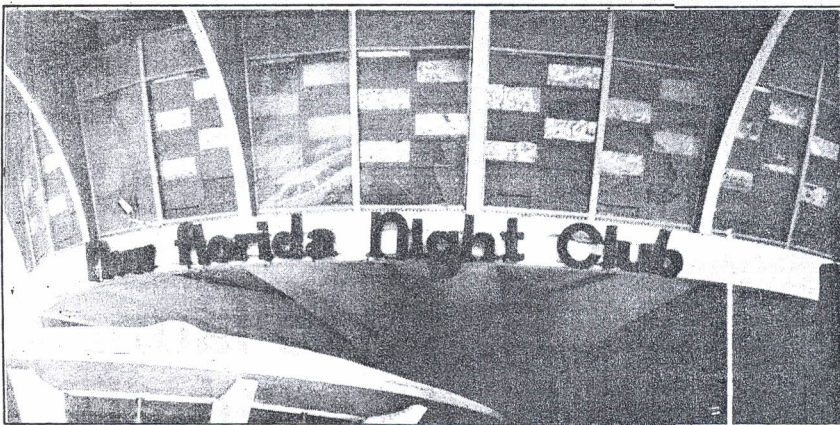
"So far we have found jobs for over 500 students. It could be more since we have had very poor feedback from employers. Once they have employed the students, they do not tell us who has been employed so that we may offer the chances to other students in place of those who may

have had more than one offer," he added.

Mr Njoka further said his office was introducing a new programme Otto Essien, which will be administered by the Federation of Kenya Employers and the United Nations Development Programme with the university as the liaison office. The programme is expected to benefit the pre-graduation classes not under supervised programmes such as teaching and medicine.

The responsibilities of this office include supporting student programmes such as International Association of Students Interested in Economics and Business Management's (AISEC), Annual Careers Day and other students professional associations which expose students to leadership experiences by talking to professionals the experienced personnel in their Career areas.

The Placement Office is in Gandhi Wing, ground floor, next to the office of the Dean of Students. Mr Njoka urged students to call on them for more details.



Florida Night Club. The scene of students' fracas

Picture by Chris Tsuma

Students storm Florida

By OBI OKEIGA AND BENJAMIN OUMA

Irate students from the University of Nairobi's main campus stormed and extensively damaged the Florida Night Club on the night of Saturday June 7th. This was in response to a claim that one of the student revellers had been detained by the club's bouncers.

His colleagues ran back to college for 'reinforcements' after which screaming students armed with an assortment of weapons converged

outside Hall 8. They then marched to the club where they smashed its windows and mirrors.

"We are tired of club bouncers beating up our colleagues," one student was heard saying. This was the second time this year that the Florida Night Club has been attacked by University of Nairobi students.

When 'the Anvil' visited the scene at 5.00 a.m. on Sunday, they established that the damage extended to Total Service Station, on top of which the club is based, to the entire Chai House in which the Kenya

Credit Traders and Dipti Studio (K) Ltd are housed.

Goods of an unknown value were looted from the Dipti display windows and the windscreens of revellers vehicles were smashed. The students also temporarily blocked the Uhuru Highway and stoned vehicles along the State House Road. However, the late hour traffic was light and the students dispersed before dawn. Efforts to establish why the student was detained by the management were unsuccessful.

HELB to Launch Trust Fund

From page 1

Commission of Higher Education, give charter to middle level colleges to enable the students obtain bursaries and scholarships.

The HELB boss said the body intended to come up with a document outlining the obligations of past loanees on repayment. All those who have benefited from the scheme have an obligation to repay the loans.

He added that the board requires Sh 2 billion revolving funds to serve

all the needy students, the Sh880 allocated from the treasury was not enough.

He noted that of all the students applying for the loans, only 30 per cent were extremely in need of the loans.

Prof Chacha noted that in the past the board has been viewed with hostility by the students but he intended to transform it into a friendly public institution by availing its services.

More Computers for the School

By NYIRO WANJE

The School of Journalism has acquired training equipment worth 50 million shillings, the Acting Director, Mr. Zeke Waweru announced.

The equipment received include 10 Macintosh computers and a laser printer, a camera, six typesetters and a film processing machine. They were donated by Litburg Institute of Journalism, Netherlands.

Speaking in his office, Mr Waweru said the machines were part of a consignment from the Netherlands institution, which has a collaboration programme with the school.

He added the school was renovating a room next to the current computer room to accommodate the additional equipment.

Although the equipment is not new, the School's Information Technologist/System Administrator, Mr. Chris Kituto, confirmed that they are in good working condition and are compatible with the existing Macintosh computer system.

Commenting on the safety of the facilities, Mr Waweru assured *The Anvil* that stringent security measures have been taken, given the prevalence of thefts in the University. Last year, the school lost several computers through theft.

Meanwhile, ten students from local Universities have benefited from an international cultural exchange programme, through the International Association of Students Interested in Economics and Business Management (AIESEC), the Association's National Director, Finance and Administration, Mr. David Kioko, has revealed. He was commenting on the just ended careers day at the University of Nairobi.

This year's theme was "The Role of Information Technology in Career Development."

Mr Kioko thanked all the sponsors for their support. He lauded the university for its continued assistance. He told *The Anvil* that AISEC offers university students opportunities for career training and development.

The event attracted over 1000 students from local secondary schools and universities. It was presided over by the Italian ambassador to Kenya Mr. Roberto Di Leo.

Library: Shelving problem worsens

By CHRIS TSUMA

The Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library is experiencing an acute shelving problem which has made it difficult for users to locate books, *The Anvil* has established.

Students interviewed blamed this on laxity of library staff and some of their fellow students whom they said hide books in the wrong shelves to make them inaccessible to other users.

When contacted for comment, Mr. Joseph Mulwa, The deputy librarian, technical services, said "the library administration is trying hard to cope with the situation under difficult circumstances which include inadequate manpower and a large number of students."

He added that the shelving

problem is aggravated by some students who use browsing as a way of finding books instead of first consulting the catalogue. This, he said greatly increases the number of books pulled from the shelves.

Books are hardly shelved in the library. They stay on the shelves on ground floor near the issue desk long after being returned and lie for days

the shelving but the work is overwhelming.

One of the shelving personnel admitted that there is a shortage of staff but added that some of the staff members do not take their work seriously which complicates the problem further. He also said that their work is made more difficult by the thick layers of dust that cover

several books that had been conveniently tucked away in the wrong shelves.

A visit by *The Anvil* to the Moi Library at Kenyatta University revealed that the problem is not experienced there. Asked how the library administration copes with the shelving workload, Mr. James M. Ng'ang'a, the University librarian, said that "every staff member, including senior staff, has his/hers share of shelving to do every morning."

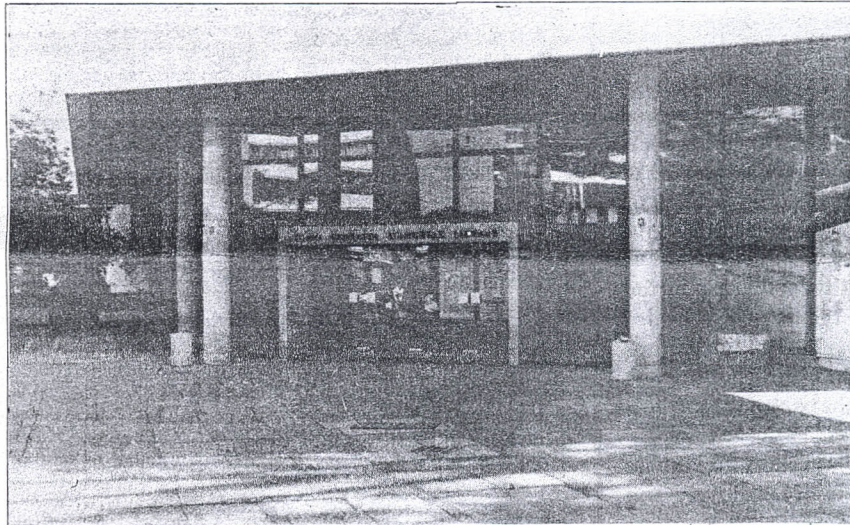
He added that the library has 90 workstudy students who help in shelving. They work in shifts of thirty for about five hours a day

The same system is employed at the Lilian K. Beam Library of the United States International University - Africa.

"...every staff member, including senior staff, has his/her share of shelving to do every morning."

on the reading tables after being browsed by users. Currently there are seven students on three months attachment in the library who help in

many of the shelves. He appealed to students to stop shelving books after browsing or hiding them in the wrong shelves. He showed this reporter



Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library experiencing problems.

Violence: Youth Cautioned

By JEMOSBEY MISOI

Maendeleo ya Wanawake and the League of Kenya Women Voters have cautioned the youth against being used to perpetuate violence in the forthcoming general elections.

Mrs Zipporah Kittony and Martha Karua (MP for Gichugu) made the call when they signed a contract with Mr Herman Simons of the British Council to release 125,000 sterling pounds (Kshs. 11.25 million) to finance Civic Education in Trans Nzoia, Kakamega, Homa Bay Taita Taveta and Kirinyaga districts.

Mrs Kittony said "although women were the majority voters, many of them did not fully participate in the election process due to lack of empowerment." She said the Civic Education was aimed at rectifying this anomaly. She called upon women to offer themselves for election into parliament.

Mrs Kittony urged the male politicians to clean their language in order to provide an enabling environment for women to campaign side by side with their male counterparts.

Meanwhile, Martha Karua has called on the youth to avoid being exploited by campaigners. She warned that, those who bribed their way in to parliament felt they were not under any obligation to carry out development projects in their constituencies.

Asked if the idea of carrying out Civic Education may not be against Government's stand on civic education, Mr Simons Hermans said the programme was not in any way in conflict with government policies and the government fully supported it.

The launch ceremony took place at the British High Commission on Tuesday, May 13, 1997.

Worshippers relocated

By OBI OKEIGA

There was confusion at the weekend as a Nairobi University students worship group found their usual place of worship booked for outsiders.

The SDA group leader, Mr Jeffrey Mombinya, said that they were initially allowed to use the building on Friday evenings and Saturdays but this has not been possible as the University authorities have been hiring out the hall in an effort to generate some income.

"There is confusion at times when two or more groups, students and outsiders find themselves in need of the MPH facilities," said Mr Patrick Winyi, a coordinator with the Morris Cerullo Global Satellite Network which uses the building for its satellite preaching sessions.

"Whenever some outsider

congregations want to use the MPH, students are required to look for alternative places which are not available anymore," some student worshippers lamented.

Since the outsider groups pay for the use of the University facilities, students worship groups and those who want to read in such rooms have to relocate elsewhere. But at times the number of activities scheduled for a particular weekend make it impossible for students to use Lecture Theatre Two, or Taifa Hall as alternatives to MPH. For this weekend, it was the Cerullo Followers who had booked for Saturday while Chrisco Church Fellowship of Nairobi had booked for Sunday June 8th, confirmed Assistant caretaker, Mr. Edwin Njoroge.

Most students contacted for comment said the University should

find means to construct other spacious halls for hire so that students can find places for private study over the weekends. "In any case it is students who should be given priority in the use of University facilities," asserted some of the students.

"Our colleagues are lacking worshipping places and are sometimes forced to go to the arboretum, next to State House, for prayer meetings," Joseph Masheti, a postgraduate student, told *The Anvil*.

A quick check by *The Anvil* established that conference rooms and lecture theatres were fully booked by denominations such as the Citywide Family Church.

Peter Mwaura, a fourth year student, complained of the confusion which he said causes inconveniences to students, who want to study over the weekend.

EDITORIAL

Better Health Services a Must

In this edition of *The Anvil*, we carry a very sad story on the deteriorating condition of the University of Nairobi health services.

This is a problem which has arisen due to a number of reasons among, an increase in the institutions population, a reduction in government funding and the low remuneration resulting in a frustrated and demoralized staff.

There have been complaints that patients have to queue for long hours waiting for treatment. At times, they are forced to go back to the clinic or health centre several times.

This is a situation that must not happen. Sadly enough, it is the order of the day, particularly at the staff and student clinics.

The result is that students and staff end up losing much valuable time from lectures and other work. In addition, the delay in administration of treatment often leads to more complications and greater expenses being incurred.

We appreciate that the University has in the past attempted to improve the quality of health services. However, greater commitment and seriousness are required. In particular, there is dire need for dedication on the part of the medical personnel.

Attention has been drawn to this unfortunate situation often. The time to act-positively and decisively is now.



Review Curriculum

By MUTHONI KAREGA

There is need to restructure the training programme at the School of Journalism. The need arises from the changing situations in the media industry and in the economy.

With economic liberalization comes a higher demand for highly qualified media professionals who through communication, can help improve their positions in a highly competitive market.

The liberalization of the economy and consequently that of the media has attracted more investors into the country and thus increased the demand for qualified media professionals. In the economic sector, the market requires able public relations and advertising personnel to give their companies an edge over competitors.

The School of Journalism has,

for about 27 years, been a leading producer of media practitioners in the region and beyond. In Kenya, most of the senior media practitioners are products of the school.

While the pace in the market has been changing fast, the school's programmes have remained static. The curriculum was last reviewed 18 years ago when the Postgraduate Diploma was started. In the past two years, countries that used to send students to the school have started their own media programmes.

According to Dr. Joseph Mbindyo, the Director of the School, Zambia has two masters programmes and an undergraduate programme. Tanzania has started many journalism training programmes. Private organizations are also training media practitioners. The United States International University - Africa (USIU) is planning to start an

undergraduate programme in journalism.

Institutions of media training will increase in East and Central Africa if the experience of the past few years is anything to go by. It is expected that many media practitioners will go to fill vacant posts in these institutions. The school will be increasingly called upon to produce high calibre professionals not only to replace those who go away but also those to teach in the new institutions.

One way of meeting these demands is by restructuring the curriculum so that it accords the students the opportunity to specialize in particular areas of interest.

Currently, the curriculum is overcrowded and students tend to touch on a little of journalism, communication, public relations and radio, among others. The students do not know how general they are until they go for attachment and find out that they lack adequate specialized skills.

Kibisu Kabatesi, a former student at the school feels that the market is general and the curriculum respond to it. He says specialization produce narrow minded people.

Dr. Mbindyo thinks that there is need for a masters programme but the school has been unable to start one due to lack of qualified staff. Most of the staff at the school have masters degrees and are therefore not qualified to supervise master students. Currently, there are two doctorate degree holders and two more are expected from abroad.

The problem of inadequate staff can only be solved by aggressive and consistent staff development. As long as there are gaps in staff development, the upgrading of the programme to masters level will remain a mirage.

Dar Old Boys in Power

By MISHAEL ONDIEKI

Africa is undergoing one of the most profound geo-political re-alignments since the 1960s. After the Cold War, America seems to be taking grip of the countries formerly "controlled" by France and Britain. The interesting thing in the new re-alignment is that Africa is coming up with a new crop of leaders who were once marxist adherents.

The former Marxist adherent to come to power recently is Joseph Laurent Desire Kabila who at one time, in 1975, ambushed and took hostage three American citizens and demanded a ransom of \$500,000 and shipment of weapons to help him fight Mobutu Sese Seko.

During that time, Mobutu was America's darling in Africa. However, due to the intensity of the matter, and given Kabila's support from the then Soviet Union, America gave in and delivered undisclosed amounts of money and weaponry.

Like Kabila, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Joachim Chisano of Mozambique, Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and Dr. John Garang of the Sudanese People's liberation army are

all former Marxist adherents. In deed many of them are former Dares Salaam University students.

One thing that has become clear over the years is that every time any of the former Marxists raises arms against their government, the former colleagues give a hand. Interestingly, all of them have had some kind of support from Tanzania, their apparent ideological breeding ground.

During Museveni's six years of war against the dictatorial regimes in Uganda, he was based in Tanzania. But for long, the Nyerere government denied this.

Likewise, Shipment of weapons for Kabila from The Soviet Union and China in his early days also came through Tanzania.

And after Museveni ruled Uganda, Sudan started crying foul that he was supporting a rebel group led by Dr John Garang, with whom he was in Dar es Salaam. Sudan also blamed the Eritrean president Esaias Aferworki and president Meles Zenawi, who were believers of the marxist school of thought which is said to have been bred in Dar es Salaam in the 60s. It is yet to be known whether all these leaders were Marxist followers by design or

accident.

The US now proudly identifies herself with several leaders in Africa though it coldly supported Paa Kagame, the Rwandese strongman, who is now the Vice-President.

France, on the other hand, has been kicked out of Burundi where the apologist, former president Sylvestre Ntibunganya, was ousted and Pier Buyoya took over as a compromise power between the warring Hutus and Tutsis.

The world is now looking at Sudan where the other "Dar es Salaam boy", Dr John Garang is fighting the Khartoum government.

Despite the peace pacts that were arrived at by Hassan Omar el Bashir government and rebel groups like the Southern Sudanese Independent Movement led by Dr Riak Machar, Garang seems to be seeing some light at the end of the tunnel and is reluctant to agree with the Khartoum government.

It is evident that the Sudan is tricky. America on one side is blaming the Khartoum government for all the sponsoring and harbouring international terrorists and would like to see Bas out of his way.

THE ANVIL is a School of Journalism student training newspaper. The views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the School of Journalism or the University of Nairobi

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The Anvil Magazine

Dreams shattered

By VINCENT MAKORI

Hawkers routed

For Florence Kemunto from Gucha district, government order to clear the Nairobi streets of hawkers, was like a death penalty to her family.

For three years, Kemunto has been running a curio shop along Biashara Street, where she sold soapstone carvings. On May 31, 1997, when a planned reformist meeting exploded into violent confrontations between the law enforcement officers and rioting mobs, Kemunto was at her rural home.

She could not make it back to Nairobi until a week later. On arrival, she went to work as usual. What she found, crushed her heart. The pain was unbearable. Her curio shop had been flattened by the City Council bulldozers, under the watchful eyes of heavily armed riot police officers. "Why...why did they do this to me?" Kemunto lamented to this reporter, perhaps not knowing who else to ask.

"I had a stock of Ksh 500,000 and it cost me Ksh 30,000 to put up this stall. Besides, I have a licence from the City Council for which I pay Ksh. 3,600 every year," a disturbed Kemunto told this reporter.

Like her colleagues, Boaz Langi Owiti and Stephen Nyawanga, whose stalls were also demolished and all their wares destroyed, Florence Kemunto does not understand the connection between the May 31 riots, the government's order and her business. She neither attended the meeting nor participated in the looting. "In fact I am a staunch Kanu supporter and all I have done is work very hard, to fend for my four children who depend entirely on me. Now, what will I do? What will my children eat? Who will pay fees for them? What about my house rent and other bills?"

These are the questions being asked by all those who have fallen victim of the eviction order.



The aftermath. What next?

Picture Courtesy of Nation Newspapers

Before answers to this can be found, there are other pressing questions that must first be answered. Who actually are hawkers? Who was responsible for the mayhem that visited the Streets of Nairobi on May 31?

It is significant that the government's first reaction to the May 31 riots was the ban on

livelihood. For all the government cares, they can as well starve to death.

Do they deserve it? The government is yet to explain its conclusion that all hawkers are criminals, looters and sympathisers of the opposition. It also has the task of defining who hawkers are. Most Kenyans think

But these were not even the most affected, as all their investment is usually in their hands. It is the food kiosk owners and curio stall owners who understood the full meaning of the government's order.

First because no dictionary defines them as hawkers. Secondly, most of them are

Ironically the government has been bragging of how it is creating a conducive environment for the blossoming of the Jua-kali sector, as a panacea to the soaring unemployment problem. The flattening of the kiosks has now rendered hundreds of Kenyans jobless and desperate. Most are bitter and confused.

History has more than enough illustrations that joblessness, desperation and bitterness, when combined, form a most lethal weapon, that has brought even the most brutal governments tumbling. The citizens are now seeing a brutal 'wild animal' in their government. A government that will readily punish the 'wrong people', even 'starve' them, to make a point.

The danger now is that these people, having nothing else to lose, might act like a cornered rat. When you corner a helpless rat, and it has nowhere else to go, out of frustration and desperation, it will jump onto your face, opting to die fighting.

With threats by opposition leaders that more illegal meetings are planned, this country might witness more violence than ever before. People who should be otherwise busy running their small kiosks, will be idle and bitter and these rallies might provide the stage to release their frustrations. Combine this with the thousands of streets boys stalking the major towns of Kenya and thousands of unemployed school, college and university leavers and you have a time bomb.

Remember Museveni? How about Kabila? These two current presidents turned tables on the sitting governments with the help of desperate youths who had been waiting for a saviour. Mobutu Sese Seko's highly trained army was routed by 15-year-old lads, who had no time or

resources to train properly.

The signal here is that what any leader needs to do, is make his people bitter and desperate and the stage will be set for chaos.

"In fact I am a staunch Kanu supporter and all I have done is work very hard, to fend for my four children who depend entirely on me. Now, what will I do? What will my children eat? Who will pay fees for them? What about my house rent and other bills?"

hawkers. The message was clear. The hawkers were responsible for the violence and looting in the streets of Nairobi. Therefore, they must face harsh punishment; throttling their only source of

that hawkers are those men and women who walk around with merchandise, occasionally displaying them on pavements and those who sell vegetables and fruits.

licensed and faithfully pay the City Council their dues. Thirdly, most of them were busy preparing food for customers or preparing to serve the many customers who flock the city on Saturdays.

Survival on campus

By IRENE WANYANGA

University students have become part-time businesspeople to counter the cost-sharing problem. There is a kiosk in hall 10, a bar in hall 5, mandazis being sold in the prefabs, illicit brew being sold in hall 11, video shows, photography, just to mention a few. Students are also cooking in their rooms. Books are bought in groups because student cannot afford them individually.

These money making and money-saving ventures may not be as profitable as the students think. Cooking in the rooms is only economical when done in groups and students are therefore pooling together. They however forget that the time spent in the purchasing, preparation and cleaning up makes it more expensive than eating in the dining hall.

Those who operate businesses do it at the expense of their studies. They are so busy making money that they miss some lectures. The financial constraints have had both positive and negative effects on the students. They have learnt to pool their resources whenever possible and give each other loans when necessary. Fredrick Okite of hall 8 says, "My room-mate and I do not go for breakfast in the dining hall. We find it cheaper to make the tea in our room. We therefore have an agreement that he buys the bread and I buy the milk." This kind of arrangement does not always work because there are students who will want to ride on the backs of others.

There are however, those who cannot cope with the pressure and are very depressed. Henry Onger, a first-year student from Kisii says, "I'm depressed most of the times because I don't have money. Back at home, when I run out of money, I can sell bananas or sugarcane to generate income. I can't do that here. When I write home to my parents to send me some money, they respond saying they do not have it and there are the other children to think about. Though I understand their situation I can't help being depressed." Other students have turned to alcohol and other drugs to escape their problems.

Others from humble backgrounds spend their allowances on clothes in a bid to fit in socially, but this means that they have to do without certain meals. Susan Waihenya, a first year student, says "when we reported there were noticeable class differences portrayed by our manner of dress. Some of us were quite 'shao'. But after two weeks, you could not tell who was who."

Though a meal of ugali and sukuma-wiki costs only nine shillings, few students are brave enough to order it because it is regarded as an indication of one's poverty. "If you order for this meal, you have to 'improve' it with something like a sausage, which costs sh 13. So, if we have to eat ugali and sukuma-wiki, we cook it and eat it in the privacy of our rooms," revealed Caro Muigai.

There is also a mass exodus of students from the University to the estates on Fridays in a bid to save money that would otherwise have been spent on food over the weekend. Weekends are therefore not being fully utilised for academics.

Though the going is tough, the students feel that they have become more responsible in organising their finances. "When we are on vacation, we have learnt to use whatever money we get sparingly because we are always thinking of the next semester. We even go out of our way to try get part-time jobs, and we are not too choosy about the kind of jobs we want to do," says Kevin Ochieng.

The students say that the situation can improve if they were honest in applying for their loans. "Some of us even fill the forms that both our parents are dead, or that our parents are peasant farmers when this is not the case." Honesty would ensure that resources from the government are given deserving cases. They also appeal to the university administration to provide more recreational facilities within the campus as most of them cannot afford them elsewhere.



Chopped sukuma. Easing domestic chores

Picture Courtesy of Nation Newspapers

HUMOUR

Hard times in the city

By KIPLON KANGOGO

If you are the type of man or woman in Nairobi who still considers living by your own sweat as the only noble means, then take it from me, even though I am not a prophet, that there is no difference between you and the white rhino.

Seriously speaking, you are an endangered species just as much as the rhino. It's life is in danger because of it's horn and you are in danger because of your money.

In fact the reason why you have long since parted ways with peace is because the city has been invaded by myriads of idlers who have insatiable lust for reaping where they have not sown.

These malingers come to you in several ways very well disguised. When they come, you are deluded that they are humble people and yet they are wolves in sheep skin. They come in the form of conmen and conwomen, street comedians, hawkers and sadly, there is a new group who come to you completely disguised as the men or women of "the collar," that is as preachers.

Disguised because they have learnt that the lion that roams

around as it combs the forest roaring like thunder, risks scaring away its prey. So, like the with lion, these people who never sweat for anything except perhaps when they are eating, have only one clear and definite objective. A desire to ensure that your pockets are emptied of its contents.

Since you are the type of person who lives by your own sweat and must be having some money, these idlers confront you anywhere in the city, from the streets, parks and even in the estates.

The sad thing about these idlers is that they are putting in jeopardy the faith of many hard working Kenyans. They are sowing in their hearts the feelings of spiritual despair. This is because if those exerting the siege on their pockets include people disguised as those who should be showing them the only way that will lead from this world to a better world, then things automatically have turned purple.

These 'preachers' do not care much sweating as they locate you. They wait until you have earned the fruits of your sweat, stuffed it in your pockets and perhaps gone to Uhuru park or some place of your choice to relax after a hard work and then approach you like the clever lion.

If by any chance you decided to go

to Uhuru Park because you consider the Architect of the Ruaraka waters part of these people, they come to you with a bundle that you would think are from the famous Marigiti Market.

But when they unbundle their luggage, you realize that they are setting up a public address system and beginning to 'preach'. With a Bible in their hands, they shout over what they have been saying over and over again ever since they invaded the city.

"Brothers and sisters" they shout over the loud speaker and begin "preaching" on how all the Nairobians should cease pretending that they are Christians. Then they appeal to those curious enough to have gathered around them to be true christians.

And as they continue with their talk, your heart is captivated by their articulation of the religious facts. But sadly, as they wind up their 'sermon' they again repeat what they have said in many other places in the city.

"Brothers and sisters", we are mere preachers who are only human and we need earthly food just as much as we need the spiritual food. So, give us food by donating your

'Sadaka' generously. We accept 'Kobole', 10 shillings coin, a Pound, 'Soo Mmoja' and even cheques".

But when you turn back and inwardly figure out the motives behind every move of everybody today including those of hawkers, acrobats, conmen and even some of our preachers in Nairobi, the once famous City, which always stood face to face with the sun, you come to a sad conclusion.

The breeding of idlers in the City is higher than that of the mosquitoes. There is breeding of these malingers day and night, and that is why I am advising you that, you are an endangered species.

They will rest only when they are completely assured that your pockets which you stuffed with the fruits of your sweat, are inside out. Then you will have no choice but to be born into their family.

The only advise I can give you as a friend, though we have never met or are not likely to meet at all even in the future, is you should not break your neck worrying. If you do, then you are likely to develop ulcers. The best thing is salvage what you can and leave the rest for them to scramble for.

The military in a democracy

New role of soldiers

By BARRACK NYAMANGO

It is acknowledged that since colonial days there has been a permanent wave of hostility between the armed forces and the general public. The two have remained incompatible yet the armed forces is dependent on this very public from which it draws its most important raw material, the human resource. It is no wonder the military men and their bashers have remained one war path.

The struggle for independence from the British colonial yoke by the oppressed people in various parts of the world, particularly in Africa involved a long, bitter and acrimonious war and the dust has not yet settled. The Falklands and Zimbabwe are witness to this. When the dust finally settles, Africa will agree that honour is due to our forefathers who fought heroically in their respective countries for independence. Among them are; Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya; Emery Patrice Lumumba, Zaire now Democratic Republic of Congo; Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela, South Africa; Kwame Nkrumah, Ghana; Benjamin Nnamdi Azikiwe (ZIK), Nigeria; Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Tanzania; Kenneth Kaunda, Zambia; Hastings Kamuzu Banda, Malawi and many others.

However, if we leave aside for a moment the question of who championed the war of independence and look instead at who inspired it, we will admit that the process of independence struggle gathered momentum in Africa in the 1940's only after the Second World War. This process reached bursting point about early 1950's and it is about this time when a plethora of political parties appeared on the scene.

The soldiers who had fought alongside the whiteman were the first to demand equal treatment after they had demolished the myth that the white man was superior to the African. It is this agitation for equal treatment which in turn led to the demand for independence.

Since independence some leaders have denied their people the very basic rights and freedoms they fought for. These leaders have become dictators to replace the colonialists. They have also locked out the soldiers from the political life of their countries in fear that the soldiers would overthrow them from power.

Indeed, a simple test to determine whether or not an Independent African State is truly democratic is simply to find out how the armed forces in that country are treated. While dictatorial regimes employ all manners and methods including bribing the top commanders to have the soldiers divorced from the political and social activities of their countries, the true democracies let the men and women in their armed forces function freely.

They give the soldiers adequate academic training and involving them in all the aspects of their national life including participation in politics as the case is in Uganda. Our soldiers deserve

to participate not only in the defence of our country, but also in its national politics.

The primary objective of any country's defence policy should be to ensure its security, and preserve peace, and freedom to enable it pursue legitimate interests within and outside the country.

This means that the role of the military is to safeguard rights and freedoms of the citizens and maintain stability and harmony in the society. To this end, the armed forces must be a servant of the people and must be subject to the civilian authority.

The role of any army in Africa today must be an active engagement in nation building activities. These include roads and bridges construction, extinguishing uncontrollable fires in urban areas and forests, control of locusts and helping evacuate the civilian population during floods. They must also take part in the United Nations sponsored peace keeping forces. Kenya's armed forces contributed when they were sent to various troubled areas like Zimbabwe and in 1988/89 in the Persian Gulf to monitor the Iran-Iraq ceasefire and later to Bosnia.

As the conventional military threats continue to give way to the dangers of crime, the armies of Africa must also start studying reforms to expand their roles into tackling organised crime, the drug trade and international terrorism. The plan should envisage military personnel working alongside police and customs officers in civilian cases. As the world continues to change and the defence budget of most countries continue to shrink, our armies must be informed to suit the changes.

Hitherto, our armed forces were trained to hold, control, defend and even seize land by invading enemy territory. They could also resist enemy attacks against our own territory. In peace time, the army, must be used to maintain order and give others help during emergencies such as riots, floods, earthquakes or other disasters.

Previously, the army used help train military forces of many friendly countries. During this period, the forces were required to remain in the barracks, the reason being that they had to prepare at all times to use swift, forceful action to overcome any enemy that might threaten the country. A point was therefore made that the armed forces were combat ready troops to face the growing communist threat.

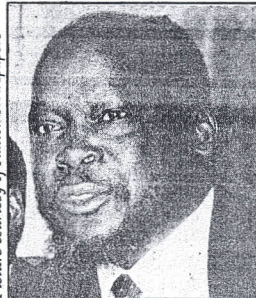
Today, conditions have changed. The world is fast becoming one as communism is disintegrating. In the Cold War era, the army could be called upon to help in disasters such as epidemics, floods, forest fires and storms. It coordinated the disaster relief activities of the armed services. It located, marked defence shelters and constructed and operated many public works.

But with no serious wars likely to be fought now which direction should we go from here? Should the armed forces in Kenya contemplate giving the people, a

surprise present? A perfect gift would be of any coup attempt or anything like such, but to join the rest of Kenyans in garbage collection. The reason for this is that they consist of a body of well disciplined young people who are well equipped but under utilised. Yet they just stand by and do nothing as our own infrastructure falls apart. This kind of public duty is likely to polish the dented image of the armed forces in this region especially in Kenya.

If the armed forces of Kenya are to be remembered it should be more than just a good and smart turn-out with an impressive drill. The army should not go down in history as the main force behind the vow to keep the armed forces out of politics but also as the major force in the epic development in Kenya.

So far, in this exercise, Kenyans have a good story to tell as so many development indicators are currently running in the favour of



Col. John Garang

their forces and we could do well to recognise this fact. A case in point is when the Kenya Army in a rare demonstration in the spirit of cooperation with the ministry of works, the National Youth Service and the University of Nairobi undertook to build the new graduation square, a project which took only 9 months to complete in 1992.

Kenyans will also fondly remember their army engaged in the terracing and levelling of the magnificent Uhuru Park earlier on before they moved to the university of Nairobi Graduation Square. Kenyans who witnessed this development oriented army then stood in admiration and saluted the entire armed forces for this feat.

Against this background, the traditional wisdom and belief in the idea that soldiers are maintained to fight wars and kill the enemy must be erased. It is also wrong to give young people this kind of perspective as it will set them on the wrong path. The issue of getting and killing the enemy in any war must be dealt with care and compassion.

In the meantime, the soldiers of the Kenya armed forces have already embarked on the right path. Kenyans now enjoy their sunny days under lovely trees planted by members of

the armed forces. Such activities should be intensified to include building houses like the Egyptian armed forces do so in peacetime.

Hydrotherapy works

By LILY ADUKE

Among the simple methods of treating disease without using drugs, the use of heat and cold ranks high in importance. These may be easily applied with the use of the most common substance - water. In one of its three states - liquid, vapour (steam) and solid (ice), many simple treatments can be carried out effectively.

Hydrotherapy, a scientific term for the use of water for treatment is simple and inexpensive. A simple activity such as bathing one's face in cold water or taking a quick dip in the pool has hydrotherapeutic effects. After the first shock, there comes a delightful feeling invigoration.

Dr. C. W. Dail, a professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation says that the reaction of cold water results in greater energy for muscles and brain as well as stimulation of the normal body activities. The process of getting used to cold water is gradual but the health and vigour that results are well worth the effort.

In the early 19th century, Priessnitz, an Austrian peasant lad, first discovered the use of cold compresses following a personal injury.

Cold water or ice applied to a sprained ankle reduced swelling and discoloration caused by ruptured blood vessels. The cold contracts the size of the vessels, hence keeping the blood from oozing out into the torn tissues then it is kept elevated and bandaged, for the en support and healing to take place.

Cold compresses have also been used on reflex effects on deeper structures, such as over the heart in a rapid heartbeat associated with high fever, to the forehead in case of headache, or to the abdomen in acute appendicitis. Changeable weather exposes people to colds. When one is a victim of the common cold, congestion of the membrane of the nose, throat and sinuses occur. There is a feeling of stuffiness and

sometimes excessive drainage.

A steam inhalation is an excellent way of supplying warm, moist air to congested mucous membrane. Simply take a wide-necked jug and fill it with one pint of boiling water. Add one teaspoon of oil of eucalyptus (or vicks), one teaspoon of tincture benzoin and five drops of garlic oil. Drape your head with a towel - thereby creating a small tent. Continue inhalation from 20 minutes to half an hour and repeat this three to four times a day at regular intervals. This will relieve inflammation and congestion of the mucous membrane of the upper respiratory tract; irritation by moistening the air; loosen secretions and stimulate expectoration; coughing and prevent excessive dryness of the mucous membranes.

A heating compress is a cold compress applied to the part of a body and covered with a dry flannel to prevent circulation of air, and to cause an accumulation of body heat. The compress soon warms up and produces the effect of a mild application of heat.

Heating compresses may be used for a sore throat, pharyngitis, tonsillitis, colds, pneumonia, among others. It may also be applied to knee, ankle and foot injuries and also to the abdomen in cases of constipation or indigestion. By application of heat to the skin, the blood vessels are dilated and blood is brought to the surface, thereby relieving congestion. The average person may not realize the importance of sufficient water for the proper functioning of the human body. The brain, for example, is approximately 75% water. The nervous system requires fluids. Water is vital not only to help get rid of wastes and keep the nervous system running. Drink six to eight glasses of water daily in between meals.

These simple home treatments demonstrate useful ways in which water can be used in dealing with accidents and health problems. It is nature's way of healing. There is healing power in water.

Human rights: Kenyan situation

By NJUGUNA BERNARD

Wanjiru, (not her real name) had held her Auntie with a lot of esteem until one chilly morning when she was woken up, held by hand and led towards Thagana river.

What followed under the watchful eye of the Auntie, haunts her to date. She was forcefully circumcised! Wanjiru had just come from a boarding school barely a week before with all the hope of enjoying her holiday.

The rights of the young girl were violated by the same people who were her guardians.

Right to own property

It's a sunny afternoon, and suddenly the sleeping town bus stop is woken by the cries of, help! help! A smartly dressed lady is sprawled on the ground, dust all over. Somebody has snatched her handbag and in the struggle, pushed her down. Her right to own property has been violated within a fraction of a second.

A plainclothes policeman happens to pass by, and the lady narrates the incident. Within a minute, the lady has 'identified' the "thief" walking a distance away. A blood thirsty mob is crying for his blood wanting to lynch him. Without warning, the policeman whips out a pistol and after a little chase, down goes the 'thief' under a hail of bullets.

The episodes are but just a few cases of how wide and intriguing the whole question of human rights and their violations can be.

The concept of human rights has been a major pre-occupation of the civil society in an attempt to educate Kenyans on what human rights are all about. The donor community has come out to fund such fora with a gusto that surpasses any other projects that they sponsor.

Violations of human rights tend to elicit a lot of attention especially those which are politically and legally oriented. The media has persisted in highlighting such violations while human rights activists and opposition politicians particularly, take the least opportunity to condemn them.

Unfortunately, even as everybody is talking about human rights and their violations, few people really seem to understand what human rights are. This has been caused by failure to clearly define what human rights are and the relativism of their application in different circumstances. The definition of human rights continue to be done along legal, political, and cultural lines and now, the civil society has given it another dimension—transparency and good governance.

This lack of a universal approach to the definition of human rights has given lee way to the perpetrators of serious human rights violations, the opportunity to justify these misdeeds

Mutungi asserts committee's stand



Mob justice victim

arguing 'it is the people's way of life'.

There should be no human rights standard for one country, region or community, rather, human rights should be seen from a holistic point of view.

It is in this regard that a three day seminar on Reporting Human Rights was held on February 20-22, this year at the United States International University-Africa (USIU-A). The seminar which was sponsored by Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) and co-ordinated by Mr Joe Kadhi, a Journalism Lecturer at the University of Nairobi, brought together media practitioners and journalism students.

Advocacy Role

A media expert, Mr Polycarp Ochilo, challenged the media to see themselves as a tools of propagating human rights as a universal phenomena. Mr Ochilo, a lecturer at the School of Journalism, University of Nairobi, said this was possible if media adopted an advocacy role based on facts, articulation, interpretation and championing good governance.

Mass media, the seminar was told, have the moral obligation to set agenda of social responsibility by analyzing human rights virtues critically and impart them to the society. However, he cautioned; "Cultural practices which are repugnant to civility should not be propagated."

To further instill values which respect human rights, the don advised the media to pick on our cultural practices and compare them with those at the international level.

"However, principles of western democracies should not be blindly imported into our culture," he advised.

To have a clear understanding of human rights, the media ought to acquaint itself with the provisions of human rights at the international and local scene. The Kenyan constitution defines human rights from a legal point of view as enshrined in sections 71-77 and 86. At the international level, human rights are through declarations, charters and the Bill of Rights to which Kenya is a signatory.

These rights are: right to life, right to own property, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of conscience.

Dr Makumi Mwangi of the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies, University of Nairobi, said the content of human rights is not contestable. Universalistic application of the international law on human rights standards are best seen at international rather than national, regional or cultural level.

From a cultural point of view, Professor Mohammed Bakari of the Department of Religious Studies, of the same university, argued that cultural practises like wife beating and female circumcision are forms of human rights violations. Such cultural tendencies which tend to perpetuate violations of human rights should be discarded, he advised.

Human rights culture

Speaking at the same venue, Dr Peter Wanyande, a political scientist, referred to what he termed as first generation of human rights which focused too much on the individual.

He called for a redefinition of human rights.

Social, economic, political and cultural rights

"The scope of human rights must be extended to include social, economic, political and cultural rights," the don said. "These rights should eventually be incorporated into the country's constitution," he added.

On the government's commitment to protection of human rights, Professor Onesmus Mutungi, assured the participants that it was committed to the course, hence the formation of the Standing Committee on Human Rights in Kenya.

Responding to a question, Prof. Mutungi who is the current chairman of the committee, disclosed that the committee was engaged in organising seminars and workshops for Kenyans to enlighten them on the concept of human rights. "This was aimed at developing a human rights culture among the citizens," he said.

However, he lamented that most Kenyans are not aware of the contents of the constitution which forms the basis of the human rights. This he said was contributed by the low literacy level and a poor reading culture among Kenyans which is a major bottleneck to establishing a human rights culture.

He added that with the establishment of the standing committee, Kenyans now have a forum through which they can report cases of human rights violations.

He exonerated the government from accusations of human rights violations saying that individuals

ought to be held accountable for the misdeeds.

However, the immediate former Law Society of Kenya chairman, M Paul Wamae, said the governer cannot escape responsibility over acts of human rights violations.

"When acts of human rights violation are committed by uniformed government agents, it is difficult to draw a line between the individual and the government," said Wamae.

On the formation of the Standing Committee on Human Rights, M Wamae said, "The appointment of the committee was a shallow and ridiculous attempt to white wash the government's image and lip-service to the fundamental issues of human rights violation in Kenya."

From a medical point of view of human rights, Doctor Ling Marete Kituyi, graphically narrated to a stunned audience the various torture methods employed by human rights violators. Some, she said, left no physical injuries but serious psychological wounds.

Complicity

She made disturbing revelations that some medical personnel supervised torture of victims but added that this kind of complicity is expressly banned by the World Medical Association.

Dr Kituyi explained that many torture victims are so traumatised that they find it hard to recount their ordeal while others are threatened with dire consequences should they do so.

She appealed to journalists to respect this while interviewing torture survivors but must continue to expose cases of human rights violations.

Picture courtesy Nation Newspapers

Africa announces new relief for Aids

By BARRACK NYAMANGO

ew relief for AIDS patients has he market. According to a press ase faxed from South Africa, sterol, a non-toxic food duct, has been discovered by archers to help AIDS patients longer and improve the quality heir lives. The product is called nuno-Buster.

Researchers led by Professor rick Boiue at Stellenbosch versity in South Africa say that y have found that the booster also ps in diseases such as Althritis, lerosis and Interculosis. Unlike other AIDS relievers that are very ensive, Sitosterol will cost US\$30 a three month course.

Professor Boiue explained: "the g has been tried on cats infected h the virus. Those which did not e the Immuno-Booster died within weeks but those that were on it ost tripled their life-span to 125 eks. We hope the same will happen humans."

He shunned concerns that the drug

might not be usable by some people. "It's not a steroid, it's non-toxic, anybody; could use it with an anti-viral drug with no bad effects," Boiue said.

The food product is already available in South African pharmacies and health centres, in addition to new vaccines which are expected to decrease viral infections.

According to the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States, this is not yet a victory over AIDS. Recently three new compounds were approved to fight AIDS infection. These have joined vaccines and microbicides in the arsenal of AIDS prevention and treatment drugs. According to Family Health International (FHI), the most promising drug has been Zidovudine (AZT) and Lamivudine (3TC). AZT is prescribed by doctors to prevent

pregnant mothers from infecting foetuses with his HIV. But the drugs only reduce the levels of HIV in infected people; they do not cure.

CDC explains that the medicine simply reduces the concentration of HIV particles in a patient's blood but do not remove it from the lymph nodes, brain and white blood cells. The patients get attacks if they stop taking drugs.

The drugs do not work for all patients. There is an incorrect belief that those on treatment are no longer infected. Boiue warns that Immuno Booster does not make infected people free of AIDS, but simply improves their lives. "They can infect others with the virus if the come in contact," he explains.

This makes prevention still the best method of avoiding AIDS. According to Family Health International (FHI) Senior Vice President Di Willard Gates, the use of "condoms and prevention" remains the best weapon to prevent AIDS.

English language standards fall

By DENNIS ONYANGO

The Integrated English Syllabus is to blame for poor performance in the subject in national examinations.

Many teachers say when students are faced with both Literature in English and English grammar in the same text, they often prefer literature to grammar. As a result, several students cannot make grammatical sentences even after their fourth form.

A number of current and former teachers confess that they are comfortable teaching either Language or Literature and not both.

Currently, Secondary School English Syllabus combines both language and literature. Candidates sit English and literature papers separately in the examinations but the average of the two is worked out to determine the final grade.

The system has been roundly blamed for the falling standards in English by academicians and

teachers. A former English teacher at Chala high School in Taita Taveta district, Mr. Eric Juma, said he spent more time teaching the language than literature because he enjoyed it.

Majority of language teachers in many schools were not required to know both literature and language in the old education system. However, Mr. Juma said, such teachers are required to teach both according to the integrated syllabus.

A number of secondary school students interviewed said they often get surprised when they come across a poem after studying a passage meant to teach comprehension.

"I get confused when the teacher writes grammar on the wall then asks us to look at a poem at the bottom of our text books," Oreste Uvimana, a form four student at Muguga high school said. He said the Kenyan system is different from what they had in Rwanda where he did his primary and early secondary education.

Varsity Public Relations Wanting Restructuring long overdue

By MARY MASINDE

Public Relations is not taken seriously by the University of Nairobi. It is not recognised as a management process. This is amplified by the fact that at the moment officers from two different departments are responsible for performing PR duties.

The Planning, Public Relations and Information department is headed by Mr. F. M. Waweru. Its functions include the production of the *University Calendar*, the annual report and the organisation of the graduation ceremony. The other officer, Kimaita Kirimania, is based in the V.C.'s office. His duties include day to day liaison of the V.C.'s activities, writing speeches and issuing press releases for the university. Before its establishment, the Vice Chancellor used to delegate matters to the Planning, PR and Information office.

This office was set up at the inception of the University with a Registrar as its head. However, the rival of Professor Joseph Mungai in 1979 saw the incorporation of a Public Relations and Personal Assistant unit to his office. He moved the late Z.B.N. Oganda, a Deputy Registrar, who acted as his personal assistant and spoke on his behalf.

The early 80s through to the 90s saw a succession of administrators occupying this seat. Charles Wainaina, the current PR manager of East Africa Industries, took over from Oganda. Next in line was J. J. Githaka, a Senior Assistant Registrar, who later moved with Professor Mbithi to the Office of the President. Professor Mungai gave this post a name but no effort was made to introduce a PR structure.

When Professor Francis Gichaga took over he appointed Alfred Mtawali, a Senior Administrative Assistant from the university garage, as his PRO and personal assistant.

Lack of a PR structure means that the impact of PR operations depends largely on the occupant of this office and that of the VC. Additionally, being administrators does not necessarily give them PR qualities. Otherwise how does one explain the pathetic situation in which PR finds itself in?

The *Varsity Focus* is a magazine started more or less as a personal memo from the V.C. office to the university staff. Yet it remains the same more than a decade later. It carries appointments, promotions of lecturers and professors, and the VC's activities and speeches at various functions, including the graduation ceremony.



Mr. Kimaita Kirimania

It does not make a deliberate attempt at being a PR tool for the university and hardly pretends to cater for the interests of the university community. Contributions from other University staff are so minimal that on a number of occasions an issue has comprised of only a page or two. Its production is also erratic and what should be quarterly appears once in a while. The only issue that is regular is the end of year one which literally duplicates speeches carried in the graduation program.

The *University Calendar* was last published to cater for the 1989/90 academic year. Since then there has been no official university handout outlining the courses offered by the University of Nairobi as a whole, including the 8-4-4 system. Enquiries

on this and entry requirements can be frustrating as one has to move from one faculty to another in search of information.

Coupled with this is the lack of sign posts. Location of offices is ad hoc and it can be a nightmare trudging from building to building in search of a relevant office. For example, how does one locate the ACCE/SOJ Documentation centre and the IDS library, or even the V.C.'s office for that matter? The entrance to the administration building also acts as the tailoring office and one would hesitate to seek directions from there.

As a remedial measure a new reception desk was recently introduced at the entrance of the Gandhi Wing. It is manned by staff, who are apparently new to their job and one wonders if they are in command of locations and directions. It operates during working hours and a visitor needing help during lunch hour and after 5pm would be of a loss as to where to get it from.

Kimaita Kirimania has now entered the scene. Prior to taking up the new post he was the editor of The University Press. A holder of Bachelor of Arts degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication from the University of Nairobi, he plans to rejuvenate the PR office. He blames the dismal

performance of *The University Focus* on individual ineffectiveness and on the many administrative duties in the VC's office which bog down the PRO, leaving him with no time to gather information for regular issues. There is no comprehensive PR unit and support staff.

He hopes to boost the magazine with stories contributed on a voluntary basis by the university community as a whole. It will be a communication channel between the university administration and the staff and students; between policy makers and mainstream media and between the university and financiers like the government, NGOs and trusts.

A good image for the university can be realised if its objectives are recognised. Kirimania asserts that the university *per-se* aims at academic excellence - good education, training and research. Riots and damage control are not really its problems. Rarely do students go the streets because of academic grievances. He hopes to promote the institution's pursuit and achievement of its academic goals and to improve on the university's corporate image by use of media.

More easily said than done! For unless the university considers PR as a vital management organ, very little will be achieved.

Elections '97 - Which way political parties?

By JACKSON MWALULU

The election season is once again with us. And election fever has set in. Kenyans are behaving as if the impending general elections expected late this year, are due next week.

And why not? The Moi led Kenya African National Union (Kanu), the Raila-Matiba Solidarity Alliance and every body else has hit the campaign trail. Rallies are being held, alliances are rapidly shifting and strategizing is in high gear. Importantly, voter registration exercise kicked off last month.

The question uppermost in Kenyan minds is not which political party will win, or how democratic elections are bound to be, but rather who becomes the next president.

Tribal allegiance

To some, this is a cut and dried matter. Moi will retain his job. The reasons advanced for this conclusion are that the 73 year old Head of State is an experienced operator in the hurly-burly that is Kenya's politics. The opposition is too disjointed to stand up against a firmly entrenched ruling party, complete with an inexhaustible financial chest, a ruthlessly faithful provincial administration and police force, a compromised judiciary and electronic media that is anything but impartial.

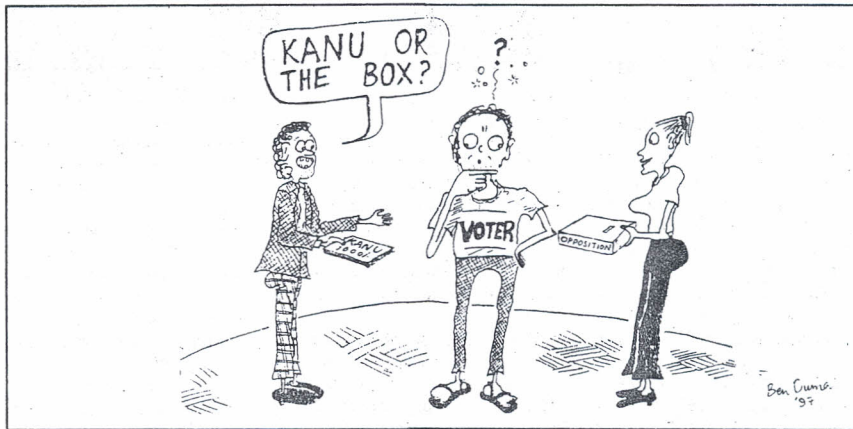
Kenya's politics is tribe driven, and tribal allegiance are as effective a factor as the advantage of incumbency, if not more in determining who becomes the tenant of State House.

In 1992, the Luo-Kikuyu-Luhya nexus was set to lock Moi out of the coveted house through a juggernaut called Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD), until Kenneth Matiba and Oginga Odinga decided both must be presidents at the same time.

Alliance

A lot of water has passed under the bridge. Five years down the road, it is the height of naiveté to contemplate, leave alone work for something like Matiba-Raila-Wamalwa confederacy.

Recent developments have, however, shown that it is not yet safe to write off the opposition in general, and Matiba in particular. Kanu operatives must, for instance, be crossing their fingers so that the Raila-Matiba rapport does not graduate into a fully fledged political intercourse.



One hope they are banking on is that Matiba is an extremely difficult man to work with, and thus soon the marriage will be relegated to the dustbin of history. A highly opinionated fellow, it is next to impossible for the Kiharu legislator to play number two to anybody.

Raila Odinga is not less ambitious. Indeed, the Luo-Kikuyu

Presidency

Back to the presidency. Given the current political trend, five personalities from the opposition are set to enter the race. They are: Ford A's Kenneth Matiba, Mwai Kibaki (DP), Kijana Wamalwa, (Ford-

blow to the embarrassing problem through irrigation schemes, it has over the decades chosen the short-termist food relief approach, perhaps as a vote-getting strategy. Rivalling famine and hunger for prominence is water crisis.

A couple of years ago, the government engaged in a project to

The question uppermost in Kenyan minds is not which political party will win, or how democratic elections are bound to be, but rather who becomes the next president.

age-old ethnic mistrust aside, few political analysts see Jaramogi's son backing anybody for the top seat this time round.

What then are the likely scenarios? It is Philip Ochieng who once described the two (Matiba and Raila) as the most important opposition politicians. One cannot agree more. The duo command a near solid and hysterical ethnic support. Indeed, it is highly improbable that in parts of Central and Nairobi provinces, those aspiring to go to parliament, but opposed to Matiba can make it. Dr. Muniya Waiyaki, Nginyo Kariuki, Beth Mugo and Ngengi Muigai discovered this recently and trooped to Ford Asili. Those still sticking to their guns are standing on political quick sand.

K), Raila Odinga, (NDP), and Charity Kaluki Ngilu (DP Kitui Central) who is still shopping around for a political party to nominate her.

Readers will recall that in 1992, parliament passed a law requiring the winning presidential candidate to garner at least 25 percent of the votes cast in five provinces. Going by this rule, the aforementioned figures have the potential to lock Kanu's Moi out of five crucial provinces- Central, Nyanza, Nairobi, Western and Eastern. The import of this is that round one of the election might not produce a clear cut winner, thus necessitating a run off.

Observers agree that such an eventuality could mark the beginning of the end of Kanu as we know it today- the ruling party. Cynics do not agree, citing Kanu's well-endowed bag of tricks.

Vice-presidency

If we rewind again to 1992, one will recall that Kanu saved its skin by dangling the vice presidency carrot to the three communities which then mattered in the ruling party's political chess board- the Kamba, Luhya and Kisii. Can the same trick work this time round? It is doubtful.

In Ukambani, there is the thorny issue of the never ending famine and hunger. The view gaining currency in the region is that when the Government should have dealt a death

pattern should Ngilu seek the presidency.

Yet, Kanu is not safe in Luhya or Kisii. There is a palpable disenchantment with the party with the two communities which the president and his advisors can only ignore at their own peril. Unfulfilled promises to the Luhya are repeatedly cited, and the man who is credited for delivering the Kisii to Kanu, Simeon Nyachae is apparently under siege from the reigning power brokers in the ruling party.

Reshuffle

During the recent cabinet reshuffle, Nyachae was relegated to the colourless ministry of Land Reclamation, regional and water development, from the powerful Agriculture, Livestock Development and Marketing portfolio. This move was seen by many as a demotion. It is a tall order to expect the MP for Nyaribari Chache to ditch Kanu, but it will be interesting to see if he will throw as much weight behind president Moi as he did in the last general elections.

Does this mean that Kanu and President Moi are headed for a straight defeat? Opinion is divided. There are those who believe that set against any of the opposition candidates, Moi would be the underdog.

A post-mortem of this school of thought would, however, lay bare two facts. One, Central province is not about to vote anybody other than their own, not least a Luo for presidency. The vice versa is equally true. Two, the bad blood between Rail Odinga and Wamalwa Kijana, and between Kenneth Matiba and Martin Shikuku further complicates the situation.

It follows, therefore, that president Moi's job is significantly threatened only if the opposition fields Charity Ngilu as the compromise presidential candidate. Can they?

Promises

The result? Two years into the 21st century, healthy grown up men and women spend up to six valuable hours daily hunting for water. It is on this basis that political analysts expect a drastic change in the Kamba voting

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Shining stars meet their match



goal keeper Francis Onyiso mobbed by fans Picture by Chris Tsuma

By CHRIS TSUMA

rs were ticking by quickly in
outdown to the great World
qualifying match between
ya's Harambee Stars and the
er Eagles of Nigeria. Rarely
a football match held the
rest of Kenyans as the clash at
National Stadium in Surulere,

Lagos on June 7, 1997.

A random check by *The Anvil* has established that most Kenyans did not give Harambee Stars a chance away, against the Nigerians, although they did not think that the Eagles would have an easy and overwhelming win against the Stars as has been the case in the past. They felt that the good run the young

Kenyan team has had since January and the three week training stint they have had in Germany has built a confidence in them that puts them out of the pushover class even against great sides like the Super Eagles

Contacted for his views on the coming match, Dr. J. J. Masiga, a former Harambee Stars striker, said that the Stars did not stand a chance against the Nigerians because first, they would be playing in an extremely hostile environment and secondly they have not played any away match to develop the kind of nerve it takes to play and win a game of this magnitude.

Mr. Jai Prakash Mishra, the Manager of Nakumatt Checkpoint whose chain of supermarkets organized a raffle, the winners who got tickets to go and cheer the Kenyan team in Lagos, was confident that Harambee Stars would pull a shock against the Nigerians. His reason for feeling so was the way the Kenyans have been playing, their unbeaten record since the year begun and the fact that they have had a long and uninterrupted time training and playing together unlike the Super Eagles whose players are scattered all over Europe.

The big match was on everyone's

lips. Almost every other person interviewed said he or she was rushing home to be in time for it. The radio stations were bombarded with phone calls from Kenyans wishing their team well. The radio stations were also playing songs in praise of the Kenyan boys to motivate them.

But the best team won. The Super Eagles overwhelmed the Kenyan lads on their march to France '98. The Harambee Stars had no answer to the flair and experience of the Nigerians and this was proved in the fact that

...the Stars did not stand a chance against the Nigerians because first, they would be playing in an extremely hostile environment and secondly they have not played any away match to develop the kind of nerve it takes to play and win a game of this magnitude.

the Super Eagles goalkeeper, Abiodun Baruwa, did not stop a single goal bound shot, from the Kenyan strikers. The Nigerian strike force of Daniel Amokachi, Emmanuel Amonike and Jonathan Akpoborie were all over the rather jumpy Kenyan defenders, running rings around them and giving Francis Onyiso in goal for kenya quite a busy day.

That ends Harambee Stars' magical run for their first ever World

Cup finals appearance. It gives Africa some quality representation in France '98 and allays fears of soccer lovers that some freak teams like Kenya, Congo, Burundi, Namibia and others could miraculously find their way in the World Cup and thus give very mediocre representation for Africa against the best in the world of football.

The Stars should not let this loss run them down. They should take it as good learning experience to use in future matches especially the Africa Nations Cup qualifiers for Burkina Faso '98 which they stand a greater chance of qualifying for. The fans and the Kenya Football Federation (KFF) should not crucify Coach Reinhard Fabisch for this one loss, after all he has been doing fine and has potential to make

Kenya a great soccer power. We have even been proposing him for president, mark you!

Finally, we wish the Super Eagles and the other four qualifying sides from Africa well in France '98. Here is a message for them: Nigeria, brought us the olympic gold medal from Atlanta against apparently insurmountable opposition in the name of Argentina and Brazil. Any one of you can bring us the World Cup. Do it.

Theatre soccer: A glance at fans reactions

By HUDSON LIYAI

as all soccer theatrics at the
onal Theatre. The big screen
ision was set up as early as two
By five o'clock when *The Anvil*
arrived, the place was packed to
city.

lost taxi drivers who operate at
earby Norfolk Hotel abandoned
business for the theatre. The bar
ager who normally enjoys
ng the patrons had already taken
ntage point, at the same time
red a 90-minute self-service.
stage was set for the epic duel
een Kenya's Harambee Stars
is Nigeria's Super Eagles in their
n match in the World Cup
fying tournament.

Fly Whisk

xcitement reigned all round.
Kenya based South African fine
t Charles Sekano, received
ling ovation as he walked in
ing a 'Wamalwa Kijana hat'
waving a fly whisk. Cartoonist
Kelemba stirred sensation when
epped in, ten minutes to the
, switched off the television set
osed like some of the characters
eates.
similar escapade by one theatre

regular just before the first whistle
was loudly booed. A "Home Cup
Chai" advertisement on screen
featuring among others, Edwin
Nyutho, added to the excitement. And
the spontaneous singing on their feet,
joined the National Anthem, and was
to continue for every good move
made by Harambee Stars.

Super Evils

Talking to *The Anvil*, Samba
Mapangala Omar, the renowned
musician predicted a 1-0 victory for
the stars. Deo Omondi of the East
African Standard stretched it to 3-0
for the stars. Film-maker Albert
Wandago similarly predicted victory
but declined to hazard the margin.

Then came the silence in the 13th
minute as Harambee Stars conceded
a goal, save for scattered voices crying
foul and blaming the 'Super Evils'.
As the Super Eagles ran rings around
the stars, one could feel the tension in
the hall. At one stage, hell broke
loose when two fans disputed over
something as blows and breaking
glass rattled the air, some patrons
glued on the screen lost a few beers to
looters.

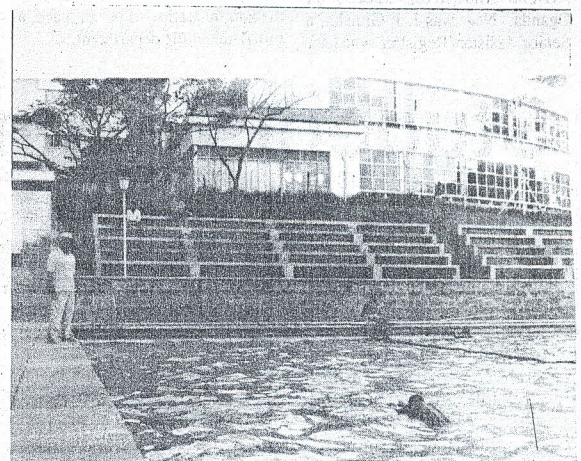
The rising tempers were not
helped by a bunch of pro-Nigeria
fans clustered and heckling from the

back of the joint. The mood was
further dampened by the partisan
Nigerian commentators. According
to them, the Stars were finding it
difficult to warm up to the smooth
terrain in Lagos, being used to the
rough and bumpy ground of Kasarani
stadium in Nairobi. Nevertheless, a
flash of 'Tusker' advert across the
screen seemed to momentarily
enliven the air, being greeted with
approval.

With the second goal for the
Eagles, the 'genuine fanatics' who
had taken strategic positions started
deserting the place. Sekano retreated
to a lone table near the exit, and kept
flashing the wrong end of the fly
whisk, like a magic wand. Sombre
mood reigned throughout the second
half.

Twenty-first century

At the end, one sober fan took
Nigeria's victory over Kenya in good
stead: "From what I have seen," he
said, "African soccer is going to
dominate the Twenty-first century."
The optimism was shared by other
fan who had perhaps had one too
many, and kept singing, "we shall
overcome some day," as he walked
along Harry Thuku Road.



Varsity swimming pool. Promoting sports

Picture by Chris Tsuma

Varsity games planned

By STELLA OTIENO

The Inter-University Athletics
Championships are scheduled to take
place on the 15th of June, 1997 at the
Chepkoilel campus, Moi University.
This will be used to select a team to
the 19th edition of the Universiades

to be held in Sicily, Italy from 18th-
31st August this year.

As K.U.S.A now prepares to send
sportsmen and women to Italy, the
chairman has appealed to well
wishers to come forward and support
this worthy cause.

THE ANVIL NEWS

Varsity PRO replaced

By NYIRO WANJE

Mr. Alfred Mtawali, who has for the past six years served as Public Relations Officer, has been redeployed. An Editor with the Nairobi University Press, Mr. Kimania Kirimania, replaces him.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Francis Gichaga, effected the transfer in an internal memo. He did not reveal why Mr. Mtawali was dropped. Mtawali, who was also Personal Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor could not be reached for comment as he is said to have immediately proceeded on leave.

Mr. Kirimania, like his predecessor, holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication from the University of Nairobi.

Mr. Mtawali, a Senior Administrative Assistant formerly in charge of the University garage, was appointed to office in 1991. He was later admitted at the School of Journalism in 1992 for professional training.

From its inception in 1980, the PR office has had uneven history of performance. Its role and impact have changed with the holder of the office and the Vice-Chancellor.

Between 1980 and 1990, the seat was occupied by a number of administrators, starting with the late Z. N. B. Oganda. Charles Wainaina, the current PR Manager of East African Industries succeeded Oganda. Next was J. J. Githaka, a Senior Assistant Registrar, who later

moved with the former V.C, Prof. Mbithi to the Office of the President. Mr. Mtawali then came to the scene with the coming of Professor Gichaga.

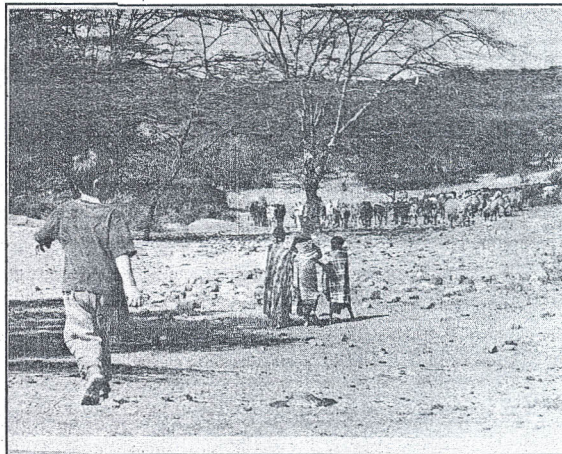
Mr. Kirimania, the new PRO has a new vision. He plans to rejuvenate the PR department. He visualises the need to reorganise "The Varsity Focus", a University magazine, so that it can serve as an effective communication channel between the



Mr. Alfred Mtawali

university administration and its various publics. Mr. Kirimania also hopes to improve the university's corporate image by making effective use of the media.

Reacting to the changes, some students at the School of Journalism were of the opinion that improving the corporate image of the University lies not in replacing PROs, but in the recognition of PR as a vital management tool, and restructuring the administration to put in place, a full-fledged PR department.



Overgrazing and desertification. Awards galore for best picture.

Picture Courtesy of Nation Newspapers

Photojournalism exhibition planned

By NAFTALI MUNGAI

The British Council, Nairobi University Journalism Students Association (NUJOSA) and the Association of Food and Agriculture Journalists (AFAJ) Kenya, are organising an environmental Photojournalism Award/Exhibition from June 17 to 23.

The exhibition will be held at the British Council auditorium and offers cash prizes and certificates for the best entries. It is open to all categories of photographers, photojournalists and television journalists. The exhibition covers any environmental work published between June 1996 and May 30, this year. The deadline for submission of entries is July 7.

Entry forms and details can be obtained from the British Council offices in Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu. They are also available from the School of Journalism, University of Nairobi, as well as newsrooms and bureaux.

Hand delivered entries can be delivered at the School of Journalism, University of Nairobi, Third Floor, Education Building or c/o George Muriuki, British Council, mezzanine floor, ICEA Building, Kenyatta Avenue.

The judging panel will be comprised of staff from the School of Journalism, the African Council for Communication Education (ACCE), Media and Environment Network, the British Council, Camerapix, the UNEP audio-visual unit and the National Environment Secretariat (NES).

Gang terrorise lecturers

By HUDSON LIYAI

A gang of robbers broke in University staff residence and drove off with a vehicle belonging to a lecturer. The incident took place along Westlands Road near International Casino last Thursday night. The vehicle, a Mazda pickup belonging to Dr. Ndele of the Medical School had not been recovered as yet.

According to the residents, a gang of about five gained entry to the compound of four houses jumping over the wall. A watchman, James Mongare, claims that two of the gangsters grabbed him and took the key of the gate. The rest went for the vehicle. Residents who were woken up by reversing car, were shocked to see the glare of security lights and the lamps of the vehicle, the whole operation being directed by a man of Asian origin.

A mobile security firm which was alerted, arrived on the scene within five minutes, followed by the police ten minutes later. The watchman still in police custody helping with investigations. Although located in a middle class neighbourhood, the area is said to have rampant incidents of thefts and robberies. The residents attribute this to continuous flow of people and vehicles to and from campus.

Obituary



The Late Mr. Okoth

Mr. Justus Amadi Okoth of the Economics Department passed away on 1st of June 1997 at a Nairobi hospital after a short illness. The body has been moved to Chromo Funeral Parlour and funeral arrangements are under way.

The late Okoth was born in 1955 in Oyugis in Rachuonyo District. He joined the University of Nairobi in 1979 and obtained a BA Degree in Economics in 1983. Thereafter he was employed in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

He obtained a masters degree in Economics from University of Helsinki in 1988.

He joined the University of Nairobi in 1990 as a tutorial fellow and was promoted to lecturer. Apart from teaching he has carried out research, consultancy and published widely in the area of environmental management. He was immediate past Chairman of the University Members Club, The Senior Common Room. He is survived by a wife and two children.

Students wrangle over cash

By FRED MUDHAI

About 200 University of Nairobi student supporters of Westlands MP Fred Gumo wrangled for one hour over money they were given for services rendered during the recent KANU grassroots elections in Nairobi, *The Anvil* has learnt.

A reliable witness said the students, ferried from Parklands, Kabete and Main Campuses differed over the criteria for distributing the money they had been given during the ward election at Westlands Primary School grounds on Thursday May 29.

The MP was elected one of the delegates from the Westlands ward but he lost the sub-branch chairmanship by 47 votes to 73 to new comer Kells Mabale of Kangemi Ward at Aga Khan High School. Later, Mr. Gumo protested that the sub-branch election was marred by corruption. However, he said he would not petition KANU headquarters for a repeat.

Through their "leader," the

students finally agreed to disburse Shs 100 to each of them on presentation of the University Identity Card. Three female students who were part of the group lamented the money was not enough given that they had wasted time and missed classes.

Our source, who disguised herself among students after the MP barred journalists from "an internal Kamukunji" (meeting) with "comrades," said Mr. Gumo thanked the students for "their good work." Some of the students interviewed said they were exercising their "democratic right" and recalled that they also voted for Mr. Gumo in last year's by-election following the death of Assistant Minister Amin Walji.

The students denied claims that some of them had been recruited into the terror gang, "Jeshi la Mzee", which disrupted a planned meeting over the late student leader Solomon Muruli at Kikuyu Campus forcing the organisers to change the venue to the Holy Family Basilica. In a recent press conference, Mr Gumo denied



Mr. Fred Gumo

that he was the commander of "Jeshi la Mzee" saying those making such allegations were out to tarnish his name.

Mr. Gumo's chief campaigner at last year's by-election, former KANU activist Evans Ondieki who is now a National Development Party activist, absolved the MP from the accusations. The former Youth for KANU '92 activist noted that no politician would wish to be associated with the terror gang which comprises

common Nairobi touts, who pride in looting and causing chaos.

President Moi recently denounced the group saying he has only one (official) armed force of which he is the Commander-in-Chief.

Addressing a press conference on the grassroots elections marred with chaos and protests, Mr. Gumo criticised some KANU officials whom he accused of causing confusion and infighting to ensure he did not win the sub-branch poll.

However, Mr. Gumo's close supporter Councillor Joshua Mackennie, who captured the Parklands Ward seat, said the MP should blame himself for the poor performance as he had not done his homework well.

Amidst complaints of boycott and importation of voters, the Nairobi branch elections won by Mr. Daniel Kongo had to be repeated under Mr. Moody Awori with confusion and cacophony reigning among delegates in the presence of party President Daniel arap Moi.