

Students' role in the party

THERE are a lot of hot heads at the University of Nairobi and many of them are misguided about their role as nation-builders. Quite often they think they can correct events in Kenya's political trends by stoning cars passing near the campus, or even demonstrating about trivial issues like diet and accommodation at the university. There are a number of university students in Kenya who think they are "progressives" because they have read a few books on political systems and think they are God's gift to Kenya's political problems. Needless to say such students are misguided and are living in ivory towers completely divorced from reality in Kenya.

The reality in Kenya is that we are a people, like the rest in the Third World, suffering from underdevelopment and the only cure for that ailment is to have capable people with the know-how needed for advancing a country. The university is the one place where such people are moulded; and it would be tragic if our university produced people who are not in touch with or even aware of what is required of them in participating in the gigantic task of nation-building.

It is with this in mind that we welcome the recent announcement by President Moi about the intention to establish a Kanu wing at the university. The party is the vanguard behind which the people of Kenya are in establishing policies to be followed in the task of nation-building. It would be a pity if our university students were to be left behind in affairs of fighting the three national enemies — poverty, disease and lack of knowledge. The students and, indeed, the entire university body are part and parcel of this country and they should be involved in everything the rest of the country is doing. They, too, should follow in President Moi's *nyayo*.

The entire country is going through a healthy political change whereby the people of Kenya are being enlightened on the dangers of ethnic groupings and sectional divisions. We are told that the University of Nairobi is not devoid of tribal animosity; and even parochial tribal organisations have had branches there. This is a sad state of affairs. People at the university should be in a better position to understand the importance of unity and the dangers of tribalism more than ordinary wananchi.

The Kanu branch at the university should be able to discharge the important duty of uniting those with the highest education in the country and making them realise that when they finish their academic exercise they have a duty to serve the nation rather than their little tribes and clans. Too often are we confronted with people who hold very responsible positions, people, however, who seem absolutely incapable of thinking in terms of nationalism. When they appoint subordinates they have to look in their villages to get people to hire. When there is a Government project meant to be beneficial to all the people, they want it to be established at their own villages. This is a backward-looking attitude which must be killed, and the best way of doing so is to make everyone in the entire country feel that he or she belongs to one community, one nation. Establishing a Kanu branch at the University of Nairobi will go a long way in achieving that goal.