

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.

Officially, 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 Miso

Placement Office Now Revived

By JEMOSBEY MISOI

have had more than one offer," he added.

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.

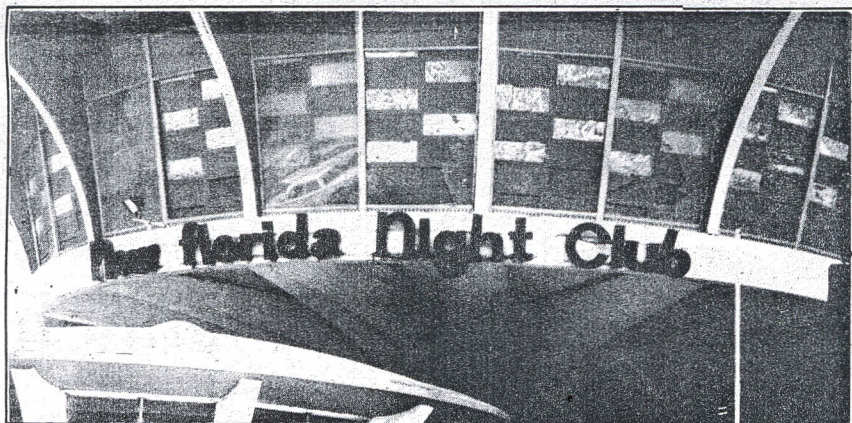
"This office acts as a liaison office between graduating students and prospective employers. Unfortunately, not many students are aware of the existence of this office and therefore do not register with us," said Mr Njoka.

"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

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

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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 benefitted 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.