

Varsity PRO replaced

By NYIRO WANJE

Mr. Alfred Mtawali, who has for the past six years served as Public Relations Officer, has been re-deployed. An Editor with the Nairobi University Press, Mr. Kimaita 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.

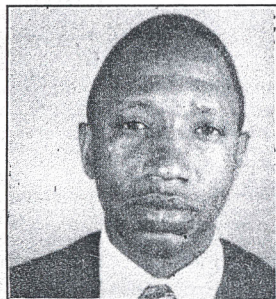
Mr. Mtawali, a Senior Administrative Assistant formerly in charge of the University garage, was appointed to office in 1991. He was later admitted at the School of Journalism in 1992 for professional training.

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.

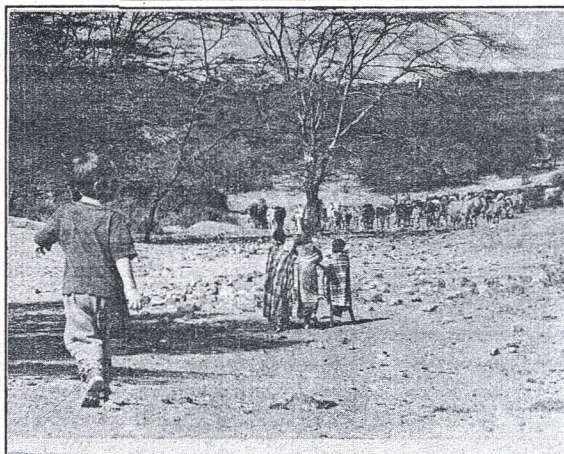
Mr. Kirimania, the new PRO has a new vision. He plans to rejuvenate the PR department. He visualises the need to reorganise "The Varsity Focus", a University magazine, so that it can serve as an effective communication channel between the



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 at 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 Muruli, 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 terrorises lecturers

By HUDSON LIYAI

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

According to the residents, the gang of about five gained entry into the compound of four houses by jumping over the wall. The watchman, James Mongare, claimed that two of the gangsters grabbed him and took the key of the gate, as the rest went for the vehicle. The residents who were woken up by the reversing car, were shocked to see in the glare of security lights and head 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 is 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 the casino.

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 newcomer 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 forces 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.

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 Chiromo Funeral Parlour and funeral arrangements are under way.

The late Okoth was born in 1959 at 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, Finland in 1988.

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