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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.

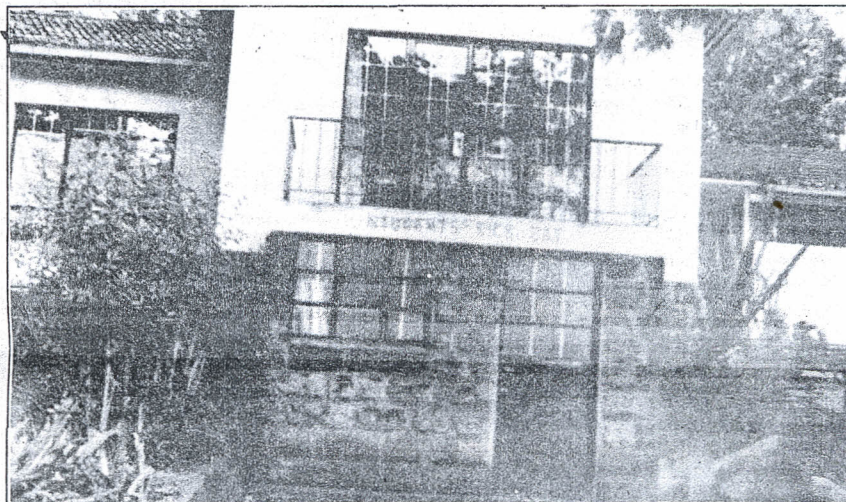
"It is a big joke," Mr. Johnson Kinywa, a postgraduate biochemistry student at Chiromo campus says.

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 Liyai

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.

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 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.

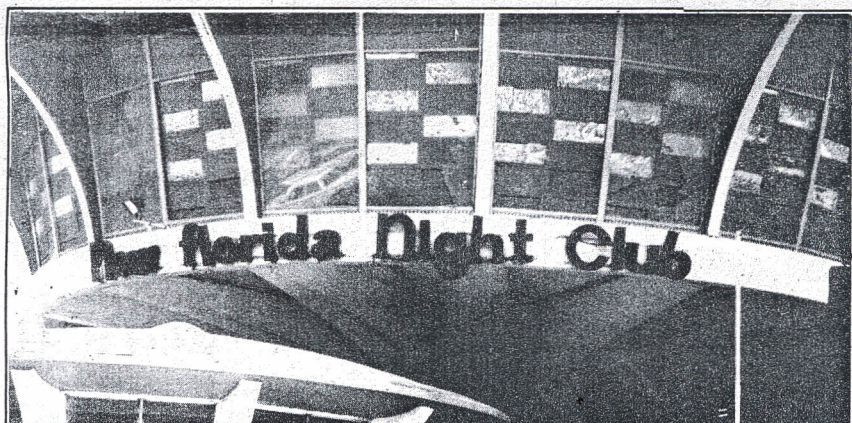
"So far we have found jobs for over 500 students. It could be more since we have had very poor feedback from employers. Once they have employed the students, they do not tell us who has been employed so that we may offer the chances to other students in place of those who may

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 AIESEC 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/her share of shelving to do every morning."

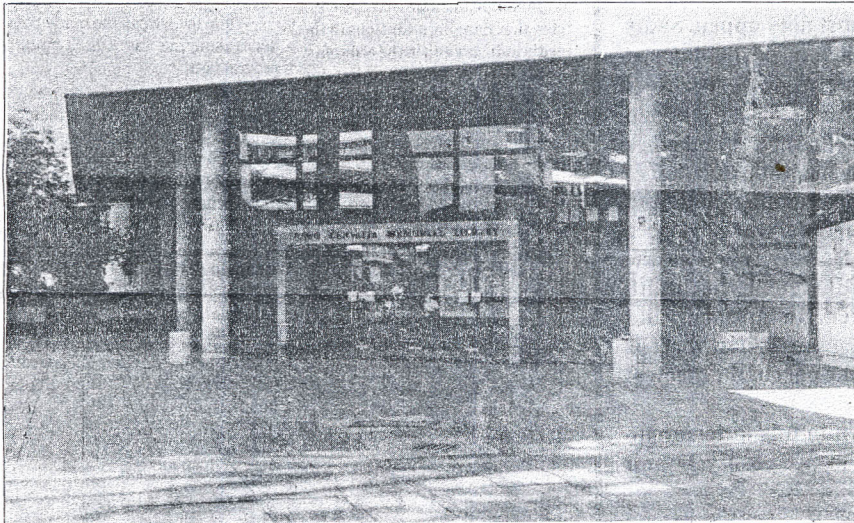
He added that the library has 90 workstudy students who help in shelving. They work in shifts of thirty for about five hours a day.

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 Kitony 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 Kitony 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 Kitony 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.

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 Ongeri, 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 appealed 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 its 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.

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.

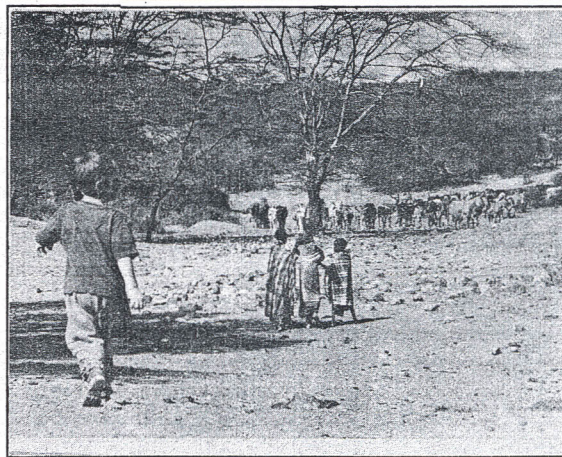
Mr. Kirimania, the new PRO has a new vision. He plans to rejuvenate the PR department. He visualises the need to reorganise "The Varsity Focus", a University magazine, so that it can serve as an effective communication channel between the



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 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 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 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 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 fighting 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.