

Bad relations at university

By Anvil Reporters

The Anvil reporters got a rude shock when University of Nairobi administrators declined to respond to their inquiries. The Public Relations Officer and the Academic Registrar were not willing to talk to our reporters. In some cases they intentionally misdirected the reporters.

One reporter who wanted information concerning suspended students, was told by the Academic Registrar, Mr. Mungai Gachui, to seek information concerning the suspended and expelled students from the office of the Chief Security Officer.

This is the situation that exists at the University of Nairobi. Getting information from the University officers especially those entrusted with responsibility is a nightmare.

Another Anvil reporter who wanted information from the Registrar Administration on the second phase of retrenchment and the implication of the recent civil service and teachers housing pay rise on University staff, could not be let through as the secretary simply answered, "No information on those two issues." The office deals with the administrative and general welfare of staff members.

The reporter's further attempts to seek information concerning the recurrent and development expenditure of the university hit a snag when the Finance Officer, Mr. F. Karue, demanded to see a letter from the School of Journalism. A press card or the student identity card were not acceptable to Mr. Karue.

The Public Relations officer, Mr Kimaita Kirimania, who also doubles as the Personal Assistant, to the Vice-Chancellor refused to answer calls and instructed his secretary, to inform our reporter that he is too busy to see, talk, or

give an appointment.

Mr Kirimania is a trained journalist from the School of Journalism, and at one time worked with the university Press as an editor. He intuitively knows that *The Anvil* is produced around this time and stories are sourced from all over.

Traditionally, the University of Nairobi is known to be poor in communication, and even the introduction of parallel degree programmes remains an enigma prompting the undergraduate students to become unruly in search of basic information which they have a right to.

Meanwhile the Kenya Power & Lighting Company (KPLC) plans to undertake a major safety awareness campaign for University of Nairobi students residing at the halls of residence.

"We have noted a serious misuse of electrical facilities at the halls," KPLC Chief Communications Officer, Migwi Theuri told *The Anvil* last week.

The official said the KPLC planned to print posters with cautionary messages against misuse of power. He said most electrical accidents were caused by negligence.

He advised students who have to cook in their rooms to do so using safe equipment adding that the popularly used "hot pots" were extremely dangerous "especially if their cords are broken or exposed."

Theuri appealed to students to be calm when power interruptions occur. He said KPLC was liaising closely with the Students Welfare Authority (SWA) and the Security Department to ensure that power interruptions were reported as soon as they occur.

"Our 24 hour emergency service will respond immediately and depending on the nature of the problem," he added ■