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Mystery surrounds student's death

BY MULUKA-LUTTA AND VICTORIA GORO

Relatives of a second year M.Sc student at the Population Studies Research Institute who died at Pumwani Maternity Hospital last December, are questioning the nature of the death.

The hospital claims that Grace Nechesa Sumbi, 27 died as a result of hypertension compounded by fatigue.

She was seven months pregnant when she was admitted to the hospital in a critical condition

Friends of Miss Sumbi who encountered the hospital staff on arrival say the sister on duty thought she was coming in for a normal delivery and did not take immediate steps to have her admitted.

Records at the hospital show that Sumbi died at 10.00 am on December 30, but her relatives insist that by 2.00 pm that day, when they were allowed to see the body, it was swollen and showed signs of having been at least 12 hours old.

'Anvil' now continues

BY SONYA LAURENCE

University of Nairobi students looking for the campus newspaper last week were unable to find it. The Anvil had been recalled.

Mr. Absolom Mutere, Director of the School of Journalism which puts out the paper, explained, "The issues went out in the morning on Monday and they were retrieved immediately because of a number of "errors" which were noticed by the administration."

The missing student newspaper caused a stir at other media organizations. The Standard Newspaper ran a story on January 30 under the headline, "Varsity bans Anvil issue," where it reported that on a "two-hour emergency meeting between students of the School of Journalism and the University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Philip Mbithi, who was accompanied

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Suspicious were raised when all the late Sumbi's clothings were surrendered to her two colleagues who had accompanied her to hospital hardly an hour after her arrival at the hospital. Normally, a patient's personal effects are surrendered to the next of kin in the event of death.

Interviewed, one of the colleagues, Miss Frida Were said, "No one bothered with us for almost half an hour. We pleaded with the nurses to admit Grace because she was in a critical condition but they were not ready to assist her. "Miss Were and Mrs. Emily Lugano had rushed Miss Sumbi to hospital, by taxi.

Miss Sumbi's fiancée, Mr. Paul Onduso, when contacted confirmed that the manner in which the Pumwani nursing staff handled him had made him suspicious. "No one was willing to tell us that Grace had passed away.

They kept telling me to check from one ward to another. Her name did not appear on their admission records or anywhere else." Finally, Mr. Onduso was invited into the sister's

office, and "immediately I confirmed my suspicions," said Mr. Onduso. "I demanded her file, but they would not allow me to check their records. The sister's explanation did not make any sense. She kept saying "you know, you know...."

Mr. Onduso, a practising lawyer, is considering suing the hospital for negligence. "If there is one name they would like to erase from their records it's Grace's. I recall almost having to wrestle the file off the sister's hands in my attempt to establish the truth about Grace's death," adds Mr. Onduso.

Miss Sumbi's family maintains that if Pumwani Hospital had taken steps to have her transferred to a hospital with adequate facilities on time, her life and that of her unborn child would have been saved. The sister-in-charge of the ward where the late Sumbi was admitted is said to have told Mr. Onduso that they were unable to save Grace's life as they did not have adequate facilities.

Mrs. Mutie, the matron who was on leave at the time of Sumbi's death,

said she was aware of the case but added that the official records relating to the case had not been surrendered to her as was the normal procedure.

Mrs. Mutie had the impression that the late Sumbi was a student of Kenyatta University and had been brought to the hospital on December 29 by a University of Nairobi Health Services van, and was thus under the care of University doctors. She then referred the reporters to the hospital's Medical Superintendent Dr. Mrs. T.G.A. Oluande K'Oduol.

The reporters were denied an audience with Dr. K'Oduol and were referred by her secretary to the Medical Officer of Health at City Hall for clearance without which no information would be divulged. "Are you her relatives? We know about the case, but we are under instructions not to give any information without consent from the M.O.H. City Hall," she said.

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The late Grace Sumbi

- Grace Nechesa Sumbi was born in 1963. She attended Mumias Girls Primary School and Mukumu Girls High School.
- Sumbi was admitted to Kenyatta University for a Bachelor of Education (science). Graduated in 1987 and taught at Lugulu Girls High School.
- The late Sumbi later joined the Population Studies and Research Institute in October 1989 for an M.Sc in population studies. She became the second female student to register for this programme at the institute.
- At the time of her death, Sumbi had successfully completed Part One of the M.Sc programme, with high grades.
- She had completed her preliminary work on her field work, and her thesis was to focus on the factors that contribute to maternal and infant mortality within Mumias sugar belt.

Varsity rewards employees

Some go back to when it was a Royal College

BY MARIANNE KING'ORI

Fifty-two workers from the University of Nairobi were last week presented with long-term service awards in the first such ceremony in the institution's history.

The awards were presented to the workers by the Chairman of the University Council, Mr. Lawrence Sagini. The awards which comprised of certificates and a cash value of Kshs 2,000, were presented to workers who had completed 25 to 33 years of service.

Addressing the workers, Mr. Sagini thanked them for the exemplary service they had shown in their years at the University. The



Some of the employees who received awards. Left to right: William Matali (served 31 yrs), Ethan Maina Mburi (31), Jotham Omega (32), Jeremiah Angokho (32), Dixon Sindikha (32), Peter Muturi (back to camera) 33 years.

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THE ANVIL

THE ANVIL is a School of Journalism student training newspaper. The views expressed in the Newspaper are not necessarily those of the School of Journalism or the University of Nairobi. THE ANVIL is published on Mondays, except during the vacation and examination periods.

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News Editor: Jane Some

Features Editor: Lily Nyariki

Hippocratic oath may soon become Hypocritical

THE recent M.P. Shah saga as highlighted by the Kenyan local dailies leaves one wondering where we are heading to as a community.

Though action was taken on M.P. Shah, what are other hospitals doing to stop similar incidents?

The case of Miss Grace Sumbi is yet another point. The culprit this time is Pumwani Maternity Hospital. Through efforts of the Anvil our reporters managed to bring the issue to light.

The question is, how many cases of death due to negligence on the hospital personnel go unreported? Do we have to wait for journalists to highlight these cases to remind the personnel their duties? Do we need a permanent committee to coordinate and investigate such incidences in the Kenyan hospitals?

The Kenya Government is putting more resource into training manpower in various fields. Ironically some of the personnel trained to preserve the life of other resourceful persons are the same destroying it negligently.

Many will agree that hospital personnel are too rude when performing their duties. We accept the fact that they have seen far so many patients die that for them death is normal. But where they can save life, let them do it as their duty responsibly.

Time is gone when Kenya can loose pregnant mothers so easily. The potential of some of these patients is highly needed in our developing countries.

Let the personnel in hospitals take their hypocritical oath seriously. They have a duty to save life and not destroy it. Saving of life should precede any other duty. Hospital personnel, show us you care before that next life is lost!

We Invite letters from our readers on any topic of their interest. Letters should be short and concise. The Editor reserves the right to shorten letters.

Is the Gulf War a just war

BY EILEEN OMOSA

If history is anything to go by, then the roots of war may be traced to various but closely related factors.

In the Biblical times, David out-muscled the Philistine champion Goliath in the valley of Elah, the consequence was war.

Economic factors in general and the "Great Crash" in particular played a crucial role in propelling Hitler to power.

Forty five years later the world is apparently, again, in the throes of an approaching crisis. Two regions over which storm-clouds seem to gather heaviest are the Middle East and Africa.

Most significant of all is the current war in the Gulf. From whatever angle we look at it, my opinion is that neither side in the conflict has a legitimate excuse for the whole business.

It is true that Saddam Hussein was on the verge of economic stragulation as a result of Kuwait's oil over-pro-

duction. It is also true that culturally and historically Kuwait and Iraq should be one state, so what anyway? Isn't it also true that Zambia, for instance, can claim that Zimbabwe belongs to it historically? Is it not true that Saddam's oil-control designs are sinister in the sense that whatever wealth he derives from oil resources is not invested in a productive enterprise, but rather in a dangerous military enterprise.

On the other hand, one wonders whether the United States of America has any justification at all to be the one to "kick Saddam Hussein's ass out of Kuwait". Doesn't the USA have enough oil in Alaska, perhaps enough to last it a whole lifetime? Doesn't it and several other countries posses nuclear arms? Why then should they seek to destroy Iraq's Nuclear capability and war machinery? Or is it the USA motive designed to perturbate the regional imbalance of power so that Israel remains the only country with a nuclear capability?

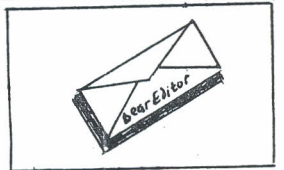
Whichever way one looks at it, there is something seriously amiss on both sides at war.

The Gulf war, perhaps best illustrated a case of double-standards and hypocrisy of the so called Allied Super Powers.

The United States that is spearheading the campaign to drive Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait is the same USA that invaded Granada and Panama not so long ago to oust what they called "hostile regimes" and dictators". This is just like Saddam invaded Kuwait to oust what he considered a hostile and retrogressive regime!

Whatever course and pattern the Gulf-war takes, the stakes are likely to be enormous. The allies rely on their superior technology but Saddam relies on Muslim fundamentalism.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Report responsibly about campus

Dear Editor,

The University of Nairobi students' body is very concerned about the manner some of the local dailies are tarnishing the name of their institution.

It appears that some of the news reporters have actually decided to finish the good reputation of this institution by misreporting. These reporters are taking advantage of the problem of congestion that prevails in the campus these days to blow things out of proportion. If this continues, then we shall demand an explanation, infact they would not be surprised to meet us face to face in their various centres.

The Blackboard page in the Nation Newspaper had been a good page but

now it is being abused by some irresponsible reporters who have nothing constructive to tell the public. Instead of advising the students on how to cope with some of the minor problems, they go out to create a dirty image of the campus. Why should you report your imagination instead of looking into the reality? Since when has there been the scramble for food and sign posts in the campus?

We are not threatening you, but now, one of these fellows will pay for this dearly. It could be nice if the University authorities ban these correspondents from reporting anything concerning campus life without permission. These reporters want to show the public how university

authority is failing to control some internal problems. These lot should know that the university is a place for educating professional and constructive people and not vandals and other bad elements as can be imagined.

I wish to alert all comrades to keep an eye on these irresponsible correspondents who appear to have some grudge against us. Otherwise, they might remove the washing basins and toilet bowls and put the blame on us. They pretend to be students and sneak into the dining hall to eat and later misreport. Anvil please can you save us?

Jim ole Leposo
Main campus, Hall 9

A call to create 8-4-4 culture

Dear Editor,

As all the 8-4-4 students have now reported to their respective Universities, I plead with them to create a brand cohesive atmosphere that will be historically and fundamentally different from the old system of education.

There has been a selfish and uncalled for attack from the old education system people referring to 8-4-4 as a "zero system". Unbelievably, they have even nicknamed us by this name.

It is time this calling of names stopped because we are not the policy-makers, yet we have a right to be here not by privilege.

I also plead to my fellow 8-4-4 to unite as one body and bring a new cohesive free atmosphere and an academically positive culture in their respective campuses. We should even think of coming up with new names to prove our creativeness and potentiality. We could change names like "BOOM", "OC" Opening Ceremony to new names that will reflect our culture.

Let the old system go with all its culture and let us bring a completely new 8-4-4 culture. Let us show them soon if not now that we are creative, capable, composed and academically free and highly potential. Let us bring a new culture in our institutional

societies, of peaceful co-existence with the administration in the respective Universities, Government and neighbouring societies and ofcourse the outgoing system.

I hope that when the freshmen and women will join us later this year, they will find us as pioneers when we have prepared a cultural 8-4-4 atmosphere for them. We will not have only proved that we care and that we have a sense of responsibility but we would also have saved them from being called 8-4-4 or "Zero system people"!

Isaack Otieno
Institute of African Studies
University of Nairobi

Student falls to his death

BY MASINDE WANYAMA

A third year student of Kenyatta University died last week at Kenyatta National Hospital.

Paul Ouma, a Bachelor of Arts finalist died while undergoing treatment at the hospital. Attempts by Anvil to see the Dean of Students were fruitless, but the letter which he signed said in part: "A student, Paul Ouma: Registration CO1/2041/88 a Third year died at Kenyatta National Hospital". The letter also indicated that the late Ouma comes from Oyugis in South Nyanza.

A student who sought anonymity said that Ouma died from injuries he sustained when he fell from a verandah on which he was sitting. He was taken to the hospital the next day after colleagues noticed that he had

not woken up. He was taken to the University Clinic and transferred immediately to Kenyatta Hospital where he died on arrival.

Meanwhile, a third year student, Dennis Wekesa was seriously injured and admitted to hospital when drunk irate students beat him up using metal bars last week. Some first year students who sought anonymity said the irate students went into the television room with the intention of beating the 8-4-4 first year students. On seeing the attackers, the students in the room jumped down from first floor where the T.V. room is.

Attempts to see the Dean of Students for a comment were fruitless but reliable sources indicated that no measures have been taken against the irate students who caused panic and injuries to others.

Passengers to be stranded

BY MWANGI CHEGE

The Board of Directors of Jojos Transport Ltd., has withdrawn their mini-buses from route number 24 with effect from February 4. This is according to Jack Oturey one of the directors.

Speaking to the Anvil from his office at Finlay House, Mr. Oturey said this was due to loss of revenue as a result of the government's directive that Public Service Vehicle (PSV) should not carry standing passengers. "Revenue has fallen such that we might not be able to service our loans", he said.

In a bid to overcome this problem, the company has decided to operate on short routes within the City. Mr. Oturey said that route No. 24 was the longest (28km) within the City. "Though most passengers do not go up to Karen terminus, our company has an obligation to take the few we get there. The standing passengers were acting as a buffer but without them we cannot survive", he said.

The director pointed out that the memo sent out to their customers was not an ultimatum. "Our company's

aim is to serve the commuting public. We feel for them and we do not want to question the government's decision".

Most of the commuters interviewed at the Mitihani terminus were worried that this decision would cause them a lot of problems. "Before alternative means come up we might miss vehicles to take us to our places of work. Fares might even be increased," said one commuter.

The director informed the anvil that since the no standing passenger directive, the company had been charged in court and fined of more than Ksh 10,000. Their drivers and conductors have been locked up awaiting to appear in court for carrying excess passengers. This leaves the vehicles with no drivers or conductors hence they cannot operate.

Jojos Transport Ltd., officially started operating on route No. 24 when the Kenya Bus Service (KBS) withdrew its services in 1988. They have a fleet of 16 mini-buses. The directors have written to the City Commission, KBS, Nyayo Bus Corporation and the Central Government in a bid to ensure a smooth transition.

Teach 'environment' seriously

Environmental conservation can only be achieved successfully if the public is properly educated on the basic do's and don'ts so that they can participate effectively in conservation programmes in their areas.

This was said by the Kenya Energy and Environmental Organization (KENGO) Natural Resource Programme Manager Mr. Kiambi Kihika in an interview with the Anvil.

He said all the scientific data and research findings cannot be of any

immediate value unless there is joint efforts. The efforts should be by extension workers and policy makers in the implementation of the findings and the enforcement of the policies that are geared towards improving the environment.

Mr. Kihika said it is encouraging to note that many people in Kenya today are aware of the urgent need for environmental conservation and therefore require only advice and material assistance to embark on

STD: cases on increase

Both partners need to be treated

BY MACHARIA MUGO

More Kenyans are getting infected with AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases now than ever before. This was said on Tuesday by Dr. J.O. Ndinya Achola, the chairman of the department of Medical Microbiology of the University of Nairobi.

Dr. Achola was delivering a talk entitled "sexually transmitted diseases (STD) and HIV infection" to doctors and nurses from Kenyatta National Hospital, who are involved in the care of AIDS patients. The health officers were attending a six day seminar at Silver Springs Hotel.

"Past history of genital ulcer diseases could contribute to HIV infection", he said.

He said he had been involved in studies on sexually transmitted diseases conducted in conjunction with the special diseases clinic in Nairobi that mostly handles these diseases.

"Even as early as 1985 we already had high rates of AIDS infection among high risk groups", he added.

Saying that the number of agents responsible for causing sexually transmitted diseases had increased over the past twenty years, he attributed this to the various habits of sexual intercourse that people engage in, "agents associated with sexually transmitted diseases have increased in the past 20 or so years, because those commonly found in the anal cavity may be introduced in other body parts by people practicing homosexuality", he said.

Doctor Achola said that patients who attended antenatal clinics were routinely screened for sexually transmitted diseases and showed a high

rate of infection by normal standards. He wondered why incidents still occurred in spite of the checks "here is a case of diseases which are completely curable but are still present in the population", he observed.

Dr. Achola told the participants that the main challenge to doctors handling these patients was to make the partners of those seeking treatment for STD's present themselves as well, to the doctor for check-ups and treatment if found infected. He told the participants that, the best way of getting the patients bring their partners along is to talk to them and make them feel that they were only unfortunate to be infected by the disease.

The seminar was organised by Kenyatta National Hospital and the officials of the National AIDS Control Programme.



Picture by Simon Rotich

Pedestrians crossing the University Way are now crossing the road with more ease after the City Commission improved the Zebra Crossing markings on the road. The markings are now more visible and clear to both the pedestrians and the motorists using the road. It is our hope that all the users of the road will exercise maximum care and attention as they drive and walk across the road. BY MOKAYA JULIUS

BY KINYUA MUCHEKE

these activities.

The participation of His Excellency the president in conservation programmes like tree planting, and building of gabions to prevent soil erosion has been a major incentive to wananchi, said Kihika.

Mr. Kihika said that KENGO was formed to facilitate the efforts of various organisations who were involved in environmental conservation.

KENGO was formed after the 1981 United Nations conference on New and Renewable sources of energy held in Nairobi. It was a recommendation of the conference that there was need for a secretariat which would be charged with the responsibility of forming a link between the donors and various, organization. These organisations include government departments, women groups, church organisations.

Mr. Kihika said that since the for-

mation of KENGO a lot has been achieved in areas of public education. People's attitudes are changing especially in preference to indigenous trees which are easily adaptable to particular environments. Similarly wananchi have been educated on the nutritional value of some of the traditional vegetables like the amaranthus.

Mr. Kihika said all this is an indication that, with concerted efforts, the battle against environmental deterioration can be achieved.

Campus News

Economics dept. to start new course

THE Economics Department at the University of Nairobi will soon be offering Environmental Economics as one of its subject options to the current first-year students, the chairman of the Department, Professor M.S. Mukras has said.

The Department is also working out programmes for several Government departments as a way of injecting efficiency in the civil service. Prof. Mukras told the *'Anvil'* that although these programmes have not started, they are "being worked out".

He said that the Department was interested in establishing the contribution of students of economics to the country's development.

"We are aware that our curriculum

BY DANIEL KAMANGA

gives a broad treatment of economic issues, this enables our students to fit into any form of employment with a bias to economics".

The Department, the oldest in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, has the reservoir of lecturers for Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Economics, BA in Land Economics, BA in Building Economics and Bachelor of Commerce (B Comm.). It also caters for post-graduate courses requiring specialized courses in economics.

Prof. Mukras explained that the

introduction of Environmental Economics offers the students 'a chance to understand their environment properly'. He said that along with other optional subjects, the new subject will increase the degree of choke that should be as broad as possible".

He allayed fears that the Department was facing difficulty in handling the current intake.

"We have not had any problems," he said. He added "The Department prepared syllabi for all the four years the current first years will take at the university." The syllabi was based on the 8-4-4 syllabus. As the current first years progress in their studies, they will begin specializing in third and

fourth years.

"We are closely monitoring this programme. At the end of the year, we will be able to get - with a greater clarity - whether the syllabi is correct and whether our style of teaching should be maintained, modified or changed," Prof. Mukras said.

He said the Department was seriously taking the challenge of training manpower for the Capital Market Authority (CMA), a parastatal launched in March last year to streamline the country's financial system. A similar programme is also being worked out for the Ministry of Planning's Long Range Planning Unit (LRPU).

The youth warned in film show

BY WAMBUI KIMATHI

A film produced in Zimbabwe aimed at alleviating the problem of youth pregnancies was reviewed last Wednesday at the African Council for Communication Education (ACCE) at the University of Nairobi.

The co-ordinator of ACCE Dr. Kwame Bofo and a US masters student, Ricardo Wray who have been showing the film to students in high schools, told the *Anvil* that the film was received well.

Senior officials from Family Planning Association of Kenya (FPAK) and Family Planning Private Sector (FPPS) said that the film could be a success if followed up with discussions and more guidance to those students. The officer from FPAK said that most people who watched the film have been frequenting their clinics.

Consequences is hoped to show to both parents and children through characters they can identify with, the consequences of indulgence in sex, and unplanned pregnancies.

In the film a girl and a boy who excel in academic work in a Zimbabwean high school are involved in acting a play at a drama festival. Both come out as best actress and actor. At a party after this they two have sex once and the girl conceives. Their academic performance decline and both are sent away from school.

The girls mother sends her from their city home to the village. Both the boy and girl's lives are ruined.

Ricardo said that girls in high school were dismayed and who asked whether they will be careful, they were heard saying "Yees!"

Anvil now continues

Continued from page 1

by the principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Onesmus Mutungi and Mr. Mutere. That same night KTN broadcast a 9 pm news bulletin quoting the Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Nimrod Bwibo as saying *The Anvil* was not banned, but was being re-written and would come out later in the week.

The January 28 issue of *The Anvil* has been re-written, and the revised version will be on sale starting Monday, February 4, but it will retain its original date.

Mwangi Gachui, a journalism student who wrote one of the stories in controversy said, "when it comes to my story, I got it from that circular they had posted. So the facts were correct... everything was correct... We need someone to tell us why it is not true." Another student, Mugo Macharia, said he could understand the administration's concerns about

too much criticism, that the university is very vulnerable and prone to exposure, being the only one training journalists at the highest level in Kenya. But he said that in both past and present issues of *The Anvil*, "I didn't see any story that had gone out of its way to attack the university as an institution."

Mr. J.J. Githaka, the University of Nairobi Public Relations Officer worked with students to revise the *Anvil* issue in controversy. "Frankly, the facts were not correct. Your colleagues are not being sincere when they say they are correct," he said.

Mr. Mutere stressed that the *Anvil* is a training newspaper and that "for the purposes of training we will be looking at it in terms of accuracy and presentation." He said that journalism students should get used to controversy, since it will be part of their careers. "At the end of the day, it's a matter of whose interpretation is right," he said, though it is critical for a journalist to get the facts correct," he added.

Employees rewarded

Continued from page 1

workers have served the University for a total of 1,439 years.

Mr. Sagini noted that the Council tries to ensure that the terms and conditions of service of the University continued to be rewarding to its employees.

Addressing the workers, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip Mbithi, noted that it was because of the workers' dedication that the University had managed to overcome the challenges caused by the increase in student numbers.

Responding to a question from one of the recipients, Mr. Jotham Omega, Prof. Mbithi assured the workers that the administration was seriously considering upgrading industrious workers. Mr. Omega,

who works in the Estates department, has served the university for a total of 32 years.

The awards are part of a new scheme established by the Council early last year. Long service awards, ranging from Kshs. 500 to 2,000, will be presented to workers who have served at least fifteen years. Another ceremony is expected later on in the year, to award other workers who have worked for more than 15 years.

Apart from the long-term service awards, the University will also present performance and productivity awards of Kshs 500 and 1000, for those workers whose service goes beyond the call of duty. Prof. Mbithi also revealed that they are in the process of submitting names of members of staff for meritorious promotion, letters of recommendation and other forms of recognition.



The rush for more passengers and especially a time like now when fares have been hiked.

Teaching materials for Trainee journalists

BY NELLY LWALI

The African Council for Communication (ACCE) has published a set of teaching material for trainees in Journalism and Communication institutions in a bid to overcome the scarcity of reading and study materials for communication needs in Africa.

According to sources at ACCE, studies have shown that African communicators have to rely on foreign reading materials that may not be directly related to African problems, conditions and environment.

The sources say that feasibility study carried out in selected Anglophone African countries by the Inter-

national Association for Mass Communication research in 1986 revealed that most communication reading and study material was old, dating as far back as the 1960's. It also revealed that of this material 70 percent was from the United States and 20 percent came from Europe.

So far the ACCE has developed 5 communication teaching and study books all published in 1991 with funding from UNESCO and the Swedish International Development Authority. The books are in the form of modules on advanced writing, specialized reporting, development communication and a bibliography of African media and communication systems.

The best way to train the African Communication for the modern Information age is train as a "development agent" instead of training him as a journalist - David Barry
Mass Communication Researcher

MAGAZINE

'Bar culture' catching up with Kenyans

What are Kenyans coming to? They are now reputed to be second only to Zambians when it comes to drinking alcohol on the African Continent. Infact, drinking in bars has now been incorporated into the culture and has come to be coined the "bar culture". This bar culture is so widespread in Kenya especially the middle class men in big towns that few men will be found in their homes after 5 p.m. when they leave work.

Why is this so?

Well, for one, Nairobi can't be said to be endowed with many evening recreation facilities. It's either you sleep early or go out and have a drink with friends? Since you can't do the

BY WINNIE NDUNG'U

former too often, people opt for the latter.

Some men argue it's in a bar where all the action is. It is here that they meet their friends, make business deals and get the latest news and developments and exchange opinions and a one-on-one basis with their work partners.

Business

But Angelina who works in the city wonders how business deals of consequence are struck between two (usually) tipsy people in a noisy bar from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. every day! "They just go there to gossip and then call it business talk," says Angelina.

It's also quite rare for a man to stay home all evening with the wife and children in the house in front of the T.V. except for the case of World Cup football match. Many a man will argue that the wife need to be left at home alone after work so as to catch up on her house, for a number of women but Wangechi who is only recently married, and already regretting - wonders, "why the bar. Why doesn't he play a game like squash, read a book or pick up a hobby? He doesn't have to drink!"

Husbands

However, Susan, who only recently left campus and is contemplating getting married soon, feels it is alright if the husband has an occasional night out with 'the boys'. She would also like to accompany him. "I know I won't feel left out if I go with him.

But this may be too 'ambitious' because, says Charles, men have been known to feel uncomfortable in the company of a friend who has brought his female companion. They have to be at their best behaviour and are usually not sure what to discuss. The woman in turn feels like an intruder. Besides, only women of ill-repute are known to frequent bars. It also does not auger well for the man's



Photo courtesy of Kenya Times

Drinking the night away. But what follows?

ego who, before his friends eyes, will look henpecked.

Perhaps what bothers women most is the number of times their men go out and the degree of lateness. "I don't see why any man should go out from Monday to Monday, come home after 11 p.m. and expect his wife to wait up to serve him with his dinner," complains one lady. She said this was totally unfair on the woman who is entitled to sleep and added that, "If he eats then goes out or

have been known to end up lonely and frustrated with their marriages because of drinking husbands. It's no wonder many Kenyan families are breaking.

Even society as a whole does not help ease the situation. Nobody will bat an eyelid if you have a beer in the morning hours of a working day. It is like people are living just for the moment. As though life is so tough that there's no other escape channel but the bar. People who don't drink alcohol will also frequent bars and take soft-drinks just so as to be with friends.

It's about time that people got their priorities right. It has never been African culture to drink excessively and drinking in those days was confined to village elders and not the youth as is the case today. There were few cases of drunkenness.

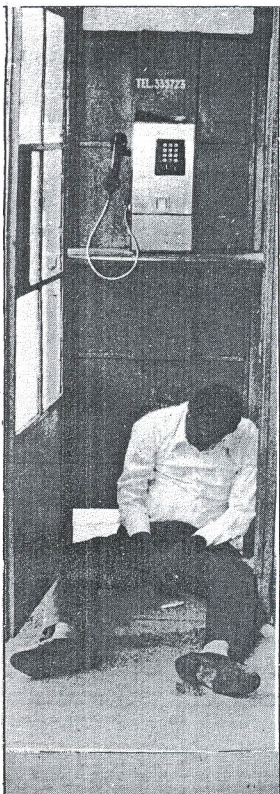
We should all join hands and do away with this bar culture especially now that the cost of living has escalated and the future does not look too bright.

Inside Anvil Magazine



What a sad moment for any leader, who may have always to be removed by the power of barrel

SOMA JUU YA BWANA
FRED OKWANYA
OJIENDA AMBAYE
ANACHAPISHA VITABU
VYA KISWAHILI KWA
MINAJILI YA KUKUZA
UTAMADUNI WAMWAF-
RIKA.



Beer abuse: This man could not get himself home!

Photo courtesy of Kenya Times

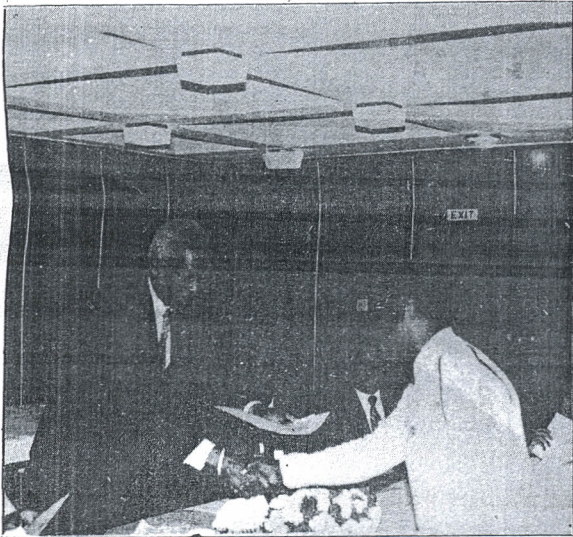
UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Some of them served when it was Royal Nairobi College

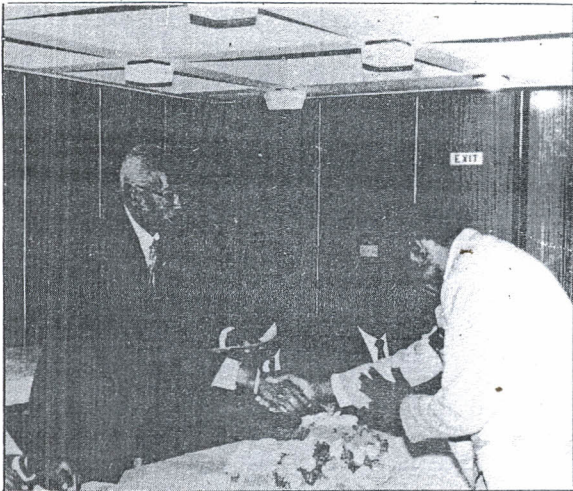
Photos by David Syuki



Left to right: Prof. S. Wandiga, Prof. Mbithi (behind Mr. Sindika), Prof. Onyango and Mr. Sagini.



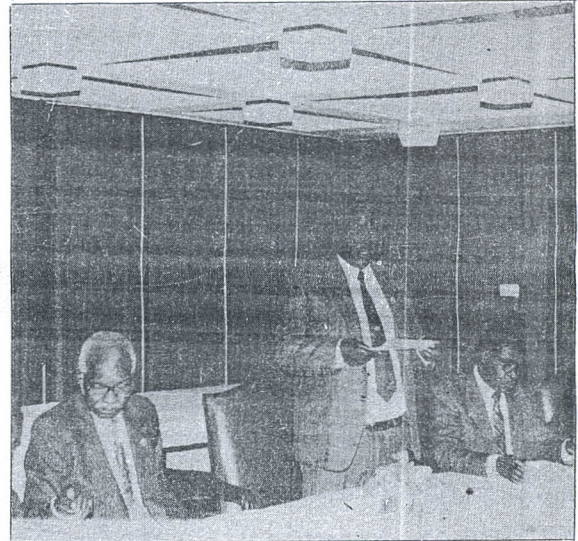
Above: Peter Muturi receives his certificate from Mr. Sagini



Above: Jeremiah Angokho bows as he gets his certificate

The university is planning a similar function later on in the year to reward those who have served for more than 15 years.

The prizes awarded had a cash value of 2000/- Mr. Sagini told the workers that the university is trying its best to award promotions on merit.



Mr. Sagini (left) Prof. P. Mbithi and Prof. Bwibo (right)



Mr. Sagini giving his speech

ANVIL FACT FILE

- University of Nairobi College of Humanities and Social Sciences is the biggest in Africa.
- The late Peter Mbiyu Koinange (former Cabinet Minister) was the first Kenyan African to get a Masters degree in 1938.
- Prof. Philip Mbithi who is a sociologist holds a B.Sc degree in Agriculture from Makerere University.

In the recently concluded sports seminar held at the University sport journalists from the local dailies and KBC had a chance to improve their skills

SPORTS SEMINAR

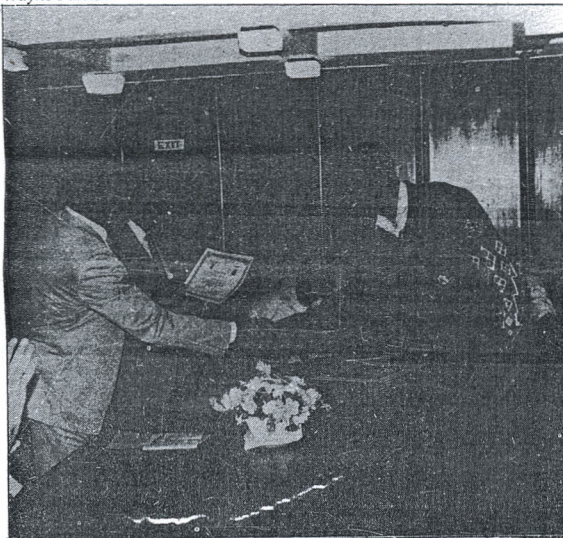


Above: Mr. A.A.A. Ekirapa (chairman 'Nation') gives a certificate to Mr. Wayne Parrish



The Director School of Journalism Mr. A. Mutere (left) talks with Dr. Kwame Bofo and Dr. Reinovdnt during a luncheon

Photos by University of Nairobi photography section



Julius Maina from Kenya Times receives his certificate from Mr. Ekirapa



Johnstone Mwololo (KBC) receives his certificate from Mr. Ekirapa

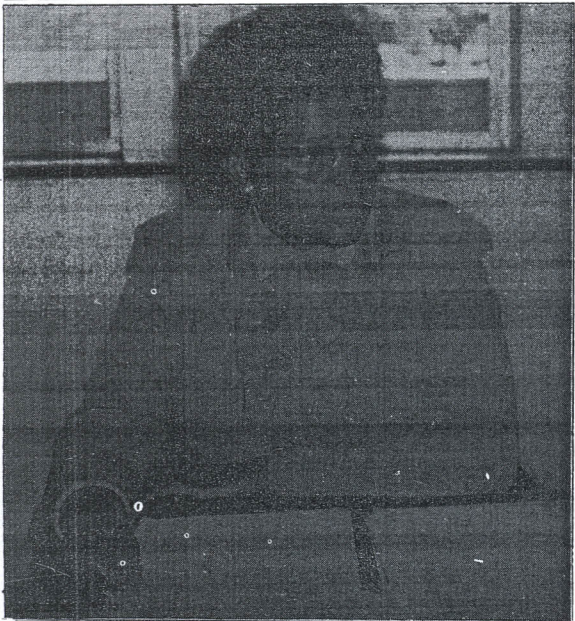


Above are the participants of the recent sports seminar at the University of Nairobi. From left, Prof. Robert Barney, Topi Lyambila, Julius Maina, Johnstone Mwololo, Peter Brunt, Johnson Nzili, Omulo Okoth, Johnny Pawa, Assel Gwekwerere (in glasses), James Arudo, Absalom Mutere, Peter Desbarats (behind Mutere), Wayne Parrish, Andrew McFarlane, Wellington Kuntaja, Rashid Mudin, Nicholas Musonye, Chege Kariuki and Onyango Omulo

Photo courtesy of Kenya Times

DID YOU KNOW?

Photos by University of Nairobi Photographic Section



That Mrs. Tabitha Oduury who is the head of the Nursing Association of Kenya is also a University Council member



MYSTERY PERSONALITY

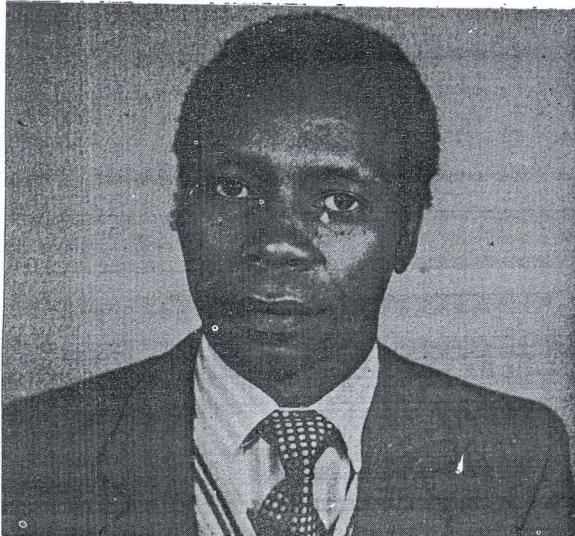
Who is this man? Read the next issue of Anvil for the answer



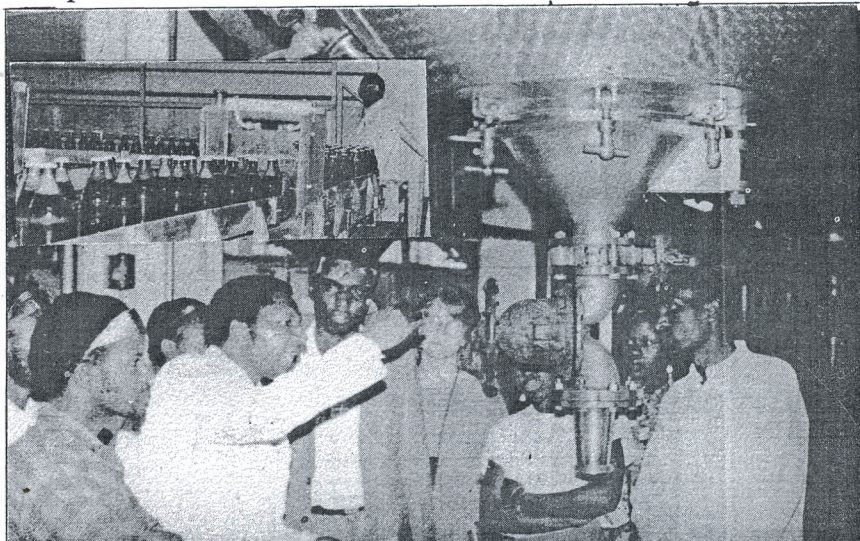
That Dr. Arthur Obel famous for his research into 'Kemron' is also a lecturer in the Department of Medicine

KBL special

It was as enlightening as it was entertaining. Thursday afternoon's tour of Kenya Breweries plant in Ruaraka by School of Journalism students was an eye-opener to the production and marketing processes of one of Kenya's largest and oldest companies.



That Prof. Jesse Mugambi is the University's Registrar Academic Affairs



Above: The Company's production personnel were on hand to answer the students' questions. The Anvil will bring you a full report the tour soon. Inset: The bottling line.

Features

AMEKIKUZA KISWAHILI

.... na asema ni aibu kuzungumza lugha ya kigeni

NA LILY NYARIKI

Nitamwita mzee huyu mzalendo halisi. Kwani amejinyima mengi kuona kwamba lengo lake limetekelezwa. Amejitahidi kwa miaka mingi sasa, ili kwamba lugha anayoiamini, imedhaminiwa na kuheshimiwa. Lugha hii ni Kiswahili. Naye mzee huyu ni Bwana Fred Ojienda Okwanya. Kwa Mzee Ojienda, lugha hii ndiyo iliyowawezesha Waafrika kupata uhuru. "Ingawa hawakuwa na pesa, viongozi Waafrika walichapisha jarida za Kiswahili, na kutoa nakala zilizokuwa na nyanja mbalimbali za kupigania Uhuru", alieleza.

Katika miaka 37 kwenye shughuli za vitabu, Mzee Ojienda ameweza kufahamu kwamba, "Subira yavuta heri". Kusema kweli, taaluma ya kuchapisha vitabu inahitaji pesa nyingi mno ili kufaulu. Naye Ojienda amejitahidi kuona dhamira yake imefaulu.

Mzaliwa wa Kenya, huko Ahero, karibu na Kisumu, alipata elimu ya Msingi humu nchini na Sekondari huko Mwanza, Tanzania. Baada ya masomo alijiunga na Kampuni ya Lake Printing Works mwaka wa 1953. Mwaka wa 1956, alirudi hapa Kenya na akamwoa Bi. Sofia Ojienda. Wana watoto tisa na wajukuu kadhaa. Mwaka huo huo, alijiunga na shirika la Uchapishaji wa Lugha za Kiafrika. Baadaye alihama kutoka shirika hilo, na akajiunga na Taasisi ya Utamaduni Baina ya Nchi za Afrika Mashariki. Lengo la Taasisi



Bwana Fred Okwanya Ojienda Mkurugenzi, Foundation Books Ltd.

hiyo lilikuwa kustawisha maandishi ya Kiafrika, lakini, ajabu ni kwamba walitumia Kiingereza.

"Jambo hili lilinitisha sana" alisema Ojienda. Maana kwa kuelewa kwake, alijua kuwa ikiwa Wakenya watajiifadhi kitamaduni, ni sharti watumie lugha ya Kiafrika. "Badala ya kuanza katika kiwango cha chini, yaani na vitabu vya watoto, na vya Elimu ya watu wazima, Taasisi hiyo ilianza pale ambapo Mwafrika hangeweza kujikuza kitamaduni, yaani na vitabu vya Elimu ya juu na Vyuo Vikuu".

Ni wakati huo ambapo alitumwa kwa masomo ya juu huko Uyahudi na kupata Diploma ya Uchapishaji

Baadaye alitumwa huko Ujerumani Magharibi kwa masomo zaidi ya Uchapishaji na Upigaji chapa. Miaka hii yote, amekuwa akipigania kuona lugha ya Kiswahili imeshughulikiwa vilivyo. Kama sote tunavyojua, ingawa Kiswahili ni lugha ya Taifa, hakijapewa nafasi sawa na Kiingereza. Hivyo basi, katika shughuli za hadhara, utaona kwamba Kiingereza kinapewa nafasi ya kwanza. Nilipomwuliza maoni yake juu ya sababu Kiswahili hakijapewa nafasi katika shughuli za serikali za hadhara? alinjibu "Ni aibu kubwa sana kwetu sisi kuzungumza na wageni wetu kutoka nchi za nje kwa lugha ya kigeni".

Alipoona kwamba Wakurugenzi wa Taasisi hiyo ambayo kwa wakati huu ilibadilisha jina na kuitwa East Africa Publishing House, hawakuwa na haja ya kukikiza Kiswahili, alikata shauri kuwacha kazi na kuanzisha kampuni yake mwenyewe.

"Nilihofia kuwa lugha ya Kiswahili ingesahauliwa hapa Kenya" alisema. Wakati kama ule, ambapo watu wengi walipendelea kujifunza Kiingereza zaidi, na ambapo wachapishaji wa vitabu walitoa vitabu ili kutosheleza mahitaji ya elimu, kusudi wapate faida, Mzee Ojienda hakujali kukosa faida katika biashara hiyo. Nafikiri hilo lilikuwa si lengo lake! Ilimtoshia kujua ya kwamba anachapisha vitabu vya Kiswahili. Haja yake kubwa ilikuwa kuikiza lugha hii.

Tangu mwaka wa 1974, alipoanzisha Foundation Books Ltd, amewahi kuchapisha vitabu 75.

Je, kwa nini mzee huyu anakionea fahari sana Kiswahili? "Kiswahili kimejaa hekima, yaani huchangia kwa kueneza hekima kati ya jamii. Kina adabu ambayo ukilinganisha na adabu za nchi za Magharibi utaona tofauti wazi. Kiswahili kina uwezo wa kumfanya Mwafrika kuwa kamiliifu kitamaduni na kinidhamu," alinjibu.

Licha ya kujishughulisha na kazi ya Foundation books, Ojienda amejitawisha kama mtu stadi katika ulimwengu wa vitabu. Foundation Books

ni mshiriki wa mpango wa Ushirikiano katika Afrika ya Kati na Mashariki. Yeye binafsi ni mwana kamati wa mpango huo.

Kusema kweli Mzee huyu anastahili kupongezwa na wote wanaoathamani utamaduni wa Kiafrika. Kwani Waswahili si walisema "Mwacha mila ni mtumwa",

Je changamoto zinazomkabili katika siku za usoni ni zipi? "Ningependa kuchangia kitaifa katika shughuli za uhariri, kwani, kuna upungufu mkubwa wa Wahariri. Hivi basi Shirika la Kukuza Vitabu la Kenya (Book Development Council), ambalo lilipendelezwa mwaka wa 1989, twalingojea kwa hamu. Na, nina imani kwamba, Waziri wa Elimu analishughulikia jambo hili kikamilifu".

Kuona mbele kwake, kulimwezesha kukishughulikia Kiswahili wakati ambapo wengi walimdharau! Lakini, madharau hayo hayakumvunjia moyo. Habadiliko nayo yametokea. Kwani mfumo wa elimu wa 8-4-4 umekuwa baraka kwa Mzee Ojienda. Kiswahili kimefanywa mojawapo ya masomo yanayotahniwa. Watu wengi sasa wanasoma vitabu vya Kiswahili. Vitabu kumi vya Foundation Books ni kati ya vile vilivyopendelezwa na Wizara ya Elimu kutumika shuleni. Hivi ni kusema Foundation Books itadumu! Naye Mzee Ojienda atakuwa ametekeleza wajibu wake.

Nitamwimbia Yesu siku zote....

NA MASINDE WANYAMA

Nyimbo ziwe za kawaida au za kikiristo huwa na nia ya kuwazindua wanadamu waweze kujitizama katika hali zao. Huwafanya watu wajinyenyekeze kwa minajili ya kujipekua moja kwa moja. Kama ilivyo kwa waimbaji wengine ndivyo ilivyo kwa Douglas Lung'ao.

Harakati hizi hazikuanza hivi majuzi, bali zilianza wakati aliokolewa mnamo mwaka wa 1981 alipokuwa katika kidato cha kwanza Shule ya Upili ya Nakuru. Ni mwanawe Joash na Rose Jiveti. Alizaliwa mwaka wa 1967 kule Kaimosi katika Tarafa ya Tiriki, Kakamega. Alianza masomo ya msingi mwaka wa 1974 katika Kaimosi Demonstration School. Hatimaye akaenda Makuchi na kufanya mihani wa darasa la saba. Lung'ao alijiunga na shule ya upili ya Nakuru ambapo alifanya mihani ya kidato cha nne na sita miaka ya 1984

na 1986. Alijiunga na Chuo Kikuu cha Kenyatta mwaka wa 1987. Masomo yake yamejikita katika sayansi yaani hesabu na fisikia. Licha ya haya Lung'ao hupata wakati wa kutunga na kuimba nyimbo za Mungu.

Akiwa katika vuguvugu la kueneza Neno la Mungu, Lung'ao amejitoa kuimba katika siku zake zote maanake anasema. "Mungu alinipa nguvu na uwezo wa kuimba peke yake." Hata hivyo Lung'ao haambi pekee; anaimba na kina Gilbert Jumba, James Omondi, Samuel Odenyo pamoja na dada wawili; Gladys Mbugua na Linda Andati. Nakwambia ndugu ukiangalia nyuso zao za mng'aro utamini kwamba wao hutangaza Neno la Mungu kupitia sauti zao. Wimbo wao ulionitia moto ni "Kweli Imeniweka Huru". Wimbo huu ulinziindua moja kwa moja mpaka nikaona maana ya kuchukua kalamu na karatasi kuanzika kuhusu Lung'ao. Wimbo mwingine ni "Violent Take It" ambao unawahimiza wakristo wapiganie vita vya vya kwenda Mbinguni.

Katika "Blessed hope" anasema kwamba alikuwa na ufunuo kuhusu namna alivyoona matukio ulimwengu. Anasema "Looking at the signs of the last days I deeply



Gospel singers, wakiongozwa na ndugu Douglas Lung'ao

Picha na Masinde Wanyama

thought of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then I felt like passing the message to Christians to have hope so that they seek the Lord even more."

Nia yake ilikuwa kuwapa moyo ili waendelee kumtafuta Mungu katika siku hizi za mwisho. Swali ni kwamba ukiwa mkristo je unamtafuta Mungu? Lazima tujandae vilivyo kwa minajili

ya kujiweka katika nafasi ya kupata nguvu ya Mungu kila wakati. Naam Lung'ao na wenzake japo ni wanafunzi wamekuwa na wakati wa kuimba katika Kongamano za Kikristo na mikutano ya hadhara.

Kuhusu kurekodi, Lung'ao asema kwamba kufikia sasa amerekodi nyimbo kadhaa na anuanua kuenyuka na shughuli hizo hata baada ya

kumaliza masomo yake Chuoni. Anasema kwamba amekumbwa na tazio la kusambaza nyimbo zake kwa sababu ni mwanafunzi.

Japo ni hivyo Douglas Lung'ao amekusudia kuona amewafikia watu kupitia zana zake za kuimba *Kodian*. Asema, "my motive is not to make money but to pass the message of God to people. The first release of the cassette is the beginning of what God has put in me."

Lung'ao, kijana mpole si mrefu si mfupi, wala si mweusi, anatoa mwito kwa wakristo wasikilize nyimbo zake na wamwombe kila wakati ili aendelee kumwimbia Bwana. Anasema atamwimbia Mungu kila wakati wala hatakatizwa na shughuli za ulimwengu

Ukweli ni kwamba Lung'ao ni mfano wa wachache ambao Mungu amepatia vipawa. Ni bahati gani kuwa na kipawa.

"Kweli umeniweka huru" ndilo jina ambalo wamepatia rekodi za nyimbo zao. Wanajitua "Gospel Singers" Sasa hivi, Lung'ao anajitayarisha kurekodi nyimbo zingine. Na ataeendelea kuwazindua wanadamu katika harakati hizi za kueneza Neno la Mungu. Je ndugu, una kipawa kama hicho? Ukiwa nacho tumia kama inavyostahili, ikiwa bado wakati upo.

Now, it's scud missiles for Kasui

GOSSIP

BY JANE SOME

Some Kenyans whom I know had scud or patriot missiles, the Gulf war would now be history. Fortunately, or unfortunately, they don't. I have to thank God for that. Their kind of missiles are the ones I call 'muth missiles.'

These Kenyans I tell you are very entertaining when it comes to throwing the muth to ear missiles. And I am sorry to say that the culprits are mainly women 16 - 35 years and at times even beyond this. Take Tina for example, she always knows a thing or two about everyone in our office.

One day during lunch time, when I had only bus fare home, I decided to spend my time with Tina and company. They were having lunch which Tim, the tea boy had brought. Now, do not think that the menu consisted of the normal junk food eaten by most pocket-thoughtful Nairobian, they were more original than that. There was this unending craze with most working ladies; eating fruits for lunch so as to keep both young-looking and physically fit. So they were having fruits for lunch and a few other additives.

Accountant

Talk of throwing verbal missiles! On top of chewing the paw paw and pineapples, Tina and her friends engage themselves in throwing these types of missiles. Especially if the person they are referring to is one of those who say a very dry hello to them as if it is painful to say so. "Morn' how

are you?" is what they mumble as they pass you at a speed the matatu touts would envy. These type of people are Tina's target.

"Look at this accountant of ours! The way he has been acting as if he lives in Muthaiga! His wife came in this morning complaining that he has not been seen in his 'Kawangwash' house for weeks! Imagine! And think of the way Lucy looks at him as though he were God's gift to women. Poor Lucy! This man must have been cheating her that he is not married."

Just then one of the bosses passes by enroute to her office. She happens to be one of this sophisticated and well educated people. She however, becomes Tina's target in that she has the advantage of having risen so much in the ranks that she did not find time to get herself 'that teenie of mine' whom she could call her own. "Look at this old hag", She thinks that by being a boss she can get whoever she wants. She overdresses and applies make-up imported from London so as to look young. Wapi! she only succeeds in looking like my auntie Grace who has ten kids," Tina comments.

One of Tina's friends interjects, "Infact I have seen her driving around looking at 8-4-4 teenagers

with alot of longing in her eyes. But anyway I will not tell you more because she happens to be my immediate boss and I know that any of you is malicious enough to undermine me", you know 'kunienda kichinichini', she said for emphasis.

So on and on went the scud missiles aimed at the brass of the company. I had to contribute so as to feel part of them. You see, they could easily Wangila me thinking that I was a traitor coming to spy on them. I decided to go for the top man himself, the Managing Director. I asked, "How about the mdsos? I understand he has a soft spot for only dark ladies, despite the fact that he is married to three very brown ladies!"

Boss

It was like I had rekindled a fire that had died off in them. All of a sudden they were all talking. Everyone wants to outdo the other in telling the juiciest piece about the boss. "He is even reputed for tuning chicks anywhere, including the lift", quipped Sally the cleaning girl.

Another one said that if you want to see the man, you do not even need to have an appointment. His receptionist, secretary and assistants, are all men. They have been given orders that if any lady comes, before they send her away, he has to peep from a specially prepared hole for that purpose to check if she is worth tuning. So all you need to do is prepare well

and present yourself. If he fancies you, you might land yourself a job if that is what you wanted.

When we were about to break off as it was approaching 2.00 a lady came in asking where the office of the 'MD' was. We looked at each other and were dying of suppressed laughter as Tina pulled her most serious face and directed her. As soon as she left, we all released our suppressed

Embarrassed

laugh. Little did we know that the lady was the mdsos's sister!

When I later on found out who she was, I felt embarrassed and vowed not to engage in missile throwing because one never knows where to get the next job. Jobs are very scarce to find these days in this country. I have now decided to be a junk food eater not by choice but by circumstances. You see since the Gulf war started everything is blamed on Saddam and even my missile throwing, I too will put it to this 'Saddam' because were it not for him to condemn me to gossiping over lunch, I would still be queuing in those 'take away' places for my dear chips. Such kind of missiles are worth keeping out of their way. So I am launching a campaign to stop Tina and company from verbal missile throwing. This will begin next year, when I get a salary increase.

LIGHT SIDE

Punches from matatu touts

BY SIMON ROTICH

EVER travelled in vehicles number 6 and 9 plying Eastleigh and town road? If not you may not comprehend what I am about to say. I am saying this as a victim of two scud missiles (punches) sent by one tout with intent to finish my face for failing to comply with his commands.

You can now be sure of what am relating to you. The sight of touts better known as manamba operating in the said route is not amusing at all. If you boarded these vehicles, number 6 and 9, you will immediately notice somebody performing some mouth gymnastics or rather chewing cud (miraa) and his hair has been worked on so meticulously by a barber that his head resembles a box. Or if not that, his hair is fried or cooked in a saloon that he has lost considerable amount of hair. You are seeing somebody none other than the dreaded 'manamba'. This young man, can send your blood flowing in reverse if you don't 'weka joint' as he commands you to do. You can only succeed in scaring him if your face resembles a discarded battle-field,

Recently when I was travelling in one of the vehicles, I was forced with what I would term unavoidable circumstances to mount a full combat - operation desert storm, against one of the touts whose commands did not amuse me. I decided to dust out or something that looks like dust to the gentleman. However, my mouth was almost relieved of teeth when he sent one of his heavy stealthy weapon (metal rod) on my face. Had it not been for the allied forces (me and my friend) to launch massive air to ground attacks on the fellow, I would have lost the battle. His protruding muscles were tense and his body looked so hard that if a dog dared to bite him, it would certainly lose its teeth. Had it not been for this private doctor of mine, Ole Sungunye's prescription that I should not hit somebody so hard, I was sure of sending the fellow to ICU or making it possible for his soul to leave his body. Instead of fighting with him so hard, I decided to make a ceasefire by utilising the back emergency door in the vehicle which provided an easy exit.

Some bystanders would have mistaken me for an outpatient of Mathari Mental Hospital or a famous world sprinter Ben Johnson who is said to have been caught red-handed smoking heroin or was it bhank like a chimney-in a bid to outrun his fellow competitors. I ran as fast as my legs could accelerate. All I knew is that it would have taken a patriot missile with strong batteries to dismiss the incoming scud (blows) from the tout from disfiguring my miserable face.

My experience upto now makes me develop stomach ulcers at the sight of vehicles number 6 and 9.

Only if they stop playing loud music and threatening to dispatch one to his ancestors will I start boarding such vehicles. Otherwise as for now I am utilising my God-given ability to arrive home.

A soft-chested one visits my cube

But jealousy

ruins the day

NGUMBARU

Plus Mburu wa Mucoki

Life is becoming harder and harder for me. At times I am tempted to leave this University and go back to the life outside there, a life I had got used to. You see, although I got myself a room in one of the halls of residence (don't ask how), I am finding it almost useless. In case you have forgotten, my main aim of acquiring this room was to make it easier for me to transport myself to 'Box' and related halls.

Cockroaches

You of course know that it is not cockroaches (That happens to be male students) who inhabit box and its environs. Well, recently, I almost won myself a boxer (whether she is an 8-4-4 or whatever should not make you sleepless) were it not for a chap who was just envious of my success.

To make my story like a pair of long trousers, let me say that by some very good luck, I managed to convince a soft chested one that visiting my cube is not equal to committing suicide.

"You never know," I told her. "I may have some secret weapon on my way to pass examinations without attending lectures or even reading. To go is to see." The soft-chested one was quite impressed and curious of this secret weapon and she promised to pay me a visit.

Being a pirate in this university, I do not have all my arsenals in the room. I fear the fact that if I have all of them (including chemical

weapons), the university authorities might discover me and hit my room with scud missiles. In line with the saying that a wise student always looks ahead (although I am a foolish one), I have very little property in the room.

However, since I had a 'state' visitor, I decided to think on how to impress her. The first idea that struck my head so hard that I felt pain was to have a big music system. The second was to get the latest music cassettes.

V.I.P.

Since I own none of these, I headed for the room where I had befriended the owner. I presented my problem to him and after listening very keenly as though I was reading the budget, he told me, "Being a man just like you, I would not deny you those things for I might also find myself in your shoes some other day."

I told him that he had done me a very great favour. But he told me, "Now Ngumbaru, I will give you the music system come that day. But, eeh, I am like an Englishman when it comes to time. So, at exactly 5 pm, I will come for my system. See you."

I told him it was not problem and I

walked out. The day of reckoning arrived and I went for the music system. Let me also declare that the soft-chested one finally arrived although several hours late but that was no problem. At least she had arrived.

I was just showing off the music system, telling her how it had cost me a lot of money for I had bought it abroad and how I intended to sell it to import another one, when disaster struck. You see, I could see she was getting really impressed by 'my' music system and I was telling myself that I had finally got myself a girl friend, when things turned upside down. As I went to change the cassette to put some slow music, I heard someone knock at the door. It was very hard.

I momentarily forgot that I was in Kenya and was looking for cover thinking that probably a Scud missile had landed when in came the real 'owner of the music system. "Ngumbaru, I don't know what is wrong with you African. What is the time now." The fellow shouted at me with his arms akimbo. I told him I could only know the time after looking at the sun. I also reminded him that he was also an African. The soft-chested one did not know what was eating the intruder. I saw the fellow look at her, open his mouth, made a desperate attempt to smile, a sign that she was

not very ugly and then he shut his beak.

He then frowned, a sign that he was out to cause untold destruction in my territory. He said, "Ngumbaru, you know this music system of mine cost me three booms. So, I don't like it being handled by fellows like you who I am sure do not own even a pocket radio."

TIME UP

He went straight to the socket and switched off the power.

He then took the music system and the cassettes. As he marched out with his properties he finished me: "Ngumbaru, I have told you time and again that my property will not be used to cheat daughters of their fathers. It is high time you bought your own so that you can impress them with what you have."

I looked at the soft-chested one who by now was looking at me with very hostile eyes. She very coolly collected her things and then marched out too, but in a different direction.

Left alone with all my efforts having gone to waste, all I could do was to go to the student centre to drown my sorrows. I had thought of shedding a few tears first but I realised that it would be of no use, for one does not cry over a gone soft-chested one.

Opinion

Flashy dressing — Eye of the beholder

5.00 p.m. Everyone's busy closing his business and dashing out. A few women are headed for home, many for 'coffee' and several are going to meet some Manager at the 'Five star Corner' Restaurant and Piano Bar on a business issue over coffee.

At 4.55 p.m., many 'ladies' are jammed. Last minute touches are always important before you step out. In any case, if you are going to step out, you better be doing so in style!

Women, especially working ones are the ones who go through this ritual daily. As they land on the street which has suddenly come alive, a bevy of beauties confront you. A closer look at some of them reveals a thing or two. Some are not beauties but beautified beings, in the words of one man.

As they are headed for their different 'joints', the idea is to make an impression, a first impression that has an impact. After all, you never know who else is there and one never gets a second chance to make an impression.

Besides the noisy high heels, other factors make heads turn. Have a

BY WAGAKI MWANGI

closer look at the first impressions these beauties make as they go.

Nyanoti, a student at the School of Journalism sees them as Christmas trees. They look as though they have been picked straight from a magazine, he says. They carry with them 'the miss-know-it-all' look. When he sees them, he takes them to be single ladies or divorcees.

"Most of them get moderate incomes. Who meets the difference?"

Although they seem to draw attention enough to make some politicians jealous, Nyanoti asserts he would never marry "a wife who looks like Diana Ross." A woman should dress to suit the natural environment but

not what she has seen in magazines. Her dressing should command respect. "Not too cheaply nor poorly either," he adds.

Frank Tanganika, a foreign post-graduate student says this kind of dressing "is a deception. It is not a realistic reflection of her life. They are self-opinionated and expect too much attention from society."

"Most of them get moderate incomes and yet they dress too expensively. Who meets the difference?" he asks. In his opinion, their living and environment are not compatible.

Zeke Waweru, a lecturer, says "there is room for dressing but over-dressing is not good." However, the dressing does not bother him much. He goes for personality.

"It is very easy to change clothes but not a personality. I do not mind any kind of dressing as long as it is appropriate for the occasion."

A young man who believes he is a liberal, with conservative tendencies says some women need make-up as long as they do not over do it. He is never concerned about where women with below average pay get expensive clothes. "In any case, unaweza



Women and the fashion craze

ng'arisha mitumba," he quips.

Most men do not agree on the fact that although the flashy girl may steal the limelight, they would not go for her as a wife. They concur that she gets the attention because they want a mistress.

The reason for this view is the fear that flashy wives would get attention from other men which the husbands resent. Another view taken by men is that it is easier to trust a conservative wife than a flashy one, especially now that they are not domesticated but career women.

It is ironical then when one considers the fact that most flashy girls are not looking for men who make them mistresses but a catch for life. This is probably why we are getting many women trying to stop marriages in weddings these days.

Although Machiavelli's words that "common people are always impressed by appearances and results," girls, let us dress ourselves to the role we want to play. If you are not intending to have a 'catch' for five months, then do your homework before you throw the bait.

WHY the fuss on M.P. Shah?

The ruling by the Minister for health Hon. Mwai Kibaki last week on the M.P. Shah Hospital saga drew reactions of shock and disappointment from Kenyans.

The hospital which had been locked in a controversy following the death of James William Akoth, a patient, after he had been denied a dialysis treatment prescribed by Dr. Mwonera. Why? The family of Mr. Akoth were not able to raise a deposit of Ksh. 30,000 which the hospital wanted immediately.

In his judgement on the issue, the director of Medical Services Prof. Joseph Oliech, threatened to close the hospital if found guilty of professional misconduct.

With all due respect to the widows of the deceased, I can't help asking, why this particular case sparked off so much controversy? Take for example an incident at the Pumwani Maternity Hospital a year ago when a Kenyatta University student. Suffering from anaemia died. The student was in labour when she got to the hospital. There was no one to attend to her. During her funeral, the father stated that had anyone taken the initiative to attend to the girl "Lilian and her twins would have lived."

In Thika general hospital, a 14 year old boy was held for weeks after failing to clear his hospital bill. These are just but a few examples that show the agony of being a patient in some Kenyan hospitals more so if one is poor. One cannot help but view ill-

ness as a crime punishable by death.

While I still wonder what happened to the oath that doctors take,

BY NJERI NJUGUNA

Kenyans were baffled by another issue. A few days after the news of Akoth's death, a local daily carried a banner headline on its front page "Now 600 members allege fraud". Part of the sorry read... "The M.P. Shah hospital earned 52,817,453 shillings in 1989". How the issue of the amount of money the hospital earned and Akoth's death are related, one cannot help but wonder.

By all means it was wrong for the hospital staff to neglect Akoth but with all manner of rationality Akoth's death should not be treated with isolation.

Visit some General Hospitals in the country and see how the patients get turned away without drugs. See

how patients share beds and judge for yourself the difference between this kind of issue and the MP Shah saga.

In his ruling the minister stated that the hospital had not been found guilty of professional misconduct. This, I believe was a judgement made after thorough investigation into the matter. I sympathise with the agonizing parties, the deceased's relatives but I totally shun the idea that the hospital should close down. Think about the workers in the hospital. Why should they suffer because of some inhuman individuals among them? One student at the school of journalism compared what the financial controller at the hospital did to what the city commission did in Muoroto.

For the Medical Practitioners the closure of the hospital means more customers at their private clinics but what about those who have been admitted into the hospital!



Mrs. Jane Akoth, (right) the widow of the late William Akoth weeps outside her Kaloleni house after the arrival of her husband's body from the M.P. Shah Hospital

Desert encroachment: Threat to survival

BY ANNE NYAMU

Imagine travelling around the country and all you can see is sand. No grass, no trees, no water, all the way from Kisumu to Mombasa, Mandera to Namanga. It is a terrible thought but at least you can pass it off as a nightmare which vanishes as you wake up.

Yet, with the alarming rate at which the world's land surface is turning into desert, you could wake up one day and find that it is no longer a dream.

Desertification has become an urgent threat to man's future. Although a lot is known about fighting and halting the spread of deserts, little is being done about it regardless of the livelihood of millions of people which will be affected by it.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 35% of the world's land is at risk. This is an area larger than North and South America. The affected area is the size of Africa and Europe. It is made up of the dryland and sub-humid tropics.

Contrary to popular belief, drought does not cause desertification, it only aggravates the situation. Man's activities are solely to blame for this tragedy. Tree cutting, keeping too many animals and overcultivation exhaust the soil and encourage soil erosion. Poor irrigation makes

the soil salty and sterile, so nothing can grow in it.

In a special conference in 1977, UNEP drew up a Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. At that time, 80 million rural and urban people were severely affected. By 1985, this number had almost trebled.

Over 100 countries are affected by the problem, says UNEP. However, the worst hit are the developing nations where land is overexploited in an effort to maximise production to feed the ever-growing population.

This has devastating results. People go hungry or even starved. The countries lose their export earnings and are forced to rely more on foreign aid.

This process puts pressure on other countries to produce more food causing more land degradation and spreading the chain of events worldwide.

Desertification also has political effects. It causes an increase in the number of "ecological refugees". These are people who leave land which is turning into desert.

The refugees move into already crowded urban slums in their own and other countries. This increases the economic burden of those countries and threatens their political stability.

It is cheaper to try and prevent desertification than to reverse it.

Meet Ereng, World's Gold medalist

BY NJERI RUGENE

Kenyan athletes like their boxing counterparts have never ceased to thriprise both the local and international scene. One such athlete is Paul Ereng. During the 1988 olympics in Seoul, Korea, he won gold medal in the 800 meters in a time of 1;43:45 to become one of Kenya's greatest athletes.

Born in 1967 at Kapkara in Kenya's Trans Nzoia district he has proved to the world that his victory at the Commonwealth games is no fluke. He proved it when he captured in March 1989 the world record in the 800m event and the world indoor crown.

After the death of his father at the early age of seven, he was brought up by a catholic priest. It was at Starehe where he went for his secondary education that his interest in athletics began to show. Ereng who was virtu-

ally a spiritual sprinter and later both a long distance and triple jumper was changed from the then his speciality 400m event to 800m, this was after his discovery by an American athletics coach Fred Hardy who identified his great potential.

From here it was like "a fairy tale" for the Turkana-born boy in a poor peasant family. When he was at University of Virginia in the United States he seriously took up training programmes to break the two minute barrier which took him quite some time and he almost despaired. "I was discovered and wanted to give up, but he (Hardy) kept pushing harder."

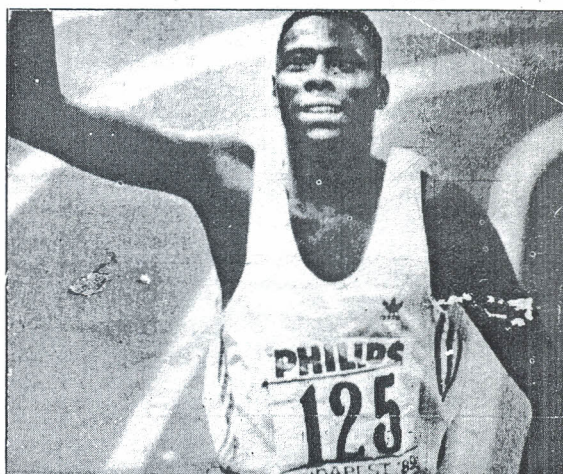
During the 1988 Seoul Olympics Ereng was ready to win the gold. He beat a formidable which included Briton Peter Elliot, Moroccan Said Ouita, one of the greatest athletes of that time and the defending champion Brazil's Joaquim Cruz. Ereng in this race ran in a time of 1;43:45. The best in the world had been conquered

therefore he was to go for the world mark.

The most remarkable aspect of this feat is that Paul Ereng was virtually known by his own Kenyans having "fluked" his place in the '800m team. During the trials he came third by narrowly edging out African champion Sammy Koskei. Budapest was to be the venue for his first world record championship this was in March 1990 at the world indoor athletics.

During the last competition, Ereng grabbed 100 metres world record title from Sebastian Coe. Sebastian Coe's 800m of one minute 41:73 second set in 1981 in Florence, Italy eluded him, but he says "before I call it a day, I will break it." The former accounts clerks with Kenya Post and Telecommunication in Nakuru is now studying economics in the United States. After a groin injury last year, his performances has been greatly hampered but it seems Paul is regaining his old form. In January, he was

Halls of Fame



Ereng, vows to break 100m record before he retires

crowned the National Colleges athletic champion in his speciality in 800m registering a time of 1 min; 48:50 at

the East Tennessee State University in U.S.A.

Kenya Open Golf was tough for all

BY NJERI RUGENE

The 1991 Kenya Open Golf Championship sponsored by Standard Chartered Kenya Ltd., started on January 24 to January 27 at Muthaiga Golf Club. The championship recorded the highest standards since its inception in 1968.

The old record which had stood at 1, had been set by Britain's Maurice Bembridge which was then held by Benson and Hedges Kenya open in 1968, he successfully defended the title in 1969.

At the end of the day, it was the 25 year old Jeremy Robinson from England who clinched the championship and overran last year's champion Irish O'Connor.

O'Connor, 43, had in 1989 helped Kenya retain the international Ryder Cup against the United States. Last year he equaled Britain's Maurice Bembridge's aggregate score of 1.3, under par 271.

This year's champion Jeremy Robinson displayed a very unique performance which saw him finish with an aggregate of 269. He started with a 68 in the first round, where most players were tired due to the hot weather. He exhibited his zeal in the second round where he shot a nine under par 62. This was the score that gave him a two round total of 130, five shots ahead of Steve Richardson an Englishman like himself who had led the first round but dropped in the second.

In the third round, he attained a 111 hole aggregate of 199 which saw him grab a first prize of Shs.530,000. Robinson has twice failed to secure a Professional Golfers Association (PGA) volvo card in Europe.

The amateur record set 22 years ago was broken by Andrew Rodgers (England who played quite a good game returning an aggregate of 277.

The 24 year old Andrew has won both the Zimbabwe and the Zambia Amateur titles. Andrew Rodgers would like to turn professional but not before playing for England in the Walker Cup Squad in September against the United States.

But for the African players, the going was quite rough. Out of an entry of 23, only six made it to the last two rounds. These included James Ngigi from Kenya, Ron Smith from Zimbabwe, Tim Price from Zimbabwe, John Ngugi from Kenya,

Juma Marami from Tanzania and Lewis Muridzo also from Tanzania.

According to Mr. Titus Njojo, the Chairman of the Kenya Golf Union, the championship would have been a failure had the Standard Chartered Ltd., come up with sponsorship at the eleventh hour. BAT has been the main sponsor since its inception until this year.

The Kenya open championship which was first staged in 1967 is the oldest championship on the Safari Tour.



Jeremy Robinson, the year's Open Golf Champion

Rugby, Black Blad and Engineers win

BY NJERI RUGENE

In the just concluded inter-faculties Coke Sevens rugby, the Faculty of Engineering emerged the winners after grounding the science faculty 18-4 in a one-sided match. Jomo Kenyatta University College of Agriculture and Technology (JKUCAT) went down 48-0 while

the science faculty (Moi) were devastated 20-0 by the engineers.

They also held the faculty of commerce 32-0. The Kenyatta University Black Blad beat the festival side 24-10 making them the winners for the second year running. The game was played at the university of Nairobi where sixteen teams took part. Egerton University did not turn up.



Moi and Chiro campus fight it out

K.U. yaandaa mchezo wa voliboli

NA WA MASINDE

Mwishoni mwa wiki uliopita kundi la Wokovu (C.U) liliandaa michezo katika uwanja wa Chuo Kikuu cha Kenyatta.

Katika mchezo wa Voliboli, makundi yaliyoshindana yalikuwa Magharibi na Mashariki.

Michezo ulikuwa kaffu lakini baadaye timu zote zilionesha mbinu za kugonga boli vilivyvo. Wa

Magharibi walijitetea hadi waliposhinda seti mbili. Mashariki waliibuka na ushindi kwa seti tatu kwa mbili. Upande wa mashariki uliongozwa na Kelvin Wesonga na Eric Mwenda. Upande wa Magharibi uliongozwa na Kibetti na Kagure. Mchezo huo uliwashirikisha vijana wa kiume na kike. Mchezo wa mguu haukuchezwa kwa kuwa mpira haukuwepo. Mashabiki walitoka uwanjani shingo upande huku wakionung'unika.

Robbers snatch varsity money

BY CHARLES KIMATHI

Gangsters robbed a security firm of Ksh 600,000 that was being transported from a city branch of the National Bank of Kenya to Kenyatta University last Wednesday.

Reports said the police had launched a manhunt for the robbers. The robbers said to have been in a gang of four and armed with guns reportedly commandeered a security van belonging to Wells Fargo Company around the Kasarani area as they were transporting the money to the university in the morning.

Sources said the money was to be paid out to university staff and post-graduate students who have accounts in the National Bank.

A highly placed source at the university told the *Anvil* that no member of staff had gone without pay.

"As far as I know, those with accounts in the bank were able to withdraw money, even those who are paid in cash got it," she said.

It is believed the bank made alternative arrangements to transport more money to the campus in the afternoon of the same day. The police declined to give details of the robbery and directed the *Anvil* to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Philip Githinji. The VC could not be reached.

However, press reports said the security van was recovered the same day in the Ngomongo area. The police would not say whether they had held any suspects. The reports said police were concerned that the cash had not been given police escort as would normally have been the case.

The Kenyatta University branch of the National Bank of Kenya was opened a few years ago to save the staff and students the inconvenience of having to travel 16 kilometres to the city centre.

It is believed that last week's robbery was not the first one of that nature.

THE ANVIL

USIU refutes press claim

BY SONYA LAURENCE AND NJERI NJUGUNA

United States International University (USIU) students and administrators are upset about a news story which appeared in last Tuesday's issue of *The Standard* newspaper, calling it "libelous and totally untrue."

The January 29 article by Wachira Kigotho, headlined "US-run varsity faces closure," said the premises which USIU occupies has been sold, that USIU does not own the land at Kasarani where they plan to move, nor are there any new building plans approved. Kigotho quoted unnamed sources "close to the Commission for Higher Education" and at the Ministry of Education.

The *Standard* article reported charges of low academic standards at USIU, and that, "a group of students have written an open letter to the university's president in San Diego,

California, accusing their director, Dr. Lillian Beam, of incompetence and lack of leadership skills."

"The article was malicious, and false, and slanderous," Dr. Beam told the *Anvil* the day after the *Standard* article appeared. Hand-written signs posted prominently around USIU's campus read, "The *Standard* Newspaper Article: please rest assured that the article is libelous and totally untrue. There is no cause for alarm."

Student Affairs Council Chairman Mr. Parmain ole Narikae said the article came out of the blue.

"It was really a surprise to the general student body, so most of them

were really concerned," he said. He said that it was hard to believe students actually wrote a letter complaining about the administration, because he would have heard about it through the normal channels.

Dr. Beam met with students last Tuesday to address concerns stemming from the article. She said, "Students who are here know it's a good school," and that there was not "much of a stir." She refuted the claims in the article and said that if the *Standard* does not retract them, they will be sued.

Dr. Beam also charged that Kigotho never tried to contact her for her comments. "He claimed that I couldn't be reached, but I was working here all day until 5.30," she said. Because she feels the article was so inaccurate and poorly reported, Dr. Beam demanded a retraction in the

Standard. She was not satisfied with the short comment in the paper the following day that said she dissented from the original article.

Kigotho, reached by telephone at the *Standard* offices last week, said he stands by his story. "I don't think it's libelous," he told the *Anvil*. He added that the letter written by students complaining about the director of USIU does exist, and that he has a copy of it.

Kigotho insists that his story is accurate. "We don't want to damage any reputation," he said.

But some students worry that bad press may hurt them. Abdi Haidhar, a pre-university student, said, "It caused a big problem because some of our parents might have read that article and believed it. It was a big problem for those who are sponsored."



Machakos's 'airport' presently look less busy after the evacuation of hawkers

Sheng irks passenger

BY KINYUA MUCHEKE

A verbal protest by a young woman against being called "sistee" (sister) by a tout in an Eastlands bound matatu resulted in an exchange that sent commuters bursting with laughter.

It all started when a tout told a young woman, who had boarded a matatu at the city stadium bus stop, 'sistee songea huko nyuma ya Dinga' (sister move to the back of the vehicle). The woman might have been provoked by the tout's bloodshot eyes and an oversize T-shirt. She shouted, 'Mimi si sister yako' (I am not your sister).

The tout seemingly enjoying the exchange answered, 'Basi wewe ni sister wa Saddam' (Then you are Saddam's sister). The passengers acknowledged the tout's antics with

laughter.

The woman in a furious almost choking voice said something about ... an oval head and tomato eyes. The tout fired back and told her that her face resembled Muoroto village after the demolitions by city commission bulldozers.

As she was alighting at Ofafa Jericho along jOgoo Road, the tout looked at the commuters, winked mischievously and asked in a loud whisper, "kumbe ile mrembo ni ya kutoka Kunguni?" (so this beauty hails from Ofafa Kunguni?).

At this juncture, even some women commuters who had shown annoyance over the exchange could not help laughing. As the matatu sped down along the Highway, the tout could be heard singing, 'Ika uria wikaga riria warakara...' (Do what you do when you get annoyed) to the amusement of the passengers.

UNIDO struck by financial crisis

BY SIMON ROTICH

The United Nations Industrial Organization (UNIDO) has expressed concern over financial constraints in industrial assistance to the developing world. This is contained in a report in the UNIDO newsletter of December last year.

During the seventh session held in Vienna from December 5 to 9, the Industrial Development Board highlighted the impact of severe cash flow problems on the organization. One of the issues raised was the delay and non-payment of annual assessments by many of its member states. The Board urged the states concerned to meet payment obligations promptly.

Concerned about the declining resources available to the organization and its increasing responsibilities, the board emphasized that priorities proposed for the 1991/93 budget should follow those already

set for the medium-term plan for 1990/95.

With cuts in military spending following the end of the cold war, the Board requested developed countries to consider allocating new resources for industrialization in the developing world.

The 53 nation policy making body (UNIDO) was asked by the Industrial Development Board to co-operate with multi-lateral financial institutions to develop innovative approaches to alleviate the impact of external debts on industrial development.

The member states were asked to reduce the South's external debts by writing off the debts on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

In another development, the member states were asked to boost their pledges to the Industrial Development Fund in order to reach the over 50 million dollar annual level.

The 1991 pledges stood at 10.3 million dollars. However, the figure is expected to increase substantially when most of the major donors announce their contributions.

The Board re-affirmed support for the special industrialization programme for the Arab Countries, Asia and the Pacific and for the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA).

By a roll-call vote of 29 in favour, one against and 18 abstentions, UNIDO voted to increase assistance to the Palestine people in co-operation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Mysterious death

Continued from page 1

Efforts to contact the M.O.H. Nairobi City Commission Dr. P. Acholla proved futile. However, the deputy M.O.H. Dr. Gichara said he knew of Sumbi's death but was unwilling to give any details. "Yes, I'm aware of the case, but the only details you require as far as I'm concerned is the date of death," and not the circumstances leading to her death," he said, "and that you can get from the Births and Deaths registry", he added.

The Births and Deaths Registry was of no help and referred the reporters back to Pumwani Hospital. Attempts to contact the Pumwani authorities on telephone proved futile.

Meanwhile, a Pumwani Maternity

Hospital source who sought anonymity has said that the hospital is suffering from a severe shortage of drugs and dressings. "The supply of sanitary napkins previously meant for one day are now required to last a week," the source said. The source explained that there were over fifty deliveries each day, while labour ward was provided with a mere four packets of twelve napkins to last a day.

This precedes the M.P. Shah case where only last month, the M.P. Shah Hospital became the subject of national outrage after a kidney patient died after he was denied a dialysis machine treatment because his family could not raise the required amount. The hospital has since fired its finance boss and appointed a medical committee following the Ministry of Health recommendations.