

The Anvil

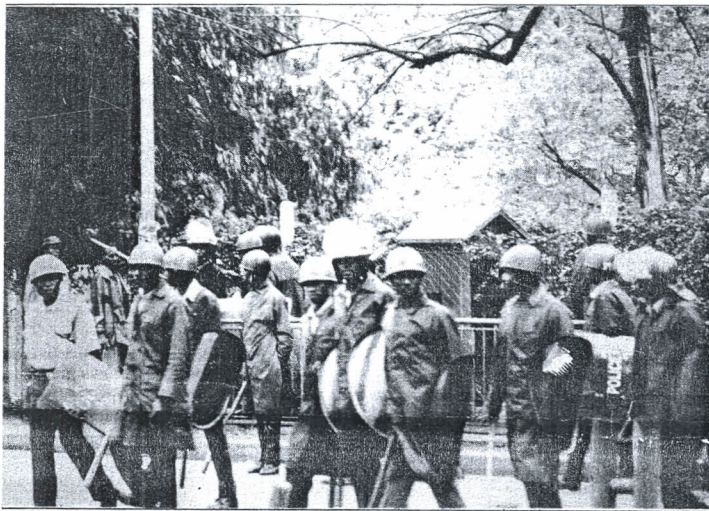
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Vol. 22, No. 164

Friday June 20, 1997

Price 10/-

Students, lecturer set for parliament



Anti-Riot police prepare to confront pro-reform supporters in Nairobi who had vowed to disrupt the budget speech on Thursday. They later engaged students of the UON in running battles for the rest of the day.

By KIPLON KANGOGO, KEMUNTO OIRURIA AND HUDSON LIYAI

A Lecturer and three students of the University of Nairobi have declared their interest for parliamentary seats in the forthcoming general elections.

Ms. Kavetsa Adagala, a lecturer at the Literature Department has declared her intention to contest for the Westlands seat on a Kanu ticket. Makokha Situma, Eric Juma and Wabende Patrick all masters degree students, have said they are set to fight for parliamentary seats on FORD-K tickets.

In an exclusive interview with *The Anvil*, Adagala said her decision to vie for the seat had been necessitated by numerous requests from the area residents to lead them out of their economic difficulties.

Mr Makokha is a second year Masters student in the Linguistics Department.

"We will appeal to the electorate to hear our voice. Listen to our ideas. Ours is neither selling promises nor buying the vote. We endeavour to sell our ideas," he told *The Anvil*.

Mr Makhokha said he was set to vie for the newly created Bumula constituency, which was carved out of

the larger Kanduyi constituency. The current MP is Mr Lawrence Sifuna.

Ms Adagala has been a lecturer at the Department of Literature since 1976. "Most people in the constituency are living in abject poverty and need a visionary leader to marshal them out of such life," she told *The Anvil* while revealing her interests to take on Mr Fred Gumo, the current area MP.

The don said most of the people in Westlands had been caught up between landlessness in their ancestral homes and poverty in the City, a scenario, she says, that must be reversed through a change of leadership.

She said when elected she intends to start up women groups in the constituency as vehicles through which development could be hastened. "I will strive to improve the lives of women by assisting them form viable women groups," she said.

Ms Adagala also said she will assist the residents improve on the sewerage system and education standards in the area.

Juma, a second year Masters Linguistics student said: "My vision is to bail my people out of the a culture of relying on handouts from the government or leaders in power."

Juma intends to vie for the Samia

Ethnicity rife at campus

By HELLAINE ANYANGO

Kenyan universities grading system is rife with favouritism. Students are either graded on the basis of ethnicity or their personal relationships with lecturers, *The Anvil* has learnt.

Most of the students who talked to *The Anvil* about the scandal requested anonymity for fear of victimization.

A female student from the Department of Zoology said this

about a lecturer. "He approached me and told me that if I want to perform well in his subject then I should see him from time to time."

Ms Rose Shake, a lecturer in the Department of Linguistics also confirmed the gravity of the situation.

"The situation is getting out of control and something needs to be done." Speaking to *The Anvil* Ms Shake alleged that some departments were dominated by certain ethnic groups.

A Masters student at the Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations confirmed this, saying that even at undergraduate level some students are advised against choosing certain subjects if they do not belong to the dominant ethnic group in the department.

The tragedy is that this trend is not confined to the University of Nairobi as it is a normal practice in all the public universities.

Turn to page 2

Gichiga stems security crisis

By JEMOSBEY MISOI AND KEMUNTO OIRURIA

The University of Nairobi will help security in the halls of residence to ease tension among students, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof Francis Gichiga, says.

Prof. Gichiga was addressing female students protesting against his insecurity in their halls.

On Friday, a man accused of voyeurism was stripped and marched

to the security office. The male students retaliated by stripping some of the female students.

According to the students, this was the second incident within a week and they were incensed that the authorities were not taking measures to stem the situation.

The infuriated students told the Vice-Chancellor that a man arrested and taken to the security office was released on the way to Central Police Station and we met him in town later the same day!"

They reiterated that their actions were fanned by lack of confidence in the institution's ability to provide security. "There is nothing wrong with the structures which are in place. The problem is with your people. They are never there when we need them," they told the VC.

"I am depressed by these incidents as they touch on our social behaviour, and regret that they should occur in an institution of higher learning," the

Turn to page 2

INSIDE

Why student activism is dying - Page 7

University reacts to mass failure - Page 10

The big elephant debate - page 8

Wrangles in Senior Common Room - Page 3

Don't miss our bumper cartoon Page 6

Plus Features, News analysis, Sports, etc.

Stop Press

Loan Application Forms for continuing students 1997/98 are now available at the universities, the district education offices, the Provincial Directors of Education and the offices of the Higher Education Loans Board offices. A press release signed by the Higher Education Loans Board secretary, Prof. Chacha Nyaigoti, says the forms must be returned duly completed to the offices of Higher Education Loans Board - 18th Floor, Anniversary Towers, Nairobi, by 30th June, 1997.

The incoming students (1997/1998-1st year) will collect their loan application forms from the respective district education offices and hand them to the Higher Education Loans Board by 15th July, 1997.

Turn to page 2

NEWS

The UON crisis

From page 1

V-C said.

Prof Gichaga advised students to be on the look out "particularly this election year saying outsiders will try to incite and use them to cause chaos.

He said that once outsiders are involved, the situation gets out of control and the university will be forced to close.

The Vice-Chancellor added that unnecessary closures of the university were to the detriment of students and the time lost was never recovered. He urged the students to exercise restraint saying that he was open to proposals on how to improve security. "Some of these problems are not as small as they appear. Before you go over the cliff, remember I am there for you." he said, alluding to the suicide cases earlier reported at the university.

The Director of the Students

Welfare Authority, Prof. Joseph Kimani, acknowledged the security problem at the university, saying that arrangements to install burglar proof grilles were under way.

"There are no working telephones from which to call for assistance when such problems arise," said a student challenging the director on how they could reach him.

The director acknowledged that the bureaucratic bottlenecks made information flow slow and difficult resulting in inefficiency. He promised that direct lines will be installed in the halls to improve communication.

The Dean of Students blamed finances and the tight curriculum for the students' behaviour. Pointing out that even the buildings were unappealing, she said that this worsened the problem considering the economic constraints the students face.

Bias claims in exams

From page 1

Mr Oloo Matuku, a lecturer at Kenyatta University agreed that there is no objectivity in the selection of students in certain departments.

Mr Oloo, an alumnus of the School of Journalism, said that even the graduate school of scribes was not spared.

"Look at the general trend for the last five years and you will find that those who get scholarships and distinctions seem to belong to a specific ethnic group."

On Kenyatta University, he said there have been complaints that female students are favoured by lecturers.

But Ms Shake alleged that it are female students who have failed because they refused to give the lecturers sexual demands w those who gave in benefited.

However, Dr. Kithaka Mberia, a lecturer at the Unive of Nairobi refuted such cla saying no sytematic survey hadl carried out to establish tl allegations.

On ethnicity he explained tl particular ethnic group may l interest in an area and there dominate the department.

However, he said that if happens then it is very unfortu because a fundamental law o academic jungle states that onl fittest should survive.

Mr Oloo Adams of Governm University of Nairobi, agreed Dr Mberia but said he could not out the possibility of bias awarding of marks.

However, he explained tha was only be possible in small cl: where lecturers get to know stu personally.

"In large classes like socio and government we cannot ma to be very close to students and refer to their numbers."

But Dr Mberia argued tha problem with the grading sys: was too complicated to be bla on ethnicity and pers relationships alone.

"The problem is a result o moral decay in the society tha left no sector untouched and to a solution we have to look a source of the problem," Dr. Ml said.

Students, lecturer to vie for seats

From page 1

seat currently held by an Assistant Minister in the Office of the President, Mr. Moody Awori. He says he would like to see improved roads.

Mr Situma says he has had political ambitions for long and now has the time act.

"The foundation has been laid. I have been with the people and at work with them. For instance I have been participating in youth projects, social activities like sporting. 'That lies my target group.'"

About his grassroot performance, he says the people at this stage are ready for change in the leadership of the constituency "Historically people have always voted for voting's sake. They do not look for vision but for personalities - people who have inherited popularity from their forefathers since before independence."

At Kikuyu, Situma was the first chairman in the controversial SONU 92 which was active for only one month although it had been registered for three months before it was deactivated because of "engaging in activities contrary to university regulations and laws."

Wabende Kunyu, a Masters in History finalist is interested in the Kanduyi seat. Wabende is the current chairman of the Postgraduate Students Council.

Wabende has had his campaign strategies laid out well with the selection of three campaign committees in Nairobi, Bungoma and Busia. Situma and Juma on the other hand say save for a few modalities on raising financing for basic requirements, all is set.

Sanitary services in a shamble

By MUTHONI KAREGA

How can it be treated so lightly?" they wondered.

Women in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences have gone without sanitary disposal units for more than three years, *The Anvil* has established.

Female students said they have experienced untold suffering every time they needed to use the facilities. They confirmed that the Students Welfare Authority (SWA) had provided the units in the halls. "This is an important part of our lives.

Mr Godwin Njorge, the caretaker in the college confirmed that there were no disposal units in the college and referred *The Anvil* to Peter Obware the College Maintenance Officer who could not be traced at the time of going to press.

Prof Munavu, the DVC (Administration and Finance) expressed surprise that the units had been withdrawn in 1992.

He wondered why senior v in the university had not rais issue with the relevant author

Prof. Munavu refuted claim the services were terminated the university's inability to p them. He consequently called immediate resumption of the se

Whatever caused the with of the bins, the very idea that s important area of women's personal hygiene could have neglected and for so long is b comprehension.



Picture by Hudson Liyoi

Ms. Kavesta Adagala for Westlands



Mr. Wabende Kunyu



Pictures by Kemunto Odiria

Mr. Eric Juma

Process transcripts, students demand

By JOSEPH NGURE

Bachelor of Arts students at the University of Nairobi have not received their transcripts in the past three years, a candidate contesting for a post in the Nairobi University Arts Students Association (NUASA) has said.

The elections took place in Taiifa

Hall last week. A contestant for Academic Secretary, Mr Vincent Omondi, told *The Anvil* that they have never been given transcripts. He added "We have waited for three years and no explanation has been given by the universities authority. It is difficult to know our performance and yet when one fails a supplementary examination, he or

she is forced to repeat."

Mr Omondi decried the collisions on the timetable saying "We lose a lot of time and when we notify our lecturers nothing is done."

The Deputy Academic Registrar in charge of examinations, Mr Gachuhi, was said to be in a meeting. Other officials declined to comment. Meanwhile, another candidate,

John Kariuki, said students should be represented at the Higher Education Loans Board so that their views are considered when deciding the amount of money to give each student.

Mr Kariuki criticised the loan's board for demanding unnecessary information from the applicants. He cited information about "siblings"

which he said was of no use board.

In the past students have getting their transcripts after semester.

Some students feel that they lost vocational job opportu particularly in the field of res due to delayed processing of transcripts.

Nyasani: Now on contract

By FRED MUDHAI

The Principal of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nairobi, Prof. Joseph Nyasani, 60, has been appointed on contract after reaching retirement age.

Dismissing rumours he would retire and vie for a parliamentary seat in the forthcoming elections, Prof. Nyasani showed *The Anvil* a letter, dated May 27, from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Finance), Prof. Raphael Munavu, saying his contract would be renewed until 1999.

"I'm not going into politics. I will continue with academics until I become senile," said Prof. Nyasani, a prolific author of philosophy books the latest of which are *The African Psyche* (97), *The Metaphysics of the Cosmos and Related Recurrent Issues of Metaphysics* (96). He has also edited *Philosophical Focus on Culture and Traditional Thought*



Prof. Joseph Nyasani

Systems in Development (95) funded by Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

"I will continue writing. I've no interest in politics," he reiterated, denying claims he is politically allied to Nyaribari Chache MP Simeon Nyachae.

"My relationship with Nyachae is purely humanitarian. He saved my life. When I was shot in 1994, gave me downpayment of about Shs 400,000 for my hospital bill and air fare to Germany," he corroborated.

"I see him (Nyachae) as a philanthropist. He visited me daily

at The Nairobi Hospital before writing to the German Ambassador who identified Erlangen University Medical School as the best hospital for my case," Prof. Nyasani added. He said Mr. Nyachae also paid air fare and accommodation for University of Nairobi Chief Medical Officer, the late J. Githahu, who accompanied him to Germany.

Prof. Nyasani was shot on the right eye just as he entered his Westlands home after reading KBC news one evening in 1994. "Bullets ruptured nerves connecting my right eye and the brain. I'd have died from haemorrhage and blood clot in the brain if I did not get highly specialised surgery," Prof. Nyasani recalled.

"I'd be an inhuman and ungrateful fool to disregard Nyachae. I'd not seen him before that incident. I've never even gone to his office," he pointed out. "Yet he is neither my relative nor my MP. I respect his magnanimity. I'm not a sycophant," he added.

Poverty index up

By HUDSON LIYAI

Income levels in Kenya have declined considerably over the last six years, according to a World Development Report launched in Nairobi last Thursday.

This year's report focuses on world poverty, its extent, severity and complexity, and proposes a feasible and affordable strategy for eradicating it.

During the launching ceremony, the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] Representative Ms Nancy Asanga, explained that poverty goes beyond limited incomes, encompassing people's limited opportunities for a decent living.

While full employment must be given priority, greater emphasis should be placed on creating overall enabling environment in all sectors. Ms Asanga expressed concern that "poverty is increasingly taking 'a

female face'", as women formed the majority of the vulnerable groups, who include children, the aged, and the disabled.

A panel of experts discussed the report and its implications for national policy orientations.

A new measurement highlighted in the report is the Human Poverty Index which ranks countries by three variables: vulnerability to death at an early age, illiteracy, and access to health services, water and food.

Kenya is ranked 32 among the 78 countries listed. On levels of income, the country has recorded a consistent downward trend since 1990, when the report was first launched by the UNDP.

Kenya was ranked number 113, later dropped to 128 in 1995, and 134 in 1997.

The highest ranked countries include Canada, France and Norway, while the lowest include Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Niger.

Chiromo mortuary's popularity rises

By NYIRO WANJE AND KIPLON KANGOGO

Kenyans should stop concentrating resources on the dead and instead focus on the living. This was said by Dr Gichambira Gikenye, the chairman, Department of Human Anatomy, University of Nairobi.

He said it was against this background that the University started Mortuary services at the Chiromo Campus to provide services with a view to assisting the members of the public cut on costs. The mortuary charges Sh. 5,000 for storage and preservation for any period up to two weeks.

Many people are now turning away from the other mortuaries in the city.

Asked about the possible reasons for this influx, Dr. Gakenye said this may be due to the reasonable charges

and the attitude of the mortuary attendants. He said there was a lot of commitment on the part of the mortuary attendants to assist the bereaved.

Dr. Gakenye said that arising from the influx, the facilities at the mortuary have been stretched to the optimum. "We are now dealing with a big number of bodies and we must

ensure that adequate storage facilities are found," Dr. Gikenye said.

The mortuary receives between 12 and 20 bodies for storage per day.

He said that plans were underway to find alternative parking areas to alleviate the existing problem.

"Presently, those coming to collect the bodies of their relatives crowd around the mortuary and the

parking is scattered all over the campus causing jam and disturbance to the students," he said.

He said the university was planning to build a collection centre so that the bodies are preserved at the mortuary and taken for collection at the centre. This will alleviate the congestion problem.

Dr. Gakenye said basically,

Chiromo Mortuary is a service facility. Members of the university are not charged for preserving their dead.

He said the facility was more than self sustaining financially and that it generates a lot of income for the university.

that Mr. Lusutsa is still on duty. The Chairman maintained that if these accusations were false, the Secretary should have written to refute them. Instead, "he wrote an intimidating note."

Another bone of contention between the Chairman and the Secretary is the suspension of Mr Boniface Likhaho, an employee, for gross misconduct. There was no consultation between the two. The Chairman hence felt that the one-



Chiromo mortuary: Major income earner for University of Nairobi

Fire student still in fear

By MISHAEL ONDIEKI

Duncan Kiama, a student who narrowly escaped death in a mysterious fire in his room, fears for his life.

In an interview, Mr Kiama said he is operating from the estates since the fire broke out as he has not been given an alternative room.

His room mate, George Otieno, a fourth year mechanical engineering student is also operating from the estate.

"Since we do not know the intention of whoever spilled fuel on our door, we cannot claim to be safe," said Mr Otieno.

Mr Kiama said he was not willing to stay in the same room any more and was waiting to be transferred.

The Students Welfare Authority Director, Prof. Joseph Kimani, could not be traced for comment.

A mysterious fire broke out on Saturday night while Mr Kiama was reading in his room as his room mate was out in the estates.

Mr Kiama screamed as he dangled out in his window and was rescued by the occupants of room 60, which is immediately below his.

"I do not know how I arrived there," Mr Kiama was quoted as saying.

Asked for comment, the Dean of Students, Ms Emily Sumbeiyu, said the administration was investigating the matter.

week suspension period given by the Secretary was too short and increased it to a month.

The Vice-Chairman of the committee, Mr Winifred Nyangena, said, "I do not see these things as wrangles, but rather as misunderstandings which can easily be sorted out."

Leaders wrangle in senior common room

BY CLAIRE GATHERU AND REBECCA GIKURU

The Chairman of the Senior Common Room (SCR), Mr. Mwema Maina, has 'withdrawn' from the Executive Committee, *The Anvil* has learnt. In a memo dated 3rd June 1997, Mr. Maina said that he had withdrawn because "the committee is composed of a clique that has the numerical strength to use the committee as a

rubber stamp." The chairman, however, pointed out that he was still chairman of SCR, "as I have no problem with members."

His withdrawal comes amidst alleged misunderstandings between him and the Secretary, Mr. Francis Owakah, over the management of the club. Mr. Owakah said that the 'withdrawal' was unconstitutional and the Chairman should "resign if he is unhappy".

He revealed that he had received

a suspension letter from the Chairman, citing mismanagement and tribal interests. He claimed that the Chairman often sends memos instead of raising issues in meetings. He availed several such memos to *The Anvil*.

The suspension letter made accusations against the secretary, among them hiking prices of commodities, sacking a Mr. Boniface Lusutsa, a SCR steward a nepotism. However *the Anvil* has established

EDITORIAL

Political aspirants need our support

Election time is nigh, and it's all systems go at the University of Nairobi. A lecturer and three students have declared their interest in Parliamentary seats in town and in the country side.

Politics play an important role in our lives and all sections of the population must therefore play a role in national politics.

The popular belief held by ruling party and government operatives that "politics should be left to politicians" has no place in an increasingly vibrant democracy. The university community should critically re-examine its role in national politics. Universities are held in high esteem, and society generally acknowledges the fact that it is from such institutions of higher learning that leaders who will decide the destiny of this nation will come from.

Students and lecturers, by virtue of having a more balanced perspective of society than the common man should play a vital role in championing causes that will transform our country to a true democracy and move the country to the next millenium. The university community by virtue of its numeral and intellectual strength should seek to ensure that their interests are well articulated in the National Assembly by putting one of their own in the august House.

This can only be realised, however, if universities look at politics as something to be promoted and not undermined as is hitherto the case. Political debate in the campus should be promoted as long as students and lecturers pursue that noble goal, academic excellence.

Those who have declared interest in parliamentary seats should be afforded the opportunity to express their views; they should be supported to make an entry into the political arena. Universities should be in the forefront in the struggle for freedom since no intellectual excellence can be achieved in an atmosphere of intimidation.

We at *The Anvil* fully support those from among us taking the bold move of attempting to go to parliament.

THE ANVIL is a School of Journalism student training newspaper. The views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the School of Journalism or the University of Nairobi

Editor-in-Chief: **PATRICK KAMANDA**
 Managing Editor: **ONAYA ODECK**
 News Editor: **MISHAEL ONDIEKI**
 Chief Sub-Editor: **MUMBI KYALO**

Photo/Production Editor: **BENJAMIN OUMA**
 Sub-Editors: **LUCY NDICHU, CHRIS TSUMA, LILY ADUKE, IRENE WANYANGA, VINCENT MAKORI and STELLA OTIENO**

Desktop Publishing: **CHRIS KITUTO and ILLUMINATA KIMEU**

Production: **WALLACE GITHENYA**
 Printer: **JUSTUS MUTUA MBITHI**
 Dark Room: **DAVID SYUKI and DANIEL MONY OPIYO**

Production Lecturers:
JOE KADHI and MAGAYU MAGAYU



COMMENTARY

Lecturers unfair in exam marking

By VINCENT MAKORI

The ambition of any student is to complete their course and get awarded the highest grade possible. In Kenya examinations are the most important aspect of formal education at all levels. However bright one is, whatever one does, it is the final examinations that determine the career pursued and sometimes, what one becomes. This is the tragedy of the education system.

Each year, thousands of Kenyan youth are branded failures because they have not attained certain grades in the examinations. Some cannot join university because they have not attained the cut-off points. Their dreams of getting university education are shattered.

There have been claims that the university marking system is wrought with irregularities stemming from the personalised nature of grading.

At the university, there are no marking schemes for examinations. The lecturer is the 'god' who determines one's fate. Woe unto you if you cross his path. They wield the power to award marks and their grades are rarely questioned. The lecturer is supposed to know what each student is worth and how they arrive at the grades in their business. Students have many times got intrigued to see half a mark on their Continuous Assessment Tests (CATs) papers. How a lecturer arrives at half a mark beats logic sometimes. Unfortunately, scripts for the main examinations are never released to the students and they never get to know where they went wrong.

A number of factors have been cited as interfering with fair grading at the university.

Some students have been given low grades not because they are weak but because the course lecturer did not like them. Reasons range from such a student being outspoken and sometimes openly disagreeing with

the lecturer over academic issues; having interest in the same woman, to tribal differences. Lately, even political differences have been cited as interfering with fair grading.

Some lecturers, as a rule, don't award any marks above 'C'. It is claimed that they don't want their students to get stronger degrees than they (lecturers) got. Others simply want to make students feel inadequate.

The male students may have suffered but their female counterparts have a painful story to tell. Most have suffered silently while others never discovered why their performance was so dismal, despite their hard work.

Some male lecturers have been accused of using grades as a bait to get sexual favours from female

The tragedy is that there is no redress system as the "crime" employs blackmail, which is sometimes very difficult to prove. In fact most of the administrators in the university deny the existence of widespread sexual harassment, while those who admit it claim that the cases are so few, that they are of no consequence. What does one expect when some are guilty of the same crime, including respectable and elderly professors?

Some lecturers argue that they cannot unfairly award low grades because external examiners have to verify the results. However, with the swelling numbers of undergraduate external examiners rarely go through all the scripts. Most times they only look at the highest and lowest score. Moreover, external examiners are fellow lecturers from other universities and most times close friends and they are unlikely to report irregularities.

There should be a system by which students can channel their complaints whenever they feel that a lecturer is denying the marks because of personal reason. This could be achieved by forming a committee comprising female and male lecturers to listen in confidence to complaints and investigate them. If the complaints are verified, the concerned lecturer should be disciplined by a higher officer. The committee could also ensure that the student is victimized for making complaints.

External examiners should be drawn from outside the country. The course lecturer should not know who the external marker is until all the papers are checked and recommendations made. The external examiner should discuss the papers with the course lecturer in the presence of two or more lecturers.

The above recommendations may look idealistic but given the value of examination results in this country those concerned should make every effort to ensure that there is fair play

Many of those ladies who are not willing to trade their bodies for grades have suffered depression, not knowing who to share their problems with.

students. Those ladies who cooperate get 'A's' while the 'stubborn' ones get 'punished' effectively. They will get poor grades in their CATs and even worse grades in the final paper. This has led to some sitting supplementary exams or emerging with miserable 'D's' in their finals. The results are that students who should have otherwise been awarded first class honours degrees may end up with second class lower division or even a pass. On the other hand, some who are weak end up with first class honours or second class upper division.

Many of those ladies who are not willing to trade their bodies for grades have suffered depression, not knowing who to share their problems with. Some, feeling so desperate and dreading the prospect of failing in their examinations, have given in to the giles of randy lecturers. After that, they feel cheap, used and hopeless.

The Anvil Magazine

Stripping at 'the box': The salient facts

By DENNIS ONYANGO AND
BEN OUMA

The experience he went through has left life long scars in his memory. He has seen too much to remain normal.

A new discipline method has emerged on campus. Male students are easily stripped in women's halls. This young man was a victim. What transpired during the stripping can set anybody off balance.

Stripped

The stripping of a stranger in Hall 12 last week was not the first incident and it will not be the last. Five other students have been stripped before and none of them is willing to talk.

Male students allege that a group of rich and influential females have formed a gang to terrorize them..

Two weeks ago, a source revealed, another male student believed to be from Kenyatta University was beaten and stripped in Box. In stoning women's halls, the male students were settling old scores.

"The whole affair is silly. There are married female students whose husbands can come here any time and stray into other rooms. They will face the stripping just because they are strangers," Evanson Amudavi, a third year Anthropology student says.

A few male students agree that the female students have genuine complaints. However, they say, stripping one another is a joke that has been taken too far.

Many students blame the commercialization of university services. The male students live with the illusion that many female students look down upon them because they are poor.

"Life has become difficult on campus. Male students cannot maintain girlfriends who they believe

An engineering student attends lectures at the main campus in style. He takes a matatu on State House Road, next to Sick Bay, pays ten shillings and drops at University Way. He then moves quickly to class where he avoids contact with anybody. Too proud to socialize?



should come from among their colleagues. Unlike in the past, they cannot go out and 'collect' because they do not have money. Even the 'collections' are aware these guys are broke and mean," a female student said.

Another male student said they have resorted to stripping because when they report such cases, the university takes no action. They have therefore decided to seek strength in unity.

Anomic Behaviour

These are strange times with strange goings on at the campus. Physical fights for girl friends among students were unheard of at public universities. There are more talks of

rape than was the case before. Today they have become prevalent.

Dr. Lewis Odhiambo, a lecturer at the School of Journalism, says a worrying trend of anomic behaviour is taking grip of the university. This, he says, is a direct reflection of the strange social trends brought by hard economic realities.

"The more people find it hard to meet their economic demands, the more they tend to embrace lawlessness as a way out," Dr. Odhiambo explains.

For the students, he continues, the problem is even more complicated. They have pursued education to this level to have a good future. They react to the sad realization that there is no security in the future.

Part of the problem could also be blamed on the university. Traditionally, a university is a cultural institution. It is identified with both high ideals and achievement. University is defined by its exclusive excellence. "The reduced capacity of the university to provide these norms is being reflected in the students' violent behaviour," Dr. Odhiambo says.

High school mentality

University culture which has been the controlling norm has become less pronounced as the university life continue to face the realities of the larger society.

The absence of a university culture, Dr. Odhiambo says, has led

to a lack of appreciation of what university is or what it stands for. Consequently, high school mentality and unconventional university behaviour have become the order of the day.

Feminist activism

The university appears to be a victim of the gender redefinition of self going on the world over. This is represented by a declining recognition of traditional gender roles. There is increased feminist activism among females and men are the most obvious victims. The result can be chaotic.

The changing definition of roles put men in a very difficult situation hence the bitterness between male and female students. Male students think their female counterparts look down upon them because they are poor. There is lack of economic security among men, Dr. Odhiambo says. This puts men in a tricky situation.

"Men have always been in charge of relationships, this is changing as their economic power declines. They now have to enter relationships as equals or at times as inferior partners, something most men can't imagine, hence the bitterness," Dr. Odhiambo explains.

Dr. Odhiambo also apports some blame to the society, particularly politicians. Recent political and social trends have influenced university students.

The students also seem to have lost confidence in the university to protect their interests. This makes the students survive in a vacuum, Dr. Odhiambo says adding that there are also very few cross gender activities which bring students together. Male and female students continually lead separate lives. Individual strategies is thus the norm.

Chaotic Behaviour

"A part from prayer sessions, where people do not lead their real lives, female and male students have nothing in common. Consequently, they always see themselves as competing with one another," Odhiambo says.

It is seen that the crowded conditions on campus, lack of funding, and playing environments, reduced students and staff contacts all get expression in the conflict and chaotic behaviour on campus, Dr. Odhiambo says.

Theatre production ends in controversy

By HUDSON LIYAI

The successful play staged at the Kenya National Theatre (KNT) ended last weekend on a controversial note, following a disagreement between the director and a script editor.

The Kiswahili play, *Kisima cha Kiningi* by Mohammed Abdulla, which is also a school set book, was adapted and directed by George Tyson, and supposedly edited jointly by David Mulwa and Kithaka

wa Mberia. For two weeks, it showed for a house full attracting thousands of school groups and other theatre enthusiasts.

Controversy started during the last two days when Kithaka wa Mberia, a linguistics lecturer at the University of Nairobi issued a signed disclaimer that he played any part in the production. "I would like to make known that I neither edited the script as purported nor have I participated in the production."

Talking to *The Anvil* Kithaka

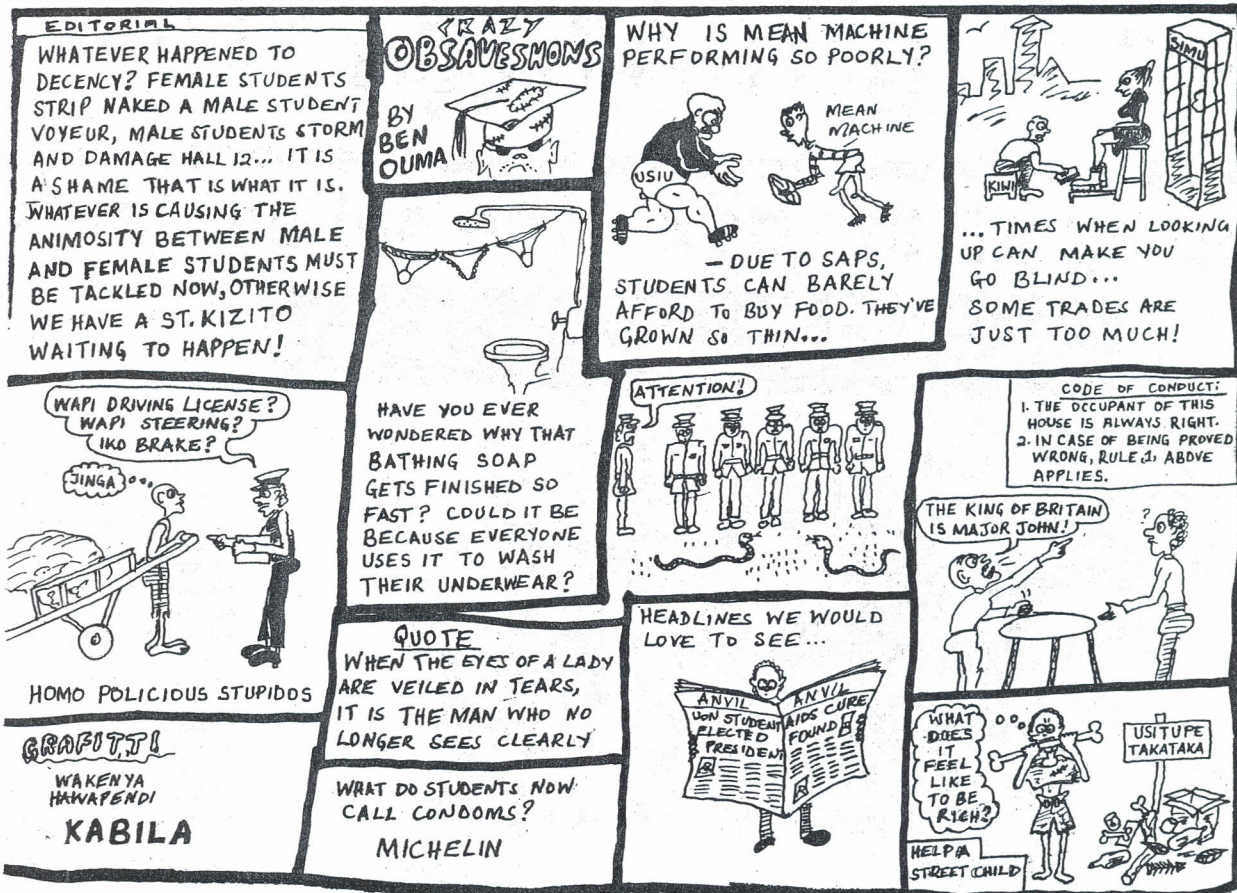
admitted that he had been approached for the particular role but declined because he did not have the time and at the same time, "the author is not my cup of tea," he said. Contacted by *The Anvil*, Tyson admitted that Kithaka did not take part in the editing of the script as earlier agreed. He pointed out that more than a month earlier the latter had agreed, in order to allow the production team to meet the deadlines of printing of posters bearing his name.

According to Tyson this was on

the understanding that Kithaka would later find time to "edit the script on stage during the rehearsals, as he was very busy at the time." Apparently he never did.

Reaction from the National Theatre management did not clarify the matter either. Talking to *The Anvil* in her office the manager, Mrs. Lydia Musyoki, clarified that the management was only involved in providing facilities, financial back-up and publicity for the play.

ANVIL FEATURE



Anthropology variety show carries the night

By BENJAMIN OUMA AND OBI OKEIGA

From safe sex to pure obscenity, a passionate love song to a christian acapella - these are some of the entertaining and informative activities that took place at the Education Theatre Two on the night June 12th during the inaugural Anthropology Cultural Night Show.

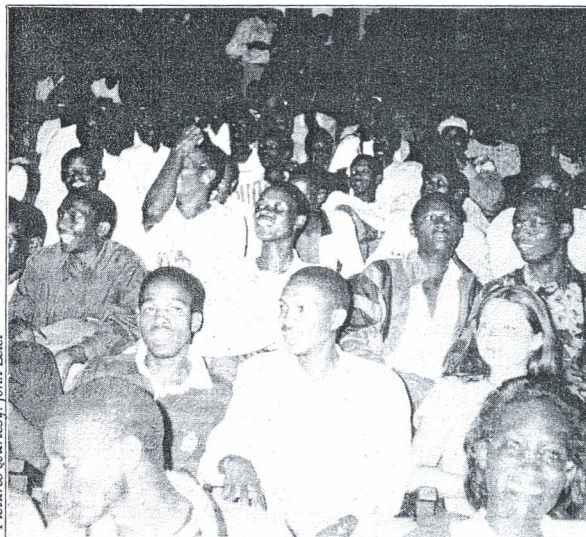
The show, which attracted a full house, had the audience screaming for more as the performers tried to outdo each other. The stage was set with such unlikely paraphernalia as five Sony radio cassettes, a less-shaped like a butterfly, several balloons and a strange slogan that said, 'Now that you are gone, who and what will you remember?'

It was a show full of the absurd, the unexpected and the unlikely. For the first time, students actually awarded prizes to their lecturers in such unlikely categories as Most Entertaining Lecturer (Dr Frank Kiragu), Most Humane Lecturer (Mr Tom Ondicho), Most Promising Lecturer (Mr Fred Mwendwa) and Most Articulate Lecturer (Dr Leonida Muruli).

The Cultural Night, though, did not have much 'culture' to offer. It started off over an hour late and most of the skits, poems and dances were western in orientation. Mercelaine Waitaha, a finalist student, opened it



Mr Jorim Oyoo alias Ras Oyoo an actor with the Kenya Aids Control Programme thrills the audience during the inaugural Anthropology Cultural Night Show.



Pictures courtesy: John Leita

with a speech full of poached phrases, including a paraphrase of Martin Luther King Jr's famous "I have a dream" speech. He conceded that the show idea was poached from the Kenyatta University's annual Cultural Week. Then the MC, Christine Mwangeli, ushered in Prof Osaga Odak who spoke on behalf of the Director, Institute of African Studies. He gave a brief history of Anthropology and its future. Curtain raisers were all poems.

They were followed by a one man show, where Jorim Oyoo belted out a rap song in Dholuo and English.

Tight Underwear

Incidentally, Oyoo is an artist with the Kenya Aids Control Programme, where he performs skits on Aids awareness. Then came a session of poems, an acapella song by Saly and Company, and a Kalenjin comedy on

'konokono na nyuki' performed by Mboti. Then one student hit the stage with an vulgar piece about grabbed parking lots.

The funniest part of the evening came with the unlikely skits where men took part in a fashion show and a beauty contest. The fashion show, a preserve of women, this time had one man who went too far and entered the stage virtually in the nude, save for extremely tight underwear. This was

somebody's idea of sportswear for body builders. Then there was a taste of the future when men in women's clothes paraded for the audience to pick out who was the fairest of them all. The winner turned out to be a man with feminine features, clad in a mini-skirt and a wig.

Other highlights of the evening included a crazy musical by four ladies dressed in an attire reminiscent of the 70's, who belted out strange tunes more likely to be heard at a drinking den; a soda drinking competition won by Ann Mureithi, who won fifty shillings and received a shower of coins; and a poet who ended up dancing to a lingala song.

Then Moses Man took the stage and performed a moving poem called 'mdudu', which dwelt on Aids, 'a big disease with a small name.' It advocated for abstinence as the best way to combat the scourge. Man Moses also performs skits with Pathfinder an NGO dealing with Aids awareness among the youth. His poem was given a standing ovation.

At the end of the event, one could not help but wish for more such creative activities from students. Despite the flaws in programming, the evening turned out to be thoroughly entertaining.

Southern Sudan: Decades of Death and Destruction

By PATRICK KAMANDA

As a semblance of normalcy returns to the Great Lakes region after months of bloodshed following the triumph of Laurent-Desire Kabila's Alliance in the new Democratic Republic of Congo, the world can once again switch its attention to the war in Southern Sudan, a war that has dragged on intermittently for several decades without respite for the millions of black Sudanese whose life has become one long nightmare. The Islamic regime of General Omar El-Bashir, seeking to perpetuate its fundamentalist doctrine as expounded by its ideologue, Dr Hassan el-Tourabi, seen by many as the real power behind the regime, has continued its military offensive to bring the predominantly black christian and animist southern Sudan under Islamic law.

However, this time the odds are heavily stacked against El-Bashir's regime. Most of the Nations bordering the Sudan are willing to provide the movements fighting against the Khartoum government either covert or overt



Gen. Omar el-Bashir



Hassan el-Tuorabi



Dr. Riek Marchar

support . Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea ,Uganda,the new Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to a much lesser extend, Kenya all support Southern Sudan based liberation movements. The war between black liberation movements spearheaded by Col (Dr) John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), and the forces of Islamic Sudan has so far claimed more than 1.4 million lives and more than 5 million people have been rendered homeless.

Many of the displaced live in refugee camps in neighbouring countries. Large sections of the population depend on air drops of relief food provided by humanitarian organizations based in the northern Kenya town of Lokichoggio. "Operation Lifeline Sudan" is the only hope remaining for thousands of southern sudanese who are not able to grow any crops because of the war.

This operation has been in existence for several years with the support of United Nations organizations and a number of international relief agencies. It is disheartening but not surprising that the Sudanese government has resorted to using food as a weapon to fight the inhabitants of the southern region. Recent reports from Operation Lifeline Sudan, that the Khartoum regime has refused to renew clearance for relief flights to the war ravaged southern region is an indication of the contempt that this regime has for the black africans in the south. The government of El-Bashir has committed numerous atrocities against its black non-muslim population, including genocide, slavery, forced recruitment in its armies and most devious of all, starving the people by denying them their only means of existence, relief food. As an exiled

catholic cleric, Bishop Macram Max Gassis remarked recently , "the governments hands are dripping with blood"

The recent peace pact between El-Bashir's regime and several rebel leaders led by Dr Riek Marchar, leader of the Sudanese United Democratic Salvation Front, should be seen as an attempt by the Khartoum regime to postpone the liberation of black Sudan from decades of exploitation and oppression by the Arabs who have been running successive Sudanese regimes since the British left in 1956.

This attempt to hoodwink the suffering masses of Sudan has already been dismissed as a farce by the leader of SPLM Col (Dr) John Garang . The leader of the other major liberation movement, SPLM united, Mr Lam Akol referred to the pact as "simply an

agreement among friends". When Gen El-Bashir met President Yoweri Museveni recently under the chairmanship of President Moi of Kenya, political analysts may have wondered whether the Khartoum regime had finally abandoned its long cherished dream of creating an Islamic state modelled along the lines of Iran.

President Museveni's support of the liberation movements in the southern region has tilted the balance and the Islamic regime may soon be forced to decide if it is in the best of her interests to continue subjugating its non-muslim population. Latest reports from the war front indicate that the towns of Gogrial and Wau in the Bahr-el-Ghazal region have fallen to SPLM forces and the Garrison town of Juba is threatened. African leaders seem to have realised at last that if some of the persistent problems facing the continent are to be resolved, they have to be prepared to take decisive steps. The issue of non-interference in other sovereign state's matters should not arise, especially when such states commit atrocities against certain sections of their population. The solution to the problems in Sudan may have to be sought on the war front, the only language that military leaders like El-Bashir and Mobutu seem to understand.

No student activism at main campus

By DENNIS ONYANGO

Activist students' politics was for a long time a preserve of the University of Nairobi's Main Campus. Currently, however, radicalism seems to have taken root at the Kikuyu Campus. What is stirring the teachers?

"Probably radicalism is everywhere. The youth always want to take lead. Among students, activism depends on what is at stake," Dr. Odegi Awuondo, a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology at the University, says.

The University of Nairobi is no longer the thorn in the flesh it used to be to the Government in the '70s and early 80s. What killed the fighter's spirit?

"There have been more purges and rehabilitations, students' deaths and detentions at the Main Campus than at other universities and campuses," Mr. Musoso, at the department adds.

"The lecturers have realised it is a waste of time talking to a government that does not listen. They now make technical appearances in class and go out to do other things," a lecturer says

But Mr. Musoso says there are other factors explaining the shift in student politics, to Kikuyu Campus, Kenyatta and Egerton Universities.

Kikuyu Campus, Mr. Musoso says, has many youthful and liberal lecturers, who would like to see things done the way they are supposed to be. Main campus has old lecturers who are conservative and determined to maintain the status quo.

Besides, he explains, many lecturers at the main campus have known terrible times before. Some of them are watched keenly by the administration. Knowing which side of their bread is buttered, they have decided to halt.

Musoso adds that the other universities are smaller, compared to Main campus or the University of Nairobi as a whole. Dr. Awuondo could not agree more but not before he asks, what happened to the belief that there is strength in numbers?

He has an answer. Kikuyu Campus, Kenyatta and Egerton universities are concentrated in one place. The relationship between the students is therefore very personal, unlike the situation at the Main Campus or the entire University of Nairobi.

Close students' interaction facilitates agitation. The main campus is segmented, Dr. Awuondo explains, saying that the main reason for dividing the university into many campuses separated by faculty and distance was to reduce the strength of students, believed to lie in their numbers.

Conditions for organising have been made more difficult at the University of Nairobi by segmentation. The segmentation has alienated students from one another. The sense of community has been destroyed. It is possible to have a very serious issue but it may only affect a faculty. That is not the case in KU where students are at one place and whatever happens affects almost all students. But has KU not always been at one place? Why have they not taken lead in the past?

Dr. Awuondo has an answer to this too. The University of Nairobi, has always taken



lead in all issues. This goes back to its historical origins and its location. It gets information before other universities. Being the first university in Kenya, it was always at the forefront.

Yet there is an interesting observation. At the University of Nairobi, the assumption has been that whatever does not affect the Faculty of Arts will not generate much heat. Radical approach to issues is confined to this faculty. Some have reasoned that students at the faculty are less busy, hence engage in acts of violence, to feel the gap. Dr.

Awuondo disagrees.

Contrary to popular belief, radical student politics indicate that students have absorbed what they learn. It does not indicate emptiness. A little radicalism is healthy to learning, Dr. Awuondo says.

To justify this, Dr. Awuondo says standards were higher in the 70s than they are now. At that time, students radicalism was at its peak. He criticises the separation of disciplines that were meant to supplement each other saying it has led to half baked graduates.

The separation of government and sociology was for instance meant to contain radicalism. There are Marxist ideologies in both Sociology and Government. The marriage of the two produced sharp students who could articulate critical issues. That is no longer the case, he laments.

He also cites the absence of a unifying students body, but is quick to emphasise that students' activism depends on issues at stake. We know what is at stake in Kikuyu or at KU, Egerton from last December.

Who will save the elephants?

Putting animals first

By OBI OKEIGA

Southern African countries are set on a collision course with conservationists over an almost total ban on international trade in elephant ivory.

According to the current Panos Briefings, a publication on issues of environment and development, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia intend to press for the eight year old ban to be lifted at the 10th full meeting of the convention on international trade in endangered species of fauna and flora (CITES).

The debate over ivory goes to the heart of how wildlife in developing countries can best be preserved: by sustainable and profitable use, or by protection behind the fences and armed game patrols of national parks.

Kenya was set to lift the ban on sport-hunting by March this year. Mrs. Kuki Gallman of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum was fronting the campaign.

With endorsement from Dr. David Western, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Director, Mrs. Gallman the Machakos Wildlife Forum and the Naivasha Wildlife Forum almost turned tables in support of sport-hunting.

Fee-paying hunting is a big money earner with a sport-hunter scheduled to pay a land-owner as much as Ksh. 1.62m to kill an elephant as opposed to only Ksh. 20,000 in culling.

Dr. Western was quoted by then saying: "Fee-paying hunting can be controlled under a pilot programme". He qualified the year long "experimental" programme reverting to sport-hunting of non-endangered species as zebras at US\$ 600 against US\$150 in culling; eland and impala US\$1,000 and US\$ 250 respectively while the culled animals will only bring in US\$250 and US\$ 125 respectively.

Dr. Richard Leakey, the immediate former and founding director of KWS, said "Lifting the ban could lead to indiscriminate slaughter of animals".

The East African Wildlife Society's Chief Executive, Mr. Nehemiah Rotich, reminded Kenyans of the dangers to wildlife if the government okayed sport-hunting. He cautioned. "Animal population censuses figures from the Department of Research Surveys and Remote Sensing

indicate that in the last 18 years, there has been a 48 to 62 per cent loss of all wildlife species in areas outside parks and reserves. Is it to be expected that hunting will halt this decline?"

Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia have a combined elephant population of 150,000. The three countries assert that there is no reason for barring them from profiting once more from the trade.

These countries might find it worthwhile to be allowed to sell stockpiles of ivory but going by Kenya's experience, licensing limited game-hunting anywhere in Africa could provide a precedent for the return of continent-wide hunting; at least where wild game exists.

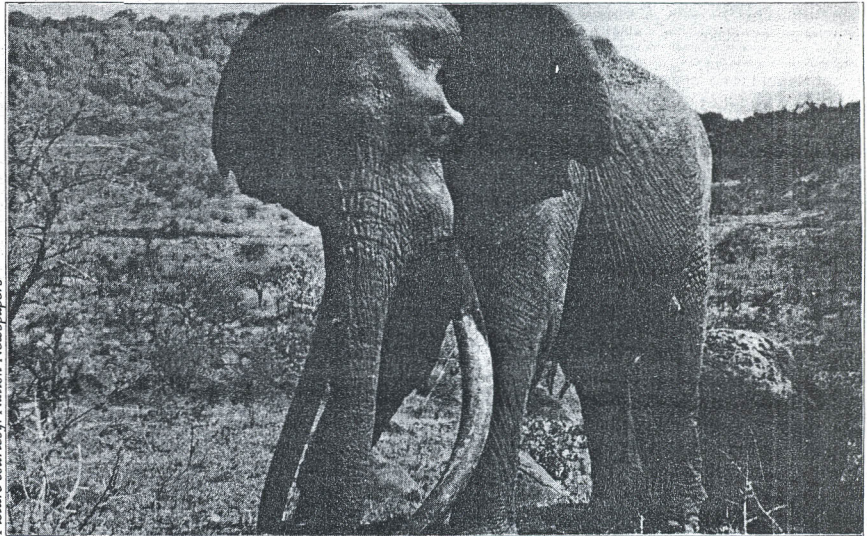
CITES has been criticised for not having due regard for the interests of people on whose land endangered species roam. It is claimed that CITES has, in recent years, become a vehicle for richer urbanised countries to keep large animals under official protection not to save them from extinction but to uphold romantic ideals of animal rights."

Some environmentalists argue that the locals would benefit once old hunting parks and conservation areas were created and sustained. Environmental economists have realised that this balance has not

"Elephants need to pay their way if they are not to be pushed back by agriculture and livestock."

been realised.

Dhyami Berger, a Kenya wildlife consultant, did not see ready benefits to the Maasai in Kenya from the wildlife they are supposed to co-exist with. He had this to say, "increasing numbers of Maasai are benefiting from tourism, but at a cost. A few have made external business links and political affiliations but others have seen no benefits." This split has created a wealth gap. There is conflict in Kenya regarding ownership of lodges and sharing of wildlife revenues. Such a scenario has reduced the Maasai from lords of the land to trinket sellers; the sale



The elephant has been in danger of extinction because of the high value many societies attach to its ivory tusks. Environmentalists caution that relaxing the ban will make it an endangered species.

of handicrafts and other forms of cultural tourism having drawn people to settle near parks.

During the recent famine in Kenya, a number of the communities around game reserves and parks were arguing that, Kenya might be better off if it rounded up the wildlife and turned the rich soils in these vast lands into irrigated agricultural production.

Banishing maasais and other communities surrounding such

Dr. Western of KWS contends that, "In East Africa, the ending if human activity in the parks, such as fires and shifting cultivation has reduced bio-diversity" He adds that those human activities created the patchiness of terrain that encouraged more species. By pulling out the human component, and maintaining too many elephants, we are losing bio-diversity. But is this the message Kenya wants to put across?

economic or educational opportunity or protection against disease, drought or malnutrition, a better approach to conservation must be put in place. People feel passionately about the fate of endangered species, and rightly so. But we must meet the needs of poor people today if the wider and longer conservation goals are to be achieved.

While many conservationists back the idea of parks, better matched to people's needs, some leading conservation figures are now calling in effect for the end of parks in the name of sustainable environmentalism.

Indeed every effort should be made towards addressing the issue of conflict between wildlife and humans and in this hunting cannot be brushed aside.

Martin Holdgate, the former head of the World Conservation Union, the world's largest alliance of conservation scientists concurs with the new approach in which people rediscover ways to live in harmony with wildlife, rather than be totally separated from it.

Those advocating for a "sustainable" 21st Century in which "there will be few large tracts of wilderness left, and that such areas only remain where nature's protective barriers of mountain, ice or climatic ferocity are extreme, might be offering the best solution to legitimate conservation.

The UK Worldwide Fund for Nature director, Robbin Pellew, has the following message that deserves consideration: "People come first. We need a pragmatic approach, using wildlife for the benefit of the local people to give incentives for its conservation." This advice can only work if and when CITES members have a common goal, taking care of human rights as well.

Sub-Saharan Africa, as elsewhere in the world, must not become a playground for the rich of the developed North. It is not a theme park. As home to over 300 million people, many without

Human rights body decries violence on street children

By JOSEPH NGURE, NAFTALI MUNGAI AND LUCY NDICHU

lasters Karume Chome and Donanso Mshehe among numerous street children now roaming airobi streets, all the way from Coast Province.

Their beat is along Koinange Street-Kenyatta venue junction where they beg money from motorists and passersby. "We beg from whoever takes pity on us and we do not steal or sniff glue," says Karume.

"We live in a group of five around Florida 2000 as family. In the evening we share what we have with those of us who were not lucky to get anything," adds Karume.

The children complained: "The police round us up, take us to approved Schools where we are taught for only an hour or two, dig shambas, clean the policemen's homes, look after cattle and then fed on poor bean rations" says Karume.

According to the Human rights watch, over 40,000 Kenyan children are living on the streets. "These children face harassment and abuse from the police and within the juvenile justice system simply because they are homeless," says the human rights organisation.

In a report compiled by the international organisation, titled *Uneven Injustice, Police Abuse and Retention of Street Children in Kenya*, Human Rights Watch charges the Government with failure to hold law enforcement personnel accountable for abuses committed against street children.

Although police and government officials maintain that children are rounded up for the purposes of reuniting them with their families or

placing them in institutions for their care, the manner in which the children are treated, both by police and within institutions, belies such intentions.

These children are arrested and dealt with as criminals. They are charged with "vagrancy," a criminal offence under the law.

The notion that the government is helping these children by locking them up in jail cells or remand prisons, under horrible conditions where they are mixed with serious criminal

offenders is preposterous. "These children are processed through courts without legal representation or any type of assistance, and end up in correctional facilities that are downright Dickensian," says Lois Whitman, director of the Human Rights Watch Children's Watch.

The reports says that street children are often harassed and beaten by police on streets, paying bribes in order to avoid arrest.

"Violence against street children

has also risen to a deadly level in recent years," the report continues.

Recently a street boy was lynched by a mob for allegedly stealing a sweet. "Despite the evidence that the use of deadly force was wholly unwarranted, to our knowledge no charges or even disciplinary proceedings have been brought against the culprits," says Yodon Thoden, staff attorney for the rights body Project and the author of the report.



Street children feeding from a dustbin.

Picture Courtesy: Nation Newspapers

The organisation recommends that the government should amend or repeal the Vagrancy Act so that being "without fixed abode" is no longer a criminal offense for the children and not grounds for arrest.

The report urges the government to ensure that the Children's Bill—the bill which seeks to reform and replace the Children and Young Persons Act—clearly separates criminal from protection cases for children, and that children receive all due protections required by international law when deprivation of liberty is at issue.

"Eliminate from existing laws and regulations all provisions authorising corporal punishment, reduction in diet, and solitary confinement as punishment for children," says the author.

Mr Thoden recommends that all those entrusted with these should be specially educated and trained to handle children's cases. Police, probation officers dealing with children should be sensitized to the special needs and rights of children.

Night life

By KEMUNTO OIRURIA

A week long diary of campus late night events is not just amazing but also terrifying.

The City Council askaris attempt on Monday evening to pull down the kiosks along Mamlaka Road were thwarted by the irate students.

On Wednesday it was the storming of Florida. Before long the chaos spread to the university. The standoff between the male and female students over a fellow student had hardly cooled off before the blast in Mamlaka Block-A took the university community by surprise.

On Monday, at 10.00 p.m., the action hour, screams at the lower halls attracts attention of those in the upper halls and within a while a crowd becomes big to raise an alarm.

"Thief! Thief! lynch him." Armed students rush towards the security office. A group of students are pushed into security room.

"We want his blood." A colleague screams from the SWA building. "Ni comrade Bwana," another shouts.

In hall 10, a student left his room, went to the next floor and took of with an emulsion heater. A day after the owner finds it and the boy finds himself in the hands of lawless comrades.

"He been is beaten. Were it not for his friends the story would be different," a security officer says.

Today is another day and another of the incidents will certainly be there. A number of others go unnoticed. The motorists on State House Road are likely to be unpredictable victims of the stressed lot of students.

Women: Victims of cultural laws

BY STELLA OTIENO

Religious beliefs and cultural practices have played an important role in perpetuating exploitation of women.

The stereotypes have been created over the years and internalised in the psychological make-up of the human race. This has culminated in the denial of human rights to women.

It is due to this that a special convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women was promulgated to protect them from practices that discriminate against them.

At a synod on African women (1994) in Nairobi, bishops expressed horror at the discrimination and marginalisation that women are subjected in the church and society.

Although societies are becoming liberal, this liberalism is yet to be extended to women. In Kenya, a few women are now seen to be enjoying upward social mobility while the general mass still suffers the disabilities imposed on them by society. In some companies where men and women are employed at the same time, the men rise faster than the women. It is important to have

equal opportunities for both men and women according to their job descriptions.

At a seminar held for journalists on Human Rights, Professor Mohammed Bakari of the University of Nairobi, deplored the role families are playing in demarcating the roles of the boy and girl child. He said although families are supposed to promote human rights, girls are taught to be different from boys. Giving an

pressure to get married early are rampant, a phenomenon that poses a danger to educational opportunities for girls.

Women have been depicted as a sex-objects through erotic advertisements and pageant shows. The age-old traditional attitudes about women being men's personal possessions has persisted. This very often leads to sexual harassment. In Kenya, several advertisements have

on girls. It is an issue that ought to be discussed in a parliamentary forum. When such a motion came up for discussion in parliament, it was rejected unanimously. A lady MP is quoted to have supported the practice.

Cases of wife beating are rarely reported and when they are, they get dismissed as domestic affairs. Dr Ling M Kituyi, speaking on torture said very few women come forward to complain about torture.

Women have been disadvantaged in vital areas like the ownership of property. They have no rights to own property. Historically women were owned by men. The logic then was, how could they own property? Reasons for denial of ownership of property by women range from cultural to religious. Some sections in Islam do not allow women to inherit property though Islam grants this right.

There are enormous disparities between the social, economic, and political status of women and men. However, one has to appreciate the conscious effort to promote gifted and educated women to positions of responsibility. There is a general acceptance of women as equals by men. This however is the exception rather than the rule.

Physical abuse against women is rampant in African societies, as exemplified by female genital mutilation, or female circumcision. This practice has far reaching effects on girls. It is an issue that ought to be discussed in a parliamentary forum.

example of Japan where girls education is taken as seriously, he noted that women make better mothers when educated.

The boy child still enjoys higher chances of being educated in many Kenyan societies. Indeed, in the Kuria community, cases of girls dropping out of school as a result of parental

depicted women as either objects or inferior to man. Reference is made of certain items that are considered beautiful as "her".

Physical abuse against women is rampant in African societies, as exemplified by female genital mutilation, or female circumcision. This practise has far reaching effects

NEWS ANALYSIS

Engineering syllabi set for revision

In this edition of The Anvil, Irene Wanyanga and Onaya-Odeck talk to Prof. Francis Aduol, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Nairobi, over the proposed change of the engineering curriculum.

Anvil: It has been alleged that your engineering graduates are half-baked. What is your opinion?

Prof. Aduol: That is not true and whoever alleges that has not told us. For the last many years our students have been taught by some of the best staff. In many universities outside Kenya, our graduates excelled in their graduate studies. They may, however, lack some hands-on industry practical experience.

Anvil: Prof. Aduol, it seems there is no practical content and industrial attachment in your programmes. What do you intend to do about this?

Prof. Aduol: The industrial attachment has only been compulsory for mechanical engineering students. But it is now going to be compulsory for all engineering degree students. It will be formalized so that it is properly supervised and examined like any other course units.

Anvil: How about Curricula?

Prof. Aduol: The current curricula and course programmes for both undergraduates and postgraduates are not logical and in some cases, irrelevant or outdated. There is therefore a need to review them to accommodate recent scientific and technological advances in the education and training of engineers



Picture by Jemostrey Misozi

Prof. Francis Aduol

We want to develop effective, relevant and broad-based degree programmes in the Faculty.

Anvil: How are you going to do this?

Prof. Aduol: The Faculty is considering offering two types of degree programmes: Bachelor of Science in Engineering (B.Sc Eng) and a Master of Science in Engineering (M.Sc Eng) which is going to be scientifically oriented; and Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng) and Master of Engineering (M.Eng) which is going to be industry oriented.

Anvil: Can you explain further the meaning of these programmes?

Prof. Aduol: The Bachelor of Science in Engineering B.Sc (Eng) course would be offered to students who wish to pursue a more-or less scientifically oriented programme, with a more in-depth scientific exposition of engineering principles and concepts with insights into the "science of Engineering". The

course should have an industrial attachment of not less than twelve weeks. The Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng) on the other hand would seek to prepare graduates principally for careers in industry. It would focus on "applied engineering", whereby students would undergo industrial attachment of at least six months.

Anvil: The issue of examination failures in the Faculty is of public concern. What can you say about it?

Prof. Aduol: It is true the rate of failures in the Faculty is high particularly in the 2nd. As students go to the 5th year however the rate reduces considerably. The failure mainly attributed to poor knowledge of mathematics by the students. In 2nd year they are required to apply their mathematical skills to solve engineering problems but in most

cases they are found wanting in this requirement.

Anvil: What is the Faculty going to do about this?

Prof. Aduol: At the moment we handle this by having mathematics lecturer from the Faculty of Science to teach our students. This however has not been a successful arrangement. The faculty is therefore arranging to establish its own maths department to be closely monitored in-house in handling this matter.

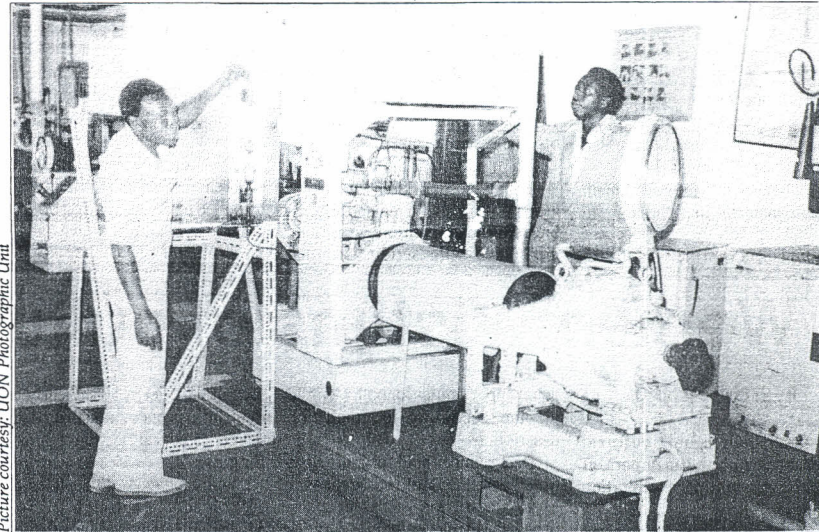
Anvil: What tangible and practical contributions do you expect the Industry to play in these new proposals?

Prof. Aduol: The industry's contribution to the Faculty is of immense potential. We only need to tap it. For example you may wish to know that the curricula seminar we had in May largely succeeded

because of generous material goodwill support from the industry. We will continue consulting collaborating on matters attachments, professional experienced discussions/semi joint research projects, donating physical machinery and equipment and many others. The onus is on faculty to take the initiative approach the industry so it knows who we are, what we doing and what we can do.

Anvil: How soon do you expect to implement these proposals?

Prof. Aduol: As soon as they are considered and approved by Senate we shall implement them. We are ready to begin even as early as beginning of the next academic year in November this year.



Picture courtesy: UON Photographic Unit

Engineering students in a workshop. Complaints of half baked graduates are common.

Herbal extracts: Do they really work?

By LILY ADUKE

"I lost 15.5 kilos and kept it off 11 years using the products consistently. My waist has shrunk six inches and I'm much more physically active," says Al Hyman of California, USA.

"I was a herdsman milking cows before discovering Herbalife. I was underweight and the products helped me gain 9.5 kilos," says Gary Skillman of N. Sussex, England.

Herbalife Products

Jolanta Kursak of Wasmec, Belgium explains that she suffered from Anorexia nervosa, an eating disorder, for 18 months. Although she had weekly vitamin injections, she grew weaker and her desire for food diminished. When she started using herbalife products, she gained her vitality.

This is the international success story of nutritional health products that has tantalised and enticed many

Kenyan. Besides Herbalife International, which originates from Beverly Hills, California, there is Golden Neo-Life Diamite International (GNLD) from South Africa and Seven Seas from China, currently in the Kenyan market.

A few years ago, the Kenyan society was not particularly concerned about appearance and health. This has since changed. However, today's busy life-style, does not allow much time to watch what, where and how often we eat or not eat at all. It also does not give much time for physical exercise. That is why the concept of natural weight control and health management system looks attractive.

The natural health products promise to assist weight gain, weight loss and maintenance; promote a healthy, smooth, clear skin; assist bone and teeth formation; aid night vision; help the body's ability to cope with pollutants, provide essential ingredients for fertility and contribute to the general healthy function of the

body, among other advantages.

These organisations boasts of assortments of nutritionally sound, safe and effective products. The range of products offered are herbal beverages, cellular nutrition protein drinks, tablets that eliminate excessive fats, multi-mineral and multi-vitamin supplements for children, among others. Reactions on the efficacy of these products in the Kenyan scenario are varied.

"My mother-law has been arthritic for along time. We have been spending Kshs. 5,000 per month on her medical expenses. We are willing to invest Kshs. 40,000 on these natural health products because it has worked for somebody else who had a similar problem. It will solve her problem once for all," says a Kenyan lady.

Bouts of Diarrhoea

"My twins suffer from never ending common colds. A friend advised that we try some of these

natural health products. I have been giving them the shakes regularly but I have not seen any difference. Besides, my husband has been on some of those tablets made from natural extracts. The side effects are disturbing. Instead of regular bowel movement, he experiences constipation for a number of days followed by severe bouts of diarrhoea," complains Mary Onyango, a Nairobi housewife.

"I considered myself overweight. I wanted the slim-line. These natural products were God-sent after experimenting with other slimming methods. I am disappointed because I'm losing weight at an alarming rate. I have been forced to stop," laments a user who requested anonymity.

The following extract is from the Daily Nation of June 14th, 1997. "An Unapproved Chinese Herbal drug is being administered to unsuspecting burns patients at the Kenyatta National Hospital.

Three of the patients on the drugs,

Known as Mebo, are said to have died. However, it could not be confirmed whether the death is the drug."

According to the same report Mwanzia, Director of Medical Services and Professor Mwangi, Director of Health Services at Kenyatta National Hospital, are wishing to clinically test a drug submitted to a proper protocol proposal by the ethics committee.

Foreign herbal extra

The Information officer at the Medical Research Institute, (K) Mr. Bernard Muthuka said that the foreign herbal extracts are not any local herbal medicine organization.

Dr. Koskei, the registrar of the Ministry of Health and Prof. Meme have not been available for comment.

With sports, who needs politics?

By TSUMA CHRIS

People in Africa and other parts of Third World are certainly tired and disillusioned with politicians and politics. They feel let down by politicians who promise them heaven during election campaigns and deliver hell, if they deliver anything at all. They are turning elsewhere for consolation and hope. Sports is just part of what people are turning to for soothing the wounds inflicted mostly by politicians.

Good political leaders are hard to come by. Good sportsmen and women are there in plenty and this is where people are turning and finding their heroes and heroines.

With the Kenyan cricket team beating test playing giants like West Indies, with the youthful Harambee Stars setting the Kasarani terraces alight with their tantalizing skill and speed, or with the Nigerian "Dream Team" taming household names in soccer like Brazil and Argentina at Atlanta to bring Olympic football glory to Africa, who needs politics?

Who cares for politics and lying politicians when you can turn to the sports page of your favourite newspaper and read of the exploits of the likes of Moses Tanui, Tecla Lorupe, Cosmas Ndeti, Daniel Komen and many others as they traverse the world, setting and smashing athletics records at will?

Who has time for the feuding leaders of factionalized political parties when you can turn on your small television set and treat yourself to the thrills of the English Premier League, or wait for 1.30 p.m on Sundays for a dose of the magical athleticism of Michael Jordan, Dikembe Mutombo, John Stockton,



Picture by Chris Tsuma

Tiny Hero: Stars midfielder John Odhiambo carried shoulder high after stars beat Guinea.

Hakeem Olajuwon, Shawn Kemp and the rest as they slam and dunk on NBA's game of the week?

In a profile on George Weah, the Liberian AC Milan striker then at Paris St. Germaine, African Soccer writer Emmanuel Maradas says that Weah is more popular at home than the warlords who have torn the country into shreds. (African Soccer, Feb. March/April 1995). That is indisputable, as is the case with Imran Khan, the former Pakistani national cricket team captain who is so popular at home that so much pressure has been brought to bear upon him to run for premiership.

The "Fabisch For President." banners that have graced the terraces of the Moi International Sports Centre during Harambee Stars matches since January may appear ridiculous but at least they sent a message - "This is where our heroes are."

The politicians who have attended those matches must have gnashed their teeth and wondered why they

are never able to draw such great turnouts to their rallies as the one that graced the Harambee Stars versus Super Eagles duel on January 12th, this year. They must wish that the "Mexican wave" of delirious fans that goes round the terraces would be an acknowledgement of their political hot air

It is such a humbling experience for them (politicians), to come to a place that is packed to capacity as Kasarani was on 12th January 1997, where the centre of attention is not them but twenty two youngsters keeping thousands of ecstatic fans on their feet with a flick here, a dummy and a swivel there, an overlapping run down the wing, a cross and a searing volley into the roof of the net.

When Nigeria won the Olympic soccer gold medal last year, Onyango-Obo a columnist with *The East African* newspaper made some rather startling remarks in his column over the Super Eagles victory. He claimed that the Nigerians chose to

win the gold at a wrong time in reference to the military incumbents in that country. But the Super Eagles did not win the gold medal for the clique of soldiers currently ruling Nigeria, they did it for their country and for themselves. If General Abacha claimed the glory for himself, then he certainly was taking credit that was not due to him.

What was even more startling about Onyango-Obo's piece was his attempt to link sporting success to democracy or good governance. His example here was Botswana, perhaps the most democratic country in Black Africa. He asked if anyone knows the nickname of Botswana's national soccer team. That country is not famous for sporting excellence as compared to other African countries. What is not clear is whether its relative low sporting standards are due to the good democratic governance or vice versa

Ben Carson, a Black American neurosurgeon, in his book "*Gifted Hands*" says youth waste their lives in sports instead of concentrating on their class work

Yes, perhaps, but not quite because even in the United States, Blacks, however brilliant they may be, are still discriminated against and therefore disadvantaged. The society in which they live does not accord them the opportunity to realize their full academic potential. Besides, quality education is still beyond the financial reach of many of them and they have to make careers and earn their living. If they can do that in sports, why not?

For the youth in the Third World countries where the main worry is how to get the next meal, let alone how to go to school, sports is a major source of sustenance.

Locals fail to qualify for Sicily

By STELLA OTIENO

Local based athletes failed to meet the qualifying times for the World University Games set for Sicily in August this year. Six universities and Maseno College participated in the two day Inter-Universities Athletics Championships held at Chepkoilel Campus on 14th and 15th, June 1997.

Kenyatta University took the first position while Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology came second. Egerton was third followed by Moi, Maseno, U.S.I.U and Nairobi University in the last position.

Pathetic state

During the meet athletes showed an improved performance from previous meets but still failed to impress. Only foreign based athletes had made the qualifying times for the world meet. They are Daniel Njenga who is the 3000 steeplechase defending champion, John Mborothi, Paul Kang'ara and Sammy Nyamongo.

The best male athlete was Mark Saina of Kenyatta University. The award for the best female athlete went to Lily Chebet of Jomo Kenyatta. The team awards were shared between Kenyatta and Jomo Kenyatta who took Men and women respectively.

The guest of honour, Prof David K. Some, while addressing the participants deplored the pathetic state in which the teams appeared. There was no team with proper uniforms and it was difficult to identify one team from another. He urged University administrations to provide kit for their teams.

The team that was selected will represent the Universities at the National Championship scheduled for June 26th-28th.

Cafeteria or Karate Gym?

By HUDSON LIYAI

The main stand of the Chancellors Court, built at a cost of 22 million Ksh. is idle for a year when it should have been built to accommodate some indoor games.

The Willoughby Hall of the Cafeteria at the Main Campus has now been turned into a gym for Karate training in the evenings. This has aroused complaints from the patrons of the neighbouring Senior Common Room, who feel disturbed by the yells from the martial. The staff of the cafeteria have to clean up and reset the place for serving meals every morning.

University Games Tutor, Mr. Ngugi, told *The Anvil* this was due to lack of alternative facilities. He is of the opinion that even as it is, the main stand of the graduation ground which stands in the university playgrounds can still be used for a number of games instead of just staying idle for a whole year until the next graduation ceremony.

Machine still in trouble

By STELLA OTIENO

Mean Machine recovered from a series of losses to register their second win this season against Mombasa Sports Club 2-0 at the University grounds last week-end.

However, hope of regaining their lost glory continued to dwindle when they lost all the week-end matches. Mean Machine 'A' were thrashed at home by Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB). KCB led 2-0 in the first half. In the second half Machine put up a fight but eventually lost to KCB 4-1.

At the same time Mean Machine (B) were reduced to spectators in the field when they lost 4-0 to Mwamba. This was their third loss in a row.

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary this year Machine has an uphill task to win the remaining matches. The Vice-Captain, Paul Okong'o, said the club is faced with problems ranging from buying their own boots to lack of transport. They have had to

cater for their own transport and subsistence whenever they go out. They also lack a coach to co-ordinate their activities.

Meanwhile the prestigious Safari

Sevens kicks off on the June 28. According to the organisers the tickets for the event are on sale at various outlets and will also be available at the gate.



Picture Courtesy: Nation Newspapers

Mean Machine in the old days. They're having a lean period.

Nairobi University staff not underpaid, insists Munavu

BY DENNIS ONYANGO

The Deputy Vice-chancellor in charge of Administration and Finance, Professor Raphael Munavu, has denied reports that staff at the University of Nairobi earn lower salaries than their counterparts in other universities.

Talking to *The Anvil*, Prof. Munavu said public universities operate under the same salary scale for similar jobs because they get money from the same ex-chequer. He said talk of salary differences was mere allegation and challenged the employees to prove that disparities exist.

Early this week, *The Anvil* reported that the medical staff were lamenting over low pay and attributed the laxity at the students health centre to lack of motivation.

He denied reports that Nairobi and Aga Khan hospitals have stopped treating university staff saying they still have accounts with the two institutions.

The hospitals, he said, offer services to senior academic and administrative staff who require specialised treatment, adding that they also allow any other member of staff who may have serious problems because "sickness does not discriminate."

Prof. Munavu said they do not have serious shortage of staff at the health centre because they have



File picture
Dons at one of the past graduation ceremonies. Are they getting what their colleagues get elsewhere?

continued to advertise and recruit to fill vacancies. However, he said, the medical staff are dynamic and the number is not constant as some retire or move to other institutions.

He reiterated that the university has the Development, Planning and Establishment Committee which makes recommendations on university departments including health services.

The academician said it was necessary to consider the ratio between clinical officers to that of

students and other members of staff before concluding that the health centre was understaffed. Such facts, he said, could only be made available by the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. B. M. Kilonzo, who was said to be out of office.

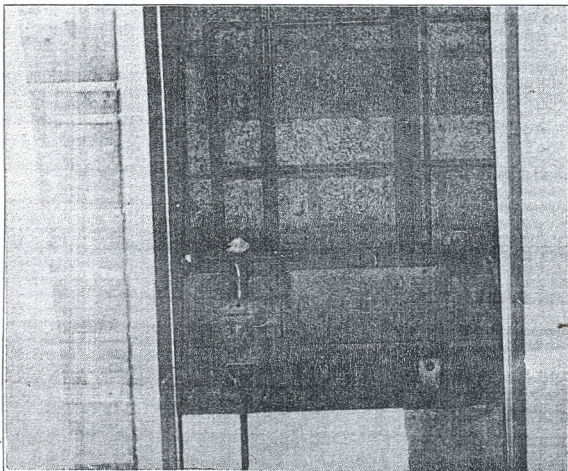
The Deputy Vice Chancellor reaffirmed his earlier announcement that the university health services will soon be open to the public as part of income generation plans. He, however, clarified that this will only take place when the university is

fully prepared to implement the plan which includes making the theatre fully operational.

However, he said they will continue giving priority to students and the staff of the university. "The students and staff are our most important clients and they will have to be satisfied first before we seek to satisfy any other person."

"We realize that health is vital in learning, that is why we take students' complaints very seriously," he said.

Broken down lifts: Disabled students' agony



File picture
One of the many stalled lifts at the Main Campus.

By JOSEPH NGURE

Disabled students and staff at the University of Nairobi are experiencing serious problems due to stalled elevators.

At the Jomo Kenyatta library, a 4th year physically handicapped Anthropology student, Mr Dan Ogolla said, even after reporting the matter to the librarian it has not been rectified. He added "This lift is the

worst. For a long time we have been climbing the stairs and nobody seem to care even after we reported the matter" When *The Anvil* contacted the library, Mrs Mary Kimani, the Chief Librarian had been out of the country for a long time and had just reported back on duty. She was not in a position to comment on the matter.

However, a physically handicapped librarian, Mrs Dorothy Njiraini, dispelled the claims saying the library elevators are always attended to whenever they broke down. On employment, she observed that the disabled must be accepted into the society and should not be treated as special or looked down upon.

* Mrs Njiraini said "The university cannot absorb all the disabled students, they should be treated like others and employed on merit. University should only give them recommendation letters."

Mr Ogolla told *The Anvil* that he experiences great difficulties climbing the stairs as he has to attend lectures at ED 213, on the second floor of the Education Building.

However, he complimented the university Transport Department for organising special transport for disabled students. He said the transport department offers transport to and from the halls of residence and lecture theatres for disabled students. The Transport Officer, Mr Thaiya, confirmed this saying students are transported daily on hourly basis.

The student wondered why something cannot be done about the elevators "The university should put special lifts for us," They emphasised. They appealed to the university administration to make special arrangements for disabled students to get jobs easily as job hunting is a traumatic experience for them.

A first year physically disabled student complained that the university facilities are only meant for the able. He told *The Anvil* that at the halls of residence, the raised toilet bowls give them problems because they cannot use them. They urged the university administration to reserve a toilet and bathroom for them, to put up lockers and issue duplicate keys to each of them.

Chiuri appointed UNES boss

By REBECCA GIKURU AND KEMUNTO OIRURIA

The University of Nairobi has formed a company to coordinate and oversee the functions of its income generating units.

The company, University of Nairobi Enterprise Services (UNES) recently appointed a Managing Director, Mr George K. Chiuri.

Currently, UNES has only a skeleton of employees to avoid any overheads on the young company. Most of the staff from existing income generating units have been seconded to the company for a period of one year, in which time, it will recruit appropriate staff.

Speaking to *The Anvil*, Mr Chiuri said they viewed profit making as a long-term process. He said a lot of groundwork has to be done to improve and increase the existing facilities to meet customer and market expectations.

"The company has already taken over some units", Mr Chiuri announced. Speaking of the cafeteria in the Main Campus, he guaranteed improved services. A spot check at the cafeteria confirmed that it was under new management.

The existing units fall short of market expectations because they were started for teaching purposes and commodities for in-house consumption. He gave Chiromo Mortuary as an example. It was initially started as a learning facility for students in the Department of Human Anatomy. Over the years it has turned into a small scale business enterprise.

Before the formation of the company, income from the units was utilised in the University Central Pool. Consequently, the units suffered from lack of maintenance. The staff also became demoralised because their salaries never improved. The company intends to solicit consultancy from the market and to employ professionals. Mr Chiuri revealed that incentives were part of the agenda for his company.

The Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Professor Peter K'Obonyo, said that UNES had a challenge to restructure existing units to operate more efficiently.

There are four main areas being studied by the company. In Agribusiness, the company has two farms, Kibwezi and Kabete and the company will soon maximize utility of their resources.

The university has a lot of unused and under utilised plots which the company wants to invest in real estate. In healthcare, there are plans to start a pharmacy practice centre, extend the Dental Unit and eventually, start a university teaching hospital.