

SONU funds missing

By Tom Mshindi

The former SONU officials did not leave behind any records that may account for the disappearance of most of the funds. According to the Finance Secretary Mr. P.G. Njogu, the total balance left over by their predecessors was 573 shillings only.

Available records show that an amount of 16,300 shillings is mysteriously missing. Mr. Njogu said that when the former Finance Secretary was approached, he feigned ignorance. However the current officials are considering the most appropriate course of action. Court action is one of the considerations, Njogu said.

The Secretary General of SONU Mr. K. Ashimosi said that they have the word of Mr. M. Kiriba former secretary general to the effect that Mr. Wangia is solely accountable for the disappearance of those monies.

Mr. Njogu said that the former officials claim that

their rooms were broken into during the last disturbances and the files taken to the police from where they never returned.

Reacting to this accusation, Mr. Wangia said that, when he was approached by the current officials, he explained to them that they had inherited no funds when they took office. He further said that he could only respond to specific issues put to him but not to mere allegations.

Mr. Wangia wondered why the SONU officials chose to focus on him only while there 'always are three signatories required before any cheque can be drawn.'

Mr. Wangia said that there had been no formal handing over session in which such matters as finance could have been dealt with.

In the meantime, SONU has been operating on funds

received from the University administration. These have been used to refurbish the Sonu office, organise symposiums, and to set up the Campus Mirror, Mr. Njogu said.

To raise more funds SONU will have to resort to the student contributions as has been the tradition. Mr. Njogu said however, that this time they are going to make sure that SONU members know exactly how this money will be spent. He hoped that they will be able to issue periodic statements to this effect.

Mr. Ashimosi stressed that they will emphasise very much on the issue of accountability to regain the students' confidence.

Among the activities that SONU hopes to set up are welfare committees that could cater for students. Mr. Njogu said that these would for example pay goodwill visits to hospitalised comrades and assist in paying for costs. It could also try and help those unfortunate students who may need to pay fines in courts. Visits to childrens' homes could also be effected, he said.

Library crisis denied

By Khakhudu Agunda

The University Library system is not in a financial crisis although it has slightly reduced its expenditure in the recent past, the Deputy Librarian, Mr. Johnson Abukutsa, has said.

Despite the reduction, Mr. Abukutsa said, the library had continued to develop its stocks over the years. He said, "The problem of financial constraints is not peculiar to the library. The University as a whole is working under economic constraints."

The Deputy Librarian was reacting to a story in a recent issue of the Anvil which said the university library was in deep financial crisis that hampering its operations.

He said, "During the 1983/84 financial year, we acquired a limited number of books and other publications from

money made available to the library through the internal transfer of funds from the teaching votes."

The same method, Mr. Abukutsa said, was used to secure money for the library to buy books and periodicals during the 1984/85 academic year.

"At no time have we received nothing. Even this year, we will use the same system to acquire new materials for the library."

The library had continued to expand its stock of materials through donations of books from friendly foreign governments and institutions. Some of the materials were unfortunately, not immediately relevant to the university's needs.

The university would continue to welcome donations from any well-wishers to help the library system cope adequately with the demand for relevant publications from the students and lecturers at the university.

Abukutsa, who joined the library in 1956 when the then Royal Technical College was established, said a lot had been done to equip the library since the institution became a university in the early sixties.

The library, he said, has about 250,000 books and thousands of other publications. Said Mr. Abukutsa, "The library system is doing its best to offer a high quality service to the university community and will continue to do so."

Anti-theft squad captures suspect

By Eliza Chege and Johnson Githaka

An anti-theft operation squad of State House Road Hostel recently arrested a man who was allegedly responsible for a series of thefts in their hostel.

The 10-man squad was set up at the middle of last month following several incidents of thefts of clothes and shoes from the hostel's drying area.

The hostel chairman, Eric Murungi, said that the group had detected how items were disappearing between 6.30 and 8.30 p.m. over the weekends, "especially during the Jeffersons" television programme. "The Jeffersons" is among the most popular programmes of the students.

Murungi, a second year design student, said the group identified a day when they would stand in pairs at strategic positions where they could command a good view of the drying area.

He recalled how each member contributed various "flashy" items to hang in the drying area as bait for the culprit.

By 6.30 p.m. they had

taken up their positions, the chairman explained.

"Up to 8.25 p.m. our man had still not come and we were on the verge of calling off the operation," he said. Murungi said luck struck at 8.30 pm when they spotted a man moving towards the drying area from the central catering unit (CCU) entrance.

He said the man moved to and fro between the washroom and the drying area. At the fence around the drying area the man picked up a pair of Adida shoes which had been placed there by the squad, and started walking away. At the code word fire those assigned to intercept the alleged thief managed to arrest him as he headed towards the YMCA, Murungi said.

When questioned by the students, the man denied being party to the spate of thefts in the hostel. He said this was his first time and that he had so acted due to financial difficulties.

The man, who was not seriously manhandled, was handed over to the USAB security personnel at the CCU before the police were called in, Murungi noted.

The arrested man claimed to be an employee of the YMCA. When contacted, Mr. Paul Ngewa, a swimming instructor at the 'Y' denied that he had ever known the man to be a worker there. But he said that the man was in the process of being considered as a swimming instructor last month.

Mr. Eric Ogada, deputy custodian of the hostel, commended the action of the student. He urged other students to emulate this good example.

Mr. Absalom Mutere, hostel warden and a lecturer at the School of Journalism, said he had held discussions with Murungi and they had decided that it would be best to padlock the drying area. He personally bought a padlock over the weekend.

The money saved in the process, he said, had been used to buy more books.