

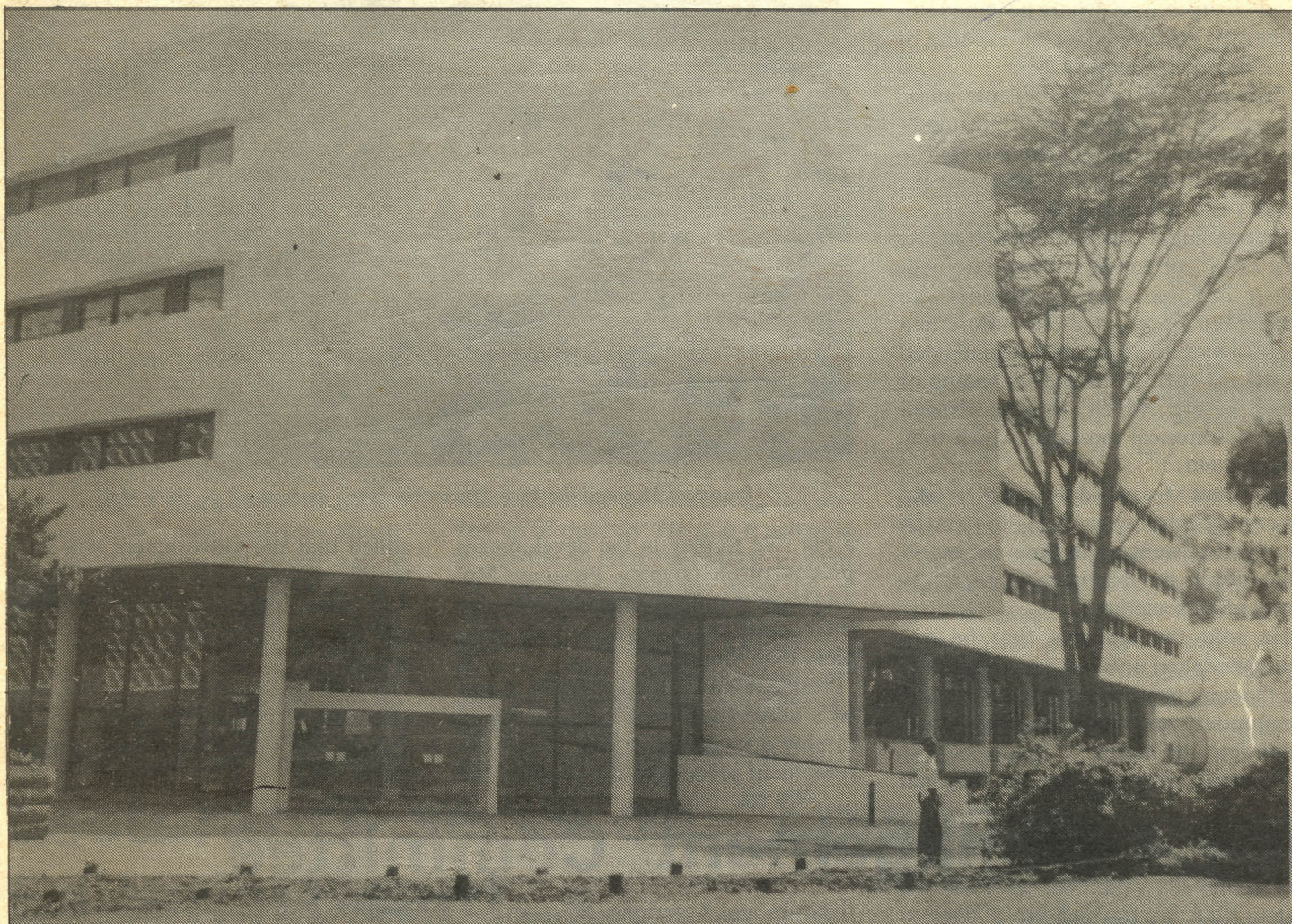
VARSIITY FOCUS

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

NO 59

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

JUNE 1987



A sign of things to come: The new Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library, which has a capacity of one million volumes, is now ready for use. When it is fully operational, the new library will be computerized and have an electronic anti-theft detector.

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University Musical groups entertain President

President Daniel arap Moi, who is also the Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, made a surprise visit to the University in April where he joined students at Taifa Hall for an evening of musical entertainment.

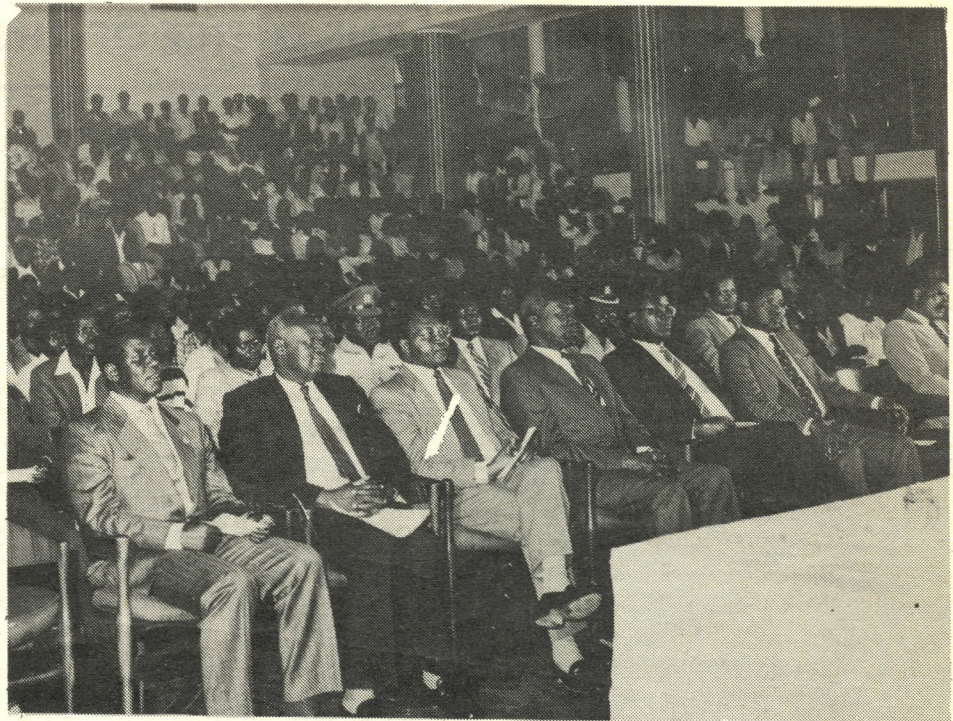
President Moi watched keenly music shows performed by three groups of the University student community. The shows included African cultural music, choirs and pop concerts.

Addressing students after the concerts the President said he had been tremendously entertained by the students who he said had presented our culture in a very admirable way. He commended them for their deep understanding of our culture which they portrayed through musical messages which they understand.

President Moi urged the youth to take every opportunity available to them to learn what went on in their society so that they do not fall victim to prejudices from alien societies.

He told the students that he appreciated their need for a small hospital in the campus to cater for the university community and added that he would look into the matter.

Reminding the students that they had



President Moi and the Vice-Chancellor being entertained in Taifa Hall

a big role to play in the development process of the country, President Moi told them to prepare adequately to play their individual roles when they complete their studies.

President Moi stated that the country's universities were being designed to play a more active role in the development process of the country. He

added that the Government was currently ensuring that the universities were ideal places for higher learning and this needs cooperation of all concerned.

He told the students that African culture had very beautiful and practical aspects that were ideal for social practice.

8:4:4 Management Committee expands

With a view to making final recommendations on the implementation of the double-in-take in June this year and the 8-4-4 cycle of education, in 1990, the University Management Board has appointed college representatives to the 8-4-4 Management Committee. During its 26th meeting chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, the Board appointed the following to represent their colleges on the Management Committee;

Prof. F.N. Onyango – College of Biological and Physical Sciences.

Prof. W.M. Mwangi – College of Ag-

riculture and Veterinary Sciences.

Prof. Musuva – College of Architecture and Engineering.

Dr. T. Mulusa – College of Adult and Distance Education.

Dr. W. Oyugi – College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Dr. Meme – College of Health Sciences.

The enlarged committee will look into the implementation of the Government requirement that University of Nairobi should specialise and strengthen post-graduate studies as well as rationalise and propose levels of staff, finance and teaching facilities for the double intake and the 8-4-4. The Board also

ratified Prof. Abdulaziz's reappointment as chairman of the 8-4-4 Management Committee.

The 8-4-4 Management Committee is to consider entrance requirements, the possible number of students and their courses of specialisation and liaise with the colleges to identify their plans for growth. The Committee will formulate a criteria to be used for recruitment of Kenyans teaching in overseas universities willing to take up lectureship positions at the University of Nairobi. The Committee will prepare detailed plans and budgetary requirements for laboratories, equipments, lecture theatres, halls of residence and other

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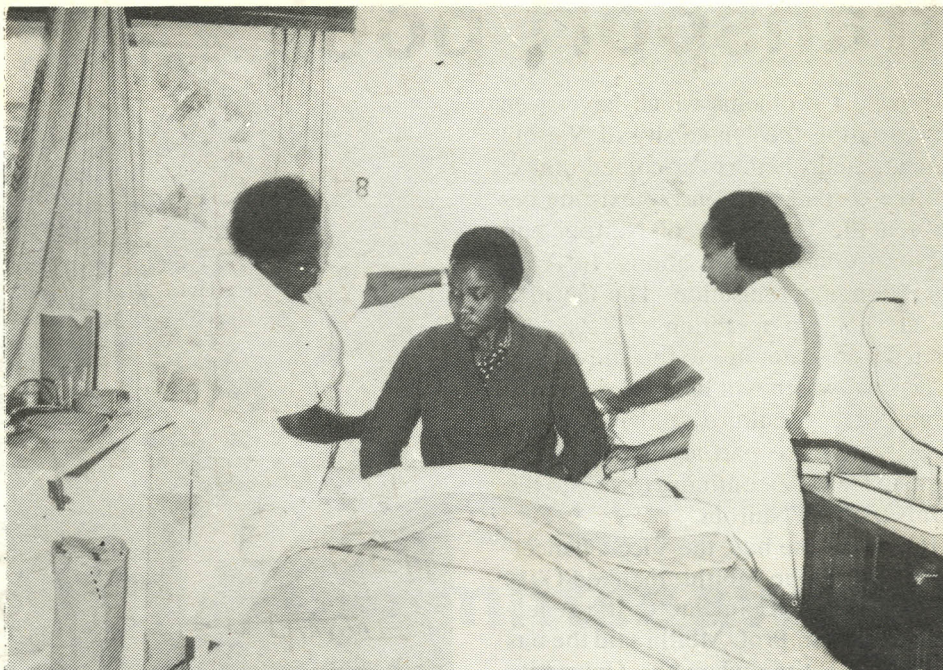
Varsity sets up a Sick-Bay

With a view to expanding student medical services, the University of Nairobi has established a sick-bay to cater for students who require close medical attention. According to the Vice-Chancellor, the Sick-bay will handle emergency cases and screen those students who require further medical attention. The Bay is attached to a fully operational laboratory and plans are underway to open a mini-theatre for minor operations such as stitching wounds, circumcision and other small illnesses.

The Sick-Bay, which is a breakthrough in University Medical Services, started operating on the first day of the term and is run by a team of nurses and a doctor for 24 hours.

Commenting on the Sick-bay, Dr. Githahu, the Chief Medical Officer, said it was full to capacity on the first week mainly by students suffering from Malaria and stomach upsets. It accommodates seven male and four female students and plans are under way to increase the capacity. Dr. Githahu said it was normal for students to fall sick upon return to the University after vacation. When Varsity Focus visited the Sick-bay there were only two students the rest having been discharged.

Dr. Githahu thanked the University



Two nursing sisters attending a student in-patient at the Sick-Bay

Administration for facilitating the setting up of the Bay. He said it will now be possible to offer even better medical services to the students. A parent of one of the first students to be hospitalised at the Sick-bay thanked the University for establishing the Unit saying it is a landmark in University Health services.

The Bay and the now fully operational

Laboratory and Pharmacies will ensure that the University of Nairobi is increasingly self-sufficient. This is in line with the wishes of the University Council to minimize expenses. In addition, an evening clinic to serve students who are unable to go for treatment due to lecture schedules has been started. It is manned by a clinical officer and a doctor on call.

Lecturer to serve on "Episodes" Editorial Board

Dr. Isaac O. Nyambok, the chairman of the Department of Geology, has been invited to serve on the Editorial Board for *Episodes* (International Geoscience Magazine of International Union of Geological Sciences) from June 1, 1987 for a period of two years. Members of Episodes Editorial Board are usually appointed on the advice of the Editor and International Union of Geological Sciences Advisory Board.

The responsibilities of a member of the Editorial Board are:

to advise the Editor on ways to improve the scientific quality of *Episodes* as well as its appeal to the international

scientific community, suggest topics and potential contributors for future issues and in full consultation with the Editor, to solicit features articles, news and conference reports, assist, upon request, in reviewing manuscripts received and to advise on their suitability for publication in *Episodes*.

A member also keeps the Editor informed of coming events and new publications of regional and international importance, and advise and assist in increasing circulation.

This is the first appointment from the Eastern African region.

Meanwhile under the regional project "Geology for Development", the De-

partment of Geology, University of Nairobi in cooperation with Mines and Geological department, will be conducting Geotraverse research project in western Kenya through the financial support of UNESCO. The project is under the National Coordinator, Dr. Isaac O. Nyambok, who has signed a contract with UNESCO for a research grant of about Kshs. 240,000/- (US 15,000).

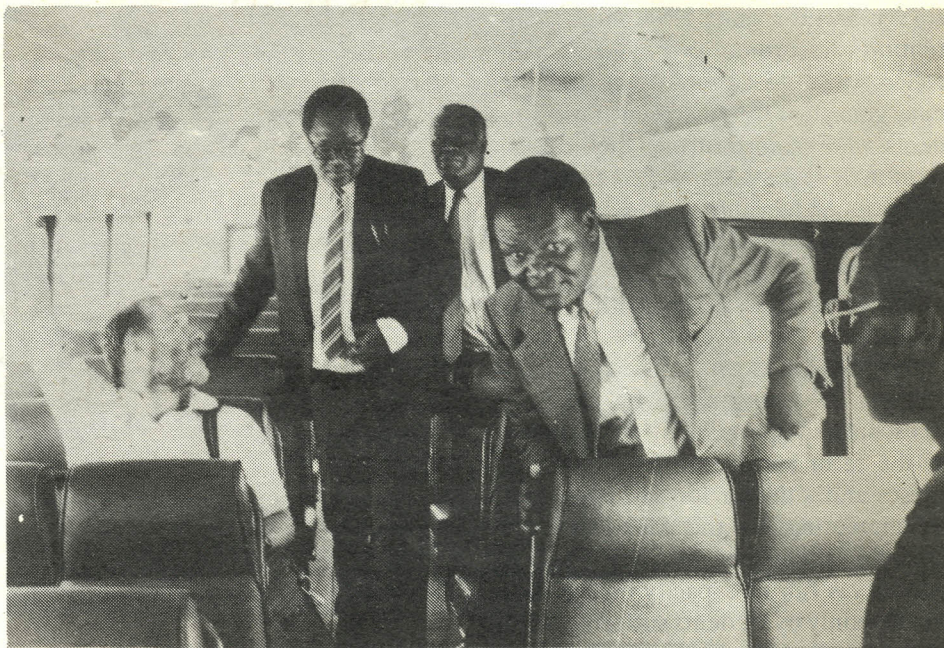
The project will focus on the study of the first regions of geological formations of the Precambrian in Nyanza and Western Provinces. Most of the Precambrian geological formations are known to contain some of the richest metal deposits such as uranium, gold, nickel and other minerals.

Germans boost Varsity transport pool

Transport problems which have been confronting the University of Nairobi are gradually being over-come-d thanks to the cordial relationship existing between the University of Nairobi and several donor organisations. In April one donor organisation, The German Technical Co-operation (GTZ), donated a 65 seater bus to the University. The bus, which will be used mainly to transport agriculture students to the field stations, is part and parcel of the assistance GTZ continues to give to the University of Nairobi.

Receiving the bus, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip Mbithi, thanked GTZ through Prof. Kielmann for the generous donation. Prof. Mbithi said the bus comes at a time when the University transport services are constrained due to lack of serviceable vehicles. He said in all the University requires five new buses to alleviate the problem. The bus, whose cost is Ksh. 1.6 million including duty, was handed over by Prof. Kielmann on behalf of GTZ.

In the past the University has incurred a lot of expenses by hiring buses. The Vice-Chancellor appealed to well-wishers to assist during this period when the University is preparing to mount a double intake and the 8-4-4



The Vice-Chancellor inspecting the inside of the 65 bus seater

cycle of education.

With a view to ensuring accountability, Prof. Mbithi directed that every vehicle must be assigned to one or two drivers. He warned drivers against over-speeding and carelessness saying corrective steps will be taken against offenders. He appealed to students not to expose themselves to dangers by

hanging on the doors or carriers of moving vehicles or encouraging drivers to over speed. The occasion was attended by Prof. Mutere, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Prof. Gichaga, Principal of the College of Architecture and Engineering, Prof. Keya, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and the Transport Officer, Captain Migisi.

External Degree students grateful



Mr. Wa-Regwa: "A dream come true."

among some 580 students who have been registered for the external degree programme and attended a one week contact teaching at the main campus.

Briefing Varsity Focus, the Chairman of the Department of Education in the College of Adult and Distance Education, Mr. Odumbe, said the session was intended to give the students a chance to raise any problems they might be facing in the various course units. During that period the students were required to attend lectures in all subjects they are taking. Mr. Odumbe said the enthusiasm shown by the students was very encouraging to the staff and the College of Adult and Distance Education as a whole.

A cross-section of students interviewed by Varsity Focus revealed that the introduction of the external degree programme was long over-due. A secondary school teacher at Manderla said the programme will enhance his standing as a teacher. He said that although the course is demanding, he is determined to go through. One female student, with a baby strapped on her back, expressed her gratitude for the introduction of the programme.

As the students moved from one lecture room to another, their beaming faces concealed any problems they might have faced in the past. Most of them wished there were more such contact sessions.

For Mr. Patrick Mburugu Wa-Regwa, an external degree student and senior coffee inspector with the Ministry of Agriculture, the one week contact session at the University of Nairobi was a dream come true. Mr. Mburugu was

Foreign scholar gives public lecture

Staff and student of the University of Nairobi continue to benefit from public lectures organised by departments and faculties. The recent past has, however, witnessed an increasing number of public lectures being delivered by scholars from other universities. This is in conformity with the university policy of facilitating exchange of knowledge and sharing of experiences. In April, Prof. Gerhard Mueller, Affiliate Programme Professor in Accounting at the University of Washington, delivered a public lecture entitled "The university at crossroads towards the end of the 20th century."

Prof. Mueller said that although the central mission of the university remains the creation of new knowledge and perpetuation of the existing one, there is today an intense debate on how the university should be structured. The debate has been sparked off by an enormous explosion of the world's population and technical information, competition of scarce economic resources and a world-wide crisis in national funding.

He suggested that the university must develop the will to fit into society and be continuously accountable not only to its self-proclaimed mission and purpose but also to the society it serves.

To fit into the present demands the university must therefore strike a balance between the professional and non-professional disciplines, maintain an outstanding teaching programme and enforce high standard of scholarship not only for students but also in its administrative set-up. It must align itself with the educational system of the country as a whole, develop new forms of continuing education and maintain a steady interaction with the surrounding environment to enable it make curricula more relevant. Prof. Mueller told the audience that the university staff and students must be sensitive to social needs if they have to be taken seriously.



Prof. Mueller: "Universities at a crossroad."

Deans' Committee awards

Dr. M.K. Njenga – Department of Clinical Studies, has been given Ksh. 95,000.00 as research grant to enable him undertake a research project entitled "Studies on Supportive Therapy in Canine Parvovirus Enteritis."

Mr. S.E. Kituuka – Department of Land Development. Ksh. 60,000.00 as research grant to embark on a new project on application of plant cell and tissue culture methods in propagation, genetic improvement and disease control in cassava. The aim of the project is to establish a plant cell and tissue culture research center.

Dr. G.B.A. Okelo – Department of Medicine. Ksh. 60,000.00 research grant to enable him and his collaborators to undertake studies in cell mediated immunity to Echinococcus Antigens in Kenya.

Dr. G. Opinya – Department of Dental Surgery. Ksh. 60,000.00 to enable her embark on Ph.D. research on the oral health of children in a rural community living in a high fluoride area in Kenya.

Dr. D. Kagunya – Department of Veterinary Medicine. Ksh. 50,000.00 to enable him conduct research on changes in serological and

Haematological parameters in camels experimentally infected with Trypanosoma evansi during infection and after treatment with Trypanocidal drugs.

Dr. J. Bwayo – Department of Microbiology. Ksh. 76,259.00 to fund a research proposal on Allergy at Kenyatta National Hospital whose objective is to determine the prevalence of atopy and the causitive allergens with patients with asthma and atopic dermatitis.

Dr. M. Tole – Department of Geology. Ksh. 38,148.00 research grant to undertake a geological research on Direct Bonding Bridges.

Prof. W. Munyua – Department of Pathology and Microbiology. Ksh. 60,000.00 research grant to facilitate research on the Nature and Expression of the acquired immune responsiveness of the Bovine host to the tick infestation.

Dr. L. Ogallo – Department of Meteorology. Ksh. 24,000.00 grant to enable him undertake biological survey research in rooting patterns and changes in short morphophysiological characteristics of local rice varieties grown under water stressed conditions.

V-C addresses Pre-University

Servicemen

The following is an abstract from a speech entitled "The University" delivered by the 'Vice-Chancellor' to pre-university students at Naivasha and Gilgil on 28th April, 1987.

I have been visiting the Naivasha camp and I am told that all of you are eagerly waiting for the passing out Parade. Indeed a number of you must have been wondering about the relationship between this tough life here and what you are expected to do at the University.

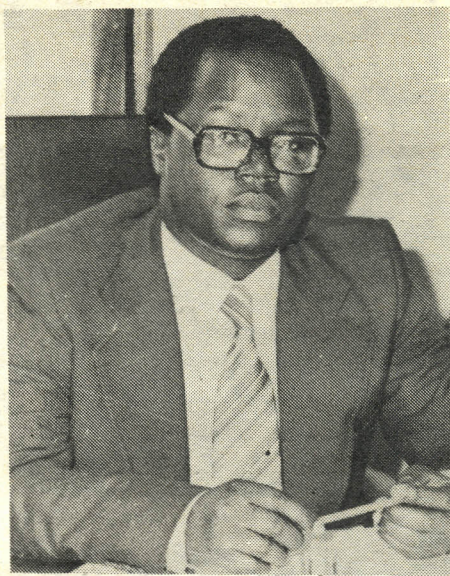
The answer is simple. University students are precious to their families, and to the nation. Yet in the past they have not seemed to realize that to fulfil the hopes, and dear dreams of those who wait for them to finish they must discipline themselves to finish. They must grasp leadership roles while still at University and therefore should learn their weaknesses and strengths early enough to develop those which are positive. Your activities here have been training in endurance, self discovery and an uncompromising confrontation with disciplined conduct. You are the fourth such group and those who have passed have publicly supported the programme – I suppose after the aches have disappeared into pleasant memories.

The University needs more self discipline and survival instinct than you have developed here. This is simply because you will be left on your own, and yet expected to attend lectures, labs, tutorials, CATS, and pass your examinations. You will be expected to know your country and discern propaganda from the truth. All this time there will be no Corporal to shout and urge you on.

To get down deep into what is expected of you lets look at the nature of a University.

The nature and traditions of a University

You may be surprised to learn that Universities are some of the most con-



The Vice-Chancellor: Gave lecture

servative organizations in the world. The traditions we practice today such as admission exercises, examinations, graduation, academic dress and lecturing style were all developed before the end of the 12th Century.

Those who have studied the history of education know that early University type of education was started by the introduction of examinations for entry into civil service in China between 2255 – 2205 BC. Indeed it is the Chinese civil servants who started poetry and written music as early as 1000 BC.

But early University type of education was in the form of students studying at the feet of their masters; a form started in forest schools in India as early as 1500 BC.

The beginning of the formal University as we know it today was the University of Bologna in Italy in 1076 AD when students and their masters organized themselves into a Cooperative or Union as self protection from land lords, Market women and local police "to search for the truth with minimum external harassment" – financial and legal.

Indeed, the early European Universities developed in monasteries in the 12th Century and most active schools were attached to Cathedrals. Thus the Chancellor was the head of a Cathedral who licenced schools to issue degrees

and gave the power to teach. In our Universities the Chancellor will award you the Bachelors degree and give you "the power to read".

The term University therefore means a Union of Masters (teachers) and Students leading a Common life of learning.

According to these medieval origins, the following are the characteristics of a University which we still cherish dearly:

1. A University was not identified with buildings. Indeed Cambridge was established by migrating students and teachers from Oxford in 1209 AD. A University is a unique collection of scholars from the undergraduate to the professor. It is a debating, disputing collectivity governed by rigid rules of intellectual speculation, evidence, creativeness and morality. This is the monastic tradition – a community devoted to study.
2. The University professor presents his lectures by defining the problem he wishes to tackle; quoting authorities supporting different explanations of the problems; synthesising the different theses; summarizing and proposing a position; and showing how it applies to real life. There is no dogma in a University. There is no propaganda. One rises or falls with his logic – the POINT as our students call it.
3. The student on the other hand is critical versatile and does not take dictated notes. He sifts from the lecture what is in his view important and leaves the rest.
4. The University degree programme is governed by a curriculum of study defining the context of each course of study; the number of contact hours; the examination themes and sequence leading to the degree or mastership. This tradition goes back to Bologna where students wanted to know what they

were getting for the fees they paid and the teachers in turn made it as tough as they dared.

5. The University is the depository of knowledge and is charged in all characters or acts of Parliament with production and storage of knowledge. This started with the Greeks in fifth Century when they held discussion groups and studied (researched) in Search of the truth. Indeed most professors take University teaching per se as secondary to research and argue that "the University would be a very comfortable place were it not for the students."

The earliest University library was stated in Alexandria between 323 – 30 BC and had a collection of 700,000 books.

6. The University is structured from the Cathedral tradition – The Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Dean – all reflecting the influence of the University of Paris. Indeed the early faculties were always four – Arts, Law, Theology and Medicine. These of course have expanded.

History of University education in Kenya

In Kenya, the idea of a University begun in 1947 and led to the establishment of the Royal Technical College in Nairobi in April, 1956. In 1960, the Royal Technical College was granted permission to offer degrees of the University of London; established in 1828 as a great grand child of the University of Paris which was established in 1200 AD, for children refused entry into Oxford and Cambridge. This arrangement continued up to 1964 when the three East African Countries set the University of East Africa with three Colleges located in Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam and Makerere.

In 1970, the three countries set up their own autonomous universities and Nairobi became a full fledged university set-up under an Act of Parliament. Kenyatta College, which sued to teach S1 teachers, was incorporated as a constituent college of the University of Nairobi until 1984 when it became an autonomous University. Moi University

was set up in 1983 while Egerton College become a constituent College of the University of Nairobi last year and will soon be autonomous bringing the total universities in the country to four.

The role of the university in developing country

Inevitably, universities in the former colonies of European powers were modelled along the lines of those in Europe. To become truly national institutions, they had to disengage themselves in order to meet the challenges of a developing country. This is because universities in the third world have unique roles in view of the peculiar social, economic and political environment under which they operate. They, of course, have to operate as part of an international family of universities with internationally recognised standards while serving their own societies. In other words, a university has to jealously maintain internationally recognised academic standards while at the same time ensuring that its academic and research programmes are tailored to suit the technological and economic needs of its country. Discussing this phenomena, Nyerere once wrote:—

"Whether in a developing country or elsewhere, a university does not deserve the name if it does not promote thinking. But our particular and urgent problems must influence the subjects to which thought is given and they must influence too the approach. Both in university promoted research, and in the content of degree syllabuses, the needs of our country should be determining factor."

At the University of Nairobi and in the other two public Universities, we have constantly revised our academic programmes to meet national requirements while our standards are evaluated annually by external examiners to ensure that they compare favourably with other international universities.

The roles of the university therefore are:—

- (i) Exploring new frontiers of knowledge through research
- (ii) Storage and dissemination of knowledge to students and society in general

- (iii) Teaching and training of men and women to man the vital sectors of our national activities.
- (iv) Promoting and serving as a vehicle of national unity through the search for truth and commitment to our society
- (v) Engaging in public services activities that promote the welfare of the general public.

The university is expected to become a melting pot where young people become alive to the problems of society. University students are in turn expected to utilize the knowledge they acquire into a practical tool to uplift the living standards of our people.

As a community of scholars, the university must always be sensitive to social needs and the success of any university is to be found in how well it responds to social requirements in its curricular, degree programmes and research activities. At the University of Nairobi, we have been very responsive to the manpower needs of the country as exemplified by the continued expansion of the various degree programmes and creation of few academic departments.

With the democratisation of education, an increasing number of young people from the most varied social background are gaining access to higher education. At the three national universities, through the Joint Admission Board, we have used a point system in the admission process and merit has remained the only criteria of gaining admission into the University. We are of course concerned with the anxieties of the form six leavers who constantly voice their worries with regard to (a) uncertainty of getting enough points to gain admission and the increasing number who have had to be left out due to limited places. (b) admission to the degree programme corresponding to individual occupational aspirations and (c) the possibility of subsequently engaging in a professional activity in keeping with the degrees obtained. This last problem was in fact raised to the Chancellor by the final year students when they visited State House in February this year.

University administration

In almost all of them there is a Chancellor and below him a University

BOOK CORNER

Council (called Regents, Governors or Trustees in U.S.A.) which has a membership consisting of laymen to act as a bridge between the Government and the University. In the council, there are representatives of the Government, University Senate, graduates of the University (convocation or alumni) and students representatives. The Chief Executive Officer of the University is the Vice-Chancellor who is the administrative and academic head of the institution responsible to Chancellor and the University Council. He is also the Chairman of the University Senate which manages the academic affairs of the University. As a member of the University Council, the Vice-Chancellor acts as a bridge between the Senate and the Council. At the University of Nairobi, other principal officers in the administrative hierarchy include, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, College Principals, Deans of Faculties and Chairman of Departments.

The university: What to expect

A University Lecturer cannot teach well if he is not himself involved in exploring new frontiers of knowledge. One purpose of research in University (as opposed to a research Institute) is to enable the Lecturers to teach well. Because the Lecturers have this dual loyalty, to the subject as well as to the student, the student finds University life very different from schools. The difference lies broadly in that, in school the initiative lies with the teacher to teach, whereas at a University, the student has access to lecturers, to libraries, to seminars and discussion groups (tutorials) and is expected to explore deeper into the topics covered by his lecturers and professors. Rather than being a pupil he becomes a 'scholar-in-training' and is expected to freely discharge his responsibility as a scholar.

There are no daily roll calls but after the final examinations, all those who fail are expelled from the University while marginal cases either take supplementary examinations or repeat the year (Xerox).

What the university expects from you

In his book, "Kenya African Nationalism, Nyayo Philosophy and Principles, (page 128) His Excellency Daniel T. arap Moi has given thought to this question and has written that:—

"When young people enter the Universities, let them make it their duty and resolve to leave the place better than when they arrived. They must resolve to be dependable and responsible citizens. Thus, they must identify the true and involving intellectuals; differentiate the true from the false, the constructive from the perverse and evolve with the time in order to remain a realistic and positive intellectual resource for our people."

The University therefore expects that you will not fall into the trap described by His Excellency in his book as follows:—

"Some of our youth and students have moved their conception of life from realism. Thus, after spending sober and realistic years in school and meditative months at the National Youth Service institutions at Naivasha and Gilgil, the moment they enter a University campus they lose that realism".

President Moi has cautioned that "the most useful intellectual is a constructive and balanced realist." In all their activities, University staff and students should be co-operating with the Government for the welfare of all the citizens. Some of you may be asking what this means but listen to what Nyerere

said on this issue:—

"There are some people who would undoubtedly challenge this assumption that a University should co-operate with the government. They would say that the task of a University is to seek for truth, and to ignore all other responsibilities, leaving it to those outside the university to accept or reject the result in their practical politics... this implies that there is an automatic conflict with government and that the government is not concerned with truth. It is my conviction that this attitude is based on a half truth and has within it great dangers, both for society as a whole and for the University itself."

In other words, as a community of scholars, both students and staff of the University has a duty to the society. The society demands objectivity in the search for truth, commitment to the national aspirations and a desire to serve for a better tomorrow. Both individually and as a group, you have your rights. But every right, like freedom, has a corresponding responsibility.

All of us have a responsibility to our brothers and sisters. On joining the University, you should ensure that your actions and behaviour maintains a stable environment that will not adversely affect those who will come after you. We expect that you will discharge your duties and responsibilities as "Scholars-in-Training" bearing in mind President Moi's words of wisdom quoted above.



Pre-university students in NYS training

Nairobi University Press set to publish books

The Editorial Committee of Nairobi University Press has now approved the publication of two titles and it is expected that the books will be on sale later in the year. One of the titles already approved has been written by Swahili and Medical experts from Kenya and Tanzania while the other one is by a former puisne judge in the High Court of Kenya.

Headed by the Chairman of the Department of Linguistics and African Languages, Prof. Karega Mutahi, the team that wrote 'A Swahili/English Medical Dictionary' included experts from University of Dar-es-Salaam, medical practitioners and language professionals at the Department of Linguistics and African Languages of the University of Nairobi. The manuscript is already with the printers. It is ex-

pected to be the first in a series of titles aimed at providing swahili technical dictionaries, an area on which very little has been published although swahili as a language is fast becoming the Lingua franca for many in East and Central Africa. To facilitate this, the authors have relinquished their copyright to the Nairobi University Press and all royalties which would have been paid to individual authors will now go into a Lexicography Account to facilitate further dictionary making.

The other book whose publication process has already begun is authored by a former judge of the High Court of Kenya, Justice Eugene Contran. Nairobi University Press will co-publish the title with Professional Books, PLC, a British publisher specialising in Law books. Entitled 'Casebook on Ke-

nyan Customary Law' the book is expected to fill a gap in the absence of a regular publication on law reports in the country.

Nairobi University Press hopes to look into the possibility of publishing Law Reports with the support of all interested parties who include Attorney General's Chambers, Law Society of Kenya and the Faculty of Law.

Apart from the above two titles, the editorial committee of Nairobi University Press continues to receive manuscripts from various authors. It is currently considering submissions by authors from the colleges of Health Sciences, Humanities and Social sciences, Architecture and Engineering while looking into other areas of academic interest.

African Urban Quarterly Journal moves office

AFRICAN Urban Quarterly, an interdisciplinary journal for comparative urbanisation and planning in Africa has moved its editorial office to University of Nairobi from New York.

The journal publishes both theoretical and applied papers in the fields of urbanisation and planning. It also serves as a central clearing house for research dealing with analytical, -descriptive, evaluative and prescriptive problems concerned with comparative urbanisation and development planning in Africa and the Third world. Among the topics the publication covers are agriculture, demography, transportation, medicine and politics.

Dr. R.A Obudho, the editor and publisher says those who are interested in having their papers published should focus them on issues related to urbanisation and planning issues in developing countries and sent to Dr. R.A Obudho, Department of Geography, University of Nairobi.

AFRICAN URBAN QUARTERLY



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Lecturer authors geography book

ONE of the functions of the University of Nairobi, publishing—continue to attract more members of the academic staff. Apart from publishing scholarly papers in learned journals lecturers have ventured into the world of book publishing. The latest publication from a member of staff is 'A Modern Geography of Kenya' co-authored by Dr. Wanjiku Mwagiru and Mr. Paul Njue, a high school teacher.

The 159 page book is divided into four sections. Section one is the introduction of the subject matter of geography. Section two gives a general introduction of the geography of the country highlighting the major features.

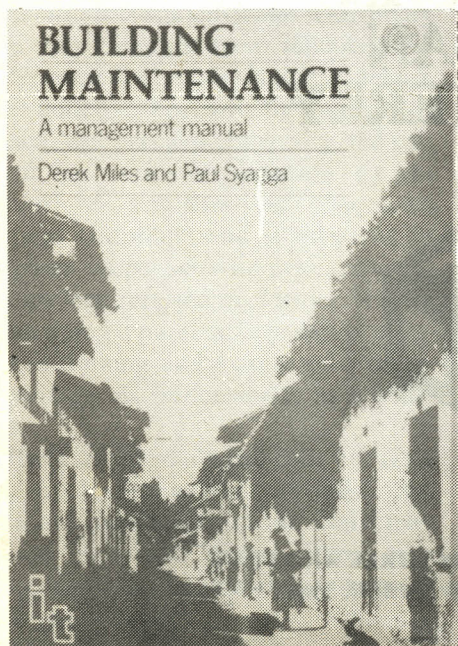
The third section gives a more detailed breakdown of the four major geographical regions of Kenya with each regions being described in terms of its major characteristics with emphasis on the fact that physical and human aspects of these regions keep on changing. Section four of the book is a systematic overview of the districts of Kenya. The authors present a com-



parative study of the country's 41 districts from the point of view of size, geographical location, drainage characteristics, land productivity and population size and density.

According to the authors the book has been written bearing in mind the new secondary requirements in the 8.4.4 syllabus. It is published by Mwassco publishers.

Now, a building Management manual released



The book Building Maintenance – A Management Manual by Dr. P. Syagga, Director of the housing Research and Development Unit of the University of Nairobi and Mr. Derek Miles, is based on two previous volumes which were written by the former. The present volume contains a considerable amount of new material on policy aspects and maintenance economics and procedures resulting from research by Dr. Syagga. The book was prepared as a result of a technical co-operation project funded by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA).

The authors say that the book is of direct interest to policy makers, managers and supervisors in central government, local authorities and public and private organisations. It should also ap-

peal to maintenance contractors and designers and others who influence the size and nature of maintenance needs.

The publication is divided into three sections. Section one, Maintenance Strategy, discusses the basis of decision-making in the use of resources for the acquisition and preservation of capital assets, the need for a building maintenance policy, the relationship between initial and running costs and the criteria for determining the levels of maintenance of various classes of property. The second section presents a systematic approach to the management of building maintenance including guidelines for a system of budgeting and financial control and practical advice on administrative procedures for the management of building maintenance.

An "essential" economics book

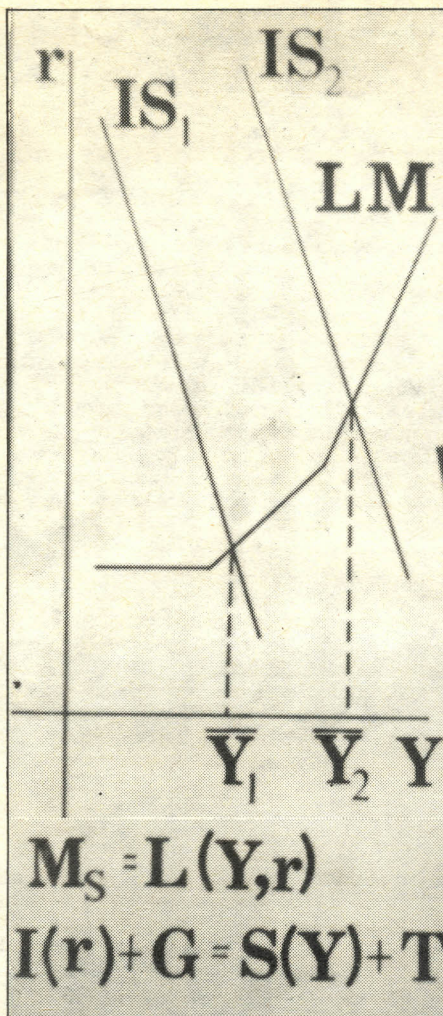
ELEMENTS of Mathematical Economics by Dr. M.S Mukras, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics, is a book intended for use at post secondary and University levels. The 394-page book, published by Kenya Literature Bureau, is also useful to students in equivalent institutions studying economics.

According to the author the book has been written to meet two main objectives. First, it seeks to present a simple and clear presentation of the mathematical tools that are necessary for good understanding of the subject of economics. Each mathematical concept discussed is accompanied by a worked out example. Secondly, the book illustrates how to solve economic problems using mathematical concepts.

The book is organised in such a way that each of the topics covered is discussed in two parts—the relevant mathematical tool and procedure and the application of the mathematical tool to economics. It consists of 13 chapters each divided into two sections except chapters seven and eight.

The first chapter of the book is an introduction. The second discusses the basic and fundamental techniques in algebra. Starting from symbols, the chapter deals with the set theory, the real number system, exponents, logarithms and the binomial expansion. The concept of the function is introduced in chapter three. Linear functions are discussed in this chapter and non-linear functions and functions with more than one independent variable are discussed in chapter four. Chapters four and five cover single equations, inequations and simultaneous equations. Derivations are covered in chapters seven and eight while chapter nine deals with non-constrained maxima and minima.

Chapter 10 of the book is on partial differentiation and constrained minima and maxima and functions with two independent variables are discussed in chapter 11. The last two chapters, 12 and 13, cover elementary algebra and elementary integration respectively.



Elements
of
Mathematical
Economics

M.S. Mukras

Prof. Keya re-elected Dean

Prof. S.O. Keya, whose term of office as Dean of the faculty of Agriculture expired in April, has been re-elected for another term of two years. The elections were presided by the Ag. College Registrar, Mr. L. Laanoi.

The University of Nairobi statutes provide that deans of faculty will serve for two years. Thereafter a dean can be re-elected for a further term of two years. Alternatively a new person could be elected.

In his vote of thanks, Prof. Keya thanked members of Faculty Board for re-electing him saying it showed the amount of confidence they had in him. He pledged to work hard to maintain the good name of the Faculty and the University of Nairobi as a whole.

Meanwhile, reports from the College of Health Sciences say that Dr. J.M.K.

Kitonyi has been re-appointed chairman of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology for three years upto 1990.

8-4-4

continued from page 2

necessary requirements for the enlarged admission under the 8-4-4 programme.

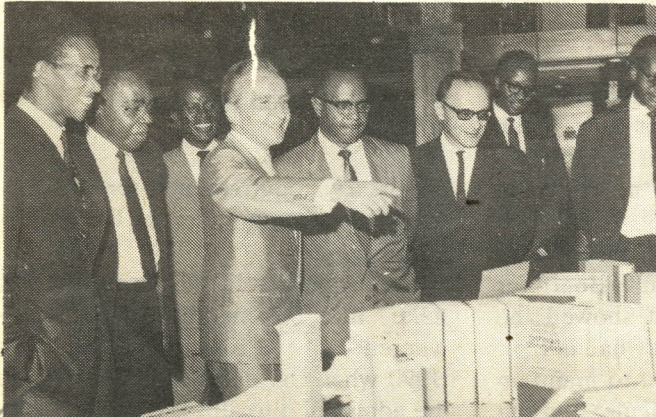
Prof. Mbithi told the Committee to take into consideration the convergence of the forms four and six in 1990 when the number of students to be admitted into all public universities is expected to be about 12,000. He said the Committee is a management one and should operate as such.

FROM OUR PHOTO FILE

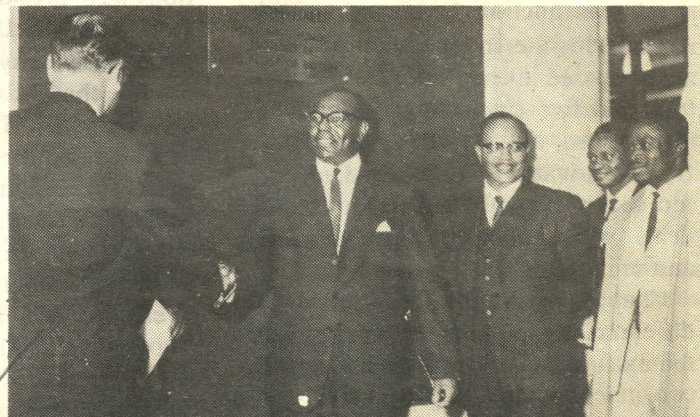
Our Photo File this month brings you a refreshing look at the past history of the University of Nairobi.



The 24th October 1956 is a special date for the University of Nairobi. It is the day the then Royal Technical College, which later became Nairobi University College and finally University of Nairobi, was officially opened by Her Highness Princess Margaret.



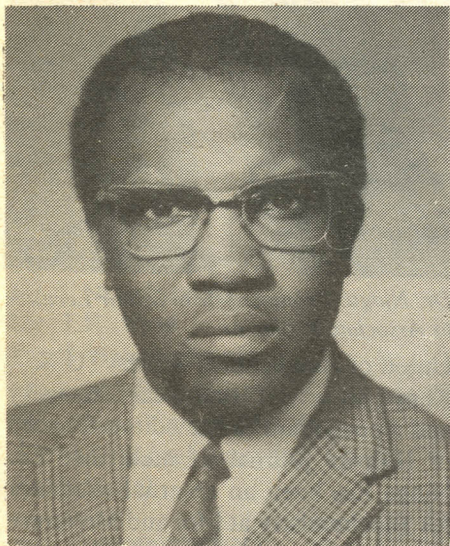
In the early days: From left to right, Mr. Ndegwa, the librarian, Prof. Wandiga, Prof. Alala and Prof. Mungai during a book presentation ceremony.



Dr. M. Gechaga, a former chairman of the University Council officiating during the handing over ceremony of a Hall of Residence.

Professorial appointments

April–May, 1987



Prof. Kikwaro: Promoted from Associate Professor to Professor

Prof. J.O. Kokwaro – Department of Botany

Educational Background

Prof. Kokwaro, 46, went to the Haile Sellassie University where he read for B.Sc. in Agriculture University of Uppsala, Sweden and awarded M.Sc. and Ph.D. He is an elected Fellow of the Linnean Society of London (F.L.S.).

Teaching and Supervision Record.

Since joining the University in 1968 as a Tutorial Fellow, Prof. Kokwaro has been teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. He was promoted to lecturer in 1969 and to senior lecturer in 1974. In 1979 he was appointed Associate Professor of Botany.

Publications

Prof. Kokwaro has an impressive record of publications which include seven internationally recognised books in Taxonomy which are standard reference material in East Africa. He has authored 39 papers in his field of specialisation and seven more are in the press. He has also read others in international conferences and seminars.

Current Research

Prof. Kokwaro has three research projects in progress on Ecological study of the Kakamega tropical rain forest in Western Kenya, the medicinal plants and the herbal practitioners of the East Africa and Palynological studies of the Anacardiaceae, Mimosoideae and other Angiosperms of East Africa.

National Activities

Prof. Kokwaro is a member of numerous professional associations such as Kenya National Academy of Sciences, World Pollen and Spore Flora, Museum Society of Kenya, Kenya Forestry Society and the Steering Committee of the task force on plants for fertility regulations of W.H.O.'s special programme of research development and research training in human reproduction.

He is the chairman of East Africa National History Society and I.U.C./W.W.F Kenya scientific Advisory Group. Prof. Kokwaro is also external examiner in Botany for Moi and Makerere universities.

Prof. J.M. Kyambi – Department of Surgery

Educational Background

Professor Kyambi, 51, attended University of Heidelberg, West Germany where he sat for his Staatsexamen in 1968 and obtained an MD in 1969 for a thesis entitled "The significance of Inspiratory Flow Rate in the diagnosis of stenosis in the region of trachea."

He trained in General Surgery in the University of Giessen and in Paediatric Surgery in Cologne, West Germany.

Teaching and Supervision Record.

Professor Kyambi joined the Department of Surgery in 1977 as a Senior Lecturer. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1980. Since joining the Department of Surgery he has supervised many M.Med (Surgery) dis-

sertations in the Department. He is currently the Chairman of the Department.

Clinical Duties:

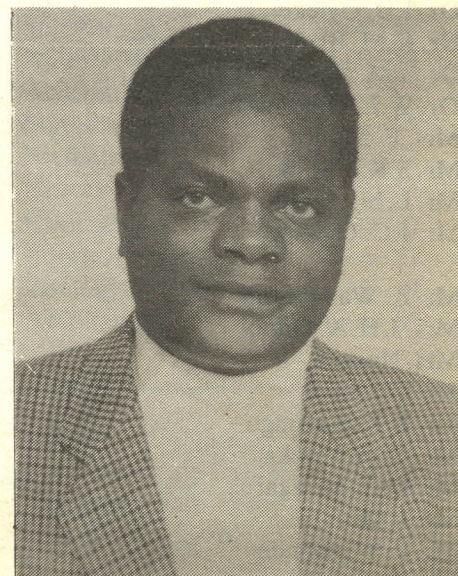
He was the first qualified paediatric surgeon in Kenya and after his appointment he embarked on the setting up of a paediatric Surgical Unit at the Kenyatta National Hospital. He runs a paediatric Surgical Unit which deals with correction of congenital malformations, malignant tumours in children, urological conditions in children and many acquired conditions needing surgery in children including trauma.

Publications:

Professor Kyambi has authored 31 scholarly articles which have been published in reputable scientific journals. These include book chapters. He has read others in international Conferences.

Current Research:

He has worked on prevention of peritoneal adhesions after surgery and infection in conjunction with the Institute of Primate Research. His current research Programme deal with clinical medicine particularly early detection of congenital malformations in children and their surgical management.



Prof. Kyambi: Promoted from Associate Professor to Professor

ON THE MOVE

National activities:

Besides teaching responsibilities Professor Kyambi is a Member of the Kenya Paediatric Association, A Fellow of the Association of Surgeons of East Africa and serves in the Ethical Committees of several hospitals in Nairobi.

Dr. R.M. Njogu—Department of Biochemistry.

Educational Background

Dr. Njogu, 38, read for his B.Sc. and Ph.D at the University of Nairobi. Both degrees are in Biochemistry.

Teaching and Supervision Record

Dr. Njogu has been teaching in the Department of Biochemistry since 1974 when he joined it as a demonstrator. In 1977 he was appointed Assistant Lecturer and lecturer in 1979. He has been a senior lecturer in the Department since 1981.

He teaches Biochemistry to medical, dentistry and agriculture undergraduate students. Dr. Njogu has successfully supervised four M.Sc. and Ph.D. candidates. He is also the Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry.

Publications

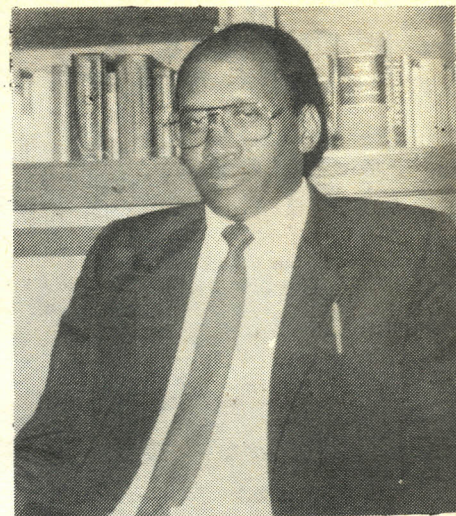
He has authored 21 highly scholarly papers which have been published in reputable international journals and two are under preparation. He has attended international conferences where he has read papers.

Current Research

Dr. Njogu's current research interest is in the areas of parasite Biochemistry, mitochondrial metabolism and the Biochemistry of herbs. He is also working on a Biochemistry teaching manual for undergraduate students.

National Activities.

He is a member of the International



Dr. Njogu: Promoted from Senior Lecturer to Associate Professor

Union of Biochemical Society (U.K.), Kenya Society of Biological Chemistry and a consultant to the editorial board of Nairobi journal of medicine. Dr. Njogu has been an external examiner for Biochemistry at Moi and Makerere universities.

Staff Matters

Promotions

Name	Post	Department
Dr. R.J. Akello	Associate Professor	Electrical Engineering
Dr. P.C. Egau	" "	" "
Dr. B.K. Sahu	Senior Lecturer	Civil Engineering
Dr. R.N. Mutuku	Senior Lecturer	Civil Engineering
Dr. S.K. Arap Sinei	" "	Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Dr. J.B. Oyieko	" "	" " "
Dr. K.M. Bhatt	" "	Medicine
Dr. S.M. Bhatt	" "	Medicine
Dr. W.L. Gikonyo	Lecturer	School of Journalism
Mrs. E. Mutitu	Lecturer	Crop Science
Mr. S.K. Kariuki	Lecturer	Soil Science
Mr. L.M. Awiti	Lecturer	Economics
Mr. J.C. Oyieng	Research Fellow	Population Studies & Res. Institute
Mr. K. Wa Mberia	Lecturer	Linguistics & Afr. Languages
Mrs. J.H.A. Oduol	Lecturer	" " "
Mrs. Nyagah	Lecturer	" " "
Mr. C. Oduol	Lecturer	" " "
Mr. E.K. Kazungu	" "	" " "
Mr. G.O. Mpaka	" "	geography
Mr. D.N. Mungai	" "	Geography
Mr. J. Muranje	" "	Geography
Mr. P. Wanyande	" "	Government
Mrs. P.W. Njau	" "	Sociology
Mr. P.M. Maundu	Research fellow	I.A.S.

ON THE MOVE

Mjss E. Gatungo	Lecturer	French
Miss I. Otieno	Lecturer	French
Mr. I.M. Mbeche	Lecturer	Management Science

New Appointments

Mr. I. Ismail	Lecturer	Civil Engineering
Mr. P.A. Murunga	"	" "
Dr. K.W.F. Timpo	"	" "
Dr. L.N. Adeghe	"	" "
Dr. G.D.O. Elias	"	Diagnostic Radiology
Dr. S.D. Gulamali	"	Dental Surgery
Dr. H.N. Doshi	Lecturer	Human Anatomy
Dr. R.K. Srivastava	Lecturer	Human Anatomy
Mr. J. Ntambirweki	"	Public Law
Mr. J.R. Vyas	"	" "
Dr. G. Bagamuhunda	"	Sociology
Mr. L.X. Mbunda	"	Commercial Law
Mrs. M.A. Campbell	"	Commercial Law
Dr. M.S. Subrahruanyam	Asso. Professor	Civil Engineering
Dr. P.B. Bal	Assoc. Professor	Civil Engineering

RE-APPOINTMENT

Dr. M. Kanyhwa	Lecturer	Public Health
Dr. (Mrs.) S. Hulya	Lecturer	Animal Production
Mr. A.E. Okeya	Asst. Lecturer	Meteorology
Dr. F. Plumber	Vist. Lecturer	Med. Microbiology
Prof. S. Alala	Professor	Mathematics

RESIGNATIONS/ EXPIRY OF CON- TRACTS

Dr. J.K. Patnaik	Senior Lecturer	Meteorology	13-3-87
Dr. B.M. Wankya	" "	Medicine	2-3-87
Dr. F.M. Hulya	" "	Crop Science	30-6-87
Dr. S.T.N. Adam	" "	Accounting	31-8-87
Dr. H. Ssali	" "	Soil Science	30-6-87
Dr. H.J. Schwartz	Lecturer	Animal Production	3-3-87
Dr. K. Chopra	"	Accounting	20-2-87
Dr. M. Nasir	"	Mathematics	25-4-87
Dr. A. Nesbitt	"	Paediatrics	30-4-87
Dr. J.H.C. Cable	"	History	28-3-87
Mr. G.E. Kayondo	"	Elect. Engin.	30-6-87
Dr. Y. Byarugaba	"	Comm. Health	30-6-87
Dr. M. Litterick	"	Zoology	6-2-87
Mr. I.P. Barasa	"	Accounting	6-4-87

Visitors to the V.C.'s Office

Name	Date	Address
1. Hon. N.K. Ngala, EGH, M.P.	Minister for Information and Broadcasting	10/3/87

VISITORS TO THE V.C's OFFICE

2. Benjamin Kipkorir	Chairman, Kenya Commercial Bank	24/3/87
3. M.L. McNulty	Director, Canter for International and Comparative Studies, University of Iava City	26/3/87
4. David A. Dot	Chief Health & Population Division, USAID/Nairobi	1/4/87
5. Edward Spence	Dean, Env. Studies, York University, Canada	9/4/87
6. Thomas B. Symons	Trent University, Canada	14/4/87
7. L. Bruce Ratesface	University of Mo Prof. of Economics	15/4/87
8. Drane Stucky	Chancellor, University of Mo.	15/4/87
9. Carlos Zulbern	Consultant, Box 30677 Nairobi	15/4/87
10. Gu Mu	State Councillor of the Peoples' Republic of China, Beijing.	16/4/87



In April, the Honorary Treasurer of Association of Commonwealth Universities, Prof. Symons (left), visited the University of Nairobi and held talks with the Vice-Chancellor.

American envoy lauds Varsity efforts

The high scholarly standards existing at the University of Nairobi have been lauded by the American Ambassador to Kenya, Her Excellency Mrs. Elinor Constable. The Ambassador said this when she handed over books worth more than Ksh 300,000.00 to the Faculties of Law and Commerce and the departments of Chemistry and Government to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip Mbithi.

The books were partly donated by the American Government, partly by retired professors and the United States Information Service Donated Book Programme.

In her address the Ambassador said it was easy to help the University of Nairobi since it has proved to be a good, strong and respectable institution. Mrs. Constable said the real value of the books was not the much they cost but the knowledge that would benefit those who make use of them.

In a vote of thanks Prof. Philip Mbithi said the books presented would augment the University's book collection which will be shifted to Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library. Prof. Mbithi recal-



The Vice-Chancellor receiving books from the American Ambassador to Kenya

led that relations between Kenya and American universities dated back to the 1950's when there was a mass airlift of Kenyans to American universities.

The Vice-Chancellor said that by the end of the current academic year the university will have established links with the following American universities; California, Pennsylvania, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Kalamazoo College and Pur-

due University. The University is also exploring ways of cooperation with Michigan State University.

Through such links the University of Nairobi has managed to train its staff in American universities and played host to American students and scholars. Prof. Mbithi said there were about 30 American students at the university of Nairobi this academic year.

University colleagues

THE University of Nairobi has lost one of its members through the cruel hand



The late Dr. Kahambe

community mourns

of death—the late Miss Zinat Devji, Research Fellow at the Housing and Development Unit.

In his message of condolences to the bereaved family, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip Mbithi, said the University has lost a distinguished and committed scholar. He noted that the late Miss Zinat Devji gave a most admirable evidence of courage, strength and fortitude at the time of her illness.

The Late Devji gained her university education at the University of Nairobi where she was awarded B.A in 1970. She read for her M.A. at the University of Wisconsin and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from the University of Nairobi. At the time of her death she was a Ph.D candidate at the University of Wisconsin.

In a related development the Vice-

Chancellor has sent a message of condolences to the family of the late Dr. Henry Cay Kahambe who was a post-graduate student in the Department of Psychiatry. Prof. Mbithi regretted the untimely death of Dr. Kahambe who he described as a young talented and responsible doctor.

The late Dr. Kahambe, a Malawian, obtained his undergraduate medical training at the University of Nairobi and was awarded M.B.Ch.B in 1983. He enrolled for a post-graduate programme and was scheduled to graduate next year.

On behalf of the University of Nairobi community the Vice-Chancellor prayed for the bereaved family to have courage as a result of death of their beloved son.

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Varsity donates books to Harambee Schools

In a bid to complement parents' efforts to provide reading materials to Harambee secondary schools, the University of Nairobi has donated 13,000 books worth more than half a million shillings to eight Harambee secondary schools. The books were handed over to the smiling headmasters by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip Mbithi.

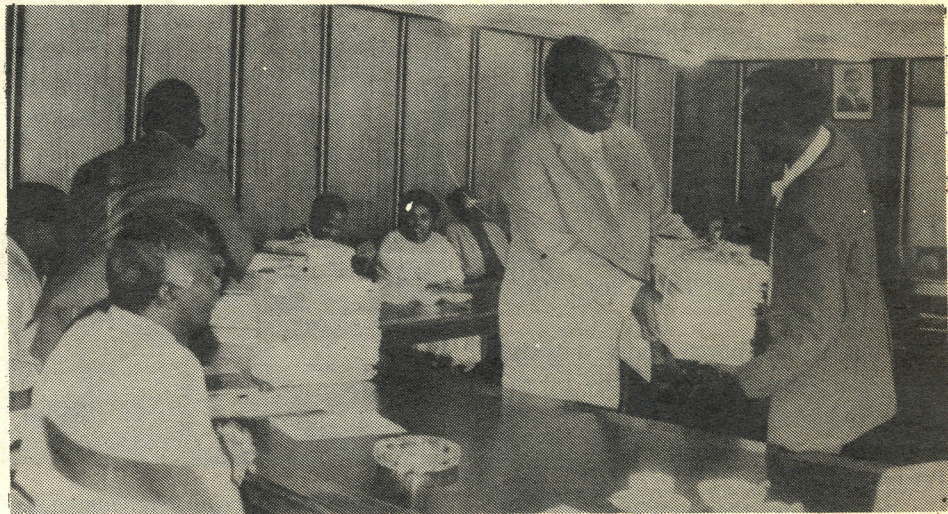
Addressing the headmasters, the Vice-Chancellor requested them to be careful on the development on their schools as they were started by the communities to provide schooling facilities to their children. He observed with concern that some Harambee schools do not insist on quality education. As a result graduates from such schools can hardly write or do simple arithmetic.

The eight Harambee schools – Moi Girls' in Mandera District, Moi Girls', Kamangu from Kiambu, Soliat Harambee, Kericho, Emining Harambee in Baringo District, Masanda Secondary, Kakamega, Utange Harambee in Mombasa, Vitibo Harambee, Kisii and Mang'auni Harambee in Machakos – were selected at random from a stratified sample of young upcoming schools in each province and none of them is from the urban areas.

Prof. Mbithi said the University of Nairobi has over the years participated in rural development in line with the Government strategy of district focus. Last year the University launched the external degree programme through which diploma and S1 teachers will pursue courses as they continue to teach in their respective schools.

Experts from the Kenya National Examination Council said the books are extremely useful resources materials if used together with the current Form one and two syllabus.

In his introductory remarks, the Principal of the College of Adult and Distance Studies, Mr. Peter Kinyanjui, said the College has been teaching at a distance since 1967. For the last 20



The Vice-Chancellor Presenting books to one of the headmasters

years, it has taught KJSE and KCE courses through which over 20,000 people have benefitted.

On behalf of the schools presented with books, the Headmaster of Masanda Harambee thanked the University of Nairobi for honouring their schools. He said the books will boost

their efforts to uplift the standard of education in the schools.

The occasion was attended by the DVC Academic, Prof. Mutere, DVC Administration and Finance, Prof. Githinji, college principals and faculty deans.

CONVOCATION

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Convocation will be held on Saturday, 4th July, 1987 at 10.00 a.m. in the Large Education Lecture Theatre II. Any member desiring to bring forward any business at that meeting is requested to forward a statement in writing to the **ACADEMIC REGISTRAR, P.O. BOX 30197, NAIROBI** setting forth in the form of motions the subject or subjects proposed for consideration thereat to reach him not later than **5th June, 1987.**

ACADEMIC REGISTRAR

Material Culture now part of 8:4:4 syllabus

One of the objectives of 8.4.4 Education System is to make students appreciate their cultural heritage by understanding the varied but complementary cultural products of Kenya's ethnic groups. The Institute of African Studies, University of Nairobi, has been collecting cultural artifacts from all over Kenya. Upon request by Varsity Focus, Mr. Sultan Somjee reports on the contribution of the Institute in the formulation of 8.4.4 primary and secondary syllabuses.

WHEN the 8-4-4 educational system became operational in 1985 at the secondary school level, there was a fundamental change in the Art and Design syllabi of both the primary and secondary schools, thanks to the research project initiated at the Institute of African Studies of the University of Nairobi in 1982. The change was in the approach and content of the syllabi through which the students would begin to study art and design by appreciating and understanding the Material Culture of Kenya.

The Institute initiated an Educational Project in Material Culture funded by Kenyan Educational Research Bureau in 1982. The principal objective of the project was to inquire into the possibilities of introducing material culture to the School Syllabus.

Material Culture is a general term used for products made and used by people. The products are of functional and aesthetic values to the people who make and use them. They are related to their economic activities, history and cultural traditions. These are reflected in the designs of the objects.

For example in Kenya there are such original designs as the *Ohigla*, the Luo fish pot, *abwo*, the Turkana skirt, *emulo* the Iteso millet knife, *ngomo*, the Kamba adze and *ol kartar* the Maasai ornament. These reflect agricultural activities, eating habits, way of dress and ornamentation of people.

Material culture and Education

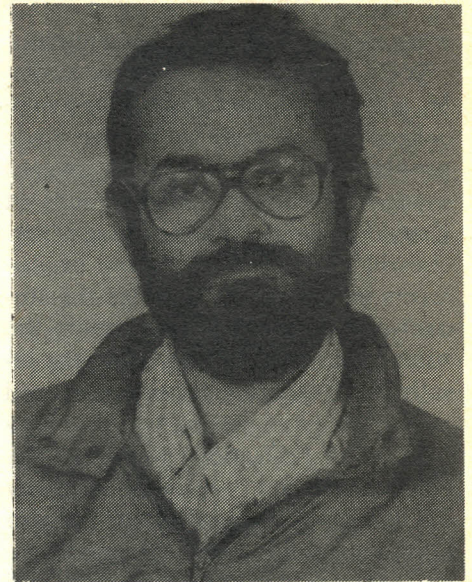
Each of these items has traditionally evolved as a result of a creative process that involves both the skill and the intellect of the maker. Thus Material Culture has a fundamental role to play in the development of art and design education of a nation for it gives continuity to a tradition of making things and looks into the future that is rooted in that tradition. In the final analysis it helps to strengthen one's national identity.

The well-known Art and design schools and academies of the world such as the Royal Academy of London, the Royal Academy of Copenhagen, the Institute of Art and Design of Ahmedabad (India) and the several academies of Art and Design of Japan have their syllabi based on the traditional Material Culture of their land and people. Learning foreign Material Culture is a part of an awareness exercise in appreciating the cultural heritage of mankind.

In Kenya the Art and Design syllabus was introduced by the Colonial Education Board on the basis of the European, and more specifically British tradition. This meant that the children understood and appreciated the history, form and function of Art and Design within a narrow European framework. Art and Design Education, anyway, was meant for the European schools and some Indian schools, especially at secondary and High School levels.

African schools mostly did craft work. Craft was understood to be more hand work versus Art and Design which required an effort on the intellect as well as cultural link with the ancient civilizations.

This prejudice not only affected the content of education of Art and Design but it suppressed its development as an effective medium of education in Kenya. It is now increasingly recog-



Mr. Sultan Somjee

nized that knowledge is not only gathered visually but is also analysed visually.

Thus in the period of rapid syllabus changes soon after 1963, Art and Design syllabus had a disadvantage. There was no experience and a direction of scholarship at the University enough to make changes as was the case in History, Geography and Literature. There were West African and Zairian studies of masks and sculptures and some written ethnographic records of early anthropologists and studies by Margaret Trowell on Crafts of Uganda. But no methodology of teaching African Material Culture had been developed as yet and consequently the knowledge of African art and design could not filter down to the school system in Kenya.

Some changes were made in the Art and Design syllabi but they did not touch on the fundamental issues of visual perception and theories of Art and Design. Thus for example, prior to 1985 a secondary school Art 'Student studied and was examined on Gothic Architecture and Dutch Renaissance. The student's total experience of this art was from photographs in the books that is, if he was fortunate enough to get them. This art did not relate to this country's cultural and visual experiences. It was not a part of his traditional

of making things.

However, at the same time there was a vast educational resource material embodied in the material culture of more than forty different ethnic groups of Kenya. What was needed was a methodology to exploit this content.

At the Institute, the resources available when the project was initiated were collections of material culture made between 1976 to 1982. These covered some ten different ethnic groups of Kenya. The initial phase included exercises in Product Analysis and experiments in classrooms to judge the student and the teacher reactions to the study of material culture. Later the results of the experiments were discussed at workshops organized by the Kenya Institute of Education to convince the educationists not only on the necessity of introducing material culture but also on the possibility of it. Attempts were made to develop a methodology and organize the content, at the request of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

A draft syllabus was prepared by the Institute of African Studies. It showed how the subject could be taught systematically and how the students could develop their creative work based on the Material Culture of Kenya. The new secondary school Education Art and Design Syllabus has the following paragraph in its preamble:

“The Syllabus encourages the development of appreciation and awareness of socio-cultural values of items of material culture and other art forms of the peoples of Kenya and the rest of the world through references to relevant historical and contemporary background.”

In the general objectives one of the sections reads:

“Specifically the learners should be able to:

- i) Collect study, analyse and document the items of material culture in relation to their socio-cultural values.
- ii) All the knowledge gained and items of material culture as sources of inspiration in designing and production of their own original works.

The project, has therefore achieved its aims. Now the enormous task is of

organizing suitable school material and making the Institute's resources available to the teachers and students of material culture.

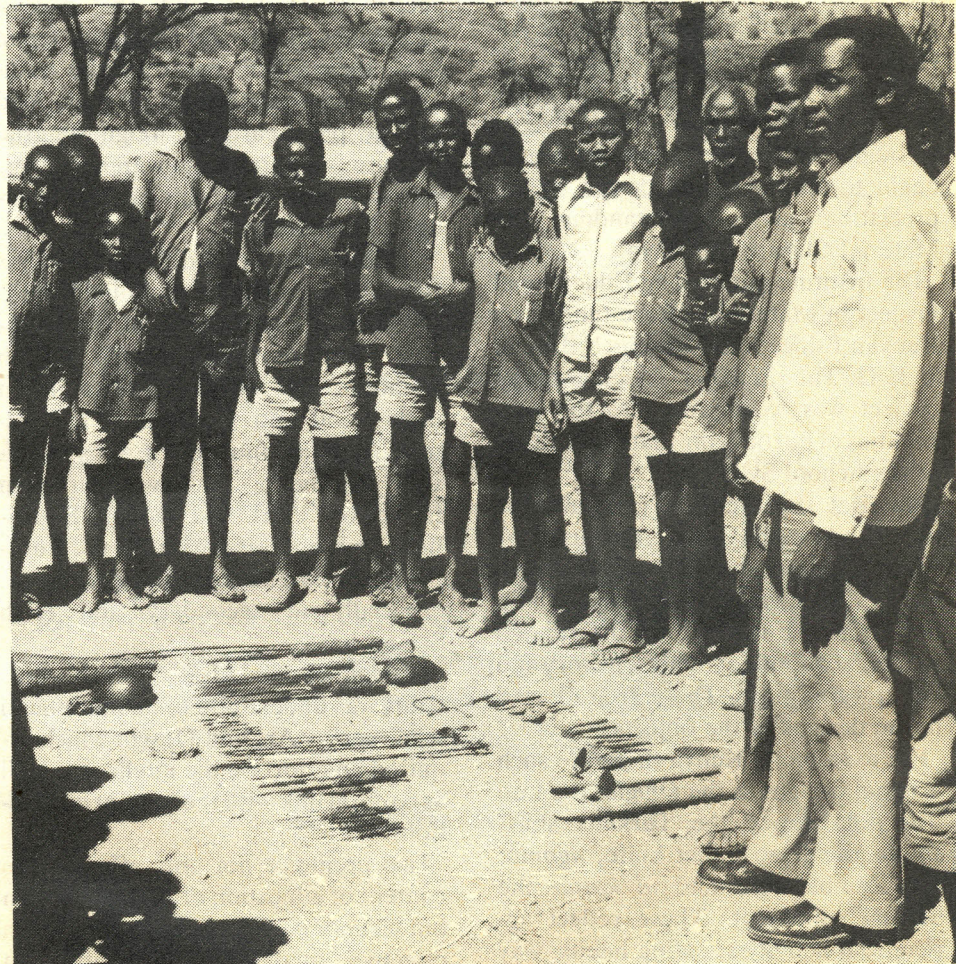
Meeting the Needs of 8.4.4

Some guidelines have been written by Kenya Institute of Education (K.I.E.) especially for Primary School Education. The Institute has also participated in both the Primary education Project (PEP.) and Secondary Education Project (SEP.) Seminars, and addressed teachers on the methodology of teaching Material Culture. During the last two years schools have been steadily building up their collections of material culture, and teachers have gained experience in teaching knowledge of material culture. This is very encouraging as collections of material culture never die out and they will be a great source of inspiration for the future generations.

However, there are hundreds of schools and thousands of students and

teachers all over the country who are involved in learning about Material Culture as a part of the new 8:4:4 system of education. The Institute of African Studies of the University of Nairobi is the only Institute in the Country that has the interest and resources to meet the needs arising out of the introduction of this new subject. As a part of meeting this, it is hoped that the Institute shall be able to establish a University of Nairobi Teaching museum in the near future.

At present a nucleus of the museum exists. Its collections are used to teach post-graduate students of Material Culture at the Institute of African Studies. However, in order to cope with the work of meeting the needs of the education system from Primary to University level, and including Teacher Training Colleges, the museum would have to expand its facilities and services, and perhaps develop into an important Documentative Centre of Material Culture of Kenya in future.



School children learning about shapes and techniques of tool designs in Kenya.

Staff proceed on study leave

Study leave granted between 14:2:87 and 14:4:87

Dr. V.A. Orinda: Lecturer, Department of Paediatrics. Eight month's study leave from 14th February, 1987 to enable him pursue the first part of Master of Medical Science Course at the University of Newcastle, Australia under the sponsorship of Rockefeller Foundation.

Dr. H.C. Sanghvi: Lecturer, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, one year's study leave from 1st August, 1987 to enable him undertake studies in Clinical Epidemology at the University of Pennsylvania under Rockefeller Fellowship.

Dr. P.G. Jani: Lecturer, Department of Surgery. One year's study leave from 21st April, 1987 to enable him train in Hepatobiliary Surgery and Upper and Lower Gastrointestinal Tract Endos-

copy at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow under a commonwealth Medical Fellowship.

Mr. K. Barasa: Lecturer, College of Adult and Distance Education. One year's study leave from 1st September, 1987 to undertake a course in applied linguistics and carry out library research in preparation for PhD studies at Manchester University.

Mrs. Kogi-Makau: Tutorial Fellow, Department of Food Technology and Nutrition. Ten months' study leave from 28th February, 1987 to enable her complete PhD studies at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine under sponsorship of the German Foundation for International Development.

Mr. J.C. Onyango: Tutorial Fellow, Department of Botany. Six months' study leave from 1st May 1987 to ena-

ble him start a split PhD programme at the University of Sussex, under the sponsorship of the British Council.

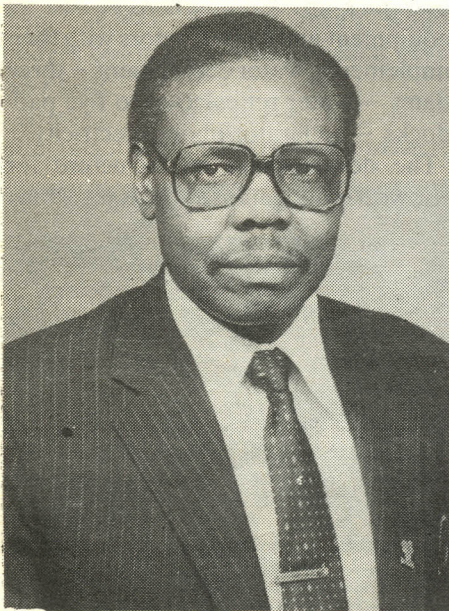
Mr. G.J. Magutu: Tutorial Fellow, Department of Architecture. Two years' extension of study leave from 1st September, 1987 to enable him complete his studies at the University of California.

Mr. J.M. Ndegwa: Assistant Internal Auditor, Audit Section; one year's study leave from January 1987 to enable him undertake a CPA III Course at the Kenya Polytechnic.

Mr. H. Mutoro - Lecturer, History. Two months study leave to defend his Ph.D of the University of California.

Mr. B. Ogolla - Lecturer, Public Law. Two years study leave to embark on Ph.D. work of University of Bordeaux, France.

Prof. Nzomo appointed chairman



Prof. Nzomo: Appointed Chairman of Accounting Department

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Philip Mbithi, has appointed Prof. D. Nzomo chairman of the Department of Accounting for a period of three years upto 1990. Prof. Nzomo, who is an associate professor in the Department, joined the University of Nairobi in 1971 as a Research Fellow. He has also held senior positions in overseas universities. He rejoined the university in 1976 as a senior lecturer and promoted to associate professor in June 1986.

In another development, Dr. Ogallo, senior lecturer in the Department of Meteorology has been appointed chairman of the Department for a three year term upto 1990. Dr. Ogallo, 36, read for his B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. at the University of Nairobi. He joined the Department as tutorial fellow rising through the ranks to senior lecturer in 1986.

PRSI to hold Seminar

The Population Studies Research Institute PRSI, will hold a Review Seminar at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Mombasa from 27th June to 5th July. The objectives of the seminar are to review the role the institute has played in the past and realign it to suit the changing national policies on population, review the curriculum for Diploma and Master's population studies programmes and explore ways of intensifying research activities of the institute.

The Seminar will also focus on ways of developing priority areas of research in population that the students and staff will be able to benefit from. It is envisaged that several research themes will emerge from the Seminar which will be the basis of all the Institute's research within the next five years.

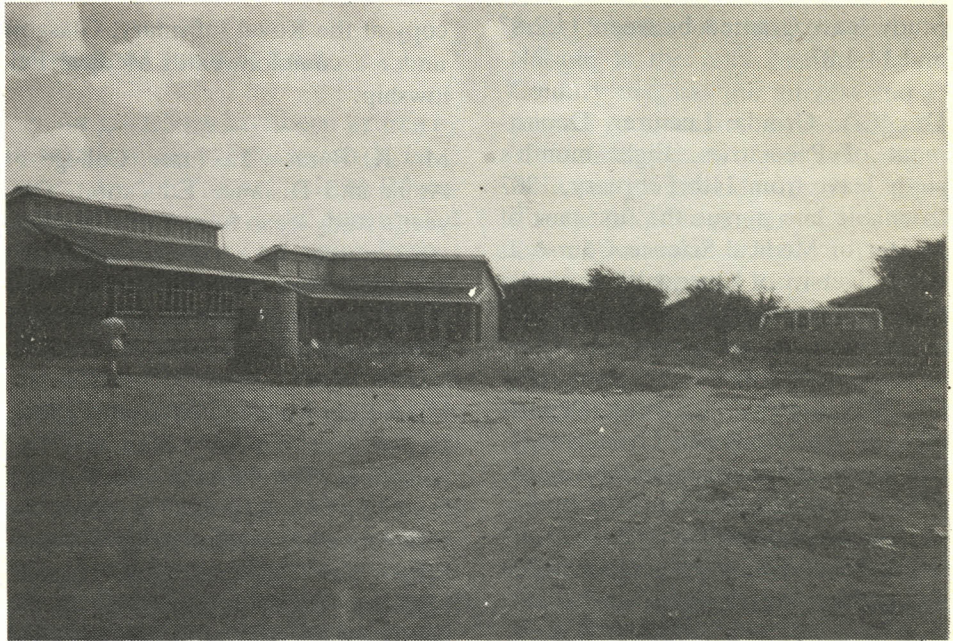
With a view to making the Seminar successful several donor organisations have been approached for sponsorship.

Varsity sets up Dryland station

Roughly ninety per cent of Kenya's land can be described as agriculturally marginal. These areas are experiencing sharp increase in human population due to influx from densely populated high potential areas. Increased pressure on the marginal lands threatens their long-term productivity. Development of agricultural techniques appropriate for these semi-arid areas is therefore critical to the development of Kenya.

To address, and possibly help solve production problems existing in semi-arid areas, the Kenya Government in 1978, allocated to the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences a 10,000 acre tract of land in kibwezi. Thus, was born the Kibwezi University Dryland Station. The station is located on the Athi River frontage 20km from Kibwezi town along the Kitui/Mombasa road. Kibwezi township is located 150 miles East of Nairobi along the Nairobi/Mombasa road.

In 1981, the Department of Range Management secured funds from the fifth Educational Project, World Bank, for the development of research and training facilities. These facilities are expected to be ready for use by the end of June, 1987. Currently the main use for the station facility will be for undergraduate teaching in various aspects of range utilization and management. However, it is hoped that the station will, in the near future be capable of providing facilities for Postgraduate



The structures of Kibwezi Dryland Station which are nearing completion.

training as well as act as a foci for regional development of range research and dryland farming technologies. The station is also expected to develop a model farm/ranch that can be used for demonstration, teaching and commercial enterprises.

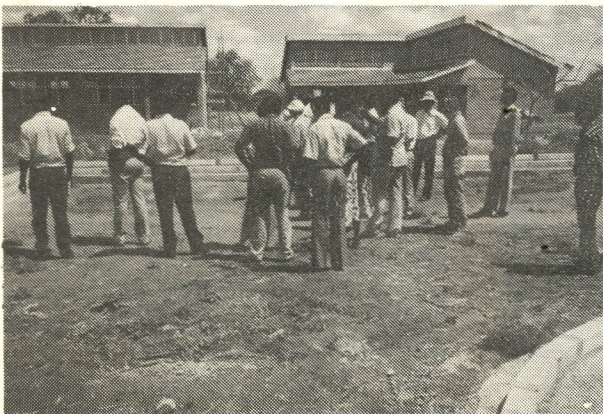
To be viable, the research station will need the establishment of a separate administrative structure with its own budget. Once, operational, it is hoped that the station will be self-sustaining through the ranch operation (Beef and small ruminants), Horticultural products, and farming. Furthermore, research and educational projects attracted by the station will, in the least,

provide overhead costs. The facilities can also be rented for conferences, seminars, shortcourses etc.

The current facilities at the Kibwezi Station include:

Teaching field lab., Dormitory for 50 student, Dining Hall, Residential houses for Senior/Junior staff, Garage, three vehicles – one seven ton lorry, three ton lorry for ranch transport and one pick-up, Comprehensive list of equipment and a few tractors with their implements, water development – three dams – water reticulation to five paddocks – generator/phone/electricity.

The development infrastructure for Kibwezi is budget for about Kshs. 20m.



Lecturers from the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences inspecting the facilities.

Hydatid Research

I wish to refer to an article in the Varsity Focus Number 57 of February 1987 entitled Research on Hydatid Launched. The Department of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology has also been conducting research on the disease.

The first Hydatid research project was initiated in 1977 by Prof. Lindqvist under NORAD sponsorship. In the following year I started research on the disease and my work culminated in the presentation of a Ph.D. thesis entitled "Characterisation of Hydatid cyst antigens by crossed immunoelectrophoresis and its implication for serodiagnosis in livestock. "As a result I was awarded a Ph.D. of the University of Nairobi in 1986.

Besides, AMREF has a unit to deal

with Hydatidosis in Turkana. Dr. Gathuma, a lecturer in our Department is also on a Ph.D. project to study the diagnosis treatment and postoperative follow-up of the disease in man in Turkana while Dr. Wachira of KARI is on a Ph.D. project to study the epidemiology of Echinococcus granulosus in Turkana District with special emphasis on evaluation of dog treatment as a control.

All in all, research on Hydatid has been going on in the Department for the last 10 years and has involved a lot of people.

Dr. M.M. Kagiko,
Department of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology.

KANU enrolment: V.C thanked

Members of staff and students of the University of Nairobi have thanked the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for making arrangements to have KANU recruitment take place at the University. This is the second time in a row that recruitment into the ruling party is being done at the University. Last year 3,480 members of the University community enrolled with the party realising Ksh. 34,800. Twenty seven Kanu badges costing one hundred each were also sold.

Briefing Varsity Focus, Mr. Peter Njuguna, the party recruitment officer,

said this year's exercise is for updating cards for both 1987 and 1988. There will be no recruitment next year because of the General Elections. He appealed to those who have not updated their cards to do so.

Besides selling stamps, Mr. Njuguna said they are also selling the KANU Manifesto and T-shirts. The T-shirts cost Ksh. 40.00 and have been very popular with students and foreigners visiting the University as well as staff. The exercise, which started in March this year, has so far enrolled about two thousand members.



University staff renewing their KANU membership cards

SCR officials

IN your February issue of the Varsity Focus, you carried a story on the elections in Senior Common Room. We thank you very much for having given our club this deserved publicity in your Newsletter.

However, the names of the office bearers of the SCR are as below:

1. Chairman, Mr. Mwema Maina
Deputy chairman, Mr. R. Onyango
2. Secretary, Mr. S.O. Ong'ondo
Deputy secretary, Mr. Kimui
3. Treasurer, Mr. H.W. Namai
Deputy treasurer, Mr. Mang'oli
4. Members of the executive committee:
Dr. Mutuku
Dr. Mabil
Dr. V.G. Simiyu
Mr. R. Omwakwe
Dr. H.K. Maritim

We appreciate your co-operation in the matter.

Shem Ogesi Ong'ondo
Secretary,
Senior Common Room

Association holds dinner dance

The Association of Medical Students of the University of Nairobi (A.M.S.U), one of the most active student organisations at the University, held its annual dinner dance last month.

In the recent past, the Association has organised Community Health Action Days during which they gave medical services to deserving cases. On their last Community Health Action day, they treated over 1,200 people, mostly mothers and children from Kiandutu village, Thika.

According to the Association's chairman, Mr. F.O.Z. Bukachi, they have launched a Volunteer Service Scheme through which medical students will offer free services to rural areas during the vacation. The Association also publishes a medical journal.

Mr. Bukachi thanked the University administration for its continued assistance to the Association.

"Terrorists" mark 10th anniversary

The high sporting standards existing at the University of Nairobi were exhibited when the Terrorists, the university basketball team and a top club in the country, held an open championship in April to mark its 10th anniversary. The championship, which attracted six of the country's top men and women basketball teams, were part and parcel of festivities to mark SONU day but had to be postponed to this term. The trophies were generously donated by University Students Accommodation Board (USAB).

The Terrorists were previously called Nairobi University Basketball Team until they took on the name 10 years ago. Since then things have never been the same on the basketball scene in the country. Apart from being the leading basketball team in the country, it has also provided players for the national team. Last year, one of its player, Ronnie, was voted the best player during the African Basketball Championships.

Among the top teams that took part in the open championship were Kencom Lions, Central Bank, Posta,



The captain of "Terrorists" receiving the trophy from Mr. Munene of USAB

Crusaders, and Barclays Eagles. The final was between Terrorists and Posta in which Terrorists displayed a classic game and overwhelmed their opponents to bag the trophy.

Briefing Varsity Focus, Mr. Ranji of the Games Department, said the tournament will now be held annually. He thanked the teams, referees and USAB for making it possible to hold the championship.

Other report say that Mr. Ngugi and

Mr. Mutua of the Games Department will be among international referees in wrestling during the Fourth All African Games to be held in Nairobi in August this year. In preparation for the task they underwent an intensive two weeks course in wrestling coaching and refereeing. The course, which comprised of 25 participants, was sponsored by the Olympic Solidarity Movement. The two games tutor said they plan to start a wrestling club at the University soon.

Staff soccer team gets new uniform

Turning out in their new set of uniform, the Nairobi University Staff Football Club has started the league competition on a high note. So far the team has played nine matches-won four, drew three and lost two. According to the Captain, the team's spirit is high following the purchase of a new set of uniform. This was made possible by the generous donation of the university administration of Ksh 21,350 to cater for affiliation fees, cost of five balls, two set of uniform and 12 pairs of boots.

The following are the results of the matches played so far:

Pan Hot 3	-University 3
Waithaka 0	-University 4
Mecol 0	-University 2
Rock Rangers 1	-University 1
Dawanol 1	-University 0
Lunda Maghere	-University 3
Securicor 0	-University 2
Nairobi Hospital 0	-University 2
Langata F.C. 0	-University 0

There are 24 teams in Nairobi province Division one league and competition is on a knock-out basis. The team captain, who is also the Assistant Secretary of the club, said his team is among the hottest contenders in the league so far.

VARSITY FOCUS
welcomes
contributions
in the form of
articles and
suggestions from
students and staff.

Contributions
for August issue
should be received
in Room 209 before
June 30th 1987.