

# STRATHMORE

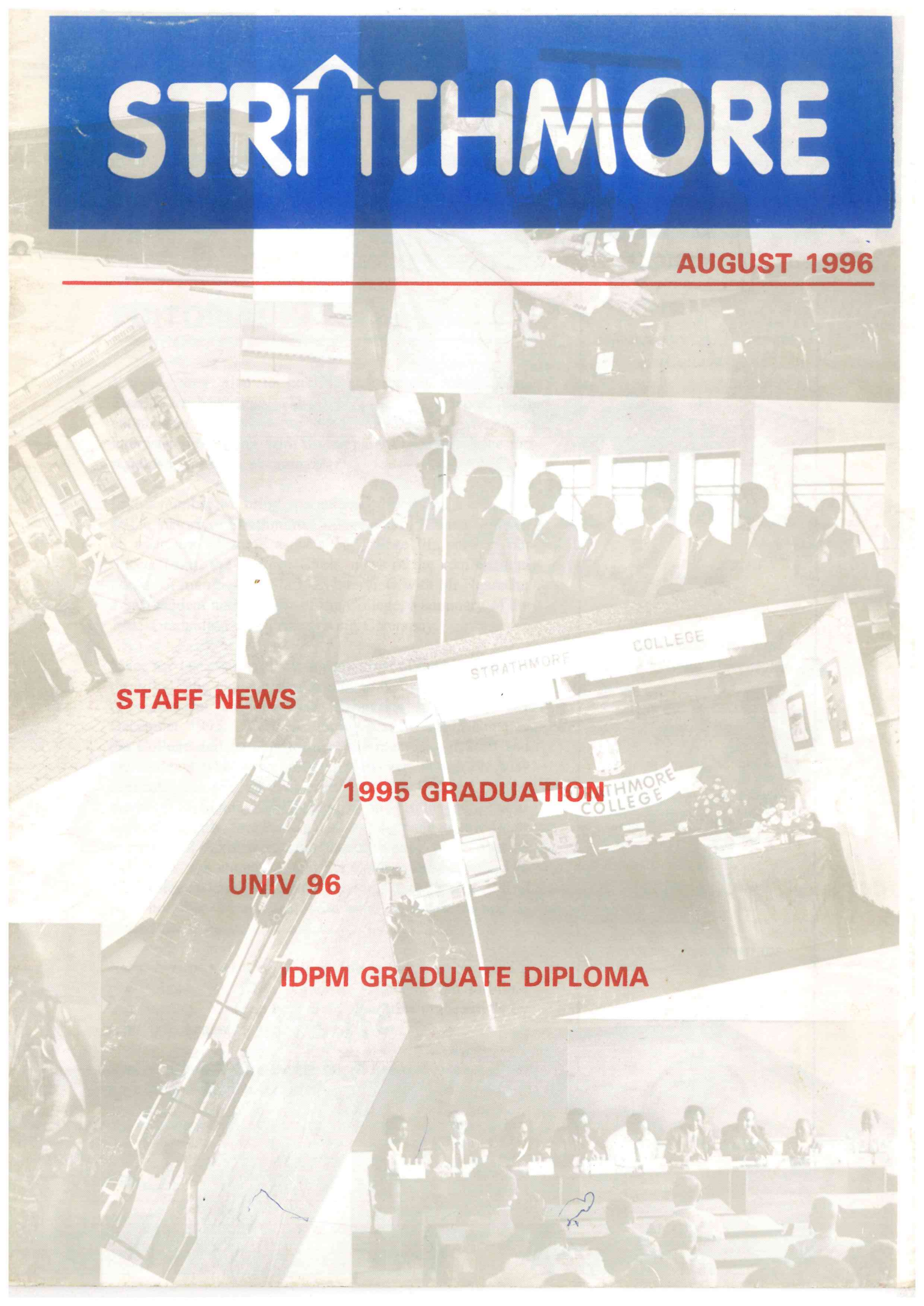
AUGUST 1996

STAFF NEWS

1995 GRADUATION

UNIV 96

IDPM GRADUATE DIPLOMA





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## EDITORIAL

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We are very glad to publish the second issue of the Strathmore Magazine. The first issue was received with enthusiasm and when we asked for students who were interested in helping with the preparation of this issue the response was very encouraging.

In this number we bring you among other things a summary of the history of Strathmore College and of Kianda College, an overview of some aspects of College life such as our Soccer team, the College Choir, news of the comings and goings of members of Staff, an interview with Mr Ngarachu a past student and lecturer of the College, a summary of the 1995 Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony.

Since the last issue of the Magazine one of the highlights in the life of the College was a visit to Kenya by the Prelate of Opus Dei Bishop Javier Echevaria from 16 to 21 December 1995. We were hoping that he would come to the College and be able to meet the members of Staff and the students who were around. However, due to his busy schedule he was only able to visit the College on the morning of Sunday 17 December and as the notice was very short only the Principal, Mr Sotz, and a few other members of Staff were able to accompany him. Bishop Echevaria was shown around the College and he prayed in the College chapel for some time. Although most of us were not able to have been with him, we are proud that he visited the College.

Another new aspect of College life is that we now have a new course - the IDPM Graduate Diploma both full-time and evening. You can read more about this in the article by John Walubengo.

Special thanks to Mrs Ogallo for all her hard work and the time she gave to the magazine.

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## STRATHMORE AND KIANDA COLLEGES

Kianda College started in January 1960 as a Finishing School on Invergara Road. However, the educational needs of Kenya then were not that of a finishing school. Thus in 1962 Kianda was officially registered as a Secretarial College. It started in a very small way, in an old, red and white settlers' cottage, on 5 acres of land, with an avenue of jacaranda trees and in front of the main door a glorious jacaranda - which died, and had to be removed unfortunately. When the Secretarial College was officially established in 1962 there were 30 students attending classes, all day scholars. The Cottage was both Staff House and College, so space was at a premium. The first students will remember sitting on little chairs around a table for Language Classes. These tables and chairs still exist, and grace one of the activity rooms of the Faida Girls' Club. Some of the first students' grandchildren could be sitting on those chairs!

After Independence in 1963, the secretarial courses became very popular as there was a great demand, and a very good system of sponsorship was organized, both in government and in the private sector. Large numbers of students came from all over the country. At that time

secretarial courses were unheard of, most girls went in for teaching or nursing. But the business world was opening up and needed to absorb women in its infrastructure. A lot of development came through the absorption of these young ladies into the offices.

The numbers were increasing. At the beginning of each year the Directors of the College would study the situation and come up with solutions. At times it meant breaking down another classroom wall to make room for a new one... Little by little the courtyard was all built in.

Soon after that Kianda was granted permission to issue its own certificates and Diplomas, recognized by the Ministry of Education.

Since there were girls from all over the country, it became necessary to look for suitable accommodation for them. As there were not enough university students to fill the women's Hall arrangements were made for students to be accommodated in one Hall, with Miss Gillan as Warden. They were ferried to and from Kianda in a little van driven by Ndeda, the driver - called "Speedy" because he was so slow and careful.

Kianda Residence was opened on 28 October 1966 by Her Excellency Mama Ngina Kenyatta. It opened up a much wider scope for the College. It housed 90 residents in the 3 floors. Applicants came in from all over Kenya, and other countries of Africa. Most African countries together with USA, Canada, many countries of Europe, Korea, Sri-Lanka, Japan, have been represented in Kianda.

Since then the courses have been upgraded to management level with computer courses, modern languages and a wide range of Business Studies and Personnel work to meet the requirements of top-level business women in our present day society.

In 1978 Kianda High School started on the premises of the College and as the years passed it was clear that there was not enough room for the two. Kianda Foundation was looking for an alternative site for the Secretarial College when Strathmore College was being re-located to Madaraka - hence the move.

The inspiration and spirit behind Strathmore College is the same as that behind Kianda College. The pioneers of Strathmore, just like those of Kianda were faced with the challenge of starting a non-

racist institution in the multi-faceted era of pre-independence Kenya.

The College, in the early 1960's was called Strathmore College of Arts and Science. This title was an attempt to show by name that Strathmore, with only Sixth Form classes, was not the usual secondary school, but that it was an academic, not a professional or technical institution.

The Directors of the College embarked on the task of recruiting suitable teaching staff. When classes started on March 6 1961, the teaching staff was just enough to keep the school running. By the beginning of September the staff was complete. Among the eight teachers were represented the educational tradition of three different English-speaking countries, Ireland, Great Britain and the United States. This ensured a variety of educational backgrounds and methods, and helped them to broaden their approach through the continual exchange of experiences.

The College began to receive grants-in-aid in October 1960. The multi-racial character of the College passed some administrative and legal problems to the Colonial government, since there were different grant-in-aid rules for the three separate categories of schools: European, Asian and African. Strathmore College fitted into none of these categories. This

problem was however, overcome.

In the third term of 1960, the College administrators began extensive trips to interview applicants at various Form 4 schools scattered throughout the country. This was a chance to see the educational system at its grassroots and to publicize Strathmore which was then totally unknown.

Towards the end of 1960, a 4-storey block had begun to rise above the ground. By the end of October, it was clear that the funds available were not enough even to pay the contractor for the first building. In spite of the capital grant of £40 000 from the Colonial government and mortgaging the land and buildings, there was still a sizeable shortfall needed to complete the first stage of construction. There was also the prospect of a large recurrent deficit, since the administrators were determined that no student was to be excluded because of inability to pay fees.

In mid-November, the Principal, Mr David Sperling, embarked on numerous fund-raising trips abroad. He received generous help from among others the Ford Foundation, the German People (through Sentralstelle Fur Entwicklungshilfe), the Government of Switzerland and Charles Merrill -Chairman of the Merrill Trust.

The students lived in study-bedroom dormitories of five

people. The students would inevitably find themselves in a room with others from different schools and different parts of the country and of the world. These living arrangements helped to foster the goal of unity out of diversity and went a long way in breaking down any initial reserve or tendency on the part of the students to stick with others form their own school or area.

As soon as the 4-storey block was completed, furniture was moved in. On 6 March 1961, the first boarding students arrived and classes were about to start. After many months of preparatory work, and with God's help, the adventure was beginning!

The two Colleges, Kianda and Strathmore, were run separately though united by the same spirit: the spirit of Blessed Josemaria Escriva, the Founder of Opus Dei who said: "To educate people in personal freedom and personal responsibility. With freedom and responsibility people work enthusiastically and wholeheartedly, and there is no need for controls or supervision. Everyone feels at home, living together in harmony without discrimination of any kind. Here, in this living together, personalities take shape. Each individual learns that in order to be able to demand respect for his own freedom, he must respect the freedom of others. Finally, there is the spirit of human brotherhood. Each person's individual

talents have to be put to the service of others, if not, they are of little use."

In January 1993 Strathmore College School of Accountancy, Information Technology Centre and Kianda Secretarial College moved to new premises at Madaraka Estate, together with the newly-started Distance Learning Centre. Under the name of Strathmore College and with the same administration, the College still radiates the same warmth and sends out the same message that His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi noted during an informal visit to Kianda College in November 1980, "I have visited the School and was very much impressed with the cheerfulness of the students and the members of Staff" (Visitors' Book 25-11-1980).

*Gladys Ogallo*

## STAFF NEWS

What amazes one in Strathmore is the marvellous synchrony of staff and students so much so that one rarely knows one from the other. It does not take long to discover the staff member though, from their constant suave dressing and amicable aura.

This discovery takes one by storm and makes one wonder what is behind the spirit! Keep it up Strath staff and together we will build a silent but storming group. I long to recall the short history since the beginning of this year. A few marvellous things have happened.

Peter and Evelyne Mwangi who are both working for the College, have a marvellous daughter Njeri; George and Elizabeth Ochieng have not been left behind and also decided to get a daughter by the name of Teresa. Lets all congratulate them for having accomplished one of their first feats. We can tell them to do it again without any problem and we will encourage them all along!

That's not all, we have had a number of new staff members over the last few months while some have left us.

Mrs. Judy Gachui has taken the Principal's reception area by storm and is also the secretary to Mr. McFie and Mr. Njenga. Together with Mrs Wandui they will take care of the North side of the administration area. I can assure you that they are capable just in case you imagine this area is not well womaned (or is it manned!).

A number of lecturers have also joined us. Mr Peter Mate Ruyenje will be lecturing in the SOA. He will be taking the subject Systems Theory Analysis and Design. Mrs Rose Kinya will be taking

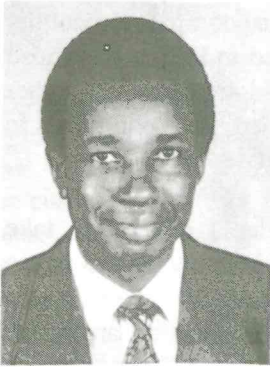
Tax I in the same department. In the SES department we have Miss Mwenda and Miss Phyllis Mureu. In the ITC department we have Mr John Walubengo who took over the Evening Course directorship. There are other new lecturers coming in but we will get their details in the next issue. We will also be having a new face in the Printing department. Mr Kevin Washika will now come in as a deputy printing officer while Mr Wilfred Omwando becomes the deputy Printing Manager. We welcome these new staff members and those who have been omitted herein by mistake. Your presence will add to our strength and we hope to enjoy your company very much. For all of us there are the joy of growing in number and the sorrow for parting with colleagues who leave us for higher duties.

We are going to miss the company of Miss Virginia Kuria who will be taking up duties in Loreto Msongari. Mr John Moreira is going to explore the wild west of East Africa, namely Uganda. He is ready to set up another 'ITC' department Uganda version in the near future!! We wish him all the luck. And so do we for those we have had to say bye to. This world is very small, we will meet again.

*George Njenga*

## EXCLUSIVE

### Interview with MR B NGARACHU Financial Director, Smithkline Beecham



Olivia and I arrived at the Smithkline Beecham headquarters on Likoni Road promptly at 4.00 pm, well-prepared and confident after the pep talk from Mrs Ogallo. The organization is housed in a large

modern one-storeyed building surrounded by a spacious compound set some distance from the main road.

On entering the Reception area, we were immediately struck by the plush interior, a symbol of the success of the organization, a leading firm in the pharmaceutical field. Olivia and I were now even more eager to meet the main force behind all the financial decisions in this Company.

Hardly had we finished taking in the interior decor than we were directed to Mr Ngarachu's office where he was expecting us. Mr Ngarachu turned out to be a pleasant faced, jovial man in his thirties. The kind of man who immediately makes everyone around him feel completely at ease, yet commands respect. His corner office on the first floor was secluded from the mainstream of people moving to and fro, a clear indication of the importance the company attaches to his work.

On inquiring about his background, Mr Ngarachu said he attended about six primary schools in a wide cross section of Kenya. This was because of his father's job as an Education Officer. He then proceeded to

Nyeri High School for his O Levels and qualified to proceed to A levels. At that time, he had set his sights on Strathmore School which was among the very best schools but was advised by his teachers to go for something less competitive. It was this very fact that made him even more determined to go to Strathmore because he saw it as a challenge.

To everyone's surprise he was accepted at Strathmore School where he sat his A levels two years later. After this he was faced with the question that all school leavers face today. Whether to go on to University, go to college or start job-hunting. Being a former Strathmore student, it is not surprising that Mr Ngarachu chose to stay on at the College and pursue the CPA course. He was used to receiving the very best tuition and knew that a CPA course in Strathmore would no doubt be of very high standards.

At Strathmore, like any other student, he faced hardships, especially when he began working for Total Oil after completing Part One. Both his studies and work demanded high standards. What motivated him to go on? He says the people around him. Many of whom were going through the same situation.

His rise to the top has been long but steady. He began as a costing clerk at Total Oil and has over the last fifteen years climbed up the ranks to Financial Director. On asking him what qualities he would look for in an aspiring accountant, he said the person should be very hardworking, honest, with good humour, open to challenges, intelligent and ambitious.

Mr Ngarachu's boyhood fantasy was to become a train driver. He said this with a big grin as he recalled his first train ride with an uncle. At that time all he wanted was the powerful feeling of sitting in the train driver's seat and directing that huge locomotive. Later on he thought of going into medicine but apparently he found that this was not for him. He now enjoys what he does immensely and looks forward to becoming a consultant in the future.

Work however is not Mr Ngarachu's top priority. He is a family man and believes firmly in spending as much time as possible with his wife and children. He never works on weekends and always makes sure he completes his day's work in good time so as not to have to work overtime. On the few occasions that he is held up in the office with meetings or in the field seeing the company's distributors, he has no worries about his family because he has a very supportive wife. He enjoys jogging, swimming and riding with his children during his free time. Framed

photographs of his wife and children occupying a central position in his office are a further proof that Mr Ngarachu is indeed a family man.

Mr Ngarachu does not see the possibility of the market being flooded with accountants. He believes that there is always room for more. When asked to compare accounts students who have studied in Kenya and those who have studied abroad his view was that they are equally qualified and equipped to venture into the financial sector.

So to all accounts students out there, take heart and persevere to the very end because there is a great future ahead of you, as the saying goes "The roots of education are bitter, but the fruits are sweet".

*Margaret Ndungu IDPM Part 2  
Olivia Wanga SES Term 6*

## PUZZLES

- 1 Why was Noah said to have been a very good Accountant?
- 2 What do you call a person that is half Kikuyu and half Kamba?
- 3 A man, looking at a photograph says: "Brothers and sisters I have none, but this man's father was my father's son." Whose photograph is he looking at?
- 4 Make a sentence using "that" five CONSECUTIVE times.
- 5 Which day of the year is a command to go forward?
- 6 It has two syllables: if you remove the first one, you give a command to move, but if you remove the second, it becomes a human being. What is it?
- 7 What is the difference between:
  - a jeweller and a jailor?
  - a tailor and a nurse?
  - a teacher and a station master?
  - a door mat and a bottle of medicine?
  - the sun and a loaf of bread?
- 8 What is worse than a giraffe with a sore throat?
- 9 What is worse than finding a worm in your pear?
- 10 Why do babies cry so much?
- 11 The cabbage, the egg and the tomato had a race. How did it go?
- 12 Why was the UN worried when the waiter dropped a platter of turkey?

*Please see page 15 for the solutions*

*compiled by Imma Kariuki*

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### 1995 GRADUATION AND PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

The 1995 Strathmore College Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony was held on 27 October. It was a colourful occasion that was graced by none other than His Excellency Mr Jean-Michel Filori, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission.



There was a total of 136 Graduands (56 CPA students, 37 IDPM Higher Diploma and 43 Secretarial students). There were 30 Prize winners and 43 Top Students from the three Schools.

In his speech Mr Filori congratulated the graduands from the three school. He also had a word of advice for them: "For those of you leaving the College today, you have completed the first step on the pathway of your chosen career. This is the beginning, not the end of a process during which you will experience good times and hard times. It is not the end of your education. Nowadays our way of life is such that we have to be very flexible and be ready to adapt to changes in our circumstances and make the most of opportunities that arise."

He said that the importance of

improving education and skill levels of the population could not be over-emphasized. Thirty percent of the Government budget goes to education and a significant proportion is spent on higher education. He pointed out that the Government had stressed the importance of increasing the capacity of middle level colleges especially those that provided training geared towards graduates who may become self-employed.

The European Union recognizes the importance of education in national development and praised those employers who provide employment opportunities by giving on-the-job training.

Mr Filori challenged the graduands to carry out their duties with integrity to uphold their own reputation as well as

that of their families and of Strathmore College "to ensure that the employers continue to have a high regard for the College and to give preference to the employment of ex-Strathmore students". He also encouraged them "to participate fully in the economical and political development of our country and to play an active role in the democratic process".

He added a word of advice for those who had yet to complete their courses: "The career you have chosen to follow represent a challenge. You will be required to devote many hours to hard work in preparing for examinations. But for those who make the effort success is assured and a rewarding and satisfying career lies ahead".

After this, the Principal, Mr C Sotz gave a speech on which he dwelt on the role that Strathmore plays in the training of Accountants, Secretaries and Computer professionals. The context was based on globalization and production of quality staff for the job market in the local and international economies.

## GLOBALIZATION

He said that globalization is a current trend in business sectors all over the world. The East African Community revitalization, the Preferential Trade Area and the Export Processing Zones are examples of this trend; not to mention the on-going process of uniting Europe under the European Union. This globalization process has resulted in a call to standardise training methods so as to produce professionals who can compete within their local professional market as well as the international market. The professional skills offered at Strathmore College are not relegated to the background in this process. For instance, the Institute of Certified Public Accountant of Kenya is a member body of the International Federation of Accountants Committee that represents over 1.2 million Accountants world wide. The same can be said, though with difference in magnitude, to all the other courses offered at Strathmore. "I am proud to mention that Kenya on its part, unlike many of its counterparts, has an open and transparent procedure by which foreign qualified accountants can obtain local recognition of their qualifications."

The demand to recognise foreign qualifications has been an issue addressed by the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade. The Uruguay Round Discussions addressed the question on cross-border practices. Its aim was to set disciplines and rules to govern interventions of the member governments in order to ensure that foreign professionals are not discriminated against by their domestic counterparts. The signatories are bound to abide by these rules.

## EMPLOYMENT

Leaving aside the current economic problems that bring about difficulty in employment opportunities, it is quite clear that the professional market is becoming increasingly competitive and internationally oriented. Qualifications must be grounded on a good training system, good examining procedures and experience in the working environment. In this regard Strathmore gives adequate preparation.

Reliable information reaching the College reveals that several students from our College obtained prizes and performed excellently in MBA courses in Europe and America in the Institute of Data Processing Management (IDPM). In the June 1995 sitting Strathmore students were awarded seven gold medals for being the best performers world-wide in their respective subjects. This explains the quality education given at Strathmore and the adequate examination preparation the College endeavours to give.

The professional formation given to students will augur well with the experience obtained on the job market. An ever-increasing salary is not the most important basis on which to build one's career. Excellent professional training has no price! Nevertheless, it is not enough. Experience is needed - a qualification in its own right. This is an area which is bridged when building a professional career.

Strathmore assists its students obtain employment through a Placement Office it has established. There are many employers who count on the quality education offered here to take apprentices straight from the College so as to prepare them

for various jobs.

## QUALITY EDUCATION

There are other important factors that can be summarised as quality education, ie professional standards, ethical practices, good written and oral skills, personal growth in virtue, etc. It is not easy to visualise all these things, but the Strathmore spirit, based on the moral teachings of the Founder of Opus Dei, Blessed Josemaria Escriva, inspires the entire education process here.

Mr Sotz concluded his speech by extending his gratitude to all present, to the Kenya Government, the European Union and the Italian Government for providing capital resources to make the College a reality.

He thanked all the College Staff for their work well done: "A question I am often asked is: what is the secret of Strathmore? My very first reaction is always the same - there are no secrets at Strathmore, we just try to work hard and for the right reasons, but then I correct myself, because there is something which, while not being a secret, tends to pass unnoticed - the commitment of our Staff. From Lecturers to cleaners, including the administration and catering staff - all have worked very well. I would like to thank each and every one of them."

The College Choir performed a few songs and a very entertaining dance which we all enjoyed. At the end of the ceremony the friends and family members of the graduands and prize winners and the members of staff as well as other visitors were able to congratulate the graduands as they enjoyed the refreshments.

*Eva Beuttah*

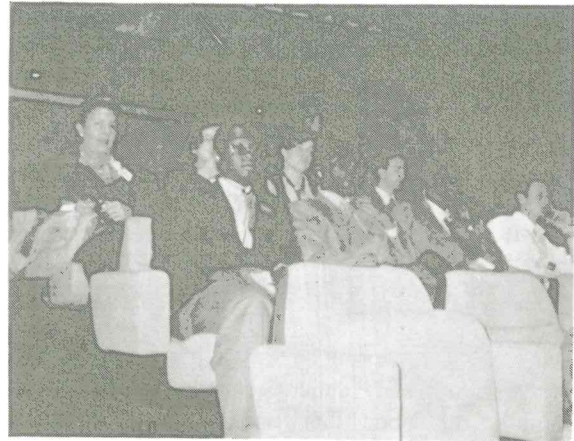
## UNIV 96

One afternoon in October last year, a group of inspired young men met at Mbagathi Study Centre to assess the possibility of working out a trip to Rome for the UNIV 96 Congress. The idea, to say the least, was a dream. The feeling of working out a plan that looked impossible, brought to mind an idea. It was Moses, the future chairman of the UNIV 96 Kenya Committee, who asked the question "Why not have our own UNIV 96 congress and send our deliberations and research report to Rome?" The rest of us added in our minds 'if you cannot go to the mountain, then the mountain must come to you!' It did not take long to consider his question a viable and indeed a possible proposition.

We set to work. The initial plan was to hold a Preliminary Congress supported and run by the students of the College. It would be held in the College Library and we would invite dignitaries to present topics in those areas the students could not reach. The topic proposed by the Istituto per la Cooperazione Universitaria (ICU), the Institute that runs the UNIV Congresses was COMMUNICATION: LEARNING HOW TO LIVE. As can be deduced the topic was quite general and wide. There were many areas to work on.

Through a series of meetings amongst the first committee members the following plan was laid down: Men in the College would dedicate their time to preparing sub topic: "COMMUNICATION IN THE FAMILY - FROM A MAN'S POINT OF VIEW while the women would prepare the same topic but from A WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW. The women in the end did research on another topic IS TRUTH COMMUNICATED IN THE MEDIA.

Mr Kip'netich welcomed our invitation to be the Master of Ceremonies and the Committee went ahead and invited the remainder of the resource personnel. Mr Borruso, a philosopher and teacher at Strathmore School took on the topic Communication through Music and Between Cultures. Professor TCI Ryan, a former Economist with the Kenya Government presented a topic on Communication Value of Statistics. Mrs Rose Kimotho - Creating a Public Image Through Communication; Dr S Ochuodho and Mr Oscar Correia demonstrated on how to work with the Internet and Novell Network Systems. Finally, Mrs



Rose Josiah coupled up with the College research and talked on Communication in the Family from a woman's point of view.

There were many mountains and valleys to cross; disappointments, joys, stress and all that goes with such projects. The Preliminary Congress finally took place as planned with an astounding group of participants numbering about 200 people. Thanks to the College administration and facilities, the work was made very easy. We take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to all those who made it a success. A special tribute goes to the Catering Department of the College who did not stop at anything to provide all the delicacies which made the occasion a home away from home for everybody.

As though things had not gone well enough, the research work papers compiled by the students of the College were presented to the UNIV 96 Congress well in advance. The Congress organizers in Rome accepted our participation. What looked impossible at the beginning was becoming a reality. Two weeks after the Preliminary Congress it seemed hardly possible that some members of the organising committee would make it. Three weeks later, there were three people able to make the trip and three days after that another six people. The miracle was complete. The organization of the trip to Rome was consummated. On 30 March a group of nine people from the College were on their way on board an Alitalia aeroplane on their way to Rome to attend the UNIV 96 Congress. There is no mountain that cannot be climbed, as the spirit

projected on the faces of that group of students. Indeed they were ready to continue the spirit of Strathmore in Rome too.

Today we hope that what was achieved this year will be achieved every year.

Now, I leave it to Kennedy to tell us about the time spent in Rome.

As the great moment drew closer and closer the Kenyan delegation was proud to be given a chance to participate in this broadly encompassing and fascinating annual event the UNIV 96 Congress.

I'm sure most of you have heard the term UNIV (but have not fully understood what it stand for). This is the door that opens onto friendship, communication and most of all opportunity. The UNIV is an annual congress that draws students and other young people from all over the world in the quest for knowledge and better world understanding through dialogue and interaction. Each year a theme is proposed and adopted and various sub-topics derived from it and then distributed among the various countries involved. Research is undertaken at this level and consequently the results are presented at the UNIV Congress held in Rome - Italy. This year's themes was "Communication - Learning to live".



For the Kenyan delegation this was a golden opportunity and the least we could do to show our appreciation at being given this chance was to put our best foot forward and come up with, what we thought was, a well-rounded report on Communication in the Family.

On our arrival in Rome, the climate was cold, but the atmosphere was serene and surprisingly accommodating as we tried to acclimatize to what was to say the least "freezing" weather. We made our way around the Eternal City not without our fair share of misfortunes but the Congress began punctually the following way. We observed this gathering of youth from all over the world, each with distinct and unique cultures and lifestyles yet because of the one purpose that had brought us all here, the effect was one of unity.

The first speaker was Mr Paul Johnson who is a renowned journalist-cum-historian who gave an extremely captivating talk about "What the Media can do to make the 21st Century more principled, civilised and safe". I must say that he virtually electrified the atmosphere in the Congress Hall as he held us all in the palm of his hand.

We got a chance to deliver our presentation the following day after the formalities of the first day were concluded and our representative, Moses Mwariri, made us proud with his delivery of our topic. We then sat back and listened to the other countries present their various topics, each in their own style. Topics ranged from "Communication - Money - Morality" to "History, shortening distances between Palestinians and Israelis" all in various languages: Spanish, Italian, French, Portuguese, etc. which we all eagerly listed to thanks to our translation units.

Once the Congress was over, we had some free time which we used to tour the Great Roman Empire - or what is left of it, and other fabulous sites in Rome which included the Colosseum, the imposing Sant' Angelo Castle, the legendary Fountain of Trevi and the towering ruins of the Roman Forum. Of course we visited the architectural wonder and Christian epicentre - Saint Peter's Basilica together with the sprawling wonders of the Vatican Gardens.

With the other participants of the Congress we also had the good fortune to attend an Audience with Pope John Paul II as well as a get together with the Prelate of Opus Dei Bishop Javier Echevaria.

As I finish this article, I can't help but flip through my photos one more time, trying to relive every moment.

*Kennedy Wabule  
and George Njenga*

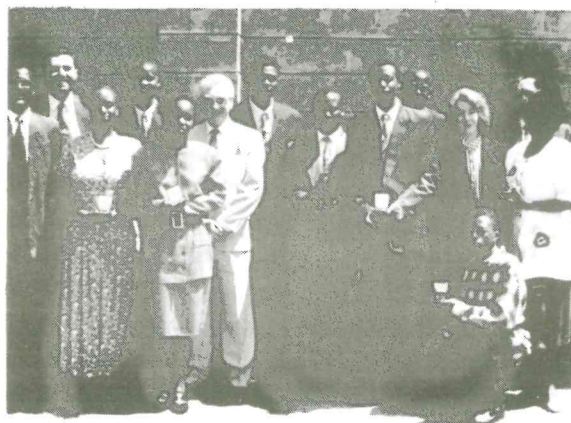
## IDPM CHIEF EXECUTIVE COMES TO STRATHMORE

Strathmore College was again in the news, when seven of its students claimed eight Gold Medals in last year's IDPM examinations. Mr Ian Rickwood, the Chief Executive of the Institute of Data Processing Management (IDPM), presided over the Award Ceremony at the College Campus. Mr Ian Rickwood, who was accompanied by the IDPM Business Manager, Ms Vanessa Hymas, presented the eight Gold Medals to seven Strathmore students who had won the awards.

The Strathmore Campus is located on a two hectare site that was developed, furnished and equipped by the European Community, with special donations and grants coming directly from the Italian and the Kenyan Governments. The Information Technology Centre, one of the College's four Schools, currently has a student population of over 400 students. It was started in January 1991 and has since then, won nineteen Gold Medal Awards in the various IDPM examinations. Other academic achievements in the field of Accountancy and Secretarial Studies are well registered and known around Kenya and East Africa.

During the Award Ceremony, the Principal, Mr Charles Sotz, said that it was a good occasion to thank the Kenya Government, the European Union and the Italian Government for their initial and continued support. He said that acquiring professional skills is not sufficient for a student but a solid foundation in professional and moral ethics is also essential. He added that the College was committed to producing excellent professionals with a good ethical background, and this has been the distinguishing feature in Strathmore graduates. The Principal also said that with the coming introduction of the Graduate Diploma Scheme, the College is set for greater achievements, having been encouraged by the success of the previous students.

After the ceremony, Mr Rickwood and Ms Hymas were available for a Panel Session, in which they discussed among other things, the Graduate Diploma Study Scheme that is to be offered at Strathmore College starting in July this year. During the session, Mr Rickwood explained to the audience what the IDPM Graduate Diploma award implied in terms of employment opportunities as well as its equivalence to an IT-honours degree from City



University (London). He then suggested ways in which the Graduate Diploma award could be popularised locally, by forming a Kenyan IDPM body which would recruit IT specialists from the industry and promote the awareness of the IDPM and its educational programmes.

Ms Hymas assured the students that academic standards were not being compromised by allowing Centres to mark locally some of the IDPM units since moderation was still done externally. She instead said that local marking should be interpreted in terms of the confidence IDPM has in the quality of lecturers working in the various training centres. After the Panel Session, the Principal, Mr Sotz, was pleased to show Mr Rickwood and Ms Hymas around the College campus. The Information Technology Centre was of special interest. Mr Rickwood was pleased to see state of the art equipment that included workstations that are linked together by a local area network working with the latest software products. The Centre also exhibited a fully equipped Multimedia Laboratory as well as international E-mail through the Internet.

Finally, the guests were shown around the IT Consultancy Department, which has been developing Information Systems, both for internal use as well as for other enterprises in Nairobi.

As we write the first group of Graduate Diploma students have started their studies at the College: some on a full-time basis and others on the Evening Courses. We wish them all the best.

*John Walubengo*

## THE AFRICAN SYNOD

### Let Us Walk Together as God's Family

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In April 1994, Pope John Paul II opened the **Special Assembly for Africa of the Synod of Bishops** in the great Basilica of St. Peter's in Rome with an unforgettable solemn Mass. The sound of drums, clapping hands and dancing filled the Church where St. Peter lies buried, with excitement and joy. The whole Church knew that Africa had come together for an extraordinary synod. For the first time in history, Bishops from the whole continent of Africa came together to look at the life of the Church in Africa and to plan its future.

In September 1995, the Pope came to Africa to celebrate the Synod on African soil and bring us the fruits of that Synod in the booklet (Apostolic Exhortation) *The Church in Africa*. He told all Christians in Africa: **The Synod is over; the Synod has just begun**. This means: The Synod of the Bishops in Rome is over; the Synod is now starting in our dioceses and parishes; in our small Christian communities and families; in our vast meadows and rolling hills; in our factories and jua kali sheds; in our schools and universities. Our great challenge is to study the teaching of the synod, to discuss the important issues in our communities in order to transform our personal lives and our communities in the spirit of the Synod.

Church documents are at times difficult to understand. It is for this reason that the main themes of the Synod document *The Church in Africa* have been put into simpler language. The shorter and simplified text, *The African Synod Comes Home*, edited by the AMECEA Pastoral Department is now available at most Catholic book-shops. We are all invited to obtain a copy. This should then start a long process of reflection and deepening on the questions put to our Christian faith, first and foremost, by our own life project, our dreams for happiness and self-fulfilment, our inner struggles and conflicts, our shortcomings and real potential for good so many times frustrated by our passivity. This would then lead us to reflect on the potential inherent in our rich traditional cultures; be more accommodating to the religions around us; look at the calamities that have befallen our continent in the last three decades and the injustices of our societies with an authentic Christian optimism. Looking at all these issues together in the light of the Gospel will help the Church in Africa to become more mature, relevant, credible and effective.

SYNOD is a Greek word and it means: WALKING TOGETHER. The synod invites us:

- to walk together as a people of God: Bishops, priests, religious, laymen and women, youth and children.
- to walk together as the one family of God in Africa; that is to say live together, celebrate together, solve our problems together, evangelise together as ONE family.
- to walk together through these changing times with faith in Jesus Christ and to seek new ways under the guidance of His Spirit; this means to follow closely in his footsteps which are the sacraments of the Church (especially that of Reconciliation and the Eucharist).

The synod is not simply a passing moment. According to its theme it wants to give a new vision and fresh orientation for **The Church in Africa and Her Evangelising Mission Towards the Year 2000**. Africa has become of age! Africa is the hope of the Church! Africa with her strong sense of solidarity and her simple gaiety is the cradle of the Church's evangelising mission towards the year 2000 and beyond. Sons and daughters of Africa, the synod has just begun!

*Fr Paul Mimbi*

## COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

### STRATHMORE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Soccer League Championships came in the wake of a strong urge from the students to participate in extra curricula activities as was reflected by continuous pressure from the students to the management asking for more sports in the College. This saw the emerging of several teams from various sections in the College. The role played by Alex and George in organizing the matches and the support of the College to the success of the Soccer League cannot be over-emphasized. It is the great skill employed and the kits supplied by the College that made it possible.

It was a well organized tournament with six teams which were grouped into two pools: A and B each with three teams. Pool A consisted of Section 2, Section 4 and the Staff, while Pool B was made up of Section 1, IDPM Part 2 and Section 3. The preliminary matches took off with IDPM 2 battling it out with Section 1. The computer students beat the Accounts students 1-0 before a heavy downpour forced the referee to suspend the game. It seemed a coincidence when the heavy rains saved Section 1 from the humiliation of defeat.

But when the rematch was abandoned due to heavy rain it was confirmed that they housed a rainmaker in their team.

The next game was Section 1 duelling with Section 3. This time the former clutched the victory when they won 1-0. They edged out the Section 4 who seemed to be rusty at the Upper Hill Grounds. The goals that earned Section 2 the victory were scored by Stiv O'Bondy, Andrew Sitati and Raymond Nyoka as they won 3-1. In IDPM 2's second match they dismissed Section 3, 2-1.

Section 2 had their second victory which was earned smoothly when they humbled the bulky Staff team 6-0. This was to send out a warning to other teams. This victory saw the Section 2 qualify for the semi finals and move to the top of their pool with a total of 6 points while the Staff came next after thrashing Section 4, 5-2. In Pool B, IDPM topped with a total of 4 points and a superior goal aggregate while Section 1 came second with 4 points.

The winners of Pool A who were the favourites - Section 2 - fought it out with the runners up of

Pool B, Section 1. The former humiliated the latter 4-0 to secure a place in the finals. This was alleged to be the work of their coach Stiv O'Bondy who retired from active soccer.

In the other semi final, IDPM 2 sealed the fate of the Staff when they edged them 4-3. This too secured a place in the finals for the students.

The peak of the tournament came with the Finals when Section 2 were expected to put up a strong fight against the mighty IDPM 2 who were regarded as the underdogs. Both teams went to Upper Hill accompanied by their supporters who were chanting songs for their favourite teams.

IDPM 2 put up a sterling performance to hold the high riding Section 2 in a tension-packed match. The match was well handled by the ref who saw IDPM 2 make early raids on their opponents' goalmouth with Fredrick Musila testing the keeper with long range shots. However, Section 2 snatched the lead in the 38th minute when Samuel Nyakundi floated a cross which found Godfrey Wamalwa well placed and tapped it into the net.

The IDPM 2 were not deterred by the early set back as they fought back seriously looking for an equalizer. Their efforts paid dividends in the second half when sensational striker Francis Kangata sent a towering shot which the keeper Stephen Sang could not stop but watched helplessly.

Section 2's fate was sealed when Fredrick Musila caught Stephen Sang off-guard when he sent the ball into the net. The match ended 2-1.

A party was held for the winners and the runners up. IDPM 2 were awarded a trophy which was received by their Captain Maurice Odour. The party was presided over by the ITC Director Mr J B Ochieng. Mr George Njenga, Alex Muriuki and George Ochieng were also present, all of them has seen to it that the Tournament would be a success. Godfrey Wamalwa of Section 2 was voted the Most Valuable Player (MVP), the Best Goalkeeper was Victor Abayo of IDPM 2 and Fredrick Musila was the highest goal scorer.

*Stiv O'Bondy*

## THE COLLEGE CHOIR

The Strathmore College choir was started in 1993. The first members were also the pioneers of the new Madaraka premises. Mr S Anami, who has been our Choirmaster from the beginning, tells us how those pioneers had everything a team should have, but talent. One thing about this group that won his admiration though, was their determination. The results of which were seen in their first public performance, the Official Opening of the College by His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi.

The present choir members, as Mr Anami always reminds us, have a lot of talent. Quoting him "It surprises me how much talent you people have. I have never seen so much talent at once!" I must say I do agree with him. Especially our basses who are normally not more than three boys. When they sing, one is reminded of Jumbo the Elephant. And mostly, this is made more pronounced, because their notes are always pleasing to the ear. Singing alto is the hardest thing one can do. I sing alto (the second female voice), and it takes the Choirmaster plenty of time to make sure we have got the correct notes. It is like riding on a wave. So, the result is either very good or terribly bad. The tenors also suffer a little bit like the altos. But they have it easy along with the sopranos. The sopranos sing the lead notes, and these act as a guideline for the rest of the voices. Usually, therefore, if the sopranos start us off badly, then what a disaster that is! I am sure that sometimes the College has had the fear of having to replace the entire building's windows. This comes about when the sopranos decide to screech their heads off. We must be thankful that the windows have never had to be replaced nor their heads been screeched off.

One might feel compelled to ask "Why join the Choir? Why not play basketball or something?" Let me assure you, that being in the Choir is actually quite refreshing. Sometimes when things seem to be bleak and the world is a little topsy-turvy, all one has to do is go for a session of Choir, and voila! the blues disappear like magic. In other words, the blues are sung away. Another

reason is that the people there are so friendly, very welcoming and encouraging. Starting with Mr Anami, who is full of anecdotes, words of encouragement and a funny word that will always make you smile. The basement - that is where we meet - meetings are something to look forward to. We are like a family and most important, very good friends who are ready to help each other.

Choir is not all fun and play though. Sometimes, one has to give one's all, in order to get a song right. The hardest piece we have ever done is the "Alleluia" from Handel's Messiah. But it is such a pleasure to sing a piece with so much meaning.

From time to time the College treats the Choir members to an excursion, and we also organize our own outings or picnics to celebrate members' birthdays. And before a performance, the College makes sure that we are fed with tea or snacks.

It has also always been our dream to go beyond the walls of the basement. Maybe to take part in a cultural exchange programme and generally, to take our music across the borders. But first, we would like to start locally by doing a recording at the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation, and we hope that this dream will be realized soon.

If you think you can sing - not croak - feel free to join us. Although even the croakers with the help of Mr Anami our expert, and the rest of us, might have a future. Who knows what surprises await you!

**Long live the Choir!!**

*Helen Mwangona*

## ENTERTAINMENT

### JOKES

*compiled by Imma Kariuki*

A drunkard meets a young lady along the street.

Drunkard: Ugly!

Lady: Drunk!

Drunkard: At least my condition is temporary.

Two brothers after their father's funeral:

First: What were dad's last words?

Second: He did not have any. Mum was with him.

Stranger: Is it true that the people from this village never answer a question except with another?

Villager: Who told you that?

Absent minded professor: I would like some acetylsalicylic acid tablets, please.

Pharmacist, smiling: You mean Aspirin, don't you?

Professor: That's it. I can never remember that word.

Visitor: May I see Mr Mwangi?

Secretary: I am afraid he is engaged.

Visitor: I don't want to marry him; I only wish to speak to him.

Advertisement for cleaning equipment:

DON'T KILL YOUR WIFE WITH THE  
HOUSEWORK; OUR MACHINE WILL  
DO IT FOR YOU.

He worked for a small family business that was rapidly expanding and was nagged by his wife to demand more money from his boss. One morning, plucking up courage, he went to the boss' office and said "I've been with you for several years and my wife told me to ask you for a raise." The boss picked up the telephone, dialled a number and spoke to his wife at home. Then he put down the phone, shrugged and said: "These wives! Mine says NO".

The Managing Director called the Chief Accountant into his office and told him: "I have decided to

promote you to Finance Director and give you a 500% raise, young man. So what do you say to that?" "Thanks a lot, Dad!"

The little girl was lost and someone took her to a police station.

"What is your father's name?" she was asked.

"Daddy!"

"What name does your mother call him?"

"She doesn't call him names; she likes him."

### SOLUTIONS TO THE PUZZLES:

- 1 Because he floated a company when all others were in liquidation.
- 2 cucumber
- 3 his son's
- 4 She said that, that "that" that that man used in the sentence, should have been "which".
- 5 March 4th
- 6 mango
- 7 - one sells watches, the other watches cells  
- one cuts dresses, the other dresses cuts  
- one trains the mind, the other minds the train  
- one is taken up and shaken, the other is shaken up and taken  
- one rises from the east, the other raises from yeast
- 8 a millipede with sore feet
- 9 finding half a worm
- 10 Well, if you had no hair, all your teeth were out and your legs were so weak you couldn't stand, what would you do?
- 11 The cabbage was ahead, the egg was running and the tomato tried to 'ketchup'.
- 12 Because that meant the fall of Turkey, the ruin of Greece and the break-up of China.

## COLLEGE PICTORIAL



1995 Graduation and  
Prize Giving Ceremony

Mr J B Ochieng, Mr C Sotz,  
Ms V Hymas and Mr I Rickwood



Educatex Exhibition