

10/11/98 Eastel

Fleeing robbers shoot university student dead

TWO suspected robbers yesterday escaped a police dragnet and shot dead a university student in an abortive robbery attempt.

Two other suspects believed to be members of a gang behind the recent spate of violent robberies in Nakuru town, were gunned down by police.

The fleeing suspects shot dead the Egerton University student after they mistook him for a police officer.

Two toy pistols were recovered from the dead robbers while the two who fled were said to possess real ones.

Rift Valley provincial police boss Jarma Warsame confirmed the incident. He said CID officers had received a tip-off that a gang was planning to rob a local Shell petrol station near the Kenya Farmers Association Headquarters.

"We immediately planted CID officers at the station dressed as petrol station attendants to confuse the robbers. They fell right into

our trap," said Warsame.

He said that a CID officer posing as the manager of the petrol station came into the station carrying a paper bag and was confronted by two robbers carrying the toy pistols and ordered to surrender the bag.

"He surrendered the bag to them and another officer produced a gun and ordered them to lie down. On sensing danger, they panicked and started fleeing and prompting our men to open fire, killing the two instantly," he said.

He said that the other two robbers were keeping vigil at a distance and when they heard gunshots they shot at the officers who had by now all drawn their guns. The robbers mistakenly shot the university student who was fleeing the scene.

Warsame said that the dead student identified as Lennie Rono had come from visiting his father who works at the KFA headquarters when he was shot in the neck.

EASTA 17/10/98

University students rebuilding fading image

MENTION a university student's name to any Kenyan and watch out for his/her facial expression. A mere mention of these young elites is always met with disapproving faces.

Motorists have complained of being victims of stone throwing students during riots. The police sent to quell these riots have also not been spared.

The business community in the Nairobi's Central Business District have also suffered under the hands of rowdy students. Their shops are often broken into and looted whenever students take to the streets. Employees and shoppers are often caught up in such skirmishes.

Those who live near a public university would tell you a similar story. Many students have therefore ended up in police cells.

The current breed of students seem to have had enough of the accusations and have realised the need to co-exist with other members of the society.

"We have lived in isolation for a long time and this is the time to convince members of public that we are not the

By Pamela Mulumbi

thugs they have always taken us to be. We are part and parcel of them," quips Lucy Kabira a University of Nairobi student.

In a bid to convince the public that they are now committed to the society, the students now engage in various social activities. During the August bomb blast, students from University of Nairobi joined others in clearing the debris that was left in the aftermath.

Recently University of Nairobi students helped in cleaning Pumwani Maternity Hospital.

The students are also trying to forge a new relationship with the Stage Coach company. Many a times, the students have hiked lifts from the stagecoach buses using force. During last year's Saba Saba riots, students burned a stage coach bus plying the Kabete-Wangige route.

The students' action led to the withdrawal of stagecoach buses from that route.

However, they have realised that co-existence is the only answer to their

woes given that matatus plying their routes take advantage of their monopoly to hike fares.

Ouma Osodo, a student leader from Lower Kabete campus says that the recent gesture at the stagecoach garage was a form of entering into fresh negotiation with the firm to consider re-introducing the buses to their routes.

He adds: "We did not experience any problem when stagecoach buses used to ply our routes. We used to pay only Shs 20 to the City centre. But now these matatu operators charge us as much as Shs 100. This is exploitation. Most of us hardly come to town these days."

The students and matatu operators have developed bad blood, with each pointing a finger at the other. The students blame the touts for exploitation whereas the operators blame the students for belittling them and of being arrogant.

Eric Onguru, a second year Bachelor of commerce student said they recently paralysed matatu operations along Nairobi-Kabete route for interfering with their studies. The matatu

operators, he said, played loud music when passing the university.

The students had earlier on written a letter to Matatu Owners Association condemning the matatu drivers and conductors' malicious intentions. But they did not respond.

The students negotiations with the Stage Coach company started about a month ago when they wrote a letter to the firm's managing director who responded to their pleas. They had asked the firm to allow them join in the cleaning of the garage, which they agreed.

"We really want to do something so that other Kenyans may realise that we need one another and we are part and parcel of the community," quipped Eric Onguru.

An official from the company who requested not to be named praised their newly found relationship and wished it could last forever.

"We are willing to live in harmony with the students as long as they give us our share of the cake peacefully and we give them theirs," the official said.



GIVING A HAND: The students turn out en masse to clean up Stage Coach buses.

DM 12/3/98

Varsity expels, suspends students

By NATION Reporter

More than 20 Nazarene University students have been expelled and 50 others suspended for a year for participating in a boycott that led to the institution's closure last month.

Sources at the university yesterday said the students have been receiving their letters of expulsion or suspension since Monday.

"More than 50 suspension letters and 20 others of expulsion have been dispatched and more are still on the way," said the official.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof

Leah Marangu, declined to comment on the matter, saying through a secretary that she was "very busy". The *Nation* was barred from entering the campus, located near Ongata Rongai in Kajiado District.

A watchman at the gate said: "We are under strict instructions not to allow anybody into the compound."

Scores of suspended or expelled students milled around the gate after being denied entry.

Workers and students leaving or entering the campus were thoroughly frisked.

Some students have been re-

admitted and are continuing with their studies in circumstances that others describe as "mysterious".

"We were surprised that some students were allowed back to continue with studies, yet the university has not officially re-opened," said one of the suspended students.

A letter to one of the students, dated March 6 1998, reads: "The university has decided to suspend you for one year. Re-admission will be at the discretion of the university, based on further findings from investigations to be carried out."

STD 29/07/98

Students protest shooting

Standard Correspondent

EMOTIONAL United States International University students protested the killing of their colleague by Flying Squad officers on Monday night..

They marched through Nairobi streets in protest against the cold-blooded killing.

James Ocholla Odhiambo was shot down as he drove home in his mother's Land Rover Discovery. He was mistaken for a car jacker. (See story page one).

The students who were waving placards, brought traffic to a near standstill as they marched from Kimathi Street to the scene of the accident on Uhuru Highway round-about.

Attempts by Nairobi PC Joseph Kaguthi to address the students was met with boos as the students chanted slogans.

"Don't kill, arrest. Stop shedding innocent blood. Somebody must pay for this cold-blooded murder," they chanted.

The PC sent condolences to the family of the slain student amid shouts of protest.

X DNP 3/4/98 X

Medical board riled by varsity decision

By NATION Reporter

The Medical Practitioners and Dentists Board has criticised the University of Nairobi for not liaising with it when changing the criteria for admitting students to the medical school.

Chairman Richard Baraza said the board was interested in the changes made by the university, as advertised in the March 22 edition of the *Sunday Nation*, but disappointed that the institution had not consulted it.

He warned that any candidates with grades "below the required standard" allowed to join any medical school would not be automatically registered by the board, even if they obtained the degree.

Mr Baraza assured, however, students with proper grades who did not get admission to the University of Nairobi because of stiff competition that they had nothing to fear if they were admitted to foreign universities.

Mr Baraza said, in a Press state-

ment on Wednesday, that the board would "seal the loophole whereby poor candidates who do not qualify for medical school were sometimes admitted into foreign universities, thus defeating the very purpose of getting able students into medicine."

A decision last month by the university to admit candidates with a C+ in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) to medical school provided they were able to pay for the part-time medicine programme drew a violent reaction from students. They rioted, burning cars and destroying property, leading to the institution's closure. Mr Baraza said yesterday that the university appeared to have been prompted by financial considerations to relax its strict criteria.

On Tuesday, Prof Gichaga said the controversial part-time medicine degree programmes would continue as scheduled despite opposition from students.

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D/N 23/3/1998

Varsity shake-up must be thorough

Kenyatta University at the weekend announced major administrative changes in an apparent move to improve efficiency and management at the crisis-torn institution.

The changes have come close on the heels of a recent revelation of the sale of fake degree certificates and academic transcripts bearing the institution's emblem and the signatures of Vice-Chancellor George Eshiwani and former academic registrar John Shiundu.

While it is encouraging that the university has seen the need for a shake-up of its administration, it would appear that it is yet to get to the root cause of its myriad problems. However, it is not enough to move bodies around, especially if certain shortcomings have been identified in the individuals involved.

If people fail to carry out their assignments, they should not merely be removed from their sections and redeployed; they should be sacked. And those suspected of involvement in criminal activities, should be handed over to police and eventually taken to court.

Observers and insiders aver that the only way to rescue Kenyatta from further decline is to shake up its administration thoroughly and decentralise the power base. The scenario that is emerging is that the institution is grappling with the adverse effects of a highly centralised administration.

It is becoming evident that the various administrative set-ups such as the Senate and the university council, which are expected to play key roles, do not have enough say in decision-making.

The deputy vice-chancellors should ideally have powers to make decisions and implement policies under their jurisdiction. Appointments to senior management positions should bring in the administration individuals with talents and proven track records. Such people would be able to effectively carry out their duties without close supervision.

Perhaps the Government should not just watch the unfolding crises, but should look afresh at the institution and initiate practical changes to restore its reputation and public confidence. The weekend reshuffle appears more or less a face-saving move that will not help to alter sufficiently the situation on the ground.

DN 26/3/98

Man in court over fake degrees saga

By NATION Correspondent

A Kenyatta University examinations official was yesterday charged with printing degree certificates.

Mr Crispus Karanja Njogu, an assistant registrar, denied the charge before Nairobi Senior Resident Magistrate Christine Meoli.

He was represented by Mr Kibe Mungai, while the prosecution was led by inspector Philip Musyimi.

On March 8, the *Sunday Nation* broke a story about a racket involving the sale of blank degree certificates bearing the signature of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof George Eshiwani, and that of Prof John Shiundu, formerly the Academic Registrar.

The charge against Mr Njogu stated that in February 1998, at Zippy Printers, Nairobi, he and others not in court, made degree certificates, purporting them to have been issued by Kenyatta University.

Inspector Musyimi did not object to the university official being granted bail.

Mr Mungai said the accused recorded a statement at Kasarani Police Station on March 17 and he had co-operated with investigating officers.

The lawyer submitted that his client was a part-time Masters Degree student in business administration and he was due to sit his examinations in two weeks.

The magistrate released Mr Njogu on a bond of Sh200,000, with one surety until the hearing on May 5.

The accused is among the officials who have been suspended from the university.

Officers from the Criminal Investigations Department are holding a printer suspected to have connived with the racketeers in printing the certificates.

□ A man was yesterday jailed for 10-and-a-half years by a Nyeri court for defrauding the Kiwi Brands Company Limited of more than Sh300,000.

Moses Wachira Karimi was convicted of seven counts of forgery and stealing by servant.

He was sentenced to one-and-a-half years for each count. The sentences run concurrently.

In mitigation, Karimi said he was the sole breadwinner of his family. His parents are old and they depended on him.

However, the court observed, the offence was common and needed to be discouraged.

DN 13/31/98

Policemen freed of students' murder

By NATION Reporter

The High Court yesterday acquitted 11 policemen of the murder of two Kenyatta University students.

Mr Justice Emmanuel O'Kubasu said the court had found no basis to put the 11 on their defence.

"I find that the killing of the two students was a most unfortunate consequence of a riot and it has been difficult to state with any certainty who actually shot those

two students since the 11 accused persons were not the only police officers at the scene," he said.

The 11 policemen were Senior Supt Stephen Kiama Kimanga, Inspector Lawrence Katana Karen, Corporal Nelson Majiwa Yoma and Constables Dickson Kiboi Chepkuto, Nicasio Machaki Kithumba, Charles Ongaya, Ben Kiplagat Koech, Charles Maragua Kariuki, Joseph Ngui Mbusu, Mutunga Mulatya and

Charles Muniafu Iyaga.

They were accused of killing Kenneth Makokha Mukabi and Eric Kamundi on December 18, 1996.

"We heard evidence from 43 prosecution witnesses. We also had the advantage of perusing statements that the 11 accused recorded. I would say that this case was very well investigated and presented.

"The accused were not raiding

the university. They were not villagers chasing a suspected thief. They were not involved in mob justice. Their intention was to suppress a riot but unfortunately two students died," Mr Justice O'Kubasu said.

He said the 11 policemen had gone to the university to quell a riot after being invited by the university and not to cause grievous harm and certainly not to kill.

During the attempt to quell the

riot, the court was told, police used rubber bullets. But they ran out of bullets and more were brought in which included live ammunition.

The judge said there was evidence that the police attempted to make students go back to the campus. But soon after, students came out hurling stones at the police

D/N 22/3/1992 7

Varsity meals to cost more

By MBURU MWANGI

The University of Nairobi on Friday evening increased the prices of students' meals, a move which immediately sparked protests by the students, some of whom looted food from one kitchen.

The new prices, which the Director of the Student's Welfare Authority in charge of Administration and Accommodation, a Mr Kipng'etich, justified on the recent tax increments, were effected the same day.

A hand-written menu pinned on the notice board in Hall 11 gives the prices of chicken with *ugali* as Sh60, up from Sh50, while fish with sauce will now cost Sh30, up from Sh25.

Beef stew is two shillings up from Sh30 while *matumbo* will now cost Sh20 instead of Sh18. *Ugali* alone will go for Sh6, from Sh4.

The prices of vegetables and *ndengu* remain unchanged.

The note, which was not signed, has the university logo.

The Central Catering Unit and Women's Halls' kitchens have yet

to be affected by the increases.

Two leaders of the Students' Organisation of Nairobi University (Sonu), Mr Mwangi Ndegwa and Mr Christopher Wira, said meal prices at Chiromo, Lower Kabete and Kikuyu campuses have gone up by an even higher margin.

A protest note penned by students and pinned on the same board says in part: "We shall not tolerate this kind of uncalled-for exploitation. We are currently operating on rigid budgets that cannot accommodate these sudden price hikes imposed on us by a pseudo-administration that does no appreciate the current state of the economy."

The student leaders said they would support mass action and the strikes called by the National Convention Executive Council to protest the tax increment as they had now been directly affected.

The students vowed to hold a *kamukunji* and paralyse the city if the prices are not reduced.

During the looting of food, the cooks went into hiding.

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DN 18/3/98

Varsity workers demand arrears

By ROBERT NYAGAH

More than 2,000 Nairobi University workers yesterday demonstrated within the Nairobi campus demanding payment of their salary arrears.

The arrears emanate from the Omolo Okello Commission recommendations delayed for the last six years.

The employees, who attempted to demonstrate through city streets, were advised against the action by the acting police boss, Central police division, who advised them to apply for a permit first.

They held a brief meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Francis Gichaga, at the University Court but he left after they shouted him down, accusing him of failing to give a good reason as to why the arrears had not been paid.

Their representatives, Mr John Nyaga and Mr Nicodemus Maroma, told the *Nation* that the university authorities started implementing the recommendations late last year, but failed to pay the arrears despite frequent promises.

The money, they claimed, amounts to a minimum of Sh80,000 per staff member.

The representatives said that in-

away from the meeting because it was presumed to be illegal.

The workers said they had written to the Head of the Civil Service, Mr Fares Kuindwa, over the issue and had intended to pursue the reply from Mr Kuindwa at his office.

The workers claimed that the university authorities must have received the details about the arrears from the Government and only needed an explanation as to when the money would be paid.

In a circular issued in June 1992, Prof Gichaga had informed the workers that consultations were being held between the university authorities and the Government and the matter was "receiving active processing".

The workers, however, asked why the matter was taking so long to be resolved.

The workers argued that another circular by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Finance), Professor Shem Wandiga, in 1992 had ignored the issue of the arrears and had only discussed allowances and salaries.

The workers said that they would continue to demand the arrears until the Government