Students call for Graduation

Vandals frustrate development at Soche

One on One with the Registrar

Religious Forum

Leisure

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Recently, University of Malawi graduated hundreds of its students, who have successfully finished their studies in different programs. For years, Soche students have asked why they never have graduation ceremony even if they have successfully finished their studies.

It was this question that made “The Journalist” to conduct random interviews to hear from students on the importance of graduation and why they think it should be part of Soche Technical College. Most students the “The Journalist” talked to have expressed the need for the college to organise graduation ceremonies for its students. According to Edith Kamba doing Public Health, “graduation is one way of encouraging those that are graduating and at the same time those that are still in lower levels and it also creates a desirable competition in class as students work hard in order to win awards on the graduation day.

Echoing Kamba’ on the call is a Community Development student James Kalonga and Spindrella Ndeule studying System support. Another Community Development student Cynthia Chasowa said “graduation is a reminder that one has been to college, and usually we tend to envy schools that hold graduation because when there is a graduation usually we have media people who publicise the event there by increasing the chances of the graduates getting employed”.

From the streets,” The Journalist’ wanted to hear from the side of management on why the college does not hold graduation for its students who have successfully finished their studies with the college.

According to the Coordinator of Continuing Education Program John Khozi, the management has indeed received graduation calls for a period of time and plans are underway to re-introduce the graduation. The Journalist has established that the graduation stopped around 2012 when the management adhered to the calls from the then student Union that Tevet students wanted to be having a national graduation. This meant that as a college Soche no longer had a mandate to organise graduation.
From The EDITOR

It is imperative of us from the “The Journalist” to welcome on board all would-be-readers in this first edition.

‘We at “The Journalist Newsletter, a brain child of Soche Journalism Society believe this Newsletter is capable of satisfying your curiosity on various issues of concern.

We would like to thank the management for giving us an opportunity to publish this newsletter and we promise not let you down.

We expect that everybody is going to give us support we need, starting from the Lecturers to fellow students, so that we able to inform, educate and entertain you our esteemed readers.

Let me also invite those that think they might have something to write about to feel free to do so. However, the decision to publish it or not still lies in the hands of the editorial team, which is drawn from the Journalism society. It is our utmost belief that The Journalist Newsletter, will meet your expectations. We will be grateful to receive your feedback on stories and other articles.

Our objective is to serve you with the best dish of stories while abiding by all journalistic ethics without letting you, our reader, waste your precious time on stories that have no significance intellectually, the future looks bright, we are solely here because of you, keep us company.

Prisca Maeni
"The Journalist Newsletter" is a publication of Soche Technical Journalism Class with an aim of giving chance to students to practice their research and writing skills.

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Vandalism is something that has a major effect on our quality of life and costs us a lot of money to repair. It’s easy to dismiss it as a minor offence, but it has a big impact on our college. According to Collin’s Student Dictionary, “Vandalism is defined as any deliberate damage to someone else’s property”. If this definition is go by, one would conclude that our college has faced and continues to face acts of vandalism. Going around the campus “The Journalist” noticed that the Vandals have been to almost all corners of the college, from Hest Building to the football ground and from dining hall to hostels, acts of vandalism have left visible scars that cannot be missed.

Just few months ago a man was caught in the Hest building restroom uninstalling a tap from a hand wash basin and it was later discovered that this man is an outsider who had solely come to vandalise the beautiful building for a few kwachas on black market. This development forced the management to issue an order that required any person going into the new building to produce an Identity Card a development that didn’t go well with some students as it was viewed as harsh.

With the arrest of the unknown man, “The Journalist “and few others concluded that maybe sanity was now back after a long time until another incident happened.

 Barely four days after the college replaced four taps that were stolen in the dining hall, three taps vanished without a trace. What happened was more of a prophecy come true for the Deputy Principal, because at the assembly which the Student Union requested for the taps the Principal asked the student to be responsible because the taps keep on being stolen once they are replaced. Vandalism has also been seen in hostel toilets and in classes where chairs have been broken and some have even disappeared.

According to the college’s CEP Coordinator John Khofi, “Issues of vandalism at Soche have been there for a long period of time and we do think that they have a multi face but suspects number one are students, am saying this because in the past we have caught student stealing electrical cables, plumbing things and even computer parts in computer labs”.

In trying to combat vandalism Khofi said the college has brought in an external security company which is providing security and it is this security company that has caught most students stealing from the college.

Khofi urged all students and staff to report any person who is seen vandalising college property as the college is an ongoing thing meaning that even if the students finish school their relatives may need to join Soche as well.
VVM. As a Registrar, what does your job involve?

GM. Supervising the registration of continuing and incoming students
Partnering with Admissions and Academic Advisory committee on a timely process of registering newly accepted students
Maintaining up-to-date college prospectus and course schedules
Interpret and enforcing academic policies and regulations
Planning and managing fees schedules and adherence to fees payment policies.

VVM. What are the challenges you meet when it comes to dealing with students?

GM. Mostly is non-compliance to fees payment procedures (i.e. minimum installments as stipulated by college policy, 70% or above)
Negligence of some members of staff in checking for fees payments before allowing students attend a session

VVM. We are aware that one of your jobs involves going around campus checking those with fees balances, and at the same time we have heard some students give their fees to Lecturers. How dangerous is this act, to a student?

GM. As a college, it is paramount that we groom students to uphold to set principles. We would very much want the students be trained in being honest in there endeavors.
We hope our students will stick to the guides (integrity).

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VVM. Once a student has paid school, it’s a must that he/she should come to your office for the attendance card. How important is this?

GM. The card acts as a check to ensure the student has been to the Data Entry Section and
b. The cards speed up the process of cross-checking that only paid-up students are allowed in class

VVM. As a registrar who chases students with fees balance from class I know you are not popularly to all students. Have you ever been in a situation where a student didn't want to cooperate? If yes, how do you handle such students?

GM. So far this has not happened.

VVM. What advice can you give to the students?

GM. Utilize the opportunity at hand now that the parents and/or sponsors have offered to pay for fees.
The chance to study with Soche Technical could be a stepping stone for you. You may either be employed, start your own businesses or gain a preliminary knowledge for furthering your studies.

VVM. Do you have any last words?

GM. Let us work together as we take our country to greater heights
b. For those already in employment, we are here to help you upgrade your skills for the changing world of work.

VVM. Thank you very much Sir for talking to us.
2019 Students Union

Lovemore Josiah
President

Victor Chikwi
Vice-President

Chisangalalo Banda
Entertainment director

Yamikani Sakwata
Secretary

Gift Malinga
Vice Entertainment Director

William Zolowere
Catering Director

Maxwell Makonde
Chief Catering Director

Laston Charles
Catering Director

Isha Kazembe
Sports Director

Cynthia Mkwinja
Welfare Director

Osman Makowa
Welfare Director
The Value of Youth to God Cause

Which is the most difficult era of human life? Infancy? Adolescence? Mature adulthood? Agedness? It probably depends upon where you are as to how you might answer that query. While many might suggest that one's sunset years are the hardest, my own judgement would be that the period designated as youth might be the most challenging. Youth is frustrating time in life. It is that period when one is hardly old enough to be on his own, and yet he is feeling a sense of independence. Youth ever are attempting to find to find some sense of identity, that is why they sometimes act and dress so weird. They are bizarre!

But so were we.
The scriptures represent youth as a time both of danger and challenge. Moses said “the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth” (Gen.8:21), and Paul admonished Timothy to “flee youthful lusts” (2 Tim.2:22). By way of contrast, though, the Creator also recognises the value of youth to the divine cause. Youngsters have energy, they are daring, their hearts are filled with visions of the future. Indeed, they can be a most valuable component in the service of Jehovah.

Solomon, who wasted much of his life in folly, perhaps thought better of the matter in his declining days. He contended: “Remember how your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, I have no pleasure in them “(Ecc 1.12”1).

Again Paul would say to Timothy: “Let no man despise your youth; but you be an example to them that believe, in word in manner of life, in love, in faith.in purity” (1Tim. 4:12). It strikes me that whereas our youth can be quiet impetuous and sometimes a bit silly, they are, nonetheless, a wonderful resource in the kingdom of heaven.
The fact is, the Bible is replete with examples of how God used younger people in some of the most vital roles in the unfolding of his marvelous plan of redemption.

Youth can accomplish magnificent things for the Master’s cause. But do we always recognise this? Are our young people merely ignored as empty-headed, silly people who are unworthy of serious responsibility? Sadly, this may be the case sometimes. But we should not overlook this valuable resource in the Master’s cause. We must be on the lookout for them and encourage them along the way. God can use them mightily.
2019 has been a good year for Soche Technical College as the college has been awarded with three ABMA Academic excellence awards back to back. Jeremiah Kapalamula and Modstar Makalani, Community development students were the awardees for the June 2019 ABMA exams. The community development students scooped the Academic Excellence award, where Kapalamula was awarded with Outstanding achievement, for getting Distinctions in all levels while Makalani on the other hand was awarded for outstanding achievement, for achieving overall score in community development at level 5, and overall distinction on the June examination results, making it the second award in the community development section as previously Harriet Chamanza, level 5, got the Academic excellence award first place in the 2019 March ABMA exams. Wellington Binali, community development head of section, expressed his joy on the achievement, Binali said he was overwhelmed by such excellence in his section & that he is proud of the students. Wellington further asked all students under the ABMA board and Soche Technical College in general to work extra hard to keep the clean sheet record going. 

We are looking for contributors to submit articles for our newsletter. If you have passion for writing and love anything that has to do with: Religion, Fashion, Poems, Short stories & Cartoons, then, WhatsApp us on 0212 977 245
Many of us know him as ‘ROPCZO’ that we probably forget his actual name, Lightwell Ng’oma (LN), the man behind the camera.

It is indisputable fact that no one can speak of Malawian Music videos without mentioning Lightwell, founder and managing director of Real-Time Media. The young and energetic man who is currently studying journalism and media studies has proven that all it takes is hard work and determination.

But who is Lightwell Ng’oma? Jack M’manya (JM) had a chat with him on different issues.

JM. Who is Lightwell Ng’oma?
LN. Lightwell Ng’oma is a young man aged 20, born in a family of 4 and I happen to be the first born and currently am studying journalism and media studies at Soche Technical College.

JM. How can you describe yourself in one word?
LN. In one word, “Videographer”

JM. Most people know you as Ropczo, what’s the story behind the name?
LN. The name Ropczo is my nickname in the shooting field. Being a videographer, I direct, shoot and edit videos so I needed something unique to called by.

JM. So, what inspired you to start shooting videos?
LN. I once had a friend who was a videographer and I was interested in what he was doing. I then started shooting just for pleasure by then, later I realised that I also had that shooting, directing and editing skills and it was this that made me to take video shooting serious.

JM. How did people react when you shot your first video?
LN. When I shot my first video, people were not interested, because of the poor equipment I was using as a result the video was so poor. As I have already said that I did it for pleasure to the extent that I even used a phone when shooting videos.

JM. How do you manage school and video shooting?
LN. It’s not that hard to be schooling and video shooting because some of the lessons at school are similar to those of video shooting basics. I find it not hard to be schooling and video shooting because some of the lessons at school are similar to those of video shooting basics.

JM. What are your hobbies?
LN. Watching international music videos.

JM. What is your advice to your fellow students, especially those with skills?
LN. Time management is the best advice I can give my fellow students. They can focus on their skills when they are off from school.

JM. Any Last words?
LN. Lastly, I urge my fellow youths not to give up no matter what. Whatever type of hardship they face they have to continue working hard in class besides their skills.

JM. Thank you very much for your time.
LN. Pleasure is mine.
Eunice is currently working as a Personal Assistant at Nampota and Company (Law Firm) in Blantyre. She studied Administrative Studies under Tevet at Soche Technical College from 2013 to 2018. She advises students to stay focused and to never forget the reason they are at the college. It might get tough sometimes but with dedication and hardwork everything is possible.
Have you ever passed by the Hest Building and noticed a group of students sitting around with their laptops and smartphones in their hands? Some few months ago, I asked myself “why are these guys fond of sitting here?” but could not get an immediate answer until one afternoon when I met a familiar face who was among the group. In his response he said “we are all here for the free WIFI Internet by the college and this is where the network very strong, that’s why we gather here”. This answer opened my eyes and for the first time I appreciated how important internet is to the life of a student.

The coming in of internet has definitely had a lot of impact on our colleges particularly students within Malawi and beyond. But questions arise whether the benefits of internet outweigh the negatives. To be honest, internet has tremendously improved the way we communicate as people and as students, with the coming in of social media sites such as whatsapp, facebook and Twitter students can now communicate latest news happening within the college and beyond. Being a student in this era is proving to be exciting as students from the same class can now create either a facebook or whatsapp groups through which they abreast of their course updates, assignments and things tackled in class. These groups have proven to be viable platforms as far as information sharing is concerned.

Internet also seems to be providing entertainment, job opportunities and facilitate easy file sharing among students and their family members when they are at school. Doing my research, I noticed that internet also helps students in gathering of information that is relevant to their studies and other fields of study. There are times when lectures have been cancelled and one of the means to disseminate information to students is through such platforms.

Even beyond school, Internet has proved helpful in accessing vacancies, facebook and whatsapp have flooded with pages and groups specifically for vacancies. Through internet, students can also get scholarship opportunities to study abroad, in efforts to further their education through e-learning, this offers an opportunity for those students working to be able to study after work. The introduction of distance and e-learning has helped to reduce congestion in most institutions.

In other higher institutions, students are also taught by a lecturer who is abroad, but they communicate through internet while others depend on soft copy modules. As a case of Soche, internet has helped to improve student’s enthusiasm in studying. Students probably feel un-interested if they only find information from a solitary book continuously. Internet undertakes a good substitute media to enhance student’s passion in studying.

While the use of internet has numerous advantages, it has also misled some of our fellow students into doing something that is not in line with their studies. I have noticed that most students spend so much time on social media even during lectures flip-flopping their attention from the lecture to their smartphone and vice- versa, with this happening to a student, there are chances that this would be detrimental as it averts progress academically.

In conclusion, I would urge my fellow students to embrace the technological development our country keeps receiving but at the same time remember to be responsible in how we use it because internet will clearly draw a line between responsible usage and irresponsible usage.

I wish you happy browsing.
An internship is an opportunity for a college student or new graduate to temporarily work for an employer and get hands-on experience in a business environment. While not considered full-time staff members, interns are still expected to reflect the professionalism of the company for which they work, including dress code standards. Dressing appropriately during the internship interview process can help you score points.

Consider the company
Dress codes vary between companies, even companies that are part of the same industry. For example, one law firm may require employees to dress in formal business attire every day, while others allow business casual with dress down Fridays. Find out about the specific company with which you are interviewing for and take your cue from its existing staff members. Call the company receptionist to make your inquiries or stop by the business before your interview. If the majority of the people wear dress shirt and tie, that is a good indication of the acceptable attire. Take the time and look the role to appear professional and well prepared.

Appropriateness
Regardless of the type of business, it is vital to be appropriate in the style of clothing you choose. Do not wear items of clothing with offensive language or symbols and avoid clothing that is too tight, too revealing or too provocative. This means no sagging pants, low-cut blouses or ultra-short miniskirts. Do not wear ripped or stained clothing, and if you are entirely unsure about the work environment in which you’ll be interviewing, opt for a simple pair of black slacks and a white button-down shirt or blouse.

Grooming
Take care in grooming as well as dress when you prepare for your internship. Hair should be washed and styled, make-up light and not too dramatic, and perfume and cologne should be used sparingly. Polish your shoes, clean your fingernails and breath mints. While many college students sport body piercings and tattoos, this form of self-expression is not always well received in the professional world. Remove piercings and cover until you have a better understanding of the company’s policy on body art and have had the opportunity for management to get to know you for your personality and work.
Congratulations to Prince Charles and Marvelous Aransiola on your wedding. May God continue to have His hand over your lives, marriage and in everything you do. We honour God for you both.
Many people, if not everyone has a talent but not everyone knows what they are good at. Many will therefore, live their lives not knowing their talents partly due to lack of opportunities to develop them. This is one of the greatest challenges confronting talent development at our college. While it is a fact that colleges can be used to unearth young talent, the problem has been how to go about it. Recently we witnessed the crowning of champions in Principal’s Trophy and for those with soccer talent this was the platform to showcase their talent and they really did but as noted, the tournament segregated those in parallel program especially those doing commercial courses, meaning that even though the segregated have talent no one will be able to appreciate and forever they shall end believing that they are not talented.

Leaving football aside, other talents on campus have never been given a platform to shine and be spotted, we see people carrying guitars on campus and no one even bothers to listen to what the guitar man is capable of playing.

In this music category, Soche is one of the blessed college, unfortunately we have shown no interest in unearthing and nurturing such talent. Some of the greatest talent that Malawi has produced in music like Saint, Successor of the “Mimba Siyanga” hit, Clinker, Trillz, Gypsy, Tyrance Africa and many more others have been on campus with their talents and people have not been able to appreciate because a platform has not been given to have their little light shine and some of this talented young men have even left Soche and now we are busy loving their music and appreciating their talent.

Apart from music, many other students have talents in different areas such as drama, the likes of Mungeteshe Mwakaswaya have shown that given a stage and audience, they can perform wonders as far as making people laugh is concerned.

The talent that we are wasting on campus today, will be the same talent we will enjoy tomorrow on our TV sets and radio stations. As Soche we ought to do something about such talent. If the young and talented are to be given a platform such as talent shows where they will be able to win something, more talented youngsters will come out of their cocoon and surprise us with their talent.
POEMS

Kind Words
Poet: Daniel Clement Colesworthy

A little word in kindness spoken,
A motion or a tear,
Has often healed the heart that’s broken,
And made a friend sincere.

A word - a look - has crushed to earth
Full many a budding flower,
Which, had a smile but owned its birth,
Would bless life's darkest hour.

Then deem it not an idle thing,
A pleasant word to speak;
The face you wear, the thoughts you bring,
A heart may heal or break.

.............

When We Share
Poet: Julie Hebert, ©2012

When we share with someone else,
Something valuable to us
You may find out later on,
To them they feel they were blessed.

Some of us have lots to give,
And some of us do not.
If someone could benefit,
Why not give them a shot.

Sharing is a wonderful thing,
Especially to those you've shared with.
There are a lot of kind people out there,
And that is not a myth.
So next time you see someone,
Who could benefit from something you
Don't hold back and look away,
Be kind and answer their prayer.

..................

JOKE

A college student is taking an end of
the semester test for his bird study class

He realizes that if he studies the whole
night, he can ace the final and get a good
grade. So he pulls an all-nighter and feels
good about the material. The next day, he
arrives to his class, and the test begins. The
thing he neglected to study was identifying
certain birds by their footprint. This makes
the student very angry and he bursts out
yelling at his professor saying that they
shouldn't be tested on just the footprints.
The student is almost out of the classroom
when the professor asks “What is you
name?” . The student smiles and walks up to
the desk, takes his shoes and socks off, puts
his foot on the desk, and says “I don't know,
tell me”

..................
PICTORIAL FOCUS
Principal's Trophy in Pictures -
Plumbing football team have been crowned Principal's Trophy champions after beating Motor Vehicle Technicians (MVT) 1-0 in a highly contested finals played at the college soccer ground.

In what was regarded as a 50-50 affair in the early minutes of the game, Plumbing turned the tables dominating the game passing and controlling possession but unable to find the back of the net. Lack of coordination and misplacing passes resulted in Plumbing's ineffectiveness in front of the goal.

Exactly 25 minutes into the game, Plumbing took control of the game and were awarded a corner kick which was curled into the box forcing MVT goalkeeper Harrison to parry the ball into the danger zone where his defenders failed to clear it to safety, capitalizing on the blunder Plumbing striker tapped the ball into the right corner to make it 1-0.

Minutes after Plumbing slim lead, MVT woke up from their slumber and upped their game and showed signs of life, as their trio comprising of Lotti, Blessings and Dada exchanged passes that gave Blessings a chance to fire home but only to be denied by Plumbing goalie who manned the posts jealously.

Towards the end of the first half, plumbing goalkeeper was substituted after sustaining a wrist injury when he collided with Lotti.

After recess MVT come with new ideas to equalise but could not transform their efforts into goals as the defence proved too strong for them.

The match was delayed for five minutes towards the end when MVT player was fouled in the box and referee Louis Mwalwanda refused to award them a penalty. After a final whistle it ended 1-0 in favour of Plumbing, speaking after being crowned champions one of the Plumbing players said “it was part of the farewell to the Principal who has just retired “.

In volleyball, Accounting class were crowned champions after beating Textile while in Netball, Administrative Studies mercilessly walloped Painting 12 baskets to 3 baskets.

Principal’s Trophy is sponsored by the college Principal and currently is pegged at K200,000 with the football champions going home with K29,000.

In a related development, Soche Technical College drew 2-2 with Mangochi Community Technical College in a game that was played on a hot summer day at Mangochi college ground.
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Semester begins on 9th Dec, 2019

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The Journalist
Newsletter

For Those Who Read