

AASTU NIGHTS - EP 1 - ORIENTATION

Welcome to AASTU Nights, the podcast that brings you all the latest happenings from the campus of Addis Ababa Science and Technology University. I'm your host, THE HOST, and today we are going to take you on a journey through the mysterious and unsettling events that have been taking place at this university.

Hello listeners, as a new student at AASTU, you may have noticed some things that seem a bit off. Maybe it's the way the trees seem to whisper to each other as you walk by, or the strange abandoned buildings that only exist at night. Maybe it's the fact that there's a third library that seems to be open 24/7 with the lights on at night but no one ever seems to go in or out.

Well, fear not, dear listeners. These are just some of the quirks that make AASTU so unique. You see, the founders of AASTU deliberately placed the location far into the south, away from all civilization for a reason. It is said that no one really escapes the dark long roads away from AASTU. They say when the sun hides, and the night begins, all roads leading to AASTU become twisted and distorted, leading travelers down paths they never intended to take. Some say they hear whispers in the wind, and see shadows moving in the corner of their eyes.

Old lady, Ms. Lydia living right in front of AASTU claims that the darkness itself seems to be alive, a living, breathing entity that seeks to swallow up anyone who dares to venture too close. She said that, once, she was a traveler, an adventurer, and stumbled across the open roads leading to AASTU. She recalls feeling an overwhelming sense of dread as she drew closer to the university like something was watching her every move. Then NOTHING! She said she had no memory of the life she lived before that, all she knew was after that day she has found a home right in front of AASTU and couldn't imagine leaving. But who believes the words of an old lady, right? There's nothing to fear in the darkness... or is there?

Well enough about the dark open roads, not everything at AASTU is shrouded in mystery. There are plenty of normal, everyday things to do here as well. You can join a club, attend a lecture, worship your nearby frog, paint cryptic symbols in your dorm rooms, or just hang out with your friends. Just be sure to keep your eyes open and always carry salt with you, because you never know which of your friends are a swarm of snails and it's common knowledge that snails are allergic to salt.

And now I've just been asked to read this notice to you from our local art club. "Do you fancy art? Do you paint with your blood? Do you carve symbols into the flesh of the innocent? Then come on down to the AASTU Art Club's annual exhibition, where we

celebrate the macabre, the grotesque, and the downright terrifying. Our theme this year is "Nightmares Made Flesh" and we're looking for the most horrifying, twisted, and disturbing artwork you can come up with. Whether you're a seasoned artist or just starting out, we want to see your darkest creations. The exhibition will be held at the old abandoned church just outside the university gates, where we'll be transforming the space into a twisted art gallery of horrors. Admission is free, but be warned: this is not for the faint of heart. So come on down if you dare we'll be waiting for you...in the darkness. "

Ahhh the art club, always something to do with blood!

We move on to the weather: [MUSIC]

Dear listeners, and dear new students of AASTU, you may have noticed the excavation happening all over. Don't let the noise disturb you while you're attending class. Simply stare into the dark eyes of your professor for a recommended 2 and a half minutes until all sensory input is blocked out. And you find yourself in the midst of the void. With only you and the teacher. This will allow you to focus on the knowledge being imparted to you without any distractions. Of course, not everyone is bothered by the constant digging at AASTU. In fact, some students find it oddly comforting, like a lullaby that lulls them into a deep slumber. There's something hypnotic about the sound of shovels scraping against the earth, the rhythmic thud of excavators, the clatter of heavy machinery. It's like a constant reminder that the world is in motion, that change is always happening, that nothing stays the same forever.

As for the excavations, well, let's just say that AASTU is constantly evolving and growing, and sometimes that requires a little bit of...digging. A senior by the name of Yulean, thinks otherwise. He says that all this digging is more than what meets the eye. He says that he's seen things in those pits that he can't explain, things that haunt him in his sleep. He claims to have seen strange symbols etched into the walls of the pits, symbols that seem to pulse with a dark energy. And sometimes, when the wind blows just right, he swears he can hear whispers coming from deep within the earth. Yulean says he's tried to warn people, but no one listens to him. They just dismiss him as a crazy senior who's stressing about finals. But Yulean knows the truth, and he's determined to uncover the secrets that AASTU is trying to hide. The secret that all this digging is an elaborate scheme to hide all the dead student bodies that died from the horrible science experiment they've been conducting in the biochemistry labs. Ohw Yulean, you silly goose. He has started a secret society of like-minded individuals, people who are also curious about what lies beneath the surface. They call themselves "The Diggers", and they meet in the dead of night to discuss their findings and plan their

next excavation. But be warned, dear listeners, if you stumble upon them in your own digging endeavors, they may not take kindly to outsiders.

And now a message from our university Police. "Welcome all new students. As you explore and live in the exciting and wonderful campus we would like to inform you that safety is our top priority here at AASTU. But as with any institution, we have rules and regulations that must be followed. Please familiarize yourself with our campus policies and code of conduct. It is important that you follow and memorize the following rules:

Rule 1: Always carry your ID. Unless you want the limbless old man who spontaneously appears when you forget to carry your ID mistakes you for his long lost child and takes you away to the shadow realm don't forget to carry your ID. Don't worry though, he's a pretty good cook, and his outfit is surprisingly stylish.

Rule 2: Travel in groups. But when it's late at night and you encounter dark corners and suspicious paths, leave your group and always travel alone. The logic behind this is unclear, but when it comes to those particularly ominous areas of our campus, it's best to split up and face them alone. Perhaps it has something to do with...self-discovery?

Rule 3: If you find someone new just laying there in your dorm room, do not disturb him. He may be a lost traveler or an interdimensional being. But most of all do not speak to him. He will offer you knowledge that you do not want and cannot comprehend. Instead, go-to bed immediately and wait for him to gently caress your hair and disappear. You can then move on with your night.

Rule 4: Some restrooms at the end of your dorm room halls are locked for a reason. Do not attempt to open it, or you may face consequences beyond your understanding.

Rule 5: Do not use the university's time machine to time travel and cheat on exams. The time machine is for educational purposes only, not for skipping class or fixing your past mistakes. Students caught doing this will be sent into an endless loop of calculus lectures until they repent.

Rule 6: If you are eating at the cafe and you notice a new staff giving you, what seems to be more than usual proportion of food. Do not eat the food! The snacks may look tempting, and the staff member trustworthy and smiley, but DO NOT EAT THE FOOD. Simply smile back and walk away, Then RUN, RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN. RUN!!!

Rule 7: The lights in the library will automatically turn off at midnight, but the books will continue to whisper and rustle in the darkness. If you happen to be studying during these hours, it is recommended to keep a flashlight handy and to not make direct eye contact with anyone around. Side Note: The librarians are also not to be disturbed. They

know everything and see everything. If you need assistance, leave a note and they will find you.

Rule 8: The mysterious Chinese campus is strictly off-limits. No one knows what lies within it, and we'd like to keep it that way. However, if you do find yourself wandering inside the forbidden Chinese campus, do not panic. Instead, take the opportunity to experience the thrill of the unknown. Just make sure to avoid the creepy whispers that seem to follow you wherever you go. And if you do make it out alive, please don't tell anyone about what you saw. It's best to keep the mystery alive.

Rule 9: Sometimes the stairs have a tendency to malfunction and take you to unexpected floors. If this happens, stay calm and wait for the stairs to readjust. Do not attempt to force them to change and most importantly don't let them know that your legs are tired. Though if the stairs still refuse to cooperate, feel free to engage in a polite conversation with them. Ask them about their day and if they're feeling okay. Remember, a little kindness goes a long way, especially when dealing with sentient staircases.

Rule 10: If you see any strange figures lurking in the shadows, do not approach them. These figures may take on many forms but their intentions are unknown. If you must interact with them, do so from a safe distance and always be prepared to run. And if you feel that these shadowy figures are following you, try to stay in a well-lit area and always keep a bag of decayed teeth on hand. If you didn't come to AASTU with a bag of decayed teeth in a bag, seek out the assistance of the university's clinic who is trained to deal with such entities. Either way, it's best to give these shadowy figures their space.

These are all the rules you should memorize. BE SAFE, AND BE ANYTHING BUT YOU! Have a good semester, from all of us from the University Police."

That's all for tonight, dear listeners. Tune in next time for another episode of AASTU Nights, where we will catch up on all the latest from this strange and fascinating university.