AASTU NIGHTS - EP 4 - HIDDEN DEPARTMENT

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.

Dear listeners, a curious mind can lead you to places you should not go and learn things you were not meant to learn in AASTU. Even the smallest detour from your road can lead you into darkened hallways, unending roads, cursed buildings and anything in between. Which is precisely what happened to me this week when I let myself wander around the campus alone, which is never a good idea when you're living in AASTU. Nonetheless, I still did it, and I have a discovery to share with you all.

It was an early morning on Thursday when I decided to randomly take a walk in the campus. It was the time when the undead go to sleep and the living have not woken up yet. I thought it was a perfect time to get some fresh air and just be normal in a place where normal is odd. It was on one such walk that I stumbled upon something truly strange.

As I walked along the main road, I saw a group of ghosts standing in a circle around a camera pole. Of Course seeing a group of ghosts in AASTU isn't unnatural, everyone's probably friends with a ghost or two at some point in their campus life. But what was strange about the group of ghosts I encountered was that they were behaving strangely around the camera pole. It was almost as if the ghosts were being pulled toward it. They were circling around it, staring at it with a mix of fear and fascination, one after the other. I recognized one of the ghosts as Mr.Chere, he was our first and former professor who had passed away a few years ago. Though I felt apprehensive, my curiosity got the best of me, and I approached him and asked what was happening.

At first, Mr.Chere was reluctant to answer, but eventually Mr.Chere took me aside from the rest of the group and explained it to me in a hushed tone. He explained that the ghosts had been noticing strange feelings inside them around the time the cameras were installed. Although initially, they didn't make any connections to the cameras, but after some investigation, they eventually discovered the reason for the cameras.

When I asked him what they found, he said that the cameras were not there for security but for broadcasting the daily lives of everyone in the university to the underworld. Looking at my confused face, he explained that the beings in the underworld find it fascinating to watch the interactions between humans and creatures of other realms.

And such interactions can only exist in AASTU. A feeling of unease washed over me, even though the idea that I was being watched was something I have gotten used to in AASTU, the fact that everything I did was being broadcasted was unsettling.

Mr.Chere further explained how they knew that the cameras were not ordinary. He said the feeling that the ghosts felt earlier was a sense of sickness caused only by high frequency 7th dimension ultra world waves. These waves can send information across realms but were never used for broadcasting because they can cause cancer to ghosts. He, together with the other ghosts, had been trying to figure out how to stop the broadcasting ever since they learned what they were doing. They had attempted to break the cameras, but it always reappeared in the same spot. They have even tried to sever its connection to the underworld, but to no avail. And with that Mr.Chere disappeared along with his companions. It is a sad and troubling time for the spirits of AASTU. But we can take something positive from this. Whenever you feel like you're not worth anything just remember you might be a star in the underworld.

And now I've been asked to read a message from the head of the student cafeteria. Who insisted on being addressed with the name Mr.Birukawi. When asked why he wanted to be called with that title, he simply vanished into a dark mist. Personally, I am tired of faculty members vanishing when they don't want to answer our questions.

Anyways, going back to the message, the head of the student cafeteria would like to inform students that due to the shortage in supply of regular frog meat, they will be serving flesh harvested from the puppies and dogs living around the sidewalks in our campus. Furthermore, the cafeteria would like to assure students that they are taking extra steps to make sure the change in meat will not affect how students will consume the dish saying quote "you probably wont like how this one tastes either".

In addition to the message from the cafeteria, a representative from the campus security has informed that due to the harvesting sessions that are going to take place in the following weeks, students should move about carefully as they do not want to be confused for a puppy or dog and get shot down for dinner, reminding us of the tragedy that happened five years ago in a similar case.

And now dear listeners, The weather…

[WEATHER]

Welcome back from the weather. Now, as many of you may already know, earlier this week an anonymous student caused quite a stir with their outlandish statements, which were made in a very public setting - right in front of the cafeteria, no less!

Naturally, news of this unusual incident spread quickly throughout the student body, with everyone clamoring to know more. Well, tonight I have some exclusive information to share with you - an official statement from the dean’s office regarding the situation.

But first, let's remind those among us that don't know what is happening. So in the past few days, the campus has been abuzz with news about an anonymous student who has captured the attention of many with his startling claims. This student has been standing in front of the cafeteria, talking about a supposed secret department hidden from all but a few that studies supernatural and malevolent forces present on our campus.

According to reports, he has been saying this message for three days straight, with a significant number of students gathering around him to listen and find out more. Although many people initially ignored his claims on the first day, his persistent behavior gradually caught the attention of an increasing number of students who became curious to know what he had to say.

Some of the claims that he has made are truly extraordinary. He has been saying that the department he belongs to is responsible for the weird occurrences and events that happen regularly on our campus. From strange noises to eerie sightings and otherworldly events, he claims that the department is the one that is directly or indirectly behind it all.

This student has been causing quite a stir among students, and his followers are now demanding that the university administration look into the matter. According to these followers, the student claims that the department has been conducting some sinister experiments - under the disguise of research and progress - that pose a serious threat to the entire student body.

It remains to be seen whether there is any truth to these claims, but the fact that so many students are now talking about his message indicates that it has struck a chord with many on campus. To add to this bizarre event, the student claiming all of these things suddenly disappeared when he was starting to get more attention. Leading the followers he gathered to believe that he was silenced by the department he was speaking out against. His unexpected vanishing is leading skeptics to believe the possibility of the students’ claims to be true.

So, what does the dean have to say about all of this? Let’s find out now: “Greetings, I address you with regard to the recent rumors circulated about a hidden department at our university. As your master, I assure you that there is no such department and that any claims or allegations are baseless and you should totally believe me, trust me bro. Regarding the sudden disappearance of the student who became infamous for his claims, I didn't do it..ugh.. I mean my university had no role whatsoever in it. I must

address the skepticism expressed by certain individuals regarding our investigation into this matter. Any student that does not believe the statement made by the administrator should come to the pit of tarantulas under the registrar building. Anyone else claiming to uphold the students message will be forcefully taken to the pit where we will peacefully explain the reality of the situation, goodbye."

There you have it, the official statement of the administration straight from the dean's office. Personally, I do not want to have a peaceful conversation about the truth regarding this topic at the tarantulas pit so I say "I one hundred percent believe the dean's words" and I recommend you do the same.

That's it for today's announcements, but before I go, I'd like to remind you of our schedule for next week:

- Due to its cruel nature, Monday has been deemed unfit to exist this week. In its place, we shall have an extended Sunday,
- On Tuesday Join us in the auditorium for a lecture about the secret language of sentient houseplants. Delve into the botanical realms as Professor Mandarine shares her research on conversing with talkative shrubbery. Don't forget to bring your leafy companions along—they may have more to say than you think.
- On Wednesday the music and arts club have invited you for an extra-hype dance session where they'll teach you how to move your ligaments in an orderly fashion. The only rule being do not applaud. Instead, express your appreciation through a series of enigmatic dance moves.
- On Thursday the campus security will conduct a random door-to-door inspection. Remember, compliance is mandatory, and questions are strictly forbidden. So prepare your living quarters accordingly, concealing any forbidden knowledge, unlicensed pillows, or illicitly enchanted dorm appliances.
- On Friday the university clock will mysteriously spin backwards, causing temporal disorientation among our residents. Please ensure you have a reliable pocket watch, as hourglass sand may flow in reverse.

And as always, dear listeners, beware and be careful of the shadowy figures lurking behind the shadows. Good night!