

# INCANT



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1972

A newspaper for the University of Kent at Canterbury

Edition No. 74

## Library criticised

# FUSS censored by registrar

### Comment

## Brave new FUSS

F.U.S.S. has always been rightly proud of its position within the University.

From inside the Registry it has been able to raise important issues and obtain the official comment and opinion which would not appear elsewhere; certainly InCant could never hope to gain some of the insights which F.U.S.S. has done.

It has provided an effective channel of communication between Registry, academics and students. Its privileged position has been recognised and applauded by the national Press and other universities throughout the country.

Clearly the Registrar has a difficult position having ultimate editorial responsibility. It is an extra job and not one many people would envy. But plainly on this occasion the situation has been mishandled so badly that it is believed that Sonia Copeland will resign unless suitable arrangements are made to overcome these sort of problems in the future.

It is essential then that some provision be made for a panel of referees which will mediate between editors and angry registrars. It must be a body which will in no way infringe upon the present edge which F.U.S.S. has. But changes there will have to be, otherwise many people will lose confidence in F.U.S.S. and it would become little more than an information broadsheet.

## But no comment from registry

### By the Editor

FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS Registry staff and academics have been discussing what has become known as "the censorship of F.U.S.S."

Outside of the registry and staff common rooms very little information has percolated through to the student body although F.U.S.S. is "The Forum for University Staff and Students."

When InCant asked Registrar Eric Fox if he could comment, he replied that he plainly could not under the circumstances, while Sonia Copeland said "For me it is a matter of principle, I have done what I thought necessary under the circumstances, I understand discussions are under way among other persons to try and sort it all out, and in these circumstances it would be unwise of me to comment."

The facts, however, on both sides of the argument have been made clear to InCant.

An article was to have appeared in F.U.S.S. concerning the position of the library and its management.

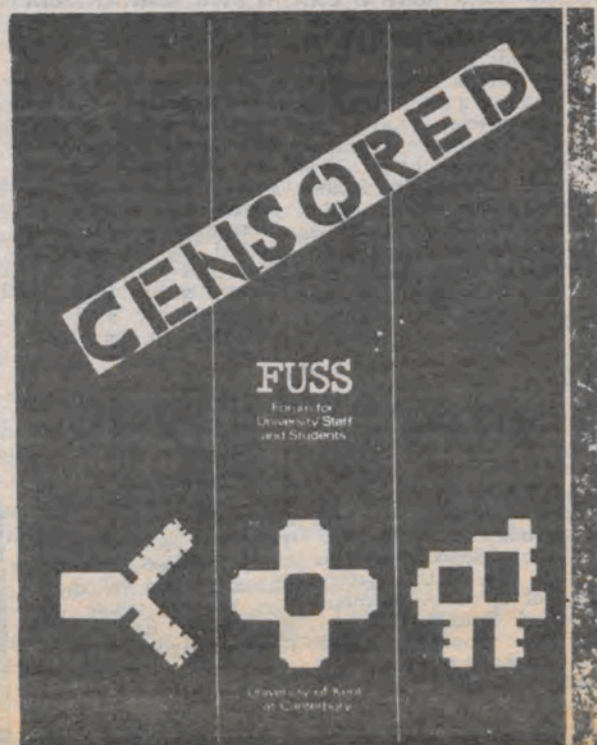
The article, written by one of the assistant librarians, pointed out that the Library was hopelessly understaffed and that it was little more than a "warehouse for books," it also raised the question of finance and whether or not the money which was allocated to the Library was usefully employed.

Sonia Copeland, Editor of F.U.S.S., had commissioned the article from the Library, it was approved of by Mr. Darlow, director of the Library. It was rejected by the Registrar who decided to exercise his editorial responsibility. Consequently Sonia Copeland stated that she would be forced to resign at the end of her contract if no adequate explanation was given.

Since then an unofficial explanation has been offered by the Registrar and Vice-Chancellor who is Chairman of the Library Committee. They

were afraid that reaction might be such that the issue would be reduced to a clash of personalities, with the Director of the Library, Mr. Darlow, being accused of mismanagement by senior academics who did not appreciate the real difficulties which the Library faced because of lack of finance.

These are essentially the facts behind the affair which has been clouded by rumour and gossip. There are important issues at stake and these are dealt with in the front page comment.



## Sponsored hitch

Brian Masterman arrived here at Kent last Wednesday at 2.00 p.m. He is a first year student of physical education at Portsmouth Polytechnic, and at the moment taking part in a "sponsored" hitch round the country.

The hitch is part of Portsmouth College's Rag, and all proceeds are to go to mental health charities.

Brian started out from Portsmouth at 6.30 a.m. on Tuesday 15th Febru-

ary, and travelled here via Guildford, Chelsea and Highgate. He explained that there was extra money for stopping at universities and getting "proof" of his hitch. So far he has found the going "not too bad," but it did take him 7 hours to reach Canterbury from London!

E.K.S.A. Rag is not till October, but if you would like to help, contact Peter Fernand or Elaine Ghiddon, both in Darwin.



Brian Masterman

## Challenge team selected

The team which will represent Kent on "University Challenge" has now been selected.

The team, all male, is Gavin Browning, Lawrence Naylor, Robert Worger and Pete Nyman. Clive Porter will be the reserve.

## Teach-in

A "Teach-in on Ireland" is to be held in the Cornwallis Lecture Theatre. It will take place this Saturday, Feb. 26th, and continue from 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

The meeting will include speakers from both the official and provisional wings of the republican movements, the Irish Solidarity Campaign and the Anti-internment League. Others may re-

The Union is to receive £100 for each appearance of the team, and it will pay for coaches to take supporters to the television studio for the challenge match.

Any profits made by the Union in the event of the team appearing more than once will be divided between the Creche and the Minor Entertainments fund.

present the Connolly Association and possibly the Saor Eire. There will be one speaker from the I.S.C. concerned with "Women in Ireland."

Tim McMahon, Union Vice-President, says the object of the teach-in is to state "the point of view which is not generally expressed in the newspapers."

## Doubles or Quit

### Keynes bedrooms shared

A PROPOSAL has been mooted in Keynes to convert certain of the end rooms into double rooms, in an attempt to meet the demands of the accommodation crisis.

Sixty-two rooms would ultimately be converted if the scheme was thought to be a viable one. They are slightly larger than the ordinary rooms, and are about four square feet more in area than the minimum 110 square feet specified by the Public Health Department for the accommodation of two adults.

### FURNISHING

It is estimated that the cost per room of the conversion would be between £60 and £70 according to the type of bunk bed that would be installed. Other additional furnishings have not finally been decided but it seems that they will include an extra desk and either a second wardrobe or a chest of drawers.

The idea was first put forward at the Senior College Committee meeting of January 26, when the Committee "although regretting that this step was necessary, accepted in principle that the scheme be introduced provided that there was further consultation with the House Committee and that there was real demand by students for shared rooms." (Quotation from the Minutes).

### APPLICATIONS

By the time the next House Committee meeting took place, application forms for accommodation in College during the next academic year, had been sent out to all second and third year students, including an option for a shared room. The form did not make clear which rooms these would be, nor that the proposals had yet to be finalised.

At the meeting, members of Keynes J.C.C. made it clear that they were "disappointed" that such a step had been taken before there had been any consultation.

It appears that the decision on whether or not the scheme is to go ahead will depend on the response to this extra option on the accommodation form. This has angered J.C.C. members, who say the students are being confronted with a choice to be made in a vacuum.

### REFERENDUM

The J.C.C. have circulated their own information, and held a referendum on the proposals. Motion 2, that "this J.C.C. does not accept the College's proposals on the present terms, but is not opposed to shared rooms in principle," was passed by 112 votes to 91 rejecting the proposals unreservedly and 7 who accepted them.

The J.C.C. are not satisfied with the proposed reduction in rent, which would be £10 per person sharing per term. Steve Rayner, on the J.C.C., said that the figure of £43 had been adopted arbitrarily because it was the price

charged in Eliot for a double room (which would seem, incidentally, to be larger than the

Keynes rooms). The J.C.C. will negotiate for what they consider to be a fair rent, £36.20 per term. They will ask also for a guarantee that these rooms will not be offered to the new first years.

The J.C.C. point out that to have 14 people on a corridor that was designed to accommodate 12 will put additional strain on the facilities that could well inconvenience others on the corridor. There are no plans for increasing the present washing and toilet facilities on these corridors.

### STRAIN

On the staff side it is pointed out that 60 more students will be accommodated in the college and that this will relieve pressure on the lodgings situation. The J.C.C. feel that the rooms are too small, that too much strain will be put on the individuals who have to share them, and that this strain will be transmitted to others on the corridor. They suggest also that since the conversions will bring the college an additional revenue of some thousands of pounds, that this could have been a major consideration when the proposals were first mooted.

The J.C.C. will meet on Monday to decide exactly what action they should take in view of the open mandate given them by the referendum last Tuesday.

JANET HAZLE

# Percentage deal to be scrapped



AT their last meeting the Ents Committee recommended that percentage deals be scrapped.

It is now nearly a year since the Margate Conference when Pete Anwyl and the Kent delegates sponsored the motion that social secretaries should operate on a percentage basis only. This meant that groups charging over £100 would only be booked on the undertaking that their fee would be a percentage of the gate money.

Jon Worpell pointed out to InCant that these proposals had now been broken by all the other colleges and universities and that most of the big unions were unwilling to keep to the proposals.

Jon quoted the example of Leeds who have been booking groups and people such as Leonard Cohen who he knows were going out at £1,400 with the possibility of some percentage deal on top.

The agencies quite reasonably are unwilling for their groups to go out with only a guarantee of £100 on the gate. It is just not worth their while as Jon pointed out. Pink Floyd reckon their travelling expenses to be close on £400.

Because of the percentage deals, the entertainments committee feel that people here at Kent have lost out; big groups are attracted where the money is and with other colleges offering vast sums they are hardly going to come to Kent.

Jon Worpell says that in future he hopes to be able to book at least one big concert a term and then abolish the distinction between other major and minor entertainments. There are also moves from the Eliot and Keynes representatives on the Entertainments Committee to start charging for some of the minor entertainments and in effect groups over £50 would probably offset costs with an admission fee of 10p.

Darwin J.C.C. have also raised the question of paying a small charge for entertainments and particularly in the Missing Link.

Jon Worpell stressed that the idea of booking groups on a percentage basis was a good idea if everyone had kept to it "we wouldn't then be subject to profiteering agencies" he said and continued "the fault doesn't lie just with Social Secretaries who have been disenchanted or unwilling to keep prices down." Jon then quoted the example of "East of Eden" who

had been offered to him at £400, they were told what they could do with the price and a week later the agency rang him up with an offer of £150 subject to negotiation. Jon's final point was that ultimately the success of entertainments depends on students attending and making their likes and dislikes known.

When the Union Executive considered the proposal to scrap percentage deals there was a difference of opinion. Pete Nyman did not feel that this would make much difference, people here did just not go in for major groups, this view was supported by Pete Richardson who did not wish to see vast sums of money wasted on big groups which did not even get a big audience. Tim McMahon felt that "there might be times when NUS policy is counter productive" and that some exceptions to the percentage deals might not be a bad idea. The final executive decision has been deferred.

## No longer missing?

"The Missing Link," Darwin's pub, has begun this term with a considerably changed outlook. Structurally altered to provide more space there has been a move towards creating a more sociable atmosphere.

Much of the alteration has come in the provision of entertainments, including groups, discos and a stripper. Poetry readings are planned for Sundays, together with folk music by students—"in fact anyone who can play any Jazz, Blues, folk etc," stated Frank Sturrock, J.C.C. Chairman.

The pub has the cheapest beer on campus and is open until 11 o'clock on Fridays and Saturdays. It is also lit during power cuts.

A feature of future Friday evenings will be discos sponsored by C.B.S. who are eager to promote their records on the campus. Each will probably centre on a particular musical theme—the 1920's period for example. On Saturdays students will be able to mingle with Darwin domestic staff who will meet in the Missing Link.

## NUSS Doors

E.K.S.A. is to conduct a feasibility study into the possibility of a National Union of School Students. It is now N.U.S. policy to set up an autonomous School Students' Union.

The proposed Union would hope to include all school students over the age of fifteen. The aims would be to represent school students' interests; to provide some travel discount similar to that offered by the N.U.S.; and to provide adequate communications, particularly with regard to opportunities in higher education.

At present school students may become associate members of N.U.S., but their particular needs would be served better by a national union of their own.

The "broken doors" episode when John Biggs-Davison, the Monday Club Tory M.P. lectured at the University last November, was discussed by members of the senate and the Union Executive a fortnight ago.

Senior members—especially the four masters—have been concerned about damage that might result from controversial political meetings. In the Biggs-Davison case, the Rutherford Lecture One door was damaged by demonstrators before the Conservative Association had even arrived at the hall. Yet it was nearly debited for the damage although Mike Hake (recently elected Conservative Association Chairman) denies the money has ever been paid.

Last autumn, Richard Langhorne warned Rutherford's Senior College Committee that he might consider banning controversial meetings in Rutherford. Now, however, a small Union/Senate working party is to draft a code of procedure for society's bookings on University premises.



ON FRIDAY February 11 Darwin held a dinner in honour of Charles Darwin, it being the anniversary of his birth. Students were invited to attend, but only twelve replied to the notice inviting them to the dinner. To some extent this was due to the price of the meal—£1.70p per person as compared with Rutherford's £1 a head at their Centenary Dinner. Professor Brian Keith-Lucas, the Master of Darwin, made it clear that the dinner was paid for by the Senior Common Room Committee and not by the College.

## Monks inhabit Giles Lane

Not all students are long-haired revolutionaries, as the people of Canterbury will discover. On Giles Lane work has recently begun on the construction of a Study Centre for religious research.

The architects, the Ellis-Williams Partnership of London are building the seminary for two clients, the Franciscan order, centred at St. Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, and the Order of Friars Minor which is centred in London.

The seminary will consist of individual residential blocks, comprising several single study bed-

rooms and some basic cooking facilities. There will also be a main dining room and eight or nine tutorial rooms plus a common room. The library will have a capacity for 120,000 books, almost exclusively of a religious nature and including some fairly important original manuscripts. All the buildings will be grouped together and within easy access of each other.

The total population of spiritual academics who will be our neighbours will number about 30. The majority of these will be students, but there will also be about eight lecturers and probably one or two priest administrators. Study will be specifically related to the order to which the monks belong. Building should be completed by the end of June, 1973, according to a spokesman for the builders, Simms Sons & Cooke Ltd.

## Closure?

Kent County Council are determined to go ahead with the closure of Giles Lane to through traffic. In about two weeks' time the county clerk will advertise their plan in the local newspapers to give local residents a chance to lodge their objections.

The idea is to close the road at its eastern end, where it joins the Hackington Road, to leave it more free for pedestrians, and traffic will be diverted via Tyler Hill or University Road. The University authorities have apparently agreed to allow traffic to use University Road, but Bridge Blean R.D.C. is not happy about the proposal.

## Appeal

THERE WILL be a collection in aid of Bangla Desh on Thursday.

The appeal is being launched in conjunction with the World University Service, and much of the money will go towards the repair of educational buildings damaged by the Pakistan Army, the construction of new schools and colleges, buying educational and scientific equipment, financial assistance for teachers, and scholarships for students who are now in Bangla Desh.

## Shop

Records went on sale in the Union Shop on Monday of Week 5. They are approximately 17½ per cent cheaper than normal retail price.

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# Letters to the Editor

## Distorting sensationalism

### InCant under fire

Dear Future Queens of Fleet Street,

The Darwin J.C.C. are sympathetic to your need to practice the kind of distorting sensationalism that the present queens employ in order to boost your readership. However, we do not see how you can juxtapose the word "threat" and a picture of our chairman Frank in any context.

Your article "More money for the J.C.C.s" may have been a tasty piece of journalism but had you bothered to consult the minutes of this J.C.C. before printing it you would have realised that "financial autonomy" had not even been discussed, much less ratified as a policy. You claim that Chairman Frank echoed this demand as expressed by Bob Harris. Chairman Frank claims that he did not and we believe him.

#### WHAT'S WHAT

Just to put the record straight, what this J.C.C. has done with regard to its status within the University, is to

propose two questions with the following wording, to be put to other J.C.C.s at an informal meeting.

(1) Is the Keynes motion working in the way in which it was originally envisaged?

(2) Are the current ents offered satisfactory?

These are questions, not proposals. They arise from the concerns expressed by college members not from ambition to score in the petty power game of student politics. If the Keynes proposals are so sacrosanct that a question passed by a J.C.C. meeting poses a threat to them may we suggest that the J.C.C.s be reconstituted as religious rather than administrative bodies.

#### IRRESPONSIBLE

Your article has done much to exacerbate the existing hostilities and tensions within the student bureaucracy and in so far as it was misleading it was also irresponsible.

Finally for those poor souls who believe that the Sananic Darwin Mafia intend to declare U.D.I. as a first step

may we assure you that we are simply a new J.C.C. with new ideas which we wish to have publicly discussed with all concerned. There are always a few people in any organisation who consider that the mere discussion of anything new is tantamount to bloody revolution, to them we say tough S.

Thank you.

K. E. Spencer  
(Sec., Darwin J.C.C.),  
pp the Darwin J.C.C.

#### ED'S REPLY:

Apart from its general "bitchiness" your nice letter tries to score some points which we now answer in similar fashion.

Far from being "distorting sensationalism" our lead story in the last issue assessed the tone of the joint J.C.C.-Union Executive meeting and reported it accordingly. We are sorry if Darwin J.C.C. did not shine in it, but we did later speak to your Chairman Frank, moreover he did confirm that a voting member from each J.C.C. on the Union

Executive was one of his aims. This, by the way does run counter to the spirit of the Keynes proposals. It is linked with "financial autonomy"—with a J.C.C. majority (they already have this) on the Finance Committee plus voting members on the Executive J.C.C.s would effectively rule the Union executive. Now do you understand? Of course not—you are not concerned with the "petty power game of student politics."

We would finally emphasise that InCant did not fabricate the confrontation at that meeting between J.C.C.s and the Union Executive. Union executive members present did consider it a threat for the next two days after the meeting your Chairman and Bob Harris found it necessary to apologise to everyone. I understand a letter has even been sent to the Union. The proposals you raise in your letter are nothing but rationalisations after the event; we are afraid that you are still beginners, the irresponsibility lay with you at that meeting. InCant is an easy scapegoat and nothing else!

## Keynes and after Over to you Mr. Porter

Dear Sir,  
In your last issue you gave prominence to the Darwin-Rutherford moves to increase college autonomy. In the end, however, these proposals stemmed from a misunderstanding of the present role of the J.C.C.s in the Union structure.

Perhaps the deeper cause of unrest is contained in the simple scientific truth, that vacuums have to be filled; in this case the vacuum left by the Union Executive is drawing the J.C.C.s be-

yond their real duties.

The present structure is workable. It is not working to its full potential due principally to the lack of co-ordination and communication between the Union Vice-Presidents and the J.C.C.s.

I look forward to the Internal Affairs report on the working of Union structure.

These views are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of Keynes J.C.C.

Yours sincerely,  
Mike Irwin, Keynes J.C.C.

Dear Sir,

We feel we must respond to the all too predictable reaction against the interruption of a first year economics lecture, some students felt deeply the honor of an action by the army which rivalled Peterloo, and they arranged and publicised a meeting for the Wednesday morning.

Viewed as a fine point of democracy it was perhaps technically incorrect to interfere with the "freedom" of an economics lecture. But it is obvious that Mr. Porter is fighting imaginary battles and ignoring the real ones: we note that

he does not even mention the 13 people dead in Denny in his letter to InCant. Moreover by diverting attention and criticism once again to left-wing scapegoats he is doing a pretty good job for the reactionaries.

It is ridiculous to be so concerned with fine points of democracy when "democracy" is being flouted by the army to the extent of shooting down unarmed demonstrators.

Yours sincerely  
Peter Willsman  
Peter Darling



# INCANT

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be

prepared

THE last editorial "Will Union Sue?" was very much a cry in the wilderness and was treated as such—it was ignored. But it was short, concise and posed the general question just what is the president doing about taking legal action. This involves something called "Union Autonomy" which seems to have been largely forgotten by the present executive.

At the last Joint Senate Union Executive meeting, the Vice-Chancellor asked members of the Executive for their views on the D.E.S. proposals for Union financing. The answer—well, we don't know yet, we are waiting to see what you are going to do. Mrs. Thatcher's proposals may be in cold storage but they are expected to come up again and shouldn't the Executive have formulated their policy on this—has the President even thought about it since his election?

There is another point arising from that joint meeting of the executives, and that is preparation for the meeting; members of the executive go there to represent all Union members on this campus and the amount of work put into the last meeting was minimal, and some vice-presidents who sat on the last Executive must know this and what ought to be done. It is up to them to press this point home.

The President must bear the brunt of this criticism, it is his job to prepare for meetings and to show vice-presidents the lead, particularly when it comes to meeting the Senate Executive, and at that last meeting there was no such lead or preparation that was noticeable.

It is a new Executive but everyone should have found their feet by now. The President, it is true, has a difficult position with no set jobs to do, but it is surely up to him to take the initiative and assume responsibilities instead of merely delegating to everyone but himself. The salient fact here is that this term so far the President has only reported once to a Union Exec. meeting. Some vice-presidents who are not even sabbatical have done more than that.

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A SHORT TIME ago I had a visit from the News Editor of InCant; he wanted to talk to me about the East Kent Students' Association—the existence of which he had only recently heard.

I agreed to write an article on EKSA, so here it is: In the mid-sixties an excuse for enthusiastic student bureaucracy was established and labelled the "East Kent Students' Association." It was bound securely by red tape and although its executive was elected by representatives of constituent unions there was negligible contact between the Area Executive and individual constituent Union Executives.

Consequently the area was regarded as impotent and was unable to fill positions on its Executive when they fell vacant. In a futile attempt to attract interest EKSA concentrated on organising sports and entertainments to the exclusion of "political" activities.

An Area Council, consisting of three elected officers and one President and one representative from each Constituent Union, was set up. All attempts at organising sports and entertainments were abandoned and all activity concentrated on "political" work. (During the Autumn the new constitution was institutionalised by a popular ballot which overwhelmingly voted to end popular ballots for good!) By December the Area was beginning to become "effective" (as a result of the Government's Consultative proposals on Student Unions?) and was successful in organising a march of 1,000 in Canterbury as a protest against them.

sort of facilities South Kent College of Technology is able to provide on a 50p Union Grant per head (our grant is £12.50, for the uninitiated). These Unions need help and given the appropriate channels of communications are quite willing and capable to ask for it. The Area is the best fitted organisation to provide these channels, which would not exist without it.

Unfortunately if we accept that the Area is untenable as a social organisation and that its real function is to help smaller Unions to help themselves and to unite students in East Kent into an effective pressure group we are still left with the problem of finding people willing to act as Area Officers. This problem has been minimised in one respect by having fewer Area Officers under the new Council System, but it has been made more critical by not advertising EKSA through sports and entertainments so that few of this year's first years have even heard of EKSA.

The Council system is one step in the right direction of Area development and when operating functions smoothly and predominantly silently. There is still, however, the problem of attracting people to work for EKSA, which has not in the past been solved by massive publicity. It seems fundamental to the failure to function of all area organisations from time to time.

(If anyone is still interested in working for the Area after this article, could they please see Pete Richardson, the acting Area President, at UKC Student Union Office).

CLIVE GOULD

## Representation

SHOULD an educational system be paternalistic or participatory? Is the true function of a university to turn out pale images of a composite individual?

Rod Coombs, writing in the last Annual General Report to the Union, advanced the argument that "we need to move towards a situation where there is a conjugate relationship between knowledge and the individual in society, between the 'educator' and the 'student,'" and that "student participation in the present formal structure of the determination of education may produce a change in the nature of the academic institution."

Thus, one may question the likelihood of our achieving some form of representation which would allow such a change to occur. Last term a motion accepting Senate representations was passed at a referendum and as such, the Executive is now participating in a "working party" of the joint Senate/Union Executive's to discuss the "finer" points of the proposals. We had assumed that if and when student representation on Senate was finally accepted (and this will not be fully ratified, i.e. by Senate, Council, Court and Privy Council, until December) there would be little objection to our being represented at Faculty Board level.

Such are the idealistic fantasies of youth! We were informed at the last joint Senate/Union Executive meeting that this was not the

case and that there was objection to us having Faculty Board representation. The reasoning behind the discussion, if indeed there be any, was somewhat difficult to ascertain beyond the statement that the Senate Executive wished to see how the proposals for Senate representation worked before committing themselves to negotiations concerning Faculty Board.

At this point one begins to marvel at the logic of the position since all Faculty Board decisions have to be ratified by Senate, where student representatives would have access to Faculty Board papers, not forgetting that three of the student representatives are to be elected (as it is proposed) on a Faculty basis in the first place. Further if students

may be considered competent to sit on Senate, it is difficult to see quite why they are not competent to sit on Faculty Boards.

However, as Rod Coombs pointed out, the aims and justifications for academic representation are independent in large measure from those of Senate representation. This is true in the sense that only through Faculty representation can we ever hope significantly to influence course structures, decisions over examinations and assessments, etc., and the justifications are obvious in that there should be a continuous two-way flow of ideas and information between students and staff, with the former being able to do more than "shouting in the wilderness."

Universities like to stress the importance of liberal thinking, free flow of ideas, and the preservation of intellectual integrity, and yet one does not have to look far to see whose thinking and integrity is being preserved, whilst the free flow of ideas is a convenient euphemism hiding the fact that in the absence of any effective means of putting one's ideas into practice, one can only

Winter 1970 found a new consciousness developing regarding EKSA and the constitution was completely rewritten. A few realised just how valuable the area could be and had decided that the way to make the area relevant was to open it up

chatter away three University years and get absolutely nowhere, which could just be the idea of it anyway.

There is ever a difference between appearance and reality, i.e. at the last joint Union/Senate Executive we were led to believe that the Senate Executive was wholly against Faculty Board representation. This was the appearance, whereas the reality is that the Faculties themselves are split on the issue within the Senate, and at the moment, the balance is against us.

Despite the Senate Executive's attitude to Faculty representation, the Executive is at present still going ahead with Senate proposals, since to withdraw and wash our hands of it all at this stage would serve no purpose. We do not intend to stop pressing for Faculty Board representation, and would hope to do so with a slightly more reasonable attitude than our "rational elders" appear to have at present.

to all its student members. Consequently a procedure was established for election of Area Officers and a popular ballot was held termly for EKSA's students to mandate their area on future activities. The Area Executive was widened to include two representatives from each constituent union and the new constitution was kindly organised by NUS Executive.

As 1970 wore on the elected members of the Executive began to resign and despite massive publicity the Area was unable to get anyone to fill the vacant positions. In December, 1970 the Area, under an acting Chairman, decided to curtail any "political activity" in favour of pushing sports and entertainments, in an attempt to revive interest. By now there were too few active Area Officers left to do more than keep the structure together. The sports and entertainments failed to attract anyone and by Summer 1971 despite well-published elections the only active person left was the EKSA Chairman, who had been elected in the Spring.

Out of this crisis came the second radical change in the Area Constitution.

This Christmas the Area President and Treasurer resigned and EKSA was again left to fill the posts of President, Treasurer and Education and Welfare Officer. So far it has been unable to do so. EKSA will continue as the Council system was institutionalised with this situation in mind, however, it cannot hope to be anything but dormant until someone again comes to take it over.

To see what's gone wrong with the Area let's start by analysing the reasons why the organisation should exist in the first place. There is only one reason and that is to work to abolish the binary system and to try and rectify some of its worst atrocities in the process. As has been shown so often EKSA cannot hope to mean anything as a social club to its 5,000 members when its income is less than £200 yearly.

Most of you know the conditions at other colleges, the inadequate representations, facilities, etc. You can imagine the

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# Education in the '70s

## Edward Short speaks in Canterbury

LAST week Edward Short was the speaker at a meeting in the Friends' Meeting House, organised by Canterbury's Association for the Advancement of State Education.

Mr. Short, the shadow Minister for Education, gave his views on how education might develop in the seventies; what was being done now and what he would like to see happening.

It was the Conservative philosophy, he said, to stand upon your own feet, and this principle was being applied just as much to education as in industry. He feared that more charges would be imposed and other increased around the periphery of the educational system; this would include charges for nursery schools and the institution of student loans at postgraduate level. An increasing amount of expenditure in education would be laid upon local government authorities, and that the principle of standing on your own feet would be applied to communities just as it was to individuals.

The Development in secondary education was already being slowed down, Mrs. Thatcher had turned down plans which involved the setting up of comprehensive areas. The building programme was being cut back. The government knew that the number of students was going to double by the turn of the century, but still they were unwilling to respond to higher education. Cuts in teacher training could be expected—this was implicit in the

James Report which had been accepted. On top of all this stimulus would be given to private education—stand on your own two feet was the rule for the day.

### EFFECT

The effect of this government's policy would be to increase the disparity between one local authority and another and more important between one child and another.

Mr. Short would like to see a "democratisation" in education. The basic premise of a "democracy" is that all individuals are equal, the same theory should apply in education; that all children should be treated equally and have equal opportunities but unfortunately just as our democracy does not always work very well so in education our children do not get equal treatment or have equal opportunities. Continuing this analogy in a democracy we are given all the data from which we can read our conclusion and vote. Likewise in education we should give children all the facts and draw the conclusions—at the moment there is widespread disenchantment with our democracy because it is too remote and Mr. Short felt that education could dispel this disenchantment.

Democracy in education is becoming increasingly

important; there are now new views about intelligence in human beings. The old belief was that you could measure intelligence, that it was a quantifiable factor and that an index could be used to show how a child might benefit from higher education. This was and still is in some areas used to justify streaming in primary schools, selection at 11 years old and to legitimise University selection. We have got used to this assumption and have accepted it as a justification that it is the natural order of things to select—that you can divide those who deserve higher education and those who do not.

The purpose of education has traditionally been to preserve society and it has therefore been conservative, merely passing on the values of society.

But now intelligence is seen differently: Professor Jensen and others have attributed 20 per cent and more of measured intelligence to environmental factors. What we once thought was due to genetics can now be seen as due to the environment and Dr. Douglas and his book "Home and School" illustrates just how a child's measured intelligence between the ages of 8-11 may be affected by parental influence, teachers' encouragement and the locality where he lives and goes to school.



As Mr. Short pointed out, "when measuring a child's I.Q. we are still in effect measuring the child's social and economic background" this is "sheer immorality" and "this is the big brain

More attention must be paid to the socially deprived areas and resources channelled there to compensate for the social and economic deprivation. This was Mr. Short's complaint against Mrs.

## by Colin Stone

drain, not the people going to America."

### HOME

Mr. Short then emphasised the importance of the home and the interest that must be stimulated there. The school itself must become more a part of the community "the context of education is not the four walls of a building it is not an ivory tower but a community."

Thatcher—that she was spreading the money available thinly over a wide field, so that the well-endowed areas were receiving the same amount as those less well-off.

Looking to the future there must be no more premature judgments about children whether it be in streaming or in 11-plus selection. There will have to be a change in the structure of schools, they must become less

authoritarian in the methods they employ, the head teacher can no longer be seen as sitting on the top of a pyramid. Mr. Short foresees a new morality emerging; two generations ago there was no moral instruction and children were trained according to the Ten Commandments. This Christian code has been abandoned but still adults expected children to know the difference between right and wrong in given situations.

Through education children must come to learn of an "autonomous morality." When faced with a problem and a choice of action, with no code to guide them the children had to think through the consequences of their actions for themselves—education could help them to do this. The "quality" which now counts is creativity," said Mr. Short and this was what was going to count in the twentieth century."

All of this would involve great changes in the classroom, it was necessary that a new system of learning evolve, without the present authoritarian element, and one which will allow children to advance as quickly as they can.

### CHANGES

Mr. Short then listed specific changes which he would like to see in the next 20 years—the expansion of comprehensive areas but beware the assumption that this would solve all the problems, education was changing all the time and comprehensives should become no plateau.

The school life of a child should be lengthened, under the present system the child's most formative periods fell outside the statutory periods.

Nursery schools must be a top priority and universal provision made for them. The school leaving age would obviously have to be raised and in line with this Mr. Short hoped that the pupil at 16 would attain the status of student.

There must be no duplication in colleges, particularly in higher education the structure would have to be rationalised ensuring that the same syllabus was not being taught in colleges only a mile apart from one another.

### DANGER

Selection at 11 is already dying and must do so, the danger now was streaming which should be avoided. In Higher Education, Mr. Short noted that it was forecast that the numbers eligible for such education in 1981 would double the present total. While he had no obligation to "autonomous" universities he was opposed to them if they held up progress and would like to see more links between the polys, training colleges and universities, particularly bringing teacher training into the University system along the lines suggested by The Robbins Report.

A Higher Education Commission should be set up which would make recommendations on individual situations, but he stressed that it would be difficult to tidy up all the loose ends on a national scale.

Concluding his speech Mr. Short said that if asked, the major priorities as far as he saw them, lay in the nurseries at one end of the educational structure and higher education at the other.

## A choice for women

### The campaign for day nurseries in Canterbury

ABOUT a year ago, the Canterbury Women's Liberation group decided to launch a campaign for a council-run day nursery in Canterbury. We felt that we wanted to avoid becoming just a talking-shop, and should involve ourselves with the women of the community.

Looking into the reasons why there should be full-time day nurseries available for women proved to be more complex than we first thought. After all, providing day nurseries so that women could choose to go out to work was rather like throwing them out of the frying pan into the fire. Posing the question in another way, does one attempt to free women from being exploited in the home so that they may be even more exploited in boring jobs? Then there was the question of what was good for the children. Should they be left without their mothers for periods as long as nine hours?

The realities of the situation resolved our theoretical problems for us.

Our first attempt at arousing the women of Canterbury on this issue, by calling a public meeting, was an abysmal failure as we had no personal contact with any women in the town. Besides, there was no reason why the "apathetic silent majority" should make us an exception. However, we did manage to stir up some publicity on the issue, with the result that at the Council meeting last Easter, the Health Committee felt it necessary to include a clause in its minutes stating that there was no demand for public nurseries in Canterbury. The details of these surveys were not to be disclosed for

some time, despite our enquiries.

As a result of this, we decided to launch our own survey on the housing estates and subsequently discovered that there were many women who felt strongly about the issue, and who were willing to organise themselves into groups to collect signatures for a petition.

Petitions from the Sturry Road and Spring Lane estates were finally handed in at the Town Clerk's office last November. It must be stressed that these petitions were divided into sub-sections

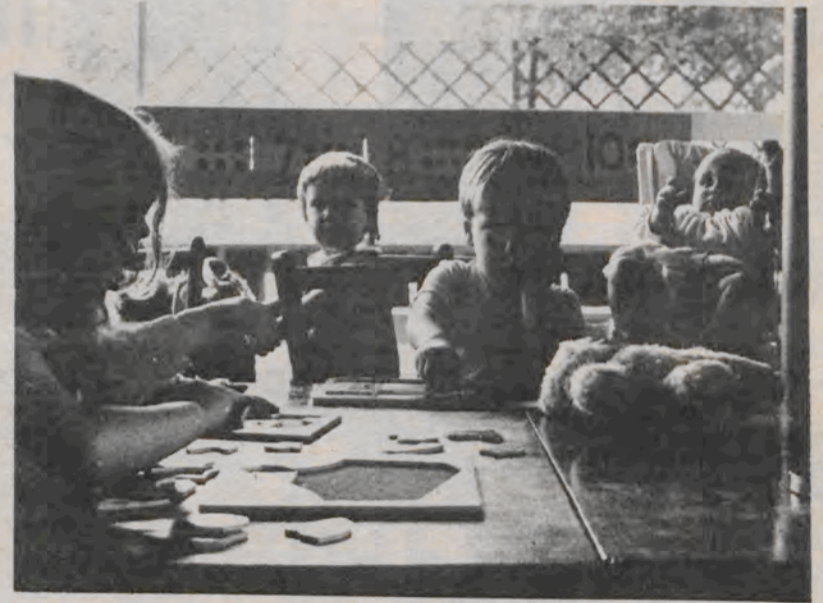
—one with the signatures of those who were in sympathy with having a day nursery, and one with those of mothers with children under five who felt they needed these facilities. There were approximately 120 of the latter signatures, all with names and addresses.

The answer of the Social Services Committee was that petitioners would have to produce more facts and figures than this in order to establish the need. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Harvey, persisted in his claim that the present policy of the Council, which encouraged pre-school playgroups and a child-minding service, was entirely adequate. Here I must point out that although pre-school playgroups make an admirable contribution in providing facilities where children can enjoy each other's company under the supervision of qualified staff, they can only do so for an average of three hours a day, and so, generally, are only useful to women who can afford to stay at home.

One must also admit that child-minders do an admirable job, but the numbers of them are comparatively small, and they tend to be grouped in

areas of the town far from the housing estates, in which the need is greatest, with the result that many women may be forced into seeking illegal child-minders. The prices charged by registered minders, in many cases, are beyond the means of the women who need their children cared for, although we have been informed that a sum of money is set aside for subsidising women who are in need. One wonders how far the Council goes in advertising this fact, and just what their definition of "need" is.

In order to try and reach some kind of understanding with the Council, a public meeting was held on Monday, February 7, by the Nursery Action Group composed of members of Women's Liberation and women in the town. It was attended by approximately 70 people and 10 councillors. This meeting took the form of an informal discussion which tended to be dominated, on the councillors' side, by Mrs. Mary Keith-Lucas as chairman of the Social Services Committee; she persisted throughout the evening in stating that although she was in great sympathy with the aims of the campaign, she did



not feel that real evidence of the local need had been proved, in spite of numerous case histories quoted to her from the floor. These included the case of a woman who had to get up two hours early each day to take her two children to different child-minders in Wincheap and on the Sturry Road.

There was much evidence of mental stress among women with child-minding and other difficulties. It was pointed out that the expense of keeping a woman in a mental home after a nervous breakdown was probably much greater than the cost of providing a nursery for her children.

The position of the Labour group was stated by Councillor John But-

ler. This was that nursery schools, which are more educational and which therefore cater more for the child's needs, would be more desirable, but because it is difficult to obtain these because of present Government policy, a day nursery would be acceptable if the need were established.

The meeting ended with the discovery of the nature of the surveys conducted previously. One was in conjunction with the local hospitals, in which a note was put in the pay-slip of each employee asking if they knew of anybody who would start work if the hospital provided a day nursery. The other was in co-operation with the Employment Exchange, with the assumption that only

women seeking work would need a nursery, but missing the point that a woman with children would surely attempt to secure a minder for her children before looking for work. It was also discovered that the fact that there had been two separate petitions had gone entirely unnoticed.

As a result of this meeting, the matter was raised in the Council meeting instead of being rejected out of hand.

Anyone who would be interested in helping, please contact me through Darwin I.P.S., or the Women's Lib group, which meets in the "Jolly Sailor," Northgate, on Mondays at 8 p.m.

GRAZYHA BAVAN



MIXED group at a conference.

# THE ABOLITION OF THE UNIVERSITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

John Davies, ex-chaplain to Witwatersrand University, paid to Education, spoke to The Christian Union earlier this term and asked him to write this article.

"THE EXTENSION OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION ACT, 1959." Apart from the date, this could be the title of a cool new reforming Bill to implement, for instance, the Robbins Report. In South Africa, which can produce a body called "The Conservative Workers' Party" and a left-wing capitalists' movement called the "Progressive Party," this Bill effectively meant the abolition of university education.

In Britain and Europe, "academic freedom" has come to mean some very sophisticated ideas of structure and community. In South Africa, academic freedom is a matter of three very simple rights — the right of the university to decide, on academic grounds, who shall teach; the right of the university to decide, on academic grounds, who shall be taught; and the right of the university to decide what shall be taught.

In 1968, the University of Cape Town decided to appoint Mr. Archie Mafeje to a lectureship. Having approved the appointment at first, the University Council withdrew the appointment under pressure from the Government Department of Education. The only objection to Mr. Mafeje was that he is black and the University of Cape Town is identified as a 'white' university. The protests about this quickly shifted away from the issue of Mr. Mafeje as an individual, because the whole concept of academic freedom was involved, and with it the whole issue of the right to dissent from the ostensible norms of public opinion. The universities do not have the right to choose who shall teach.

Up to 1959, there was a group of English-medium universities which were called 'open'; they were, in principle, genuine universities, admitting students of all races. The new act allowed these universities to admit coloured, African and

Indian students only in cases where a student had obtained special permission from the relevant minister; this permission is given only where the 'proper' university for the non-white student does not offer the course for which he is qualified. The effect of this is that the University of the Witwatersrand now has about four African students and about 300 coloured and Indian students, working in such faculties as Dentistry and Engineering. There used to be a whole special hall of residence for African students. This is a sign of the general confusion about this issue: even in the old days, there was not total integration. One of the arguments in favour of segregation in University Education was that the black would prefer to be a first-class student in his own institutions than to be a second-class student in a basically white institution. There was an official fumbling policy of academic integration and social segregation. But the

social segregation could be opposed and to some extent overcome. Particularly, it was possible for students to get together in student societies completely irrespective of race, and establish friendships and co-operation. The facilities of the union and its subsidiaries are required, by order of the S.R.C., to be open to all students. So, in spite of the separate residence, it was possible to claim that the university was able to admit students on academic grounds only.

**"It's very difficult to see people as more than problems or stereotypes."**

In the old days, students of different races were able to know each other closely as friends, if they wanted to. Now it is very difficult for students (or anyone else) to see people of different groups as anything more than problems or stereotypes.

Apartheid is succeeding. It is driving people farther and farther apart. It is making the black man anonymous. When there were about 650 people under banning orders, a few years ago, about 80 per cent were black; but only the whites were 'names' — people with a story which had

been taken up by the media. Even the most reliable news which gets into the British Press has been processed by the white filter-system: it is transmitted by honest and good journalists who are used to writing for a predominantly white public.

**"The University for Zulul was 112 miles from the nearest bookshop."**

For instance, the British Press, like the white South African Press, has made far more of the trial of the Dean of Johannesburg than it has of the concurrent trial of a group of Africans in Pietermaritzburg. The appalling ignorance among responsible white people about what black people really think and feel has been exposed by the wild way in which so many of them have been searching around for a white scapegoat on whom to place the blame for the strike of Ovambo workers in Namibia. And so the Anglican Bishop of Damaraland is forbidden to enter Ovamboland, where about 90 per cent of his flock have their homes.

At the same time as the old 'open' universities were forbidden to admit students on academic grounds only, the Government set up a whole lot of new institutions to justify the title 'Extension of University Education'. These are all for non-whites. South Africa divides everyone into whites and non-whites, into people who are



STUDENTS outside the main building of University of Zululand.



OUTSIDE the main building University of Witwatersrand.

# ATION OF RSITY IN FRICA

part of The Johannesburg College of  
m on "The Church v Vorster." InCant  
article.

something and people who are not something. There was a policeman who asked a man, 'Are you a European or a non-European?' 'Non-European', was the answer. 'Where do you come from?' the policeman asked. 'Non-Europe'. A logical answer. The university of Natal has two white campuses and a black one — the latter being entirely medical. The black campus is often called U.N.N.E. — University of Natal Non-European. The black students there have in the last few years been calling the rest of the university U.N.N.B. The Government's new Institutions are not just generically 'non-white'. One is the old Fort Hare, put under new authority and restricted not just to 'non-whites', not just to Africans, but specifically to Xhosas. The other four are new places. One is in a fairly urban area near Cape Town, for coloured students. Coloured students have to attend there (unless they get the very rare special permission) even if their homes are 1,000 miles away in the Transvaal. Another, for Indians, is in Durban. But the two others are deliberately isolated. The University for Zulus I used to know very well, for it was in my parish. I feel that the most revealing fact about it is that it is situated 112 miles from the nearest proper bookshop. And the university for the Sotho-speaking groups is even more remote from a major city, in the Northern Transvaal.

**"They know their education has been seriously thwarted by the Government."**

These five places were started as university colleges some 11 years ago. They prepared students to take University of South Africa degrees. The University of South Africa is an entirely correspondence university, with very high academic standards. It has been the means by which many of the less-privileged members of the South African population have gained higher education. As long as the new places were tied to the University of South Africa, there was some hope that their teaching would be of an acceptable level of competence and that students would obtain internationally-recognisable degrees. But at the 10th anniversary of the passing of the Act, the Government pushed through legislation giving each one of these places university status. This was bitterly opposed by the very students who were in them. Apart from anything else, the credibility of this exercise can be judged by the fact that the total enrolment of the five universities together was 2011 in 1970. In contrast to this the 10 whites-only universities cater for about 45,000 students between them. This is not just a matter of numbers: it is also a question of the choice of university available to students. Within reason, a white can choose any one out of the ten universities catering for whites: some of them are Afrikaans-medium and some are English, but there are significant groups of the minority language in each. But if you are a Zulu who happens to live in the Northern Transvaal (and some do) the correct place for you is the University of Zululand.

This is all part of the policy of classification. Race itself is a very problematic concept. Scientifically, are there 'races' at all? If there are, there are probably only three. What we have in South Africa is racial classification. You have got to know how you are classified: until you do, you do not know where you may live, whom you may marry, where you may go to school, where you may get medical help, what bus or train you may use, where you may be buried. But it is all an arbitrary device. So we have cases of a child being of a different classification to the parents, and being unable legally to live under the same roof. So we have a husband absolutely repudiating his lawfully married wife and getting a long-standing marriage annulled, purely on the grounds that his wife turns out to have a different classification to himself, a classification which can be discovered only from documents. So, if you are a Xhosa, you go to Fort Hare; if you are suitable for an academic career as a university teacher, the only proper place for you is Fort Hare. And if there is a vacancy in your discipline somewhere else there's little point in thinking of applying for it. You are more likely to get a job teaching in your own ethnic university a discipline in which you have only secondary competence than you are to teach your own subject in a different institution.

This is not just a matter of language. Language is not a particularly important form of difference at this level. The white staff (who still occupy most of the senior teaching posts) are largely committed to the theory and ideal of vernacular instruction in these places. But it is a conception which students reject almost unanimously. They know that a language like Zulu is never likely to be useful as a medium of technological discourse: they know, even more, that their own education has been seriously thwarted by the Government's insistence on keeping the vernacular as the teaching medium until far later in the pupil's life than used to be the case in the old mission schools.

Our Afrikaans-speaking lecturers may find this attitude difficult to understand. They may say, quite rightly: 'We want you to have all the things we fought for. We never really became a people with our own pride and identity until we got our own universities, working in our own language. We can't understand why you don't take this wonderful opportunity which we are giving you.'

**"All that this ethnic enthusiasm can do is to divide the black group."**

The position of the Afrikaner is understandable. To the outside world, and to the blackman, his language may seem to be identified only as a language of cursing, cruelty, and oppression. But Afrikaans is still felt, by those whites who speak it, to be a language of liberation, a symbol of deliverance from English linguistic and economic imperialism. They reasonably suspect the English of being a people who go and sit down in someone else's country and entertain each other by discussing the



OUTSIDE an African school.

oddties of the inhabitants. They know that their language and their universities, along with the Dutch Reformed Church, the Afrikaans Press, the Nationalist Party, and the secret organisations such as the Broederland, together constitute a bundle of loyalties without which they would not exist. And an Englishman who has never taken time to listen to such linguistic minorities has little credibility when he starts condemning their aberrations. This is not all far away. The English might benefit a great deal by trying to hear what is going on as close as Aberystwyth. The laboratory is on the Englishman's doorstep.

When all this is said, however, the fact remains that our African students are not impressed by it. It isn't Zulu power that will make a difference to South Africa, but black power. All that this ethnic enthusiasm can do is to divide the black group and prevent it cohering. A few years ago, the President of the Trust Bank in South Africa claimed that the largest population group in South Africa is the whites; the next largest is the Xhosas. Very convincing, for whites who want to justify their dominance. But many blacks would prefer the more usual convention that divides the country simply into whites and non-whites. The negative term may be unpleasant, but it can make better political sense. Coloured leaders like Father Clive McBride are openly calling themselves blacks: this could be regretted, especially because of the signs of dissent among some Afrikaner intellectuals, who have recently drawn bullying and crude condemnation from Mr. Vorster for daring to suggest that the coloured people should be counted as members of the white community. But black solidarity is still increasing, and is in many ways the best hope for the future.

Having said all this about racial issues, I must finally add that race is not the basic issue in South Africa. Race is a desperately urgent and obviously critical issue: but it would not be nearly so urgent and dangerous as it is, if there were not a deeper problem underlying it. This is the whole rigidity and injustice in the distribution of wealth and power. Even among the whites, there is little social mobility. There are relatively few students who are not children of graduates. There are relatively few students whose fees are not largely paid by parents. The racial situation merely underlines the fact that South Africa is a society which does not seek to redress the inequalities between rich and poor. In 1967, for instance, the allocation of funds for text books for white schoolchildren was, per capita, 17 times the corresponding figure for African children.

At this point, it seems to me that anything which we plan to do from the outside must be evaluated in terms of whether it will help to support further the power of those who have power or whether it will assist those who have insufficient power to have more power. This is a



INDIVIDUAL black student.

question which cuts through a lot of the sloganising and sometimes superficial reactions which we get in this kind of discussion.

Help can still be channelled to enable Africans to obtain higher education, in ways which do not bring them into further dependence on white power. (i) The failure of the liberal movements in the past has so often been that they have seemed to have been doing things for blacks, rather than supplying power direct to them to use. Indeed, the main reason why white newspapers, universities, and churches are allowed to be outspoken against the government is, I'm convinced, that this very outspokenness supports the basic South African fallacy, that politics is a matter of whites arguing with whites about blacks.

**"Politics is a matter of whites arguing with whites about blacks."**

In spite of all this, the days of friendship between individual blacks and whites are not quite passed. Too often such friendship has been politically naive and ineffective, and many African students are rightly suspicious of 'fellowship' on easy terms. The system makes it extraordinarily difficult to hold any kind of multi-racial conference, especially where students of different groups can stay under one roof. But it is still sometimes possible; and for students of both sides, this can be a deeply significant experience — almost a conversion experience. By meeting in such circumstances and under such pressures, people can get some idea of what they are missing under the apartheid system. And they can also get a clearer vision of the kind of society which is worth hoping for and struggling for.

(i) Such as the Lomans Trust. I can supply details, but I have kept names and organisations out of this article.



A mixed group.

**SMALL ADS,  
LETTERS BY  
MARCH 1st.**



MIXED group at a conference.

# THE ABOLITION OF THE UNIVERSITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

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been taken up by the media. Even the most reliable news which gets into the British Press has been processed by the white filter-system: it is transmitted by honest and good journalists who are used to writing for a predominantly white public.

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For instance, the British Press, like the white South African Press, has made far more of the trial of the Dean of Johannesburg than it has of the concurrent trial of a group of Africans in Pietermaritzburg. The appalling ignorance among responsible white people about what black people really think and feel has been exposed by the wild way in which so many of them have been searching around for a white scapegoat on whom to place the blame for the strike of Ovambo workers in Namibia. And so the Anglican Bishop of Damaraland is forbidden to enter Ovamboland, where about 90 per cent of his flock have their homes.

At the same time as the old 'open' universities were forbidden to admit students on academic grounds only, the Government set up a whole lot of new institutions to justify the title 'Extension of University Education'. These are all for non-whites. South Africa divides everyone into whites and non-whites, into people who are

something and people who are not something. There was a policeman who asked a man, 'Are you a European or a non-European?' 'Non-European', was the answer. 'Where do you come from?' the policeman asked. 'Non-European', a logical answer. The university of Natal, for two white campuses and a black one — the latter being entirely medical. The black campus is often called U.N.N.E. — University of Natal Non-European. The black students there have in the last few years been calling the rest of the university U.N.N.B. The Government's new institutions are not just generically 'non-white'. One is the old Fort Hare, put under new authority and restricted not just to 'non-whites', not just to Africans, but specifically to Xhosas. The other four are new places. One is in a fairly urban area near Cape Town, the old Fort Hare, put under new authority and restricted not just to 'non-whites', not just to Africans, but specifically to Xhosas. You go to Fort Hare, if you are suitable for an academic career as a university teacher, the only proper place for you is Fort Hare. And if there is a vacancy in your discipline somewhere else there's little point in thinking of applying for it. You are more likely to get a job teaching in your own ethnic university a discipline in which you have only secondary competence than you are to teach your own subject in a different institution.

This is not just a matter of language. Language is not a trivially important form of difference at this level. The white staff (who still occupy most of the senior teaching posts) are largely committed to the theory and ideal of venaular instruction in these places. But it is a conception which students reject almost unanimously. They know that a language like Zulu is never likely to be useful as a medium of technological discourse: they know, even more, that their own education has been seriously thwarted by the Government's insistence on keeping the vernacular as the teaching medium until far later in the pupil's life than used to be the case in the old mission schools.

Our Afrikaans-speaking lecturers may find this attitude difficult to understand. They may say, quite rightly: 'We want you to have all the things we fought for. We never really became a people with our own pride and identity until we got our own universities, working in our own language. We can't understand why you don't take this wonderful opportunity which we are giving you.'

"All that this ethnic enthusiasm can do is to divide the black group."

The position of the Afrikaner is understandable. To the outside world, and to the blackman, his language may seem to be identified only as a language of cursing, cruelty, and oppression. But Afrikaans is still felt, by those whites who speak it, to be a language of liberation, a symbol of deliverance from English linguistic and economic imperialism. They reasonably suspect the English of being a people who go and sit down in someone else's country and entertain each other by discussing the

oddties of the inhabitants. They know that their language and their universities, along with the Dutch Reformed Church, the Afrikaans Press, the Nationalist Party, and the secret organisations such as the Broederland, together constitute a bundle of loyalties without which they would not exist. And an Englishman who has never taken time to listen to such linguistic minorities has little credibility when he starts condemning their aberrations. This is not all far away. The English might benefit a great deal by trying to hear what is going on as close as Aberystwyth. The laboratory is on the Englishman's doorstep.

When all this is said, however, the fact remains that our African students are not impressed by it. It isn't Zulu power that will make a difference to South Africa, but black power. All that this ethnic enthusiasm can do is to divide the black group and prevent it cohering. A few years ago, the President of the Trust Bank in South Africa claimed that the largest population group in South Africa is the whites; the next largest is the Xhosas. Very convincing, for whites who want to justify their dominance. But many blacks would prefer the more usual convention that divides the country simply into whites and non-whites. The negative term may be unpleasant, but it can make better political sense. Coloured leaders like Father Clive McBride are openly calling themselves blacks; this could be regretted, especially because of the signs of dissent among some Afrikaner intellectuals, who have recently drawn bullying and crude condemnation from Mr. Vorster for daring to suggest that the coloured people should be counted as members of the white community. But black solidarity is still increasing, and is in many ways the best hope for the future.



INDIVIDUAL black student.



A mixed group.

question which cuts through a lot of the sloganeering and sometimes superficial reactions which we get in this kind of discussion.

Help can still be channelled to enable Africans to obtain higher education, in ways which do not bring them into further dependence on white power. (1) The failure of the liberal movements in the past has so often been that they have seemed to have been doing things for blacks, rather than supplying power direct to them to use. Indeed, the main reason why white newspapers, universities, and churches are allowed to be outspoken against the government is, I'm convinced, that this very outspokenness supports the basic South African fallacy, that politics is a matter of whites arguing with whites about blacks.

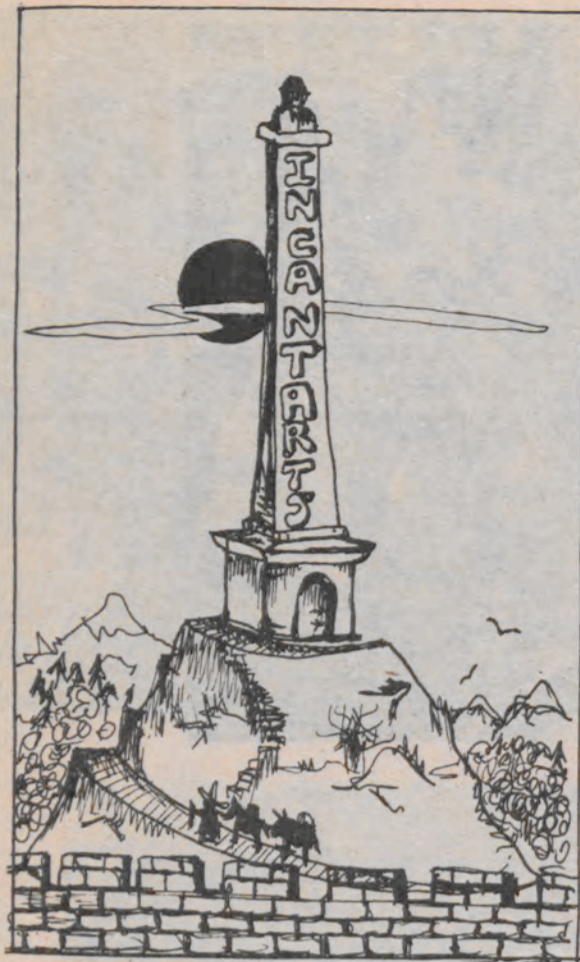
"Politics is a matter of whites arguing with whites about blacks."

In spite of all this, the days of friendship between individual blacks and whites are not quite passed. Too often such friendship has been politically naive and ineffective, and many African students are rightly suspicious of 'fellowship' on easy terms. The system makes it extraordinarily difficult to hold any kind of multi-racial conference, especially where students of different groups can stay under one roof. But it is still sometimes possible; and for students of both sides, this can be a deeply significant experience — almost a conversion experience. By meeting in such circumstances and under such pressures, people can get some idea of what they are missing under the apartheid system. And they can also get a clearer vision of the kind of society which is worth hoping for and struggling for.

(1) Such as the Lomans Trust: I can supply details, but I have kept names and organisations out of this article.

## SMALL ADS, LETTERS BY MARCH 1st.





## The Matrix

THE Sunday night concert given by the Matrix on February 6 must have been one of the most remarkable recitals given at the University. The music was all either arranged for or composed for various combinations of saxophones, clarinets and piano.

The recital began with Hymn to the Sun (Crete A.D. 130), played by Alan Hacker, the group's director, on a high pitched clarinet called a clarina. The higher register of the instrument, reminiscent of some primitive wind instrument, transmitted a feeling of barbaric ecstasy as the soul rose higher and higher in worship of the sun.

The pieces by Mozart, with Francis Christou on the bassoon (Bass clarinet) were loudly applauded, particularly for their amusing moments and the suavely which they were played.

The weak point of the concert seemed to be the Improvisations on Tenor Sax, by Tony Coe. Tony Coe, a citizen of Canterbury, succeeded very well in displaying the technical limits of the saxophone, but the improvisations were flighty and without recognisable shape. The sound of the Tenor Sax in these Improvisations was inferior to the boisterous medieval sound which came in the 'Canzona' by Gabrieli.

### MODERN

The second half of the concert contained much more modern music. Alan Hacker began it with a performance of Boulez 'Domaines'. For this piece, the player arranges six sheets of music on six stands placed all around the stage, and then plays them in whatever order he chooses, moving from one stand to another. This was made a little difficult since Alan Hacker plays from a wheelchair, but the pauses between the different 'Domaines' were necessary for the audience to recover from each one. They were reminiscent of a soul in

torment, harsh noises from everyday life, and just occasionally birdsong.

Paul Crossley gave a well-controlled performance of 'La Valse' by Ravel. He brought out the contrast in mood of the piece, without losing impetus. The so-called 'waltz' contained tender, sinuous passages, which could well have accompanied the dance of the seven veils, which would have confused any would be waltzers. Tony Coe's 'New Tune' was more effective than his earlier improvisations, but it also seemed too rambling for unaccompanied Tenor Sax.

The concert ended with a 'Fantasia on a Ground' by Henry Purcell, for this Paul Crossley accompanied the three soprano saxes on a harmonium. The saxes were played to sound just like baroque cornetti, and recalled the boisterous spirits of the earlier pieces. For a few moments however, the saxes got out of step, and the performance never quite recovered, although there were no other slips.

The concert was notable for the unorthodox use of clarinets and saxophones particularly in the performance of early music! It was a revelation to everyone there to see how versatile these instruments can be, in the hands of skilled musicians.

# Festival of German Art

## The Threepenny Opera

AS the first foreign language production mounted at the Gulbenkian Bertold Brecht's 'Threepenny Opera' is an ambitious choice. However, imaginative direction and staging by Reg Brown and Uwe Multhaupt and superb rendering of Kurt Weill's haunting score by Alan Laing and orchestra ensured the play's success.

Although set in a mythical milieu of the London underworld of early Victorian England Brecht's version of John Gay's 'Beggar's Opera' is a savage satirical attack on the ruthlessness and hypocrisy of the bourgeoisie of Weimar Germany. Judging from the enormous popular success the opera enjoyed when first produced at the "Theater am Schiffbauerdamm" one suspects that the didactic purpose of the work made less impression on the urbane Berlin audience of the day than Kurt Weill's acerbic, unforgettable music, and that they went away humming the songs rather than reflecting on the iniquitous ambiguities at the root of their social and economic system.

It may therefore be inherent in the work and not in Reg Brown's interpretation that one felt entertained rather than politically enlightened by this vigorous production. Only in Julian Forsyth's outstanding Peachum, king of the beggars and entrepreneurial exploiter of the down trodden did one sense the cynicism required to thrive under such a vicious system.

His dry version in Act three of 'The Song of Man's Inadequacy' was one of the high points of the show and of a performance which was always controlled and authoritative. Something of the sinister radiated by Peachum would have been welcome in the part of Macheath. Hugh Ridley brought out admirably the slinking, faintly seedy elegance of the gang leader but did not sufficiently emphasise the venom and the

menace of the man which are sketched out in the opening ballad of 'Mack the Knife' — convincing as the seducer of Polly and the darling of the Tunbridge brothel, one doubted whether the smooth exterior really did conceal a set of shark's teeth. A similar criticism may also be directed at Vivienne Mylne as Mrs. Peachum. Was this cosy, rubicund figure really the unscrupulous, gin-swilling old crone that Brecht had intended?

The grouse shooting outfit of Philip Robinson and the element of bufoonery he brings to the part exactly conveyed the complaisance and ineffectuality of Tiger Brown, the venal Chief of Police. The attack which he and Hugh Ridley brought to their duet magnificently underlined the gap between jovial nostalgia and brutality of content on which the bitter irony of the Canon Song rests.

Rosie Smallwood, exquisitely frail and winsome as Polly in her version of Pirate Jenny's Song, revealed in the prison scene with Macheath and Lucy (played by Jenny Ridley with enormous verve) that beneath the veneer of finishing school gentility there lay the ruthless streak one would expect of Peachum's daughter.

The production as a whole was full of good things from the lesser roles. Davis Heald's shuffling indignant r'ilch with splendid Chaplinesque boots 'a present from my poor mother . . .'; Gisela Ruckdeschel's trollopy Spelunken-Jenny, her songs delivered with that overlay of grating throatiness which Brecht admired in Lotte Lenya. Herbert Geschwandtner and Peter Lansley outstanding in a gang of thieves and cut-throats whose clownishness never descended to farce: seductive whores who could, perhaps, been played a shade less salubriously and finally a clutch of beggars, hideously scabrous and grotesque.

Reg Brown and the German Board of Studies are to be congratulated on pulling off such an enterprising venture. It is to be hoped that the success of 'The Threepenny Opera' will set a precedent for further language productions. **Martin Kane.**



## PETRI'S FILM

THIS week the Canterbury Film Theatre presented one of three current Italian films concerned, in part, with Fascism. Of the three (Visconti's 'The Damned' and Bertolucci's 'The Conformist' being the other two) Petri's film 'Investigation of a Citizen Above Suspicion' is probably the weakest.

Italy's submission to America's treatment of negroes is to the United States, that is a topic for the expiation of a guilt complex. Thus while the Americans churn out sickly soap operas, about How Decent Coloured People Really Are (witness the Sidney Poitier phenomenon), the Italians do much the same, but with a little more subtlety.

Neither Clerici in the "Conformist" of the Police Inspector in "Investigation" are amiable characters and both are exponents of Reich's statement that vulnerability to Fascism is closely connected with 'the repression and distortion of the sexual life'. This repression is responsible for then distorting aggression into brutality. The final straw for the Inspector proves to be his mistress' ridicule of his sexual competence-hitherto his only refuge from his feared latent homosexuality which often transpires through his sadistic relish of his job and his fondling of suspects.

Having killed his beautiful mistress, the Inspector deliberately leaves several incriminating clues which his amazingly dimwitted or fearful colleagues fail to capitalise on until his instigation. At any rate it becomes something of an elemental contest between the Inspector's primitive exaltation of gratuitous violence and the inefficiency of decadent civilisation.

The Inspector goes about his job as Chief of the Political department with smug self assurance, one moment intimidating any suspects and the next encouraging that he be suspected. Whether this is supposed to reflect his schizophrenic nature or is simply something of a lapse in Petri's characterisation is debatable.

However, it adds considerably to the confusion

about the actual intent of the Inspector. His vacillation over whether to confess or clear himself seems inexplicable since till then he had been presented as a determined methodical individual. The point is that Petri comes dangerously close to reducing him to a caricature.

There are nonetheless some instances of incisive direction revealing satirical undertones: the Inspector's Mussolini-like declamation culminating in his orgasmic explosion that "Repression is civilisation", and the amusing interlude about left-wing slogans printed on walls. (The reason it seems, why so few are right wing is that most of them are found on the backs of toilet doors — there must be a moral there somewhere).

On the whole the film suffers from a certain aimlessness. As an indictment of Italian neo-Fascism in the police force it is somewhat blunt, lacking much of the vigorous but concealed impact of "Z". Thankfully Petri's film is much less exploitative than "Z", tailor made for the gullibility of today's trendy youth.

Petri's protagonist fails to arouse any subjective interest in himself, appearing more as an incarnation of the fascist mentality than an individual and speculation as to his final confrontation with his superior is limited to weighty philosophical interest as the final erudite quotation from Kafka so clearly reveals. Politically, the film is symptomatic of Petri's own confused attitude to politics but this does not preclude moments of biting hilarity — witness the comment that the revolutionaries had only been in prison a few hours and already they had split into four parties! Not only is it amusing, but it is also so pathetically true and it is in moments like these that Petri really shines. **MUDDLE.**



## Fassbinder

THE Gulbenkian was lucky to have seen a performance of Rainer Fassbinder's play, "Pre-Paradise Sorry Now." The play struck many as inexplicable and it pleased few who came to watch. Although well-staged, with superb acting, it worried the audience with its obscurity and the apparent pointlessness of the script. In this respect the play fell a victim to almost senseless publicity (XXX cert), and the display of an imbecile front-page from "The Sun" which grossly oversimplified and sensationalised an extremely serious play. Many stayed away, feeling that a play about the Moors murderers would be tasteless and ill-timed. This was sad, as the play was not about the Moors murderers, nor was it in any way XXX cert.

Zander, the director, defines Fascism as violence towards anyone considered, for any reason to be inferior, and it is with this that the play is concerned. In the opening scenes, the audience saw, in almost review form, a series of episodes in which two people were being violent towards a third they considered inferior; two toughs to a business man, two tarts to a homosexual, two American policemen to a

petty crook, two boys raping a girl, two scientists to a human specimen, and so on.

The middle part of the play was a series of scenes about Hindley and Brady, not as objects of interest for themselves, but for their philosophical standpoint, based on an excessive interest in Hitler and the Marquis de Sade, that few are worthy and that it was their duty to rid the world of those who are not. "If

someone is in your bed, what do you do? — Chuck them out." After this section, the opening scenes were repeated in reverse order, and were thus compared to the symbiosis of their extreme form, Hindley and Brady.

This seemingly simple structure was the framework of an extremely complex play. Zander saw the play as a reflection and a warning on public Fascism, that of Hitler, the Army, the police, science, and most insistently, of the Church, with private Fascism, that of prostitutes, toughs, and of ordinary decent people, which by implication, meant the audience. It was not by chance that the same actors played both aggressors and victims, for this showed very clearly that we are, at any time, likely to be either victims or aggressors, and must therefore take heed as to how we act.

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# The Myth of Rose Bruford



A PRODUCER tackling Sophocles's *Electra* faces certain preliminary problems. Athenian drama of the 5th century B.C. operated in a specific context, both of knowledge and of practice; "theatre" modified a known myth for an audience participating in an activity that cut across our present categories, an ensemble of social, political, religious and cultural dimensions. In particular, Sophocles's *Electra* was a contribution to an active debate, as the century closed, about the form and function of drama. In Sophocles's partial return to the Aeschylean outline his audience could recognise simultaneously a challenge to the recent black comedy of Euripides (whose own *Electra* drastically re-shaped the myth) and a new inwardness of characterisation, both a departure from Aeschylus's conception of destiny and a refinement of Euripides's insight into the dichotomy between role and character. A great deal of the point of Sophocles's work for an Athenian audience lay in its delicate and deliberate differentiation from other available dramatic modes.

hostility — the rhythm of shifting emotion in Clytaemnestra's first scene with *Electra* went particularly haywire.

In this oddly dislocated production, the moments that gelled showed what might have been achieved: *Electra*'s orgasmic entrance, writhing in self-indulgent sexually-rooted frustration at her menial and unmarried status in a palace that pinions her in repressed cohabitation with her mother and mother's lover, murderers of her father — the Palace (that "house" which dominates the myth) physically embedding her as she twists on the vicious spikes of the impressive Palace gates; the genuine if intermittent poignancy of Chrysothemis explaining her conviction that Orestes has arrived, while *Electra* frantically constrains her (false) knowledge that he is

dead; the briefly convincing delirium of *Electra*'s joy at finally recognising Orestes. Most of such moments were *Electra*'s — a role made ven more demanding than necessary by an over-relentless insistence on her near-breakdown nervous and emotional situation, but well responded to by the actress (Barbara Kellerman).

But in trying to locate the unsatisfactoriness of this production, its own specific context has also to be recognised. It did originate in a setting concerned precisely with dramatic exercises — Rose Bruford College. Its transplantation to an apron stage without adequate rehearsal-time (power cuts, pressure of schedule) partly accounts for some faults — the occasional masking by the chorus of side-audience view, the placing of the altar

awkwardly near the apron-edge — but the problem was deeper, perhaps in the very professionalism of that mode of approach to drama. Professional theatre tends now to operate only in two dimensions, juxtaposing competent actors and an audience for whom drama is a sector apart; the vital communication that sustains great drama evaporates in that context. Perhaps it was an omen for the 21st anniversary of Rose Bruford that the most effective communication with the audience in this production seemed to occur while a half-hour power cut demolished the lighting division between stage and spectator, leaving both to share the kind of dusk that must often have descended on the day's last play in the Athenian festival as that century-long dramatic tradition neared its close.

BERNARD SHARRATT



## Grand jazz

DESPITE a disappointingly small audience of 172 souls, this concert proved a musical success if something of a financial disaster.

Helped by a combination of excellent acoustics, the theatre's own atmosphere, a certain amount of booze and a really Grand Bechstein piano, the Alex Welsh Band put together a memorable evening of jazz.

To choose one or even two highlights from the programme is difficult, however, Bix Biederbeck's "Davenport Blues", performed just by the leader on trumpet and pianist Fred Hunt, was a model of sensitive and melodic invention. The degree of rapport between Welsh and Hunt was sometimes something to wonder at and remember for a long time to come.

Hunt, a most underrated pianist, played beautifully throughout the evening never more so than in his third performance of Gershwin's "The Man I Love. Here we were treated to an almost bewildering variety of jazz piano styles and shifts in tempo and accent as Hunt built his solo to an exciting climax. The pianist explored the keyboard as though hardly believing his luck at finding such an instrument amid the hopfields of Kent, determined to milk it dry before he left.

"Strutton" With Some Barbecue" was a tribute to Satchmo with bassist Harvey Weston and drummer Lennie Hastings leaving the stage to the "Hot Fire" line-up of piano, banjo, trumpet, clarinet and trombone. Nothing startling was attempted with this classic but the thing worked somehow and as a salute to Louis was just right.

Johnny Barnes seemed to have rather taken to the flute and used it to good effect on his solo number "Morning of the Carnival." It was however, his alto and baritone sax work, outstanding on "Oh Baby" and Fats Waller's "Blue Turning Grey Over You", that caught my ear. "Oh Baby" also contained an excellent solo by trombonist Roy Williams who seems to get better (without looking older) each year. Roy's already huge reputation was enhanced by his restrained, articulate performance of Thelonious Monk's "Round about Midnight" against the always sympathetic guitar work of Jim Douglass, a real little powerhouse.

Surprising and pleasant though it is to find an English band with such an overflow of individual talent, it is the ensemble work of the Welsh crew that never fails to amaze. Could just seven men really have produced that gloriously "fat" sound we heard on "Opus One", "Splanky" and "Swingin" on Central"? It is this sound that for me is the most exciting feature of the band. The phrasing and attack of the horns is well nigh perfect and the degree of integration achieved must be the envy of many a leader. There were of course the "funnies". Her Lennie did his Nazi bit which, if it were not so amusing, would by now be old hat. Johnny Barnes trilled his way through a "cod" version of a "Talking Picture of You-hoo" and we delved a couple of times into the murky depths of the Jimmy Young Song Book. These excursions, no doubt an anathema to the purist, only served to highlight I feel the superb standard of the rest of the programme and positively delighted more than one member of the audience.

The band, the Gulbenkian management and staff are to be congratulated on a first-class evening, a pity that money was lost, let's hope it does not deter them for the future.

For a 20th-century audience, however, this play is "different" not by virtue of its technical vindication of a familiar dramatic tradition under attack, but as representative of an alien period of drama that arouses cultural curiosity and academic interest. An Athenian audience would be alert to how exactly this play worked its material: the fusion of the Tutor and the Messenger to integrate the traditional messenger-speech within the plot, the explicit provision of individual motivation for *Electra*, the neat resolution of the critical difficulties of assassinating a well-guarded Queen, the new and more subtle role given to the chorus. In the Gulbenkian, attention focussed rather on whether this form of drama worked at all; the significance of its subject seemed secondary. The danger was of the production becoming a dramatic exercise.

It did. The chorus in particular seemed designed to demonstrate the execution of basic group manoeuvres: how to allocate space across a stage, how to direct attention towards one spot, how to build up tension by rhythm

of voice and movement, how to distance commentary from "narrative"; the devices (the ritual hand-clapping, the Wimbledon head-turning, the fixed eye-glaring) seemed detached from any consistent interpretation of their relation to the total action. That other crucial element of Greek drama — the actual lines — also became subordinated too often to what seemed an exercise: in sound-dynamics — *Electra*'s narration of the earlier threads in the net of vengeance (important for an audience only vaguely acquainted with the pattern) became lost in a battle with drum-taps; an obtrusively visible hand brushing a cymbal distracted from other important speeches. The Tutor-Messenger's account of Orestes' "death" in a chariot race soon reduced itself to an imitation of a Grandstand commentary (admittedly, the translation didn't help much). The pace at this point was symptomatic of a general fault: the director and/or most of the actors seemed unable to discriminate between various forms of intensity, transforming most moments of tension (even the opening "prologue") into generalised

## Bed and bawd

PIER PAOLO PASOLINI'S "Decameron," showing soon in London, is bound to attract people if only because Boccaccio, with Chaucer, has a reputation even among those who had never read him, as a writer of bawdy stories.

However, if you approach this film merely as a random choice of the most sensual stories from this collection you will be disappointed. True, when it does occur, the sexual content is very explicit.

### CESS-PIT

Although Pasolini draws basically on ten main tales there is a far greater selection included in the film. Some of the characters — Andreuccio da Perugia (who in one vivid scene falls into a cess-pit), Ciappelletto and the painter Giotto, played by Pasolini himself, reappear constantly in the film — a device intended to give unity

to the action and successfully prevents it from becoming episodic and fragmentary. In casting the "Decameron" Pasolini chose a cast, with a few exceptions, of completely unknown people. On the whole this was a successful move: the characters have none of the artificial stylisation that can characterise some acting. Of all the stories featured in this film — and they range

immediately before his murder convey the feeling of a ruthlessly cruel fox hunt. While the photography throughout is good here it is excellent: the rays of sunlight penetrating the thick green foliage and reflecting off the murderers' knives only adds to this oppressive menace.

### PLUM ROLE

Pasolini appears himself in the film playing the 'plum' role of Giotto. He sees his part as 'the means of imposing an overall view on the teeming 14th century world' and this is perhaps the film's weakest point. Giotto appears from time to time

frenetically dashing around adding touches to his masterpiece in which one can see the faces of characters in the film. He adds no other unity than either Andreuccio or Ciappelletto.

The "Decameron" is an enjoyable film on the whole but one that it is very difficult to be enthusiastic about. Photography and general direction are good but it is only rarely that any 'feeling' about the middle age is conveyed to the audience. Those who have read it will be pleased to know that it is very faithful to the original!

Maria Rees

The Decameron

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ANDREUCCIO in the cess-pit!

# Talking of Birds

By R. J. Brockett

CIVILISED Western man, it is said, has last woken up to the problem of our deteriorating natural environment. In Los Angeles recently, nine hundred plastic trees and shrubs were planted along one and a half miles of roadside where there was insufficient soil for the real thing to grow.

In East Kent we are slightly better off for natural flora and fauna, and one of the particular virtues of the area is its wide variety of bird life. In the University there is a small group of birdwatchers who go out most weekends armed with binoculars, telescopes and Wellington boots to examine local stretches of coastline or the Stour Valley marshes.

One reason why the area has so much to offer the ornithologist is its geographical position on the main migration routes between Scandinavia and Southern Europe. During the Spring and Autumn, when the wind is in the right quarter, all sorts of migrating varieties are likely to turn up, while if the wind is strong they may be blown some way inland. In May last year, enthusiasts from the University were privileged to be able to see a wild White Stork, which was sitting placidly in a field at Wingham just outside Canterbury.

It is interesting how quickly news travels around the ornithologists' grapevine, not only in this part of Kent,

but throughout the country as a whole. Frequently it happens that when a rare variety arrives somewhere, within a very short time the news has got around, and the unfortunate bird is beset by a whole army of birdwatchers seeking its precise location and in some cases waiting many hours just to catch a glimpse of it for one or two seconds.

Rarity hunting has become a specialised branch of birdwatching, and at Dungeness recently, some of us met a group of enthusiasts who had travelled six hundred miles round the country in one weekend—in search of individual birds which were known to be in certain places as far afield as Devon and Norfolk.

Among the University birdwatching fraternity, the most popular local places are Seasalter, Reculver, Sandwich Bay, Stodmarsh and Dungeness. During the winter the Swale is the home of some two hundred Brent Geese, which come every year from their breeding grounds in the Arctic Tundra. In conjunction with the University Natural History Society, expeditions sometimes go further afield to such places as Minsmere, in Suffolk, Slimbridge, on the Severn Estuary, and The New Forest. Last summer, three students from the University went on an ornithological expedition to the Arctic Circle; and this year plans are afoot for another

such expedition to Turkey.

The rural surroundings of the University provide for quite a wide variety of resident birds and seventy-six species have been recorded on the campus itself. The most serious developments from the ornithological point of view, however, have been the clearing of parts of the wooded area between Giles Lane and the all-weather pitches for building development, and the general mania for tidiness that seems to pervade the prevalent thinking on campus management. On a recent walk from the Chemistry building to the playing fields, I was confronted by the idiotic sight of a gang of workmen whose instructions seem to have been to clear away all the "untidy" scrub beneath the trees—a process which has been achieved with clinical efficiency in the copse between the library and the boiler house.

This is a great pity because many of our smaller woodland birds thrive in this sort of dense undergrowth. This applies in particular to one of the most famous of all our summer song-birds—the nightingale, for which the county of Kent is famed. Tyler Hill is one of the best local places for listening to nightingales, as one or two of the University young lovers' brigade can testify. Wouldn't it be nice if the nightingales could be persuaded to move back on to the campus.



THE Kittiwake, a member of the gull family which nests in colonies, usually on cliff faces.

## InCant MOTORING

### Fending off the frost

ONE of the major frustrations at this time of year is the loving battle you play with the elements in trying to keep your car clean, and if you're as lazy as I am, you drive off in the morning with a hastily cleared slit in the windscreen to provide visibility for the road ahead. The modern car still seems to have pitifully inadequate equipment to give you a good view of the road around you in such conditions. It is obviously impractical to keep the whole of your car clean, but for your own and other peoples' safety, it is worth spending a couple of minutes each day cleaning the windows and lights; you may not realise how much your vision at night is impaired by muddy headlight lenses. After winter, it is a good idea to give the car a thorough hosing, especially the underside, since the infamous salt and grit mixture spread over the road by the local council is particularly unkind to bodywork.

If your car has to be left outside at night, a sheet of newspaper held beneath the wiper blades should prevent frost forming on the windscreen. One of those aerosol cans of de-icer fluid should also be kept handy, and can be used as a preventative measure by spraying all the windows the previous evening. Most heater systems seem pretty incapable of demisting the rear window, which can be dangerous, especially without using mirrors.

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Too few cars have neater rear windows fitted as standard, but the Triplex Hotline range can be fitted to most cars, at a cost of about £10 to £15. A less expensive proposition is to fit one of those rear screen heaters to your existing window. Smith's make one at £3.25. It consists of a metallic element that sticks to the glass without the use of a plastic backing; it comes complete with wiring, switch and warning light on a panel, and full instructions. I recently fitted one of these to a Hillman Imp with no difficulty, and found that it cleared the centre of the glass within a few minutes; it seems to be good value for money in my opinion. One thing to remember with such

devices is that they can consume between 50 and 100 watts, and hence should be wired up so that they cannot be switched on unless the ignition is on, otherwise a very flat battery will result. I learned recently that the batteries of some new cars cannot even take the sidelights being left on in an unlit street overnight!

The windscreen wiper and washer system of cars appear to me rather old-fashioned and incongruous on a modern car, but so far no one has been able to produce a more efficient system. The windscreen washer water can become very essential at this time of year, and it is a good idea to add one of the several brands of anti-freeze solutions to the water; some of these also contains an anti-smear solvent as well. Don't use engine anti-freeze, though, as it will clog up the whole system. The Brenner Wiper Wash is a useful accessory that includes a pair of extension tubes to attach to the screen-wash jets, and run

along the wiper arms; this means that water is sprayed on to the screen from several nozzles along the length of the arm as the wipers move. The kit also contains two sets of air deflectors that fit over the wiper blades, to prevent them lifting at speed. It retails at 98p, and will genuinely improve your wiper/washer performance.

If you still find that your screen becomes smeared—most annoying at night—a new pair of wiper blades is probably called for, and they should always be changed at least once during the course of a year's motoring. It is best to replace the whole blade unit, and not just the rubbers, since the moving metal parts also become worn, which results in the blade not being firmly pressed against the screen. Unfortunately, a new pair of blades will cost you nearly £2, or £1 for the rubbers only, which seems to me a trifle exorbitant for a very necessary replacement part. Turning to the actual operation of the wipers, most cars still have a single speed only, which never seems to be the right rate for the con-

ditions you are faced with. The worst thing is the case of driving along a damp road, receiving muck and filth on your screen from the vehicle in front, and having to switch your wipers on and off every few seconds. Many fairly modest continental cars have wiper delay switches fitted, that can adjust their speed down to about once every 30 seconds, and these are few and far between on British cars. These switches can now be bought as accessories, and Ford themselves have just introduced one for their ranges, but it will cost you around a fiver.

Talking of dirty lights and wiper systems, one of several new "safety" regulations under discussion in Sweden concerns the compulsory fitting of wipers and washers to car headlights, by 1974. Such a system is offered as an optional extra on Saab cars, and is used by several of the world's rally teams and as such sounds a useful device. But to make such a system compulsory seems to be taking safety too far, when one weighs up the cost of modifying all cars' lights

with the number of lives that might be saved, even if anybody could calculate a sensible figure for the latter.

A couple of people have asked me recently if it is necessary to drain the whole cooling system before adding anti-freeze; this is not true, as you only need drain off enough water to make room for the anti-freeze to be added. It is a good idea to flush out the whole system about once a year, but if you haven't added anti-freeze yet, or are not sure whether you have enough, you'd better do something quick! Two to three pints whether you have enough, you'd better do something quick! Two to three pints is enough for the average car, and it should be periodically topped up over the winter. Finally, don't forget to stick a spade in the boot when the snow is around, and one of those aerosol cans you can spray on your tyre rubber to improve grip may come in handy; I haven't had experience of them as yet, but they do no harm to your tyres.

TIM HUBER

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