

CRITICAL ARTS

A Journal for Cultural Studies



Sunday Times
THE PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE

Subsidised yobbos

ADHERENTS of the yobbo school of academic protest have much to feel satisfied about. Their most recent labours have driven a distinguished, if often controversial, visiting lecturer, Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien, from two South African campuses and out of the country.

We totally agree with UCT's Professor David Welsh, who said this week: "What has happened is a disgrace. Unless the university takes steps to prevent such action it should cease to exist."

UCT and Wits, the two universities that have been held ransom by a handful of radicals, are beacons of liberal light which have striven gamely, if not always with even-handed enthusiasm, and certainly with varying degrees of success, to keep the principle of academic freedom alive.

That principle becomes utterly corrupted if unmannerly minorities are permitted to divine which ideologies are not acceptable. The subsidised yobbo left at UCT and Wits is severely dealt with.

Karodia's Working Paper on Indaba's Education Report:
A Guide to Some Neglected Questions
James Moulder

The Roles and Responsibilities of the Beneficiaries
of Higher Education in sub-Saharan Africa
Geoffrey Lungangwa

The Narrow Ground:
Critical Intellectual Work on South Africa Under Apartheid
Rupert Taylor

Power and Politics at a non-racial Ethnic University:
A Study of the University of Durban-Westville
Robert Morrell

Educational Change: The Case of the UWC Education Faculty:
A Personal View
Owen van den Berg

Universities and the New Censorship:
Mzala's Gatsha Buthelezi: Chief with a Double Agenda
Charlotte Wyke & Christopher Merrett

The Unspeakable in Pursuit of the Unbeatable:
The Press, UCT and the O'Brien Affair
Eve Bartelson

Cape Times
Intellectual
terrorism

5 No 4 1991

Education, Censorship and Democracy

THE violent disruption by a group of students of Dr Conor Cruise O'Brien's lecturing programme at the University of Cape Town raises the question whether such studies belong at a university at all. If they are opposed to the free exchange of ideas which is the essence of a university, should they not go elsewhere to pursue their "studies"?

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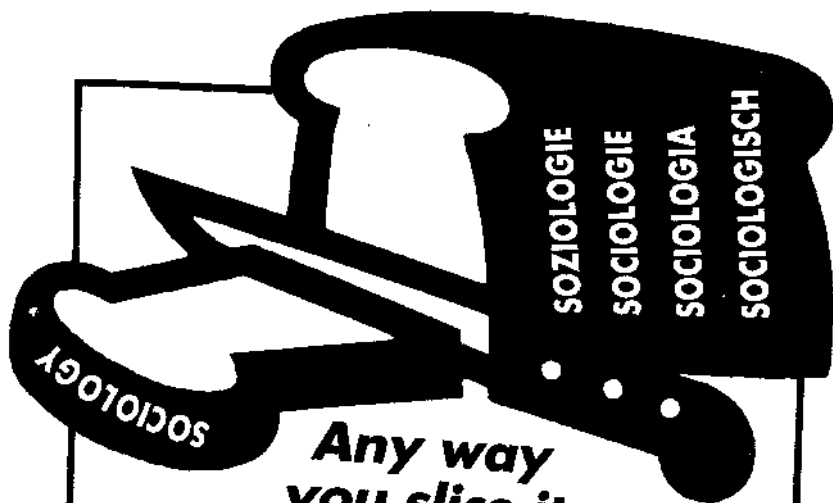
Editor's Introduction

This number initially started life as two separate issues, one on "The South African White Intellectual and the 'Black' Struggle", to have been edited by Njabulu Ndebele, and the second on " 'Black' Universities", edited by Richard Aitken. As things turned out, both projected issues were overtaken by political events heralded by President de Klerk's dramatic reforms in February 1990.

This issue, then, as with the times, should be seen as having a 'transitional' focus on university educational struggles in the period between apartheid and that which is following apartheid. Discussion initiated in an earlier issue of *Critical Arts*, for example, 'Education, Capital and Discourse in South Africa' (Vols 4/5 No 1, 1988/89) is carried through by James Moulder in this issue.

The articles by Rob Morrell (on Durban-Westville), Rupert Taylor and Owen van den Berg (on Western Cape) were written at the height of emergency-administered repression, while Eve Bertelsen discusses the Conor Cruise O'Brien UCT affair within the 1991 context. Chantelle Wyley and Chris Merrett (Natal) offer an up-to-the minute report on the controversy over Mzala's book on Buthelezi. Against the struggles of South African universities during the '80s, moving into the '90s, Geoffrey Langwangwa provides a corrective view of university education in Zambia and the essential irrelevancy of this form of certification with regard to economic development in less developed countries. A lesson for South Africa perhaps?

Keyan Tomaselli
December 1991



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