

## *Notes and News\**

### **University of Rhodesia Vacation School, 1972**

In August the University held its fourth annual Vacation School. The School takes place every August and is a week-long programme of talks and discussions aimed at the general public; and there are no entrance requirements and no examinations. Its aim from its inception has been to provide a wide-ranging programme of some fifty talks that are intended to be informative, stimulating and, at times, provocative.

The principal theme of the School was the course 'Academic Perspectives on Race', which covered historical, psycho-biological, regional and practical aspects of the subject. An innovation was the invitation of speakers from outside Rhodesia who are well-known exponents of their country's policies in the race field: Professor S. Ngcobo on Black Africa, Professor N. Olivier on South Africa, Mr. J. L. Ribeiro-Torres on Portugal, and Dr. R. Davenport on the historical background in South Africa; Senator W. R. Whaley spoke on Rhodesia. It is hoped that a selection of these talks will be published. The other aspects were covered by the University's own staff.

There were subsidiary themes on 'English writing in Africa' which considered Doris

Lessing, Chinua Achebe, West African and Southern African literature, and included drama and poetry readings; 'Resource Conservation' which dealt with vegetation, big game, birds, water resources and fisheries; 'The Economics of the Public Sector in Rhodesia' which surveyed the growth of the public sector, fiscal and pricing policies, personal income distribution, immigration and development planning; 'The Control of Human Behaviour' which dealt with conditioning, learning, physiology of behaviour, group pressures, control of happiness and recent advances in psychiatry; and 'Drug Abuse and its Treatment' which explained the nature of drugs and the control and treatment of dependence.

Attendance figures reached a new high point: just under 1400, which were spread remarkably evenly over all the courses. As might be expected, the twenty scheduled talks on 'Race' attracted the greatest numbers. Questionnaires circulated among participants indicated that a successful blend of technical, social and practical subjects had been achieved. Suggestions for future Vacation Schools are always welcome (to be addressed to the Secretary, Vacation School, University of Rhodesia). The date of the School for 1974 is 26-30 August.

*University of Rhodesia*

N. J. AUSTIN

\*The Editor welcomes reports on events in Rhodesia, particularly conferences.