

# VERITAS

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A SPECIAL

## Student As Nigger

(The following is a reprint from the Daily Bruin Spectra, April 4, 1967. This is the first of three installments of Student as Nigger which Veritas will print.)

Students are niggers. When you get that straight, our schools begin to make sense. It's more important, though, to understand why they're niggers. If we follow that question seriously enough, it will lead us past the zone of academic bullshit, where dedicated teachers pass their knowledge on to a new generation, and into the nitty-gritty of human needs and hang-ups. And from there, we can go on to consider whether it might ever be possible for students to come up from slavery.

First, let's see what's happening now. Let's look at the role students play in what we like to call education.

At Cal State L.A., where I teach, the students have separate and unequal dining facilities. If I take them into the faculty dining room, my colleagues get uncomfortable, as though there were a bad smell. If I eat in the student cafeteria, I become known as the educational equivalent of a niggerlover. In at least one building, there are even rest rooms which students may not use. At Cal State, also, there is an unwritten law barring student-faculty love-making. Fortunately, this anti-miscegenation law, like its Southern counterpart, is not 100 per cent effective.

Students at Cal State are politically disenfranchised. They are in an academic Lowndes County. Most of them can vote in national elections--their average age is about 26--but they have no voice in the decisions which affect their academic lives. The students are, it is true, allowed to have a toy government of their own. It is a government run for the most part by Uncle Toms and concerned principally with trivia. The faculty and administrators decide what courses will be offered; the students get to choose their own Homecoming Queen. Occasionally, when student leaders get uppity and rebellious, they're either ignored, put off with trivial concessions, or maneuvered expertly out of position.

A student at Cal State is expected to know his place. He calls a faculty member "Sir" or "Doctor" or "Professor"--and he smiles and shuffles some as he stands outside the professor's office waiting for permission to enter. The faculty tell him what courses to take (in my department, English, even electives have to be approved by a faculty member); they tell him what to read, what to write, and frequently, where to set the margins on his typewriter. They tell him what's true and what isn't. Some teachers insist that they encourage dissent but they're almost always jiving and every student knows it. Tell the man what he wants to hear or he'll fall your ass out of the course.

When a teacher says "jump," students jump. I know of one professor who refused to take up class time for exams and required students to show up for tests at 6:30 in the morning. And they did, by God! Another, at exam time, provides answer cards to be filled out--each one enclosed in a paper bag with a hole cut in the top to see through. Students stick their writing hands in the bags while taking the test. The teacher isn't a pro; I wish he were. He does it to prevent cheating. Another colleague once caught a student reading during one of his lectures and threw her book against the wall. Still another lectures his students into stupor and then screams at them in a rage when they fall asleep.

Just last week, during the first meeting of a class, one girl got up to leave after about ten minutes had gone by. The teacher rushed over, grabbed her by the arm, saying, "This class is NOT dismissed!" and led her back to her seat. On the same day, another teacher began to inform his class that he does not like beards, mustaches, long hair on boys, or capri pants on girls, and will not tolerate any of that in his class. The class, incidentally, consisted mostly of high school teachers.

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## Forum Presents Fine Films

Forbidden Games directed by Rene Clement was presented on Jan. 21 by the Liberal Arts Forum. This movie is the winner of the grand prize at the Venice Film Festival and U.S. Academy Award. It is an unforgettable film about World War II for a discriminating adult audience.

Game of Love, directed by

Claude Autant-Lara who also directed Red and Black, will be presented on Jan. 28. This film based on a novel by Collette focuses on adolescent love of a 16 year old boy and a 15 year old girl whose families share a summer home on a French coast. It is a prize winning bittersweet study with depth and gravity.



## Box Tops Booked For Captain Elon Weekend

The well known group, The Box Tops, have been booked for a concert Friday night at 9 o'clock on Feb. 14. The concert, which will be held in the Elon College Memorial Gymnasium, will be free to all Elon students and their dates. An admission fee of \$2.50 will be charged to the general

public.

The Box Tops first "made it big" in the entertainment field with their international 4 million seller "The Letter" which was the number one record of 1967. They followed this hit with other well known tunes such as "Neon Rainbow," "Cry Like A Baby",

and "Choo, Choo Train." Now they have out "Sweet Cream Ladies" which is already 64th on the national charts after only 4 weeks.

The Box Tops have also produced 3 albums: "The Letter," "Cry Like A Baby", and "Super Hits" which is number 62 on the top L.P. charts after six weeks.

## Movie Coming To Elon

The very funny and very popular Flim Flam Man will be shown at Elon in Whitley Auditorium on Sunday, March 23, at 8 p.m. The

film, sponsored by the S.G.A., has a noted cast including George C. Scott, Henry Morgan, and Slim Pickens.

The story, which takes place somewhere in North Carolina, is a hilarious satire on its environment. The author of the novel The

Flim Flam Man is Professor Guy Owens who once taught at Elon. Admission is free to all Elon students and their dates.

## S.G.A. Budget Raised

A Bill to adjust the S.G.A. budget for the winter and spring terms was presented in Senate Wednesday night. Some changes are of particular importance. Under entertainment the original allotment for Spring Weekend concert of \$4000 was changed to \$7,500 in order to allow for a genuinely great concert. The funds were available mainly because of the money saved from Homecoming.

External affairs, Awards, and "Veritas" were changed according to more accurate estimates of expenses for the remainder of the year. The \$1000 allotment for a Fine Arts Festival was eliminated as a check into the

program signaled a number of possible difficulties which made a good Arts Festival impractical.

The Pep Committee allotment was increased by \$200 to allow for more buses to the away basketball games. The \$500 budgeted to the Religious Life Committee was cut to \$200 because of programming difficulties.

The big revision was the addition of a \$3500 allocation to the new campus radio station. As research has picked up, the indications are strong that a station can be operated soon this year. The S. G. A. President feels that the money should be there if it is (as hoped) possible to have a station this year.

## Chapel Issue Raised

A timely resolution on Chapel was briefly introduced to the

## Coffee House Schedule

Mr. Vic Rola, director of the S. G. A. coffee house, "Cat's Love," announced Monday that the coffee house will be open at least five times during the Winter term. The dates are Wednesday, Jan. 22, Friday the 24th, Saturday the 25th, Friday the 31st, and Tuesday, Feb. the 4th. Opening time will be 8:30 except for the 31st. On that night it will open immediately after the Play. Live entertainment is tentatively set for the 24th and the 4th.

Student Senate this past Wednesday night for its later consideration. Noel Allen, S.G.A. President and author of the resolution stated that although the resolution would not be formally presented to the Senate until the next regular meeting of February 12, it is necessary to bring the issue to the fore so that plenty of time would be available for research and discussion. The resolution's eventual purpose will be to gauge where the Senate, as the representative body for the students, stands on this vital issue and how they interpret the results of a general poll to be taken soon by the S.G.A. in cooperation with the administration. He further stated that from the general poll's results and the Senate decision he would know what course to pursue if action is necessary.

The general poll is being worded now. Care will be taken to make it as objective as possible so that its results will be considered valid by all concerned. The poll must be administered prior to the next regular Senate meeting, its results will be carefully considered by the Senate before final action is taken.

The resolution reads as follows: "The Student Senate recommends that required chapels and/or chapel point systems should be discontinued." The resolution will be subject to amendment or defeat depending largely on the results of the polls. However, Allen feels the Senate needs to project the general student consensus in some form of official stand - pro or con.

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