

FACTS: PSYCHOLOGICAL TORMENT, STAFF-STUDENT SPLIT.

1. Exams postponed for one month after the reinstatement of the three rusticated students (unanimous decision of mass meeting).
2. Exams as scheduled (declared by Senate).
3. Abolition of exams (demanded by C.F.Y. meeting and signed by 80 students).
4. Exams still as scheduled (staff) 'but we will leak a few questions'.
5. Some students frantically revise the 'leaked' questions.
6. One week later other students are irate at not having known the 'leaked' questions.
7. Blondel possibly changes exam paper.

After the confusion illustrated above are we willing to take the exams ? The answer must be NO ! EXAMS MUST BE BOYCOTTED.

Perhaps as long as two weeks ago some of the exam questions were revealed by certain free thinking members of staff who recognise the incompatibility of progress exams with the nature, structure and subject matter of the C.F.Y. course, and whose actions may have been prompted in light of recent events. Yesterday this fact was made known to Blondel and other staff members and to the majority of students who did not know that this had happened.

Blondel's reaction is typical of all those within the University power structure, he refuses to communicate freely with us - yet it is we who are affected by his decisions. Has he merely decided to change the exam paper ? - possibly (no-one has informed us, so we don't know). Meanwhile, those who know the exam questions are now in a quandry as to what to do. Having revised the known questions they do not know whether they will have to answer these questions or not, perhaps therefore they might finally run from the exam room in complete confusion, developing multiple psychosis - if indeed they are in a fit state to ever get to the exam room. Meanwhile those who don't know the questions (fights have already started in the library in order to obtain the relevant facts and books) are trying to find the facts in order to ascertain what will NOT PERHAPS be on the paper, in order to revise what will be ! (More nervous breakdowns and some people have given up revision altogether).

IN OTHER WORDS THE WHOLE SITUATION HAS REVEALED ITSELF FOR THE FARCE WHICH IT IS.

Last year 2 people failed the exam - all that bureaucratic organisation to fail 2 people ! Most 'failures' are allowed even then to continue into the second year. The progress exams are thus arranged on a pass or fail basis, but it is almost impossible to fail, so what is the reason for taking them ? Blondel's main argument for not cancelling them is that he wants to maintain the 'rule of Law'. We wish to comment on this argument.

Does the 'rule of law' preclude any possibility whatsoever of desirous structural change within this university ? Does the 'rule of law' deny the right of individual or group dissent on moral issues ? The 'rule of law' in this University seems to be the uncommunicated, non-participatory, undemocratic, arbitrary decisions which affect our lives here. Is this argument concerning the rule of law used perhaps out of kindness, so that we have the security of knowing that power and responsibility are out of our hands ? WE ARE NOT CHILDREN, WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS.

Secondly we know that the exams are based on lectures and not classwork. We are thus required to regurgitate all that we have been fed - the University so preserves its *raison d'etre*. Thus the exams limit our creativity and imagination, they retain the status quo, repress us within its boundaries and repress our growth. The exams exist to create fear within us - fear of the authorities and fear of our own actions, exams therefore make us obedient to law - their law. Obedience created by fear is the most lethal social force for, as we have seen from the Porton Down affair, it completely nullifies the recognition of and adherence to any real individual responsibility.