

Smith: Brainwashing = Grade Three, Movie Example Of False Ideas

By Janis Kostash
SCM Reporter

Brainwashing and grade three level belief are related. W. A. S. Smith, professor of psychology, explained the connection at the prof talk at SCM house last Thursday.

Citing "The Manchurian Candidate" as an example of the popular but false ideas on mind control, he classed the film on a high drama, low truth level. He said there was little evidence that someone can be induced to murder a friend, as happened in the opening scenes of the film.

TWO WAYS TO WASH

Victims of brainwashing and volunteers for experiments have helped clear up these misconceptions. Studies of the techniques used by Russians and Koreans in prisoner-

of-war camps emphasized two main methods—sensory deprivation and sensory bombardment.

The one extreme uses complete isolation to cut the victim off from any sensory input, the other extreme uses overwhelming stimulation and allows him no privacy. Dr. Smith noted that neither method includes physical cruelty.

Dr. Smith then moved from the indirect methods of study to the direct—experimental evidence from Princeton on mind control techniques. A group of subjects with one common feature—their neutral attitude toward Turkey—was scaled "on the basis of the degree of closed-mindedness of their belief system."

Half the group was subjected to 24 hours of absolute darkness and taped pro-Turk arguments. The other half was restricted only slightly, and after 24 hours heard the same tape.

Measurement of the subjects' attitudes after the experiment revealed two basic findings:

- The group allowed normal freedom kept their original attitudes more than the others.
- The most closed-minded of the subjects were most susceptible to indoctrination.

MORAL SHOWN

From this second finding, Dr. Smith led to a moral lesson, which he directed specifically to the field of religion. "We shouldn't stay forever at a grade three level of religious development."

He noted that because people stop thinking about religious interpretations during their early years emotions or early concepts are most likely to dominate a discussion on religion.

Adapting Freud, Dr. Smith classed most people as "fixated at the oral stage of psycho-religious development."

On the basis of these experiments, Dr. Smith advised people to build a protective shell against brainwashing out of new thoughts, new ideas, and flexibility in thinking.



YOU LEAVE ME BREATHELETH—The dirty Dents shew a new seamier side of life in their promotion of the Bicuspid Bounce. Opal didn't stay around to see whether or not the hand completed its trajectory.

Vorster Launches Campaign To Disband National Union

CAPETOWN, S.A. (CUP)—The South African Minister of Justice, B. J. Vorster, has launched a campaign to disband the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS). He accused NUSAS of compulsory membership and "leftish and liberalist" tendencies.

Speaking in Capetown, Mr. Vorster said, "I claim to any unprejudiced mind I have clearly substantiated my charge that NUSAS has become a mouthpiece of leftists and liberalists, that it is tainted with Communism, and has been for many years."

"NUSAS, which has thousands of members all over South Africa is a multi-racial organization. It thrives mainly in English-language universities and colleges, where students automatically become members," he added.

ATTEMPTS TO SPLIT

Mr. Vorster, a member of the ruling Nationalist party which supports "White supremacy" through its apartheid policies, has sought to bring division into the ranks of NUSAS itself. The results to date have been unsuccessful.

Pressure has been increasing on NUSAS over the past year. England's National Union of Students President, A. R. Hughes, hinted at these pressures at a meeting back in April when he offered NUSAS any help

British students could give. He also offered them administrative facilities should they need them.

This might suggest that the South African government will soon ban NUSAS and that a NUSAS-in-exile might be set up in London with the aid of NUS.

SUPPORT SOUGHT

Jonty Driver, president of NUSAS, has been touring in Europe and America seeking support for his union's fight against apartheid in South Africa. At last reports he had not returned to his country where he would be subject to house arrest for his political agitations against the Nationalist party and government.

NUS sent a cable to Mr. Vorster when the news broke in London of his latest attempts to disband NUSAS. It read:

"Strongly protest against latest smear attack on NUSAS. They have full support of over 200,000 British students in its principled fight for equality of opportunity for all regardless of race or creed."

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