



Joyce Heron, who plays Hermione Hurst, with the authoress, Anne Wolrige Gordon

BLINDSIGHT 'Play about human nature'

MP's and Ambassadors at London premiere

'BLINDSIGHT', a new play by Anne Wolrige Gordon, received an ovation when it opened, at the Westminster Theatre last week. Mrs Wolrige Gordon and her husband, who is standing for re-election as Member of Parliament for East Aberdeenshire, interrupted their election campaign to fly down from Scotland for the first night.

Members of Parliament, the Ambassadors from Vietnam and Saudi Arabia, the High Commissioner for

Gambia, members of the Diplomatic Corps from the USA and UAR, formed part of the first night audience.

'Blindsight should be seen by every American politician,' declared an American businessman afterwards. His wife added, 'The person who wrote that play understood human nature.' A Nigerian said, 'It shows you how to put right what is wrong.' To an Irishman it was directly applicable to people at the heart of the situation in Northern Ireland. 'My husband kept laughing. He saw me in one of the characters,' commented one woman. And a British journalist summed up, 'This play is what the election should be about.'

Philip Friend plays the part of a businessman who hands over his money for the purpose of creating a home for the blind. Geoffrey Colville, Michael Malnick and Antony Higginson as the trustees of the money are a study in the range and subtlety of villainy. Joyce Heron is hilariously flamboyant as a thrice-married widow. Philip Newman and Richard Grant are cast perfectly as the doorman and the statesman who 'had to retire'. Mary Jones and Sharon Duce give first rate performances.

Carolyn Courage as the blind girl who restores sight and insight to others, claims sympathy from the moment she gropes on stage. Paul Hastings is excellent as a young man who loses his emptiness when he discovers a workable method of changing society. Aided by Cameron Johnson's stark sets, Henry Cass has created an imaginative and unforgettable production.

Better way than 'through the barrels of guns'

A GROUP of 26 from India's Northeast spoke of solutions to jungle warfare and hate in their area. They greatly interested former Indian Deputy Foreign Minister,

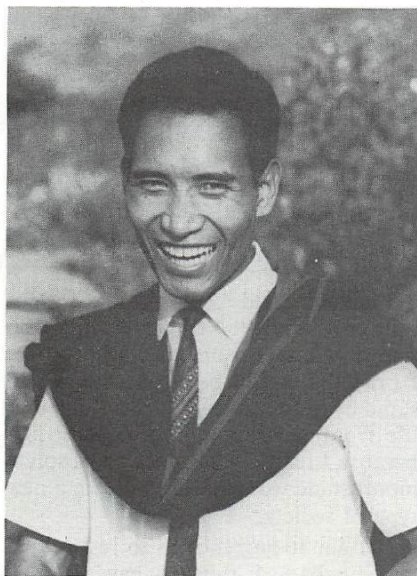
Mrs Lakshmi Menon, who had to deal with the problems of that area when in office.

Comprising Nagas, Mizos, Khasis, Cacharis, Assamese, Bengalis and Marwaris the party spoke together at Asia Plateau, Panchgani. They were among 170 delegates at a conference at the MRA centre in Western India, entitled 'When nations are in trouble, what can students do?'

The Northeast of India shares a common jungle with strife-torn Vietnam, Cambodia and Burma. The Government of Nagaland, a state where an underground movement has fought the Indian Army for years, made a special grant to enable a delegation to fly to the conference.

'We Nagas have been trying to find an answer by importing weapons from China and Pakistan. Both sides are trying to bring a solution through the barrels of guns; but there is no settlement,' said Kolezo from Nagaland, who has lost relatives in the struggle against the Indian Army.

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Kolezo Chase from Nagaland

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2.30 a.m. welcome in Australia

Start of six month action

Western Australia equals India in area but has a population of less than one million. Most of it is desert. Five years ago iron ore deposits large enough to supply the world for the next 2000 years were found. Since then gigantic nickel deposits have been discovered.

Despite wage packets up to £50 a week, the new mining towns have been the scene of industrial strife. Last year the MRA industrial drama 'The Forgotten Factor' visited these towns, where it helped create a climate of trust in which disputes could be settled.

How will Western Australia's wealth be used? Can its unselfish use end the economic disparity between the white community and the aboriginal people of the country? Will it increase the gulf between rich and poor nations or will it be used to raise living standards the length and breadth of Asia?

'Anything to Declare?' may be instrumental in lifting Australian vision to a true Asian involvement.

PERTH CITIZENS from all walks of life turned out at 2.30 a.m. last Saturday to welcome the international MRA force with the revue *Anything to Declare?* People flew from Wellington, Canberra and Melbourne to plan their six month tour of Australia, New Zealand and Papua-New Guinea.

At the reception for the cast and their hosts held in the afternoon, it was announced that a major international MRA conference would be held in Canberra from 22 August till 30 August, after performances of *Anything to Declare?* in the national capital.

The reception was held at the University where the cast were welcomed by the President of the student body and the Professor of Anatomy. The Professor told how in the same hall 18 months ago he and his wife heard Rajmohan Gandhi, editor of the Indian newsweekly *Himmat*, and Irène Laure, a former socialist MP from France, propose the present visit of *Anything to*

Declare? He and his wife had decided at this time, he said, to 'jump in boots and all' and since then had the most exciting time of their lives.

Kim Beazley, MP, Shadow Minister of Education for the Federal Opposition, speaking of the timeliness of the visit, said, 'Our great need is to care for people, not just to regard our neighbouring countries as strategically convenient to ourselves.'

Ted Archer, a union official, said of the serious state of Australian labour relations, 'You will show there is a way other than confrontation.'

In my view

Youth are also responsible for the generation gap

by Miss Vitsomemo C Shaiza, Nagaland

WE, the youth of Nagaland, are very much attracted by the Western way of living. But we go to such an extent that we do not differentiate between good and bad. And we have been to a great extent responsible for the misunderstandings in our land. Our up-to-date habits and outfits have widened the generation gap. We complain that our parents, teachers and elders are old fashioned and that they do not understand us. I, for one, have never given them a chance to understand me. I feel that for a change we should try to understand them instead.

Many of us students have not lived as we should have. There is a saying that 'Some men become crooked bending with toil, whereas some become crooked avoiding it.'

I have decided to live so that we not only copy the good of the West, but in return give them something to live for. I pray that I will be strong enough to stand by my decisions and live a different life from the way I have been living, because I realise what the four absolute moral standards can do to create a new type of society.

If I am strong enough to resist good and be bad, I think I have enough strength to resist bad and be good.



Delegation of students from Nagaland at Panchgani Conference sponsored by their State's Education Department

Continued from page 1

'I was so bitter that I had a very definite plan to kill my enemies. Here I have been shown how I can find the answer to my hate and give it to my nation.'

He continued, 'I can say with authority that the answer we so badly need today can come only from my heart, from the hearts of my people, and the hearts of the Indians.'

Speaking after him, Mrs Menon said how moved she was by what he had said. She had been to his village and seen the suffering of his people. 'I am as convinced as he is that hate, violence and revenge are not going to solve the problems in any place where there is conflict—in Nagaland, the Middle East or Vietnam.'

'But this conviction must be im-

pressed on those in the country who make policies. The leaders of the world are standing on their dignity. They are determined not to budge an inch and face loss of prestige. If they had realised the happiness of people is more important than their own power the world would be a better place.'

Mrs Menon went on to say that even if it was impossible to change the world overnight we can still change ourselves. 'If we want a clean place to walk over you cannot cover the world with leather. But you can wear a pair of shoes.'

'I go from here with fresh hope that we need not remain as bystanders watching the world go wrong but can make every effort to change ourselves so that the lives of others may be changed.'

HOPE FOR S.E. ASIA

THE JUNGLE IS DENSE and emerald green, washed by warm rains. It rolls from the foothills of the Himalayas, in India's north-eastern states of Assam and Nagaland, down through Burma and Thailand to the coasts of Cambodia and Vietnam, and finally along the length of Asia's bony forefinger—the Malay peninsula.

The jungle is alive. Naga and Mizo underground movements are tying down a large proportion of India's armed forces. In Burma and Thailand guerrilla activity has been going on for three decades. It has erupted into open war in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. In Malaysia the Emergency, which lasted from 1948 to 1960, was brought to a successful conclusion. But thousands of guerrillas are still in hiding just across the Thai border. Joint Thai and Malaysian military operations against them were reported just this week.

Manoeuvres

Five-nation manoeuvres are now going on in Malaysia. 3,000 troops flown out from Britain are taking part with Australian, New Zealand, Malaysian and Singapurian forces. Their navies are exercising in the South China Sea. A Russian naval force sailed through the Malacca Straits a few days ago and is in a position to observe these operations. There is now a Russian naval presence not only in the Indian Ocean, but in the north Pacific as well.

Last week, nine Asian nations met in Jakarta to see what they could do about the overspill of the Vietnam war into Cambodia. The Conference was called by Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Malik, in close consultation with Malaysian leaders. The Malaysian delegation was headed by Tun Abdul Razak, Deputy Prime Minister and Director of Operations. This Asian Conference was significant for two important developments.

One was that nine Asian nations voluntarily met together to formulate a united and constructive policy towards the South East Asian situation. Secondly, Japan was one of them. So far, since 1945, Japan has concentrated on her economic development and the expansion of her trade and has not concerned herself with political or military power or influence. Asian observers feel that in the next decade this policy will change.

Against this background two significant developments took place in the last few weeks, one at either end of the South East Asian jungle. The Nagaland

Government sent a delegation of sixteen young men and women for training at the MRA Conference Centre at Panchgani, nearly two thousand miles away in Western India. This move by the Nagaland Government followed the visit of an international MRA force to Shillong in March, where they met many Naga leaders. (See article page 1)

This same MRA force has just spent nearly three weeks at the other end of the vast jungle, in Malaysia. They were invited by a distinguished Committee of Hosts, many of whom had attended MRA conferences at Panchgani in the last year. They include men who had been known as extreme Malay nationalists and others who had fought with equal militancy for the rights of the Chinese community. They were reconciled at Panchgani.

With the approaching anniversary of last year's racial violence on 13 May, many Malaysians welcomed the MRA force with the question 'What can MRA do for our situation in Malaysia?' But soon the question many began to ask themselves was, 'What can Malaysia now do for the world and particularly for the rest of South East Asia?'

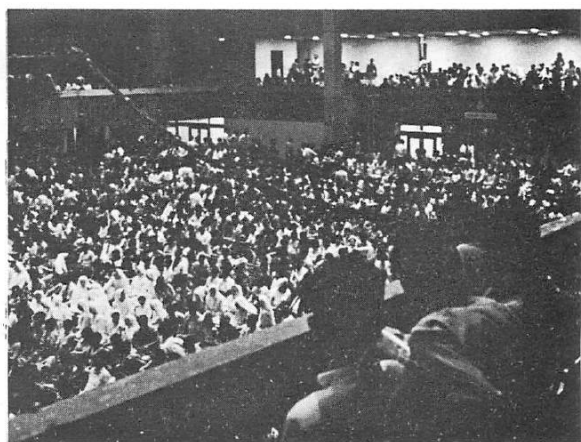
One Minister, who sent a message of welcome to the MRA force, who attended the distinguished opening performance of *Anything to Declare?*, who entertained the whole force to dinner on behalf of the Government, and who received Rajmohan Gandhi and members of the MRA party, was Tun Tan Siew Sin, Minister with Special Functions. He is the political leader of the Chinese in Malaysia and is rated the number three man in the Government.

Multi-racial society

He pledged himself to raise M\$10,000 (£1,200) towards the expenses of the MRA visit. Interviewed by the Press on his birthday, Tun Tan said that his greatest wish was that Malaysia would be 'the model of a multi-racial society and a beacon of hope for the rest of Asia.'

At the University thousands flocked to see the show. One student leader said, 'Everybody in the University is interested in MRA because you have changed the biggest drunkard on the campus.' This man, who is on the Student Executive Council, stopped drinking and said he had found a purpose for his life in the battle for moral re-armament.

The message of MRA reached into every part of the country. The Prime



Audience at Devan Tunku Chancellor, University Hall before performance of 'Anything to Declare?'



Eliane Maillefer (Switzerland) with Malaysian Chinese students

Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak Bin Hussein, both sent messages to the MRA force. Ninety-four items appeared in the national press. Radio news reported the activities of the force almost every day. TV covered many events.

But perhaps most significant of all has been the creation of a militant force of leaders of all communities who are determined to take up the battle for the moral re-armament of their country and to think with a global vision. Some of these men and women are planning to attend forthcoming MRA conferences in Canberra, Panchgani, or Caux, where they want to plan to bring the spirit of Moral Re-Armament to East and West.

Addressing a farewell reception, given by the cast for their hosts, Tan Sri Ja'afar Albar, Chairman of the Committee of Hosts, said, 'We are building universities and schools of higher learning, but what we need is a school of higher learning in how to live together.'

Speaking of the tide of materialism which he feels is spreading from West to East, Tan Sri Albar said, 'I feel that the time has come for the East to wake up and play its part to save the West from destruction.'

HUGH WILLIAMS

Blindsight

A review by
Henry Macnicol

WHAT MAKES THE BLINDNESS of our time?

The blindness of politicians who do not see how their own compromise and corruption bring the downfall of parties and the defeat of policies?

The blindness of employers who see only the greed of their employees?

The blindness of strikers who see no connection between their actions and the cancellation of orders?

The blindness of parents who cannot grasp why their children reject the ideas they are offered?

The bitter blindness of young people who want to 'opt out' and fail to see that by doing so they only add to the mess they so much hate?

The blindness of nations to the march of history?

A stark stage at the Westminster Theatre represents the world. It is a world of illusion, of cruelty, of anger and love, deception and faith, of happenings and miracles—a dark world lit by the courage of a girl and the wit of a doorman who sees it all and carries the audience through the story to its final unexpected lines.

Blind figures grope, tapping the ground with white walking sticks: is this the world? A mother, blind to her own selfishness which has spoiled her son; a politician who cannot bring himself to admit his complicity in a scandal that has wrecked his career and endangered his country; a husband who wilfully soaks himself in drink rather than accept his responsibility for the home he has broken; and a frivolous matron whose three husbands have not sated her appetite for attractive men. You have met them all, at cocktail parties, at church socials, at union gatherings and university functions.

And there in the middle of them, operating, is a gang of crooks. They take advantage of the blindness of the rest, misleading a wealthy and woolly-minded philanthropist and tricking him out of his money.

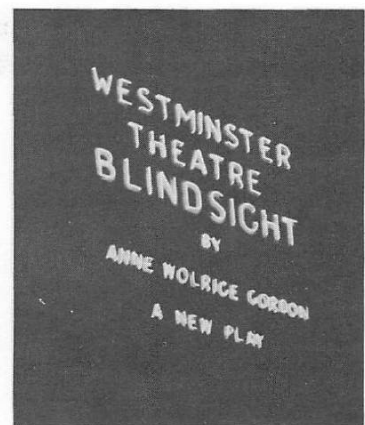
Crooks—yes, but even they are familiar, uncomfortably like the chap next door, or the man who sits down at our own breakfast table. There is the pious do-gooder with his 'holy hiccups' and 'with-it' phrases; there is the doctor so wrapped up in his research that he connives at the crookery and becomes

involved himself; and there is the man for whom money, sex and the drive for power are a way of life.

Into this world, and across this stage, step two figures of light and confidence. One is the doorman, whose brass buttons and jaunty cockade match the shine of his observations and the twinkle of his eye, as he watches the tapestry of life unroll. The other is the girl born blind, who accepts her blindness as she faces all facts, fair and square, and who found her way out of her own bitterness. So she sees what all the others miss, and can lead them out of the morass.

And there is the doctor's son. You see him everywhere these days, in British universities and at seaside resorts. Deplored in newspaper editorials, reproached by parents, long-haired, lazy—his honesty only seems to make him more angry and frustrated. But can something seize that honesty and turn it into a force to open the eyes of the blind society he loathes?

This is today's world, drawn fresh by



one who is very much in the middle of it—an MP's wife, active in public life, a mother, with a farm and a family to look after. Peter Howard's daughter brings to her task an artist's eye for the frailties, and the possibilities, of human nature. Her own description of what she has written says it is 'an allegorical play about modern society. It depicts part of every country and every human being.'

It is a play that tackles the root of evil, and sends audiences home not only thoughtful but refreshed and hopeful, and challenged to cure the blindness of our times.

at a glance

CARDIFF

CAR PARTIES from Milford Haven in the west and Bristol in the east mingled with coach parties from the Rhondda and the new town of Cwmbran at the Welsh premiere of *Happy Deathday* in the Park Hall Cinema, Cardiff, last weekend.

Dr Bryan Hamlin, one of the men who raised the finances to film Peter Howard's play *Happy Deathday*, introduced the film to an audience representing education, industry, youth and music.

Explore this experience

IN LIFE it is necessary to learn the difference between:

Urgency and haste; conviction and pressure; humble 'not-knowing' and blind acceptance of experts' advice; conforming and being open to others' ideas; healthy independence and stubborn refusal; openhearted care and sloppy sentimentality; strictness with oneself and living by rules; inspired

THE HAGUE

DUTCH NATIONAL TV broadcast a ten-minute programme last week on how German-and Italian-speaking South Tyrolese reached agreement following the visit of some of their leaders to Caux. Division between the two communities in the North Italian province of South Tyrol had led to outbreaks of violence. Five of these leaders took part in the programme including Dr Armando Bertorelle, President of the South Tyrol Parliament; Dr Karl Mitterdorfer, MP, who represents the German-speaking community, and the Rt Rev Josef Gargitter, Catholic Bishop of Brixen.

initiative and reckless individualism; consulting others and needless procrastination; a sense of history and arrogance towards the aimless.

The Cross gathers up and answers every paradox. The Cross is itself a paradox; that new life springs from death. This is an experience to explore.

GORDON WISE