

MR CHANCELLOR, HONOURED GUESTS, RESPECTED COLLEAGUES, GRADUANDS AND DIPLOMANDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, OUR GATHERING HERE TOGETHER THIS MORNING REPRESENTS A UNIVERSAL HUMAN CHARACTERISTIC, THAT OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO MOMENTS OF CEREMONIAL AND RITUAL MARKING IN A FORMAL WAY CHANGES OF STATUS IN LIFE OR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES. TODAY WE ACCORD PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF STUDIES BY STUDENTS AND FORMER STUDENTS IN THE FACULTIES OF ARTS, DIVINITY AND EDUCATION. TO THESE STUDENTS, TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND WELL WISHERS, WE EXTEND THE WARMEST OF WELCOMES, COUPLED WITH OUR BEST WISHES FOR WHATEVER LIES BEFORE THEM IN THE NEXT STAGE OF THEIR CAREERS.

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IN MOST CASES THE NECESSARY PREREQUISITES FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OR GRANTING OF THE DIPLOMA WERE COMPLETED MONTHS AGO, AND IT WAS NOT LOGICALLY NECESSARY FOR THE CANDIDATES TO JOURNEY BACK TO GRAHAMSTOWN TO PRESENT THEMSELVES IN PERSON BEFORE YOU, MR CHANCELLOR. THAT SO MANY HAVE DONE SO IS EVIDENCE OF THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO THE COMMITMENT TO SUCCESSFUL STUDIES, AND THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY, ONE MIGHT ALMOST SAY OF FAMILY, THEY EXPERIENCED DURING THEIR FEW SHORT YEARS IN OUR MIDST. BOTH WE, THE UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES, AND YOU, THE CENTRE OF ATTENTION IN THIS MORNING'S ACTIVITIES, SENSE THAT THE VALUES WHICH WE HAVE GROWN TO SHARE NEED TO FIND CONCRETE EXPRESSION IN A GRADUATION CEREMONY.

THE ALLUSION TO VALUES IS A CONVENIENT ENTRÉE TO MY MAIN TOPIC, WHICH IS A CONSIDERATION OF VALUES IN A UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENT. THERE ARE

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THOSE WHO CONTEND THAT A UNIVERSITY SHOULD BE VALUE-NEUTRAL, AND NOT EXHIBIT A COMMITMENT TO, OR PREFERENCE FOR, ANY PARTICULAR VALUE-SYSTEM. IN THE SENSE THAT A UNIVERSITY SUCH AS RHODES, QUA INSTITUTION, MAKES NO FORMAL COMMITMENT TO THE TENETS OF ANY ORGANISED RELIGIOUS BODY OR POLITICAL PARTY, NOR INDEED TO SPECIFIC ECONOMIC, SOCIAL OR PHILOSOPHIC THEORIES, THE VIEWPOINT OF AN IMPARTIAL, DETACHED UNIVERSITY IS OF CONSIDERABLE VERACITY. FROM THIS WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, JUSTIFIED IN LEAPING TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE UNIVERSITY MAKES NO COMMITMENT TO ANY VALUES AT ALL. INDEED, SUCH A CONCLUSION WOULD DESTROY THE VERY GROUNDWORK OF A UNIVERSITY'S EXISTENCE. I BELIEVE THAT WE STILL HAVE CONSENSUS THAT THE BASIC BUSINESS OF THE UNIVERSITY IS KNOWLEDGE - ITS PRESERVATION, TRANSMISSION AND EXTENSION. THIS CENTRAL COMMITMENT TO KNOWLEDGE IMPLIES VALUES, INCLUDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE CENTRALITY OF THE

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QUEST FOR TRUTH AND THE POSSIBILITY OF AT LEAST ITS PARTIAL ATTAINMENT BY APPROPRIATE EXPERIMENTATION AND ABOVE ALL BY THE VIGOROUS APPLICATION OF RATIONAL ANALYSIS. THERE IS SURELY NO INSTITUTION, TO WHICH WE SHOULD CARE TO ACCORD THE APPELLATION UNIVERSITY, WHICH DOES NOT REACT VIGOROUSLY AND DECISIVELY AGAINST DELIBERATE MISREPRESENTATION OF RESULTS, PLAGIARISM OR CHEATING IN EXAMINATIONS. NO MATTER WHAT OUR POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS PERSUASIONS WE ARE ALL SURELY AD IDEM ON THE CARDINAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE.

A COMMITMENT TO KNOWLEDGE CANNOT FLOURISH UNDER ADVERSE CONDITIONS. IF A UNIVERSITY IS TO ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSE EFFECTIVELY IT MUST INSIST ON FOSTERING A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO STUDY AND RESEARCH. AN ATMOSPHERE OF GOOD ORDER MUST PREVAIL. THE SAFETY OF PERSONS AND OF PROPERTY MUST BE GUARANTEED. COMPETENCE AND DILIGENCE MUST BE

DEMANDED. THE UNIVERSITY MUST BE ADMINISTERED AND ITS RESOURCES DEPLOYED IN A MANNER DESIGNED TO OPTIMISE THE ATTAINMENT OF ITS OBJECTIVES. NOT LEAST, THE CONDITIONS FOR PROPER DISCUSSION AND DEBATE MUST BE SUSTAINED. ALL VIEWS, NO MATTER HOW APPARENTLY TENDENTIOUS OR BIZARRE, ARE TO BE ACCORDED A FAIR HEARING. THIS LATTER REQUIREMENT VIRTUALLY DEMANDS THAT THE UNIVERSITY, AS FORMAL ENTITY, SHOULD ACT AS REFEREE OF LAST RESORT AND SO DIVEST ITSELF, EXCEPT IN MATTERS RELATING TO ITS VERY EXISTENCE AS A UNIVERSITY, OF ADHERENCE TO PARTISAN VIEWS AND STANCES. THERE IS FURTHERMORE A SERIOUS ONUS ON THE UNIVERSITY TO UPHOLD WHAT ONE MIGHT CALL THE QUEENSBERRY RULES OF DISCOURSE AND DEBATE. PERSONAL ATTACKS ON INDIVIDUALS, CAVALIER DISREGARD FOR VERACITY AND DELIBERATE EXACERBATION OF REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS OF PUBLIC DECENCY AND DECORUM BEAR NO RELATIONSHIP TO A PROFESSED COMMITMENT TO UNCOVERING THE

TRUTH. IT IS PERHAPS AMUSING TO RECALL THE ORIGINAL QUEENSBERRY RULES, SO THAT WE MAY APPLY THEM BY ANALOGY. THEY CALLED FOR A FAIR STAND-UP MATCH, ROUNDS OF THREE MINUTES, CLASSIFICATION OF BOXERS BY WEIGHT AND THE WEARING OF GLOVES.

THE CENTRALITY OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE CREATION OF THE PROPER CIRCUMSTANCES FOR ITS ATTAINMENT THUS IMPLY ADHERENCE TO CERTAIN CORE VALUES, THE COMMITMENT TO WHICH WOULD NOT ENCOUNTER ANY MORE THAN PERIPHERAL DISSENT AT A UNIVERSITY SUCH AS RHODES. IN THE PRACTICAL SITUATION THESE VALUES HAVE NOT ONLY TO BE ADHERED TO BUT ALSO TO BE TRANSMITTED AND IMPARTED. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF THE RHODES TRADITION THAT AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF DOING SO IS THROUGH DIRECT HUMAN CONTACT IN SMALL GROUP SITUATIONS. THE IMPORTANCE OF TUTORIALS AND SEMINARS HAS ALWAYS BEEN EMPHASISED. WE ALSO HOLD THAT OUR

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RESIDENTIAL SYSTEM OF HOUSES AVERAGING ABOUT FIFTY STUDENTS, AND HALLS ABOUT 200, HAS A VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN BOTH THE ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL FORMATION OF OUR STUDENTS. IN THIS RESPECT RHODES OCCUPIES A UNIQUE POSITION. ABOUT NINETY PER CENT OF OUR ENTERING STUDENTS LIVE IN RESIDENCE, AND INDEED ALMOST SEVENTY PER CENT OF THE TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE POPULATION DO SO. FOR OUR NEAREST RIVALS THE FIGURE IS BELOW FIFTY PER CENT, WHILE FOR SOME OF THE LARGER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITIES IT DROPS AS LOW AS TEN PER CENT.

During the last three years the pressure on our residential system has intensified, and each year we have had to strain resources to increase its capacity, mostly in an ad hoc manner. This pressure has resulted not only from increased student enrolment but also from a reduction in available accommodation in the city. The situation has prompted the

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UNIVERSITY COUNCIL TO SET UP A SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF THE OPTIMUM SIZE OF THE UNIVERSITY, TAKING ACADEMIC, SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT. EVEN SHOULD THAT COMMITTEE RECOMMEND A FIGURE AT OR NEAR THE PRESENT ENROLMENT, IT IS CLEAR THAT OUR RESIDENTIAL SYSTEM REQUIRES EXPANSION BY ABOUT 150 PLACES, THE PRESENT CAPITAL COST OF WHICH WOULD BE OF THE ORDER OF R13 000 PER STUDENT ACCOMMODATED, OR APPROXIMATELY R2 000 000.

IT IS, THEREFORE, WITH GREAT GRATITUDE AND PLEASURE THAT I AM ABLE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE GOLD FIELDS FOUNDATION HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE HALF THE COST OF A NEW RESIDENCE FOR SEVENTY-EIGHT STUDENTS IN THE KIMBERLEY HALL COMPLEX. THIS GIFT OF R500 000 IS THE LARGEST SINGLE DONATION WHICH RHODES HAS EVER HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO RECEIVE. TO MR ROBIN PLUMBRIDGE AND HIS FELLOW TRUSTEES WE EXTEND OUR PROFOUNDTEST

GRATITUDE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE APTNESS AND TIMELINESS OF THIS MUNIFICENT DECISION. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT CONSTRUCTION CAN BEGIN IN THE MIDDLE OF 1983, FOR COMPLETION BY THE THIRD TERM OF 1984.

ONCE WE PROCEED BEYOND THE VALUES INHERENT IN THE PURSUIT OF THE UNIVERSITY'S CENTRAL BUSINESS OF KNOWLEDGE THE CONSENSUS BECOMES MORE TENUOUS AND THE ISSUES MORE CLOUDY. WE ARE CONTINUALLY BOMBARDED WITH THE PRECEPT TO BE MORE RELEVANT AND WITH THE SIREN CALL TO SERVE PARTICULARISTIC INTERESTS. ONE CRITICISM IS THAT THE UNIVERSITY SERVES MORE READILY THE INTERESTS OF THE RICH AND THE POWERFUL, PARTICULARLY BUSINESS INTERESTS AND THE STATE BY CONCENTRATING ON PROVIDING MANPOWER TO SERVE THEIR NEEDS. WE SHOULD, IT IS AVERRED, DIRECT SOME OF OUR RESOURCES TO SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE POOR AND DISADVANTAGED. IF THIS IMPLIES THAT RESEARCH DIRECTED AT A GREATER

INTELLECTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED, AND MEANS OF SOLVING THEM, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE ENTIRELY PROPER. RESEARCH INTO COMMUNITY MEDICINE AND LOW COST HOUSING TECHNIQUES, THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE OR INTO THE SPECIFIC SOCIOLOGICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED, ARE OBVIOUS EXAMPLES. DIRECT APPLICATION OF UNIVERSITY RESOURCES TOWARDS PRACTICAL MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE THESE PROBLEMS IS ANOTHER MATTER ALTOGETHER, AND ONE MAY IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES BE IN DANGER OF PROCEEDING RIGHT AWAY FROM THE PROPER FUNCTIONS AND RAISON D'ETRE OF A UNIVERSITY. THE VOLUNTARY EFFORTS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY, AS IN LEGAL AID WORK, BUILDING PROJECTS OR FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS RAG ARE PROPERLY A MATTER OF INDIVIDUAL CHOICE AND NOT OF UNIVERSITY POLICY.

THE QUESTION OF THE OVER-PROFESSIONALISATION OF THE UNIVERSITY, WHETHER IT BE A MATTER OF UNDUE SUBSERVIENCE TO RICH AND POWERFUL INTERESTS OR WHETHER IT BE A GREATER STUDENT TENDENCY TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR MORE FINANCIALLY REWARDING PROFESSIONAL CAREERS, IS ONE OF INCREASING CONCERN TO OURSELVES AND TO THE AUTHORITIES. I RECENTLY READ AN ESTIMATE THAT IN 1965 SOME THIRTY PER CENT OF STUDENTS AT RHODES WERE ENROLLED FOR PROFESSIONAL COURSES. THIS FIGURE HAS INCREASED STEADILY OVER THE YEARS, AND PRESENTLY STANDS AT APPROXIMATELY SIXTY PER CENT. I DO NOT WISH TO DECRY THE VALUE OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION OR ITS LEGITIMATE PLACE IN THE SCHEME OF THINGS. SUCH TILTING OF THE BALANCE, HOWEVER, HAS SERIOUS LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS, BOTH FOR UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY AND FOR THE TOTALITY OF KNOWLEDGE, BOTH FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED, WHICH IS OUR PROPER CONCERN. UNIVERSITIES TRADITIONALLY DEMAND, AND RIGHTLY SO, THAT OUR AUTONOMY

AS TO WHOM SHOULD BE TAUGHT, WHAT SHOULD BE TAUGHT AND WHO SHOULD DO THE TEACHING, SHOULD BE RESPECTED. WE FREQUENTLY, AND TOPICALLY, CRITICISE THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT RESTORING COMPLETELY OUR RIGHT TO DETERMINE OUR OWN ENTRANTS ON GROUNDS WHICH WE JUDGE TO BE RELEVANT. PERHAPS PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF OUR PRE-OCCUPATION WITH THIS MATTER WE HAVE VIRTUALLY, WITHOUT BEING FULLY CONSCIOUS OF IT, HAD OUR AUTONOMY ERODED IN ANOTHER DIRECTION. THERE ARE NOW SOME SEVENTEEN PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND COUNCILS WHOSE PREROGATIVE IT IS, SOMETIMES TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN THAT OF THE UNIVERSITY, TO DETERMINE WHAT THE MAJORITY OF OUR STUDENTS SHALL BE TAUGHT. IN SOME CASES THE MATERIAL IS SPECIFIED IN FINE DETAIL, LEAVING VERY LITTLE FREEDOM OF ACTION FOR UNIVERSITIES TO EXERCISE SOME OF THEIR MOST ANCIENT DUTIES SUCH AS THAT OF INTELLECTUAL FORMATION AND BEARING AND INTERPRETING CULTURAL NORMS. ARE WE NOT IN DANGER OF PRODUCING TOO MANY PROFESSIONAL

EXPERTS AND NOT ENOUGH WISE CITIZENS WITH, AS OUR PROFESSOR GUY BUTLER HAS PUT IT "THE HABITS OF FREE MEN"?

CARDINAL NEWMAN, PERHAPS THE MOST WIDELY QUOTED APOLOGIST FOR THE TRADITIONAL CONCEPT OF A UNIVERSITY, SUMMARIZED IT IN THIS WAY:-

"BUT A UNIVERSITY TRAINING IS THE GREAT ORDINARY MEANS TO A GREAT BUT ORDINARY END; IT AIMS AT RAISING THE INTELLECTUAL TONE OF SOCIETY, AT CULTIVATING THE PUBLIC MIND, AT PURIFYING THE NATIONAL TASTE, AT SUPPLYING TRUE PRINCIPLES, ENTHUSIASM AND FIXED AIMS TO POPULAR ASPIRATION, AT GIVING ENLARGEMENT AND SOBRIETY TO THE IDEAS OF THE AGE, AT FACILITATING THE EXERCISE OF POLITICAL POWER AND REFINING THE INTERCOURSE OF PRIVATE LIFE. IT IS THE EDUCATION WHICH GIVES A MAN A CLEAR CONSCIOUS VIEW OF HIS OWN OPINIONS AND

JUDGEMENTS, A TRUTH IN DEVELOPING THEM, AN ELOQUENCE IN EXPRESSING THEM, AND A FORCE IN URGING THEM".

PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND COUNCILS, THROUGH THEIR EDUCATION COMMITTEES, HAVE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY TO ACCORD UNIVERSITIES SUFFICIENT CURRICULAR LEEWAY SO THAT FUTURE MEMBERS OF THEIR PROFESSIONS ARE EDUCATED AS WELL AS BEING TRAINED.

NEWMAN'S CONCEPT OF GIVING A MAN A CLEAR CONSCIOUS VIEW OF HIS OWN OPINIONS IS ONE OF THE POTENTIAL CASUALTIES OF THE PRE-OCCUPATION WITH SPECIALISATION AND THE NECESSITY FOR PREPARING ONE'S SELF FOR A GOOD LIVING. THE TRADITIONAL DIRECTIONS OF STUDY WHICH ADDRESS THEMSELVES IN SOME MEASURE TO THE CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF WORLD VIEWS, OR TO USE A MORE HOMELY PHRASE "ROAD MAPS OF LIFE", DISCIPLINES SUCH AS

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THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY OR CLASSICS HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON - STATIC OR DECLINING ENROLMENTS. OTHER SUBJECTS, SUCH AS LITERATURE OR HISTORY TOUCH ON THESE QUESTIONS INDIRECTLY, SINCE IT IS FREQUENTLY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO UNDERSTAND A LITERARY OR HISTORICAL FIGURE WITHOUT AT LEAST SOME UNDERSTANDING OF HIS WORLD VIEW.

SURELY THIS IS A MATTER FOR SERIOUS CONCERN. UNLESS WE ARE TO AGREE WITH MACBETH THAT LIFE "IS A TALE TOLD BY AN IDIOT, FULL OF SOUND AND FURY, SIGNIFYING NOTHING" THEN ALL OF US, WHETHER WE BE PHILOSOPHERS, THEOLOGIANS, PHARMACISTS OR EVEN COMPUTER SCIENTISTS, HAVE SUCH A PRIVATE WORLD VIEW, WHETHER WE ARTICULATE IT EXPLICITLY OR NOT. THAT FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR GRADUATES THEIR UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM HAS DONE NOTHING EXPLICIT TO ASSIST THEM TO EXAMINE CRITICALLY AND DEVELOP THEIR VIEW OF THE WORLD, AND MAN'S ROLE IN IT, IS AT BEST A SERIOUS

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LACUNA, AT WORST A GLARING FAILURE. E F SCHUMACHER, OF "SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL" FAME PUTS IT THIS WAY IN HIS POSTHUMOUS VOLUME "GOOD WORK":-

"MODERN SCIENCE ANSWERS THE QUESTION WHAT IS MAN? WITH SUCH INSPIRING PHRASES AS 'A COSMIC ACCIDENT' OR 'A RATHER UNSUCCESSFUL PRODUCT OF MINDLESS EVOLUTION OR NATURAL SELECTION' OR 'A NAKED APE', AND IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT IT HAS NO ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF WHAT THIS ABSURD, ACCIDENTAL PRODUCT OF MINDLESS FORCES IS SUPPOSED TO DO WITH ITSELF".

ONE PRACTICAL ANSWER IS FOR PEOPLE WITH CONVERGENT WORLD VIEWS TO FORM AN INSTITUTION WHICH THEN ADOPTS AND NURTURES AN OFFICIAL WORLD VIEW. I CAN SEE NO SERIOUS OBJECTION TO THIS OPTION, PROVIDED ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO HIGHER EDUCATION ARE OPEN FOR PEOPLE WITH RESERVATIONS ABOUT

THE SPECIFIC STANDPOINT ADOPTED. IN THE GREATER BOSTON AREA, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH HAS A COMPARABLE NUMBER OF UNIVERSITIES AND STUDENTS TO THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, THERE ARE, IN ADDITION TO SUCH WORLD RENOWNED INSTITUTIONS AS HARVARD AND MIT, UNIVERSITIES SUCH AS BOSTON COLLEGE, BOSTON UNIVERSITY AND BRANDEIS WHICH ARE RESPECTIVELY, WITH VARYING DEGREES OF DIRECTNESS, CATHOLIC, METHODIST AND JEWISH ORIENTATED. ONLY ONE UNIVERSITY IN SOUTH AFRICA, POTCHEFSTROOM, HAS FULLY AND EXPLICITLY ADOPTED SUCH A STANDPOINT, AND MAKES A SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO PUT BEFORE ALL ITS STUDENTS A SPECIFIC MINDSET.

SUCH AN ANSWER IS NEITHER POSSIBLE NOR DESIRABLE AT RHODES, BUT SURELY THAT DOES NOT EXONERATE US OF ALL RESPONSIBILITY. A LEGITIMATE ALTERNATIVE IS TO OFFER BOTH SYMPATHETIC AND CRITICAL EXAMINATIONS OF VARIOUS WORLD VIEWS, AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED STUDENTS WHO CARE TO

ENROL. WE HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THIS DIRECTION BY AGREEING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SENIOR LECTURESHIP IN REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY. BOTH DR ESCHEVERRIA AND HIS SPONSORS DIE VEREENIGING VIR CHRISTELIKE HOËR ONDERWYS, ARE TO BE HEARTILY CONGRATULATED. IT WOULD BE A CAUSE FOR FURTHER SATISFACTION IF, FOR EXAMPLE, SPONSORSHIP COULD BE FOUND FOR THE RESUSCITATION OF OUR COURSE IN JUDAICA OR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOME FORM OF CATHOLIC, MOSLEM OR EASTERN RELIGIOUS STUDIES PRESENCE.

A SIMILAR COURSE OF ACTION IS BEING PURSUED BY THE CITY-STATE OF SINGAPORE, ONE OF THE GREAT ECONOMIC SUCCESS STORIES OF RECENT YEARS. THE AUTHORITIES THERE HAVE RECOGNISED THAT MATERIAL SUCCESS IS NOT A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR LONG-TERM STABILITY, AND ARE REQUIRING THE SCHOOLS TO ESPOUSE EXPLICIT VALUE-SYSTEMS. THE PREFERRED SYSTEM IS

CONFUCIANISM, BUT AS IS APPROPRIATE IN ANY MULTI-CULTURAL ENVIRONMENT, ONE OF SIX ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS CHRISTIANITY, BUDDHISM OR MOSLEMISM, MAY BE SUBSTITUTED.

ONE VALUE TO WHICH WE WOULD ALL SURELY SUBSCRIBE, WHETHER WE ARE SCIENTISTS, HUMANISTS, RADICALS, LIBERALS OR CONSERVATIVES, IS A COMMITMENT TO KEEP THINGS AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE, WHICH IS NOT ALWAYS EASY IN THE COMPLEX WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE. THERE IS A NATURAL TENDENCY TO CONSIDER THAT BECAUSE SOMETHING CAN BE DONE IT OUGHT TO BE DONE, PREFEREBLY WITH A COMPUTER RATHER THAN WITHOUT ONE. THERE IS THE FURTHER TEMPTATION TO ADD CONTINUALLY TO OUR ACTIVITIES WITHOUT BEING EASILY PERSUADED TO ELIMINATE FUNCTIONS OR COURSES WHICH ARE NO LONGER SERVING THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSE, OR WHICH ARE NON-ESSENTIAL AND POORLY EXECUTED. AS A RESULT THE UNIVERSITY, ALREADY A SUFFICIENTLY

COMPLEX ORGANISM, CONTINUES TO GROW IN COMPLEXITY WITHOUT NECESSARILY BEING THE BETTER FOR IT. ACADEMICS, EVER READY WITH AN ANSWER FOR THE PROBLEMS OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD, SHOULD NOT FORGET THE ADAGE "PHYSICIAN, HEAL THYSELF". IF I MAY WITHOUT OFFENCE QUOTE SCHUMACHER AGAIN HE DESCRIBES HOW

"I TRAVELLED IN THE WINTER IN GERMANY WITH A FRIEND WHO HAD A SPLENDID MERCEDES, BUT THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM DEVELOPED A SMALL FAULT, AND ALL THE WINDOWS WERE STUCK IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS. HE DROVE FROM GARAGE TO GARAGE BUT THERE WAS NO ONE WHO COULD PENETRATE THE SYSTEM, AND ALL WINTER HE DROVE IN AN ICY BLAST. FINALLY IN THE SPRING HE FOUND SOMEONE TO REPAIR IT FOR \$300. IS THAT A PRICE WORTH PAYING SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO TURN THE HANDLE?"

MR CHANCELLOR, IF ANY FAILURE OF OURS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH EVEN A NODDING ACQUAINTANCESHIP WITH SOME COHERENT WORLD VIEW, RESULTED IN NO WORLD VIEW, IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE TO THE SIMPLE-MINDED HEDONISM OR UNABASHED MATERIALISM WHICH THEY MAY WELL ACQUIRE BY DEFAULT. "WHAT MAN IS THERE OF YOU WHOM, IF HIS SON ASK BREAD, WILL GIVE HIM A STONE?" WE ALL RECOLLECT THE STATUE OF THE GHANAIAAN LEADER NKWAME NKRUMAH WITH ITS NOTORIOUS INSCRIPTION "SEEK YE FIRST THE POLITICAL KINGDOM ...". THERE ARE SURELY FEW WHO CAN BELIEVE THAT "SEEK YE FIRST THE ACADEMIC KINGDOM ..." IS ANY MORE ADEQUATE A SUBSTITUTE.

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