

Unpopular Essays

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THIS column is not just starting, it has been here before. In the months preceding November 1975, I had an exciting time by the agency of this column, challenging notions and ideas that had always been taken for granted. Ideas that have long acquired the protective garbs of sacrilege.

The break? It could only be explained in terms of my nomadic inclinations. But that is not important.

I found upon return, that Calabar has not changed. It is still the darling resort which on account of its grave-yard peacefulness, continues to invite the wary traveller. Economic activities take a dive at 3.30 p.m. I have called on friends whose HOUSE BOYS announced to me were taking their siesta and so could not be DISTURBED.

By the way, I have discovered, most to my happiness, that they have done very well for themselves. Or how do you explain the siesta, or the parade of house boys, maids and so on?

I have also found the new university very refreshing. Because I do not have ominous threats of examinations hanging over me, I have discovered that I am capable of walking on a university campus with confidence. The university has brought all sorts of interesting people into the town.

Finally, my home-coming has enabled me renew my acquaintance with a writer I have enjoyed reading so much. Sunday CHRONICLE's columnist, Jenudo Oke, is a fine writer with whom I hardly ever agree.

Over time, I have searched, my mind for what might be the un-

derlying cause of our constant disagreement. I put it down to some fundamental difference in temperaments. And, I assure you, this has nothing to do with age. It is just that we operate from very different theoretical positions.

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Glad To Be Back

The fact about colonialism was exploitation. The church, the government, the educational system were all cultural and legal agencies for exploitation. If by historical antecedent, it was discovered that the church was more thorough and efficient in the business of preparing the natives' minds to accept dependence as natural, it was only logical that education be left in their hands.

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For our purpose, it is important to see the setting up of schools as more functional to the purpose of the colonialists than the real welfare of our society.

To this point and others, we shall return again and again. For now, I am glad to be back.

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There are academics, good and poor, but more important, there are a group of perceptive students who will ask questions and demonstrate, not only over their campus affairs, but also over things that affect us outside.

If you travel to the campus, you cannot ignore the women. Little girls who, having heard so much about how the "acada" is supposed to carry on, are busy trying to act an uncomfortable (and amusing) part.

The vagaries of life have blown me hither and thither. In the process, I have met all sorts of people, but the university type, I shall never tire of meeting. So, to the campus I shall return again and again for both inspiration and ideas with which to go into battle in this column.

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I would however say this for the guy, he is a perfect gentleman. I recall once having to take out a full page in the... CHRONICLE to call him names for an uncharitable comment he made about a former teacher of mine. He "replied" with dignified silence!

I have never met him, but he sounds to me like the likely lad who has remained loyal to his upbringing. You know, the good church member who says his prayers, pays his tithe, does his easter duty and stays at home with the



Patching Up Relations

THE deterioration of political relations between France and Israel caused by the Abu Daud affair has been eliminated at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of France and Israel at Brussels recently. Our picture shows: (left), M. Louis de Guringaud of France and Mr. Vigal Allon, Israel's Foreign Minister at their meeting in Brussels when a financial agreement between Israel and the European Economic Community has been signed.