EDITORIAL NOTES

Although we have received few contributions in response to our request for articles on racism, we still hope to receive enough material to enable us to devote the whole, or a large part of, a future issue to this.

In the meantime we publish in this issue a substantial, and no doubt in some important respects, controversial, piece of work on the subject by Martin Barker. Barker's main contention is that recent years have seen the emergence of a new style of racism all the more frightening in that it is receiving systematic authorisation in a theory of 'biological culturalism' that stems directly from studies in human ethology and sociobiology. One conclusion from his exposure of the lacunae and inconsistencies in the allegedly scientific founding of racism is that a genuinely scientific ethology should be developed. Another is that any such attempt - through positing the human species as an object for science - must support racism.

Those whose acquaintance with Derrida derives more from the appeals to his authority in the texts of others rather than from those of Derrida himself, should welcome the chance provided by David Ward's article to begin to chart their bearings in relation to a figure so seemingly ubiquitous on the intellectual horizon. A stimulus and an aid to the reading of Derrida, his lucid introduction has the additional advantage that it opens up various lines of criticism and attempts an assessment of the importance of Derrida's work to radical thought.

Debate on the dialectic is continued in this issue with articles by Roy Edgley, who replies to criticisms (by Russell Keat and Peter Dews) of his initial article in Radical Philosophy 15, and by Richard Norman, who replies to Rip Bulkeley's article in Radical Philosophy 18.

The discussion section features a reply by Colin Gordon to Jonathan Ree's editorial in the last issue. It is a reply by a member of the editorial collective to a member of the editorial collective on a subject - the content and style of a journal such as Radical Philosophy, its future directions, its responsibilities - of central importance to readers. We hope that readers will continue the discussion, and we welcome contributions on it.

Due to printing difficulties, No. 20 was distributed later than scheduled. Rather than have this issue following it in the same college term, we decided to - in effect - skip an issue, and bring out No. 21 in January 1979. In future, each issue will be published at the beginning of each term. Subscriptions are unaffected, as these are for 3 issues, not one year.

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