

Atticus in The Sunday Times, 15 December 1963:

I have just received my first Christmas card. It is a gay red and white affair and comes from the Oxford University Humanist Group. It reads: "Happy Birthday Jesus! 1,963 Today!"

Atticus in The Sunday Times, 15 March 1964:

Turning-the-other-cheek note: Last week the Papal Office sent a letter of reply to the Oxford University Humanist Group whose merrily offensive Christmas card "Happy Birthday Jesus! 1,964 today!" was sent to them, among others.

It says that the Pope thanks them for their pious good wishes, and promises to pray for their souls.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has so far not replied.

Isis, 14 March 1964:

Dr. Fell has decided to make the following awards for Hilary Term 1964:

...

For irreverence: The Humanist Group, whose Easter card is said to read: Get Well Soon, Jesus - Hope to see you up and about again in two or three days.

News of the World, 22 March 1964:

Talking it over with GRAHAM STANFORD

Pity them

The first Easter card has just arrived in this office. Big, blood-red type on white background. On the cover it says: "get well soon, Jesus." On the inside: "Hope to see you up and about again in a few days."

There's a handwritten inscription: Wishing you a very happy Easter from the Oxford Humanists." And a note on the back: "Printed and published by Oxford University Humanist Group"

What strange minds some people have. All you can do is pity them.

The New Daily, 28 March 1964:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

These Blasphemous Humanists!

SIR, - I have just been handed a most outrageous and offensive publication. It is a card

containing the following inscription: "Get well soon, Jesus! Hope to see you up and about again in a few days.....". It is printed and published by Oxford University Humanist Group.

It is intolerable that these irresponsible and pernicious young scoundrels should be allowed to publicly mock the most sacred and central foundation of the uniquely and divinely inspired Christian faith.

It is entirely because of Socialist doctrines in our educational system that such undesirables ever enter our universities; they exclude those whose natural right it is to be at our great universities. Decent young men from good families, who, as a result of attending a British public school are possessed of those virtues of loyalty, good manners, patriotism and faith which admirably qualify them for a university education, find themselves excluded in favour of bearded Humanists.

This present blasphemous outrage is confined to Oxford , but if action is not taken it will spread throughout the nation, with disastrous consequences to the spiritual life of our young people.

This is a Christian country and we still have laws relating to blasphemy against the Christian religion. These laws should be invoked against such outrages as this humanist so-called Easter card.

- J.C. Pini
Oxford.

Cherwell, 29 April 1964:

Beards again

THE Humanist Group's blasphemous Easter card provoked a strong reaction in the correspondence columns of the New Daily, where a letter from one J. C. Pini expressed grave distress at present trends in Oxford: "Descent [*sic*] young men from good families who as a result of attending a British public school are possessed of those virtues of, loyalty, good manners, patriotism, and faith, which admirably qualify them for a university education, find themselves excluded in favour of 'bearded humanists" . . . "This is a Christian country," it continues, "and we have laws relating to blasphemy against the Christian religion. These laws should be invoked against such outrages as this humanist so-called Easter card." Strong words, but research reveals that J.C. Pini is the pseudonym of none other than beardless Humanist ex-president **Leonard Evans** (S.P.C.)

Cherwell, 6 May 1964:

IT BACKFIRED

Humanist President visits the Proctors

ONE can generally expect sparks to fly when Humanist Presidents get Proctorial Summonses. Connaire Kensit did last Tuesday. But the upshot was merely a polite request not to "Oxford University" on those blasphemous little Easter and Christmas cards.

When he asked why, Kensit was told that they had received a complaining letter from Falmouth or somewhere, enclosing a cutting from the New Daily - a letter by one J.C. Pini. If you remember, that was the psuedonym [*sic*] of Humanist ex-President Leonard Evans, who started off the whole farce by complaining bitterly about his own ilk.

Now the whole thing has backfired, with the Proctors, as one might expect, looking sillier than anyone.

Cut it, Kensit

NEVER to be outdone, the real Humanists plan to debate 'Sex before Marriage' (probably). Apparently, Humanist Women were queueing up to second the motion to be proposed, understandably, by President Connaire Kensit, at a forthcoming College Debate.

I often wonder exactly how accurate is the Market Research being used by these Humanists and Christian people when it tells them that a chat about sex is the best way to lure the vast ranks of doers-rather-than-talkers who lie between their respective faiths.

Cherwell, 6.5.64