

<p><b>NORTH SOUTH</b></p> <h2>Cuban heels</h2> <p>INTELLECTUALS are difficult allies for revolutionaries — their individual egos demand more special treatment than the hurly-burly of social upheaval permits to most. Improper Conduct, a crudely anti-Castro propaganda film which opened at the ICA cinema in London last week, displays some at their worst — pretentious, soft and boring. Extraordinarily, from Time magazine and the Village Voice to Le Monde and Gai Pied, this galaxy of talking heads among the potted plants of New York and Paris apartments, has been hailed as a landmark in truth-telling about Cuba's revolution.</p> <p>Made by Nestor Almendros and Orlando Jimenez Leal, it is less a film about Cuba than</p>	<p>the tales of a handful of bitter ex-Cubans from the 1960s, intercut with archive film of Fidel.</p> <p>Those counter-revolutionaries and many others, including thousands of homosexuals, mostly left Cuba for the West where they have become the source of the current vogue for disillusion with Cuba among some intellectuals.</p> <p>Susan Sontag represents them on this film, talking of militarisation and, above all, the revolution's non-acceptance of homosexuality. Her criticism of the puritanism of Cuba will no doubt be popular among Western liberals, but, like this film, it is hardly relevant to the main issue.</p> <h3>Skull centre</h3> <p>SOLDIERS, skulls, and vultures are the dominant themes of Ugandan painting — not only from the years of Idi Amin. The Africa Centre in King Street, Covent</p>	 <p><i>The Puncture, by W. Sseremba</i></p> <p>Garden, has this week opened a month-long exhibition of paintings done by the Makerere University community of artists over the last 25 years. The brutality and corruption of military and civilian leaders depicted in these paintings have reduced Makerere to a shadow of what it was. The Africa Centre is organising the sale of pictures for a special Makerere art fund.</p>	<h2>Horse's mouth</h2> <p>A NEW generation of historians is starting to explore the relatively uncharted history of South Africa's unknown millions: the blacks who have made the country prosperous.</p> <p>Two books have just been published about a couple of those faceless millions. Both were gaolbirds and both have long since died, but their experiences explain much about South African history.</p> <p>One was accused of losing a horse belonging to his white master, even though it was not in his care. This incident forced him into flight, and a career in crime and resistance to white authority that has made him a legend. The other was accused of murder and sentenced to death: white waiting to be hanged he was converted to Christianity.</p> <p><i>The Small Matter of a Horse, by Charles van Onselen, and The Conversion, by Peter Delius, both published by Ravan Press, PO Box 31134, Braamfontein, Johannesburg.</i></p>
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