



■ There was a great revival of kite flying (yes, yes: the kind where you really use kites) on a recent homeward voyage of Edinburgh Castle. So much so that an inter-departmental kite flying contest was organised. Purser G. T. Dellar reports that it was considered a great success, except that most kites found it quite impossible to get airborne because of an almost complete lack of wind. Winners (seen at left) were the medical department, I. Reekie (surgeon) and V. Hannuett (nursing sister), with their lightweight special. Below: some of the competitors with their monster kites and imposing flying kit: (left to right) C. Loxton (fourth officer), D. Daly (third officer), B. Bougourd (chief officer), B. Gates (second officer), C. Dellar (purser), D. Chance (assistant purser) and A. Woodgate (second purser). Picture: ship's photographer, Edinburgh Castle.

begins in January. Although completed application forms for courses beginning in 1973 should have been received by the University by June 19, the University has indicated that it is prepared to consider forms received from merchant seafarers provided that they arrive before the end of August.

A free guide for applicants for undergraduate courses is available from The Admissions Officer, The Open University, PO Box 48, Bletchley, Bucks.

#### Marriage

Tam Robertson (first class second head waiter) on *Windor Castle* was married to Elaine de Vaux Wade at Newbury Register Office on Friday, March 24.

#### Birth

Congratulations to Thomas Petch (chief officer *Glan Maciver*) and his wife on the birth of a daughter Katherine Elise on February 26.



■ In *CLANSMAN* No. 13 we wrote briefly of Luigi Benedetti (first class assistant steward), who was featured by the South African newspaper columnist Mollie Reinhardt. Here—with chief purser W. J. Eastmond as his guest—he demonstrates the job he loves best: waiting. Born 1906 the son of a Scottish mother and Italian father, Luigi inherits his love of catering from his father, who was chef of the Braemar Castle in 1914, prepared a banquet for the then-young Winston Churchill (and gave the great man his recipe for Melton Mossbury Pie), and was buried at sea in the Gulf of Aden in 1926, from a P&O ship on which he had been chef. Luigi first went to sea in 1922 at the age of 16 and has worked in many famous hotels and ships: his flags included *White Star*, *Comard*, *US Lines*, and *Royal Mail* as well as *Union-Castle/Safmarine*. Between the wars he lived in Australia for a time, running a guest house, then went to the United States where (reports W. J. Eastmond)

(continued in column 3, p. 16)