phew...

Let's face it! March is hectic. Lulled into this false sense of contentment by sun, sand and seafood, we're then thrown back into the fray before we can even rinse the salt off. There are tutes to organise, accommodation to find, teams to register for, fitness levels to re-discover, deadlines to meet. I'm exhausted and it's only April. Still, Back Page waits for no woman and this month, we're revealing a few secrets about the new Multi Purpose Health & Recreation Centre, soon to envelop the Auchmuty Sports Centre. And remember, if it looks good on recycled paper, just wait til you drive it!

Lindy Burns

easter eca

Yes I know the semester feels like it's just begun but it's nearly Easter and over the break, five Uni teams will be competing at the ECG (Easter Conference Games, people) at UNE in Armidale. So, good luck to the men's and women's hockey teams, the men's and women's volleyball and the rugby league side.

water polo

The women's water polo team is off to the water polo ECG at University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury to try and qualify for the Australian Uni Games in Darwin later this year. They should achieve as the team won the AUC gold medal in '93 and the silver in Wollongong last year. Look out for a detailed story on the team's performance in the next issue of Van Gogh's Ear.

social sport

The long awaited social sporting season began last Wednesday week with a total of 28 teams competing in touch footie, netball and volleyball. Early season form belongs to Evatt House and PE in netball and inevitably PE in touch, but as we have the rest of the semester to go, we're sure that other outfits will begin to find some teamwork. More next issue...

inter-departmental sport

The inter-departmental cricket competition is into its second week (actually its third, by the time you read this) and some recent results included PE (of all people) losing on a forfeit to Wollotuka and Medicine defeating Aviation. Who says medicos don't have time to exercise? Meanwhile, in the inter-departmental tennis comp., it looks like PE and Architecture are the two teams to beat. The golfing version of this competition got underway on Friday 7th April so if you're a budding Ernie Els, drag that team together and grab your putters.

inter-collegiate sport

It's the most fiercely contested competition on campus; the inter-collegiate "we'll beat you at any sport you can name" war. It commenced two weeks ago with Edwards Hall (Teds) winning the Swimming Battle held at Wallsend Pool on 15th March. Since then, two cricket skirmishes and one softball duel have been decided with Edwards Hall ahead on points as of print-time. However, so that you can make sure that you catch all future conflicts, here's the inter-collegiate comp. calendar for the rest of the year. The perpetual trophy will be presented to the winning college at the Blues Dinner later this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29th Apr</td>
<td>10am Squash</td>
<td>Squash Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th Apr</td>
<td>10am Tennis</td>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th May</td>
<td>11am Rowing</td>
<td>Aquatic Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th May</td>
<td>5.30pm Rugby</td>
<td>Oval No 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th May</td>
<td>5.30pm Netball</td>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th May</td>
<td>11am Volleyball</td>
<td>Oval No 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th May</td>
<td>5.30pm Rugby</td>
<td>Oval No 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th May</td>
<td>5.30pm Netball</td>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd May</td>
<td>5.30pm Rugby</td>
<td>Oval No 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th May</td>
<td>5.30pm Netball</td>
<td>Tennis Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th Jul</td>
<td>5pm Touch</td>
<td>Oval No 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Jul</td>
<td>9am Golf</td>
<td>Steelworks G.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd Jul</td>
<td>11am Hockey</td>
<td>Oval No 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th Jul</td>
<td>5pm Touch</td>
<td>Oval No 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Aug</td>
<td>5pm Touch</td>
<td>Oval No 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Aug</td>
<td>11am Basketball</td>
<td>Broadmeadow Stad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th Aug</td>
<td>11am Soccer</td>
<td>Ray Watt Oval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th Aug</td>
<td>12noon Campus Scamper</td>
<td>Oval No 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ultimate college man...
a new home (for only several million dollars)

We've been talking about it for so long, you might be starting to doubt our intentions but politicians we are not; the new Multi Purpose Health and Recreation Centre is on its way. In fact, the call has already gone out for expressions of interest from companies wishing to tender for its construction. These submissions were due on 22nd February so the call for official tenders is imminent. And occupancy is scheduled for... wait for it... late '96!

I know she only looks 18 but the Auchmuty Sports Centre is almost 20 years old and given the dramatic increase in the number of students and staff since its construction, the Sports Union has, naturally, been keen to improve the sporting facilities on campus for over 10 years now. The task to find the right concept design was rather tortuous as the Sports Union knew it was setting in train the master plan for sporting facilities on campus for the next 30 years or so. The final concept design was developed by Sydney architects, Gazzard Sheldon but over 70 initial proposals were received by the Sports Union when the call first went out. These 72 proposals were eventually short-listed to just three with these being chosen to submit preliminary designs to a Project Design Committee chaired by former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Carter. Gazzard Sheldon were then asked to embellish their initial design and come up with a master plan for the physical development of the University’s sporting facilities over a number of stages. No small task, as this included an academic teaching building for the Physical and Health Education Department, a large multi-purpose sports hall and associate spaces, a 50 metre indoor heated swimming pool, pavilions for Ovals 2 & 3 containing change rooms, toilets and clubrooms, a new dedicated baseball field, the relocation of the tractor shed and maintenance depot and construction of a large storage garage for ski-boats, vehicles, canoes, kayaks, trailers, sailboards, hang gliders and other equipment.

Gazzard Sheldon's master plan and report has been refined many times since then but the University is now ready to begin construction of the first three stages of the project. Indeed, with the University's involvement, the project's stage development has been accelerated so that at completion, we will have facilities that were not expected to be completed before 2005!

The new complex will eventually envelop the Auchmuty Sports Centre with the main building containing:

- a 50 metre, 8 lane, indoor, heated swimming pool ranging from 1.1 to 1.8 metres in depth
- office space for first aid, pool attendant and manager
- circuit room
- general weights room
- heavy weights room
- seminar / small class room
- meeting room
- shop & cafeteria
- club room
- fitness assessment room
- three basketball courts (including the already existing Auchmuty hall) & spectator seating for over 250 people
- climbing chimney (wait 'till you see this!)
- change rooms and toilets

1st Floor
- sport and recreation offices / sports union offices
- health clinic for physiotherapy & massage
- aerobics hall
- martial arts / dance hall
- additional change rooms and toilets

In addition, the Physical and Health Education complex will be built alongside comprising:

Basement level
- change rooms and toilets

Ground floor
- fitness laboratory
- computer room
- three seminar rooms
- two large lecture theatres
- stores room

1st floor
- office accommodation for academic and administrative staff of the Dept of Physical and Health Education

Unfortunately, there's a down side as the Auchmuty Sports Centre is expected to be out of action for 18 months during construction with the Sports Union faced with the difficult task of relocating equipment and activities currently located there.
Part of the draft design for the new Multi Purpose Health & Recreation Centre showing the ground level plan for both buildings. (see description, page 2)
Monday 27th March saw over 40 competitors take part in the aerobathon. These masochists endured over 1.5 hours of step, hi impact, new body and floor exercises, all because it was free!!! Seriously, this was a good chance for beginners to find out more about the different types of classes and learn a little about their own level of fitness.

So, for those of you who discovered that you like having someone shout at you over very loud music, here's your weekly aerobic timetable...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30am</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>New Body</td>
<td>HiLo</td>
<td>Total Sculpt</td>
<td>X-Train</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>New Body</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>X-Train</td>
<td>Step Intro</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>Step</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm</td>
<td>Hi Super Step</td>
<td>HiLo</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>New Body</td>
<td>Step</td>
<td>New Body</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
<td>Circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Club</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: all 12 noon classes are held in the Hunter Gymnasium (Physical Ed. Building). The rest are in the Auchmuty Sports Centre.

forward planning

To help you plan your sporting calendar for the next few weeks, here are some up & coming events that you should keep in mind...

14 - 21 April Semester I recess
14 - 17 April Orienteering AUC (host: QUT)
18 - 21 April Table Tennis AUC (host: UNE)
14 - 18 April Sport & Rec office closed (Easter)
23 April Triathlon ECG (host: Coffs Harbour)
26 April Colours Committee (Bradford Lounge)
2 May Blues AGM (Bradford Lounge)
6 - 7 May Fencing ECG (host: UTS)
10 May Sports Union AGM (Great Hall)

orienteering

Commerce student, Anthony Darr, will represent the Uni at the forthcoming Orienteering AUC being held in Brisbane during Easter vacation. An accomplished performer in the sport (top 10 in NSW), Anthony is also an active member of the mountaineering club and was part of the team that won the Campus Scamper teams event in 1993 so we're expecting a good result from Anthony in Queensland. (No pressure there, of course!)

new staff on the block

They're new and they're ready to help you. Lisa Bradley and Craig Buckles have recently joined the Sport & Rec. staff. Both can be found in the Sport & Rec. office with Lisa working in reception and Craig filling the role of Finance Officer, replacing Lorna Beck. Some further staff gossip is that Sharon Potter from Reception has left to have her second baby. Congratulations Sharon!

sevens tournaments

The rugby league club were up and running pretty early this year, competing in a sevens tournament on 19th February at Burleigh Sportsground in Wollongong. A squad of 13 players were selected and produced some fine sevens football. Drawn against the Illawarra's wealthiest district club, West Wollongong, they narrowly lost a game that went into extra time, 18 - 14. The next match, against UTS however, was won 22 - 14 but the opportunity to make the quarter finals had been lost in the Westie game. According to the club's PR officer, Lucky Carathanassis, the team endeared itself not only to the 3,000 strong crowd but also to a variety of Wollongong watering holes the previous evening. Priorities, fella, priorities!

Not to be outdone, the other rugby code held its own sevens tournament on 19th March. This was essentially a social day involving several teams from within the University and was open to all staff and students. The main Newcastle season, however, got underway on 1st April with Uni scoring a good win over Tech. College. Up and coming games are scheduled against Wanderers on the 8th (home) and Merewether Carlton on the 15th (away).