Council condemns Minister for amalgamation bill

A special meeting of Council of the University on March 20 condemned the New South Wales Minister for Education, Dr Metherell, for his proposed legislation to provide for the amalgamation of the University, the Hunter Institute of Higher Education and the Newcastle Branch of the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music.

Special meetings of Senate and the Joint Committee of the Councils of the University and the Hunter Institute were held on the same day.

Dr Metherell's draft legislation, among other things, effects a marked reduction in the representation of staff and students on the Council of the amalgamated University.

Following the Council meeting, the Chancellor, Justice Elizabeth Evatt, issued a statement to the Press opposing the draft bill.

Previously, the Chancellors of all seven New South Wales universities had repeated their concern at the draft bills for the restructuring of higher education in New South Wales.

At the special Council meeting, the following resolution, passed by the special Senate meeting, was approved:

**Council**

(i) notes the consistently stated view of Senate and Council that legislation to allow for amalgamation should proceed by amendment of the University of Newcastle Act (1964).

(ii) condemns Dr Metherell for presenting draft legislation enabling amalgamation which

- repeals the University of Newcastle Act (1964),
- changes drastically the composition and representative nature of Council,
- repeals the By-laws of the University of Newcastle,
- empowers the Minister to appoint the entire membership of the Interim Council (other than Executive Officers of Institutions), which will be in existence for up to one year, and
- empowers an Interim Council appointed by the Minister to determine the composition of the Senate of the amalgamated University.

(iii) requests the Vice-Chancellor to bring the views stated above to the attention of the Minister.

A resolution from Senate that the University withdraw from any amalgamation carried out under the draft legislation was not passed.

Council said it vigorously opposed the Government's proposals for the reconstruction of the University of Newcastle, because they failed to ensure academic independence and standards, democracy in university governments and continuity in governments.

Council outlined the need for academic staff to have a significant role in the governance of the University.

It was noted that the draft legislation failed to ensure democracy of government, and Council's advice to the Minister would include an increase in numbers of elected members rather than ministerial appointments. Under the Government's proposal, the proportion of elected members will be reduced.

Council resolved to argue strenuously for a democratic council, which would include an increase in representatives from the student body and non-academic staff.

In the specific case of amalgamation affecting the University of Newcastle, Council condemned the provisions in the draft legislation which repeal the University of Newcastle Act, 1964 and repeal the By-laws of the University.

Council also called for a concerted campaign by the universities in New South Wales, aimed at the acceptance by the New South Wales Government, of legislation satisfactory to the continuing autonomy of universities.

Judge Evatt said in her public statement that the need for the highest academic standards and for the maintenance of academic independence hardly needed to be argued. They were the life and breath of a University; they gave meaning to the concept of a university - a fellowship of people dedicated to the preservation, advancement and dissemination of knowledge.

To ensure that these principles are maintained, the academic staff should be given a significant role in the governance of the University. Under the proposals, their representation has shrunk from five out of 27 to one out of 16 (a reduction from 18.5 per
Another principle which has become an established and valued aspect of universities is that of democracy in its governance. This requires that membership of governing bodies include a significant number of elected members and that each significant element in the University is represented by elected members.

Newcastle University now has 16 elected members out of 27 (59 per cent). Under the proposals this proportion of elected members will drop from 59 per cent to 43 per cent (7 out of 16), whereas the Ministerial appointees will increase from 30 per cent (8 out of 27) to 43 per cent (7 out of 16) of the Council when the Government paper itself stressed the need for a substantial reduction in the number of ministerial appointments.

This erosion of democracy is compounded by the reduction in the number of student representatives and the failure to provide any representation at all for non-academic staff. Newcastle University will argue strenuously for a more democratically elected Council.

The Chancellor said that at a time of significant change it was important that there be some continuity in management.

However, the Bill provides for an Interim Council of 18, with 15 of these positions to be Government appointments. No undertaking has been given that any existing Council members will be appointed, or that the persons appointed will include any of the existing Council members who have been elected by the various groups which constitute the University. The University insists that assurances be given on this issue and that the Interim Council operate for the shortest possible time.

The number stipulated by the Government for the permanent Council — 16 — did not allow for adequate representation of all the different elements which make up a University — those who had current or past connections with the University, the local community and the wider community of New South Wales and Australia.

The University has proposed a Council of 22 members, which it believes is the minimum to ensure this representation. However, it should be stressed that it is not just the total number which is objectionable, but also the balance of representation.

The Chancellor added that even if the Council were required to be less than 20, it would still insist on at least three to four academic staff, two students and two general staff.

At the annual general meeting of the Staff Association on March 14, five Executive motions relating to the proposed legislation for amalgamation were put to the meeting.

In the first motion, which condemned the actions of the Minister for Education, Dr Metherell, Dr P. Hempenstall argued that decentralisation would lead to a less efficient institution.

The second motion, which condemned and rejected the proposed University of Newcastle Act (1989), was considered by Professor Frank Bates as 'unsatisfactory as a legal document'.

His concerns centred around the lack of proper representation on the University Council, the restriction of Council members to eminent and external persons as Chancellor and the undue haste in which the document was prepared.

He said the proposed Act was 'inconsistent, shoddy, anti-democratic and tendentious'.

The third motion, which originally proposed to censure the Vice-Chancellor, was amended to expressing no confidence in the Vice-Chancellor.

Several academics argued that the Vice-Chancellor had not been taking the staff's cause to the Government.

The fourth motion set out the Association's belief that all members of Senate, apart from necessary ex-officio members and student representatives, be elected from an electorate consisting of all full-time members of academic staff.

The final motion directed that these motions be transmitted in the appropriate fashion.

All motions were carried by the meeting.

A number of members urged caution in the Association's actions.

Dr Howard Bridgman, of the Department of Geography, said that decisions should not be emotion-charged and he was concerned over the distancing of the Vice-Chancellor by the Staff Association.

Speaking prior to the Executive motions Professor Ronald MacDonald expressed concern over the size of the proposed new Senate saying that wider membership was needed.

He also expressed concern over an interim council deciding new laws and by-laws for the amalgamated body.

Professor recognised by University Council

Professor of Metallurgy until he retired last December, Professor Eric Hall, has been made Professor Emeritus in recognition of his service to the University.

Professor Hall was added to the University's Professors Emeriti by the Council. He had more than 30 years at the University, commencing his service at Tighes Hill College as Assoc. Professor and Head of the Division of Applied Sciences. Professor Hall was appointed to his Chair in 1963.

The University's Professors Emeriti list now embodies the names of 22 former Professors. The first to receive the honour was the late Kelver Hartley, Professor French, who retired in 1969.

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IT COSTS $300 PER DAY!

We are only a few weeks into term and already video and projector equipment in Theatres B01 and V07 have been the subject of considerable maintenance costs.

WHY?

Staff are leaving lecture theatres without ensuring that expensive equipment is turned off.

RESULT:

Equipment is overheating and dies 30 minutes into the next lecture leaving staff and students frustrated and annoyed.

Please consider your colleagues and make sure all equipment is turned off before leaving the lecture theatres.

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Union Board elections

Nominations for election as members of the Board of Management of the Union will close on April 12.

Voting will take place in the Union Foyer/Secondhand Bookshop from April 17 to 21.

The annual general meeting of the Union will be held in the Courtyard of the Union at 1 pm on April 27.
Exchange students from Kumamoto University in Japan are visiting the University again. Naoko Ninomiya, Naoko Kitazato, Junko Kadono and Kyoko Veda, pictured above, are studying English as a second language, Linguistics, French and German and helping the Japanese Section to contend with increased student intake by acting as Tutors.

The Head of the Japanese Section, Assoc. Professor K. Ono, said the exchange scheme with Kumamoto had proved to be a great success in terms of academic pursuits. The University of Newcastle had sent eight students to Kumamoto in the past. Out of these, two are now full-time Tutors in Japanese at the University, two are pursuing MA studies in Japanese and two are enrolled in Japanese IV," he said.

'At least two of those who have come to the University from Kumamoto are now lecturers in English at Japanese universities.'

A spokesperson for the staff, Mr Alan Richards, said several retailers who donated goods towards the stall deserved a special 'thank-you'. They are: Candy Cane. Mr Ron Thomas, butcher. The Junction, and Mr Ross Campbell, fruiterer. Charlestown.

Mr Michael McKenzie donated $30 to the Telethon as a result of collecting cans at the Orientation Ball.

Next, the Union staff will support the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal. Mr Richards has asked members of staff not to dump their rubbish. If staff call him at the Union (Extension 442) he will collect it.

Pinter in Green

The Drama Department's production of The Basement, by Harold Pinter, runs in the Green Room of the Great Hall from April 11 to 13. On April 11, there will be a performance at 1 pm. But on April 12 and 13, the play will be presented at 1 pm and 8 pm. Admission costs $1.

Rodney Battle is the director.
‘Suppression of the University’s autonomy’

The Convocations of the University and the Hunter Institute also held crisis meetings on the draft legislation for amalgamation.

Standing Committee of Convocation of the University expressed its extreme dissatisfaction with the unjust time constraints placed by Dr Metherell and condemned the Minister for his attempt to remove full democratic representation within the University by his proposed changes to the composition of the University’s Council.

Moreover, Standing Committee of Convocation rejected the suppression of the University’s autonomy through the unnecessary repeated of the original University Act and condemned the reduction of representation on Council of academic and general staff and students and the establishment of an Interim Council with powers to govern without by-laws.

The Liaison Committee between the Convocations passed a number of motions on the proposed drastic reduction in the numbers on the governing body, including:

- There should be at least two representatives each from the academic staff and the students of the University on the Council, not one as proposed by the draft legislation, and at least two representatives from the University’s general staff.
- We reaffirm that there should be the widest possible representation of the community and all sections of the University on the Council.
- We strongly support the comments of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Morgan, that there are ‘sound organisational reasons why a Council of 16 presents problems, notably the burdens placed on the members, especially lay-members, who may have other demands on their time.’
- We strongly oppose the restriction placed on the election of Chancellor under the new legislation. The Chancellor should be elected from outside the Council or within the Council, and
- We urge the Minister that the existing by-laws of the three (3) institutions, the University, the Hunter Institute and the Newcastle Conservatorium, be carried forward into the new Act with the Interim Council having the power to resolve anomalies if any arise.

Central Coast campus commemorated by tree planting ceremony

The New South Wales Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Dr Terry Metherell, planted a tree on the site of the Central Coast’s first university campus at Ourimbah on March 22.

The site will be the first in Australia to combine both a University and a TAFE College.

Dr Metherell said the combined facility was designed to maximise the use of resources and to serve the educational needs of the Central Coast, which is projected to grow by 100,000 people in the next decade.

The ceremony was attended by senior officials of the University, the Hunter Institute, TAFE, the Central Coast Tertiary College Action Committee, local government representatives, parliamentarians and other interested parties.

Trees were also planted by Professor Keith Morgan, Dr Doug Huxley, the Member for the Entrance, Mr Bob Graham, and the Assistant Director-General of TAFE, Mr Greg Woodburne.

The 80-hectare site is opposite Ourimbah Oval. Plans for buildings will be on the drawing board next year, with construction expected to start in early 1992.

Responsibility for the development of the tertiary component has been assigned to the Deputy Principal of the Institute, Dr Les Eastcott.

Dr Eastcott said that between 70 and 80 part-time students could be enrolled in a second semester intake on the Central Coast campus but that this would depend on whether temporary accommodation for academic purposes would become available. Research had shown that there was a strong demand for postgraduate courses in education as well as courses in Business, the Arts, Pol stud and Education.

Drama Studio to show Strindberg

The Ghost Sonata, which will run for a season in the Drama Studio, has been called ‘one of the most important dramas of the early twentieth century’.

It was written by August Strindberg in 1907 and is a ‘chamber play’ designed to be presented in Strindberg’s intimate theatre in Stockholm.

The principal roles are played by Brendan Strahan (The Old Man), Martin Davies (The Student), Patrice Wilson (The Mummy) and Lucy Skidbeck (The Daughter).

The season: April 18, 19, 21 and 22 (6 pm), April 19 (5 pm), April 26, 28 and 29 (6 pm). Admission is by donation.

For seat reservations please telephone Extension 705 during office hours.
UN enrolments reach a record high

Preliminary enrolment figures given to Senate indicate that there has been a marked increase in undergraduate enrolments at the University this year.

By March 29, when Senate held its monthly meeting, the total number of enrolments had reached 6,835. Last year, total student numbers were 6,375 — the previous record.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor K. Morgan, told Senate that the University had expected an estimated 2,780 new students to enrol. By March 21, the University had enrolled 2,729 new students and this figure was still rising.

He said the figure for re-enrolling students was greater than had been expected.

It had been assumed that the HECS, or graduate tax, would cause the enrolment to fall this year.

However, the figures indicated that more people had been encouraged to enrol, with an increased number of students enrolling full-time to try to finish their studies quicker.

Professor Morgan said he was concerned because the burden which large lecture sizes placed on the departments was greater than had been expected.

New University art venture

The University recently launched an exciting new venture which aims at bringing to Newcastle types of art not generally accessible to Novocastrians.

The venture is to host three art exhibitions this year with educational and aesthetic appeal. The commissions from sales going to the University to further its collection of art works.

The first exhibition was held from March 17 to 22 and was a resounding success. It was a joint venture between the University and two Sydney galleries, Galleries Primitif and Holdsworth Gallery. Mrs. Senta Hendry, of Galleries Primitif, provided the professional co-ordination and expertise needed to mount the exhibition.

The first exhibition was of Eskimo art, consisting of 70 pieces of sculpture, prints, lithographs and material of considerable value. All the works on display were of the early period of post-European influence (the 1960s). The exhibition was officially opened on the Friday evening, with Anne van Bertouch as guest speaker. Visitors were treated to not only a feast of Eskimo art but to smoked salmon, cheeses and wine, generously donated by Tyrrell's Vineyard.

Educationally, the exhibition was a wonderful success, because of the obvious stimulation which the art collection generated in the 400-odd visitors to the exhibition. Most people took a couple of hours to study the

Quakers on the campus

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) holds meetings in the Michael Nelson Room in the Union every Thursday at Noon. Quakers have no common creed and no paid ministry. Since their first appearance in the mid-seventeenth century, they have been consistently in the forefront of spiritual enquiry and social reform.

Worship is usually conducted in silence, unless one of those present (of any age and sex) is moved to minister. If you would like to find out more about the Quakers, please get in touch with one of:

John Rodger (Biological Sciences), Jean Talbot (Community Programmes) or Norman Talbot (English).

1989 GRADUATION DINNER DANCES

on

Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13, 7 for 7.30 pm, in the University Union

Three-course dinner (vegetarians catered for)

Drinks

Dance to live music by Rod Knight and the Cool Dudes

Tickets: $20

Available (in advance only) from Ms Nicolette Connon, Convocation Officer, telephone: 69 5370
Letters to the Editor

1,001 First Year Mathematics students

Dear Sir,

Mathematics has, for the first time, broken through the 1,000 Barrier for enrolments of students in First Year Mathematics courses.

This number, equivalent to 250 EFTSU, should entitle the Department of Mathematics to more than 16 members of staff engaged fully on teaching Mathematics students in First Year courses alone, on the student/staff ratio of 15:1.

The Department has to have Tutors for 47 tutorial groups in First Year and has had to recruit widely for part-time Tutors, even from its own Third Year students. At the moment, more groups are in operation than the budgeted yearly part-time money allows.

But the Department also has more than 100 EFTSU in Second Year Mathematics. Class sizes have grown and tutorial assistance for Second Year classes has been drastically reduced, with most Second Year tutorial groups operating on the basis of one tutor to a class of 50 students. The Department also has more than 28 EFTSU in Third Year Mathematics courses.

However, currently the Department has 15 and-a-half full-time academic staff. The Chair of Mathematics has been vacant since December, 1986, and there is little prospect of it being filled in 1989. During 1988, two staff resigned and three were given early voluntary retirement, but from February, 1989, we gained two Lecturers, a Senior Tutor, a Tutor and a Teaching Assistant. A Senate document circulating in 1988 pointed out that, on the basis of our student numbers at that time, and, on a 15:1 student/staff ratio, we should have 21 academic staff.

Many members of the academic staff have ARC Research Grants and the Department is supervising four doctoral students. Average class contact is 10 and-a-half hours a week and most have two evenings of classes which normally finish at 8 or 9 pm; all have massive marking loads.

The Department has two full-time Secretaries and one half-time Administrative Assistant. Perhaps, much of this year the time of one Secretary and the Administrative Assistant will be occupied with the administration and production of teaching materials for First Year. At present, this administrative burden is being supported by members of the academic staff.

From an examination of the balance sheet of HECS income from students of the Department of Mathematics, say, 440 EFTSU, set against the salary costs of the Department and the recurrent grant, it is clear that the Department of Mathematics and its current activities can be financed entirely from the HECS amounts. But, the Minister claims that HECS's reclaims only 20 per cent of the public moneys spent.

A milestone in the development of the Department of Mathematics has been reached with our 1,001 students in First Year. But, with the 440 EFTSU figure and a student staff ratio of 15:1, the Department should have 29 full-time academic staff, which is nearly twice its present number. So, the concern of the teaching staff of the Department is that at the same time as we are expanding we are undergoing a serious deterioration in the teaching services which we have built up with such care over the years.

John Giles, Associate Professor, Mathematics.

Dear Sir,

Academics are, for the most part, a conservative lot and Newcastle University must be one of the most conservative. Passing a censure motion against the Minister for Education and a vote of no confidence in the Chief Executive of the University are very drastic steps to take. What can have led such an essentially conservative group of people to take such a serious step?

These actions, I believe, arise from the feeling of powerlessness and the growing conviction (among academics) of being exploited. There is almost a nightmare quality about academic life at present — like something out of Kafka. We have endured benighted governments before, but usually there has been one branch of government which has appeared to understand the importance of academic freedom and independence and the value of education.

The nightmare quality of the current situation is that there is a bi-partisan devaluing of education. The State Government's draconian proposals are in the spirit of the Dawkins Green Paper, with its political directive, supported by thin and spurious arguments, to turn education over to the short-term demands of industry and the money markets. Dr Metherell's restructured Council will be merely an arm of the party in power, with minimal staff and student representation and a Chancellor plucked out of its depleted and politically contrived ranks. All the democratic changes in university government won by the Staff Association in the 1980s would be lost.

If the analogy with Kafka seems too extreme, then the analogy with Disraeli's Two Nations certainly is not. As the number of academic staff shrinks, there appears to be a corresponding increase in the numbers of administrative staff. While the working conditions of academics deteriorate, the upper echelons of Administration dwell in enhanced, seemingly unaware, uncaring, and compliant to government demands and handing out directives to already over-worked and exploited departments like my own, which has been told to raise arbitrary funds and, without any consultation, move to even more cramped rooms, to be replaced probably by the HECS team (four administrative staff put on to run the graduate tax scheme), or perhaps the Equity Team (and who could object to that)?

Throughout the University, staff teach increasingly large numbers of students, work increasingly long hours, obeying the dictum to publish or perish, they want to compete in the depleted job market, or hazard the chance of increasingly unlikely promotion only to be punished by governments. No wonder then that morale is at an all-time low and that hard-working staff finally felt sufficiently alienated to say 'enough's enough'.

Margaret Henry,
Department of Community Programmes.

Dear Sir,

I take this opportunity to thank the Staff Development Officer for having supported my participation in the Women in Management Workshop held recently at Hawks Nest.

The weekend included sessions on a number of interesting topics, such as Sport, Fitness and
Leisure Time Activities, conducted by Professor Saxon White, which helped to explain why some women do not like to participate in group fitness and sport programs; Assertiveness and Optimism Performance, conducted by Ms Marla Charlton, who considered the art of listening, selective ignoring, working through issues and looking at career options and how to become promotable; Effective Negotiation Skills, conducted by Olivia Fenlon, which discussed the art of negotiation (by way of compromise and consensus) and how to effectively use communication skills, plus learning how to adapt our attitude towards stress-producing situations and an Introductory session on Tai Chi, conducted by Mr Ken Pearsall, which informed participants about the gentle exercise which uses body movements to relieve tension, stress and pain.

Let me say that some people were sceptical about the benefits of the weekend workshop. However, the scepticism had certainly vanished by the time the activities were concluded.

I have returned to work resolved to put into practice many of the lessons I have learned. (Watch out John!)

I am writing this letter mainly to encourage members of the general staff to attend any, or all, of the courses provided in the Staff Development Program. You can only benefit from it.

Jinda Aurelius,
Information Unit.

Tighes Hill graduate wins Gold Medal

A Science graduate from 'the Tighes Hill days' has won Convocation's second Gold Medal for Professional Excellence.

Research Professor in Physics at the Boston College in the United States, Dr Robert Eather, won the medal for his contribution to research in Auroral Physics in the Antarctic and the Arctic.

He has been awarded the Polar Medal by Queen Elizabeth II, the Antarctic Medal by the USA National Science Foundation and has a mountain, Mt. Eather, in the Prince Charles Mountains, Antarctica, named after him.

His polar research has continued over 24 years and has concentrated on optical and spectroscopic studies of the light emission associated with aurora which has led to 54 publications in international scientific journals.

Dr Eather’s fascination with the aurora has also led to recognition in the areas of photography, film-making and writing.

He is recognised as the world’s foremost photographer of aurora and has provided photographs and films to many publications including The New York Times, The National Geographic, Readers Digest and CBS and NBC Television News.


After Dr Eather left Newcastle, he gained a PhD and DSc from the University of New South Wales. His PhD thesis topic was The Role of Protons in Auroral Phenomena.

His fascination for aurora began when he spent a year at an Australian Base in the Antarctic in 1963 where he helped to establish a new auroral observatory. He saw his first spectacular aurora during that visit in March, 1963.

Dr Eather has also worked at Rice University, Houston, Texas, and Palo Alto Research Laboratory, California.

He has carried out research for NASA, the Lockheed Missiles and Space Co., and The US National Science Foundation.

He has produced educational films including an historic first colour filming of the aurora boreals.

Dr Eather is a keen sportsman and has represented the USA at squash.

When he received news of his award in Boston this week, Dr Eather said he was ‘grateful and very proud’.

Dr Eather said he would be re-visiting Newcastle later this year and he hoped to be able to meet and talk to people on the University campus about his work.

Student cyclist crushed by truck

Mr Kenneth Jolley, a student in Psychology, is in Royal Newcastle Hospital recovering from injuries received when a semi-trailer knocked him off his bicycle in Hunter Street West, Newcastle, and crushed him. Assoc. Professor Colin Keay has appealed to students who saw the accident to get in touch with him so he can give information to Mr Jolley’s mother.

The accident happened on March 21 at approximately 11.30 pm.
Influenza Vaccine Trial

The 1989 Influenza Vaccine Trial will be the seventh conducted by the Faculty of Medicine.

Volunteers taking part must be more than 18 years of age, healthy males or females (not pregnant) and have no allergies to eggs/chicken products.

The trial's requirements are to give two 10 ml of blood samples and receive an influenza vaccine (the same as supplied to general practitioners for public use).

Volunteers will be paid $25 on the completion of the second visit.

The details are:

First Visit
April 11, 12 & 13, 11 am to 2 pm, Room 212 Medical Sciences Building.
April 18 & 19, 11 am to 2 pm, HIHE Cafeteria and April 20, Noon to 1.30 pm, Room 206, David Maddison Building.

Second Visit
May 16, 17 & 18, 11 am to 2 pm, Room 212 Medical Sciences Building.
May 23 & 24, 11 am to 2 pm, HIHE Cafeteria and
May 25, Noon to 1.30 pm, Room 206 David Maddison Building.

Those who receive a vaccine (75 per cent) could, of course, be protected against influenza this winter.

AIDAB staff

Ms Norah Taylor, AIDAB Social Worker, and Ms Rosemary Kenza, AIDAB Training Liaison Officer, will be visiting the University on Tuesday, April 11, and will be located in the Careers and Student Employment Office (temporary buildings).

Norah will be available to see any AIDAB or private subsidised overseas students regarding any personal, health, legal or other problems that may be affecting their studies (interviews are confidential).

Rosemary would like to see all AIDAB students regarding their academic progress. For appointments please put your name down in advance on Norah's and/or Rosemary's appointment lists held in the Careers Office.

AIDAB is the overseas aid unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has a welfare responsibility for AIDAB and private subsidised overseas students.

LIBRARY ROUND-UP

Xu Jia-hua recently arrived in Newcastle from the People's Republic of China to spend a year working in the Auchmuty Library to widen his experience in librarianship.

The University Librarian, Mr Bill Linklater, recently spent a week in Thailand as part of his role in the International Development Program of Australian Universities and Colleges. He was one of three Australian librarians who conducted a workshop on library computer networking at Chiang Mai University, in collaboration with Thai librarians. Bill has been library consultant for Thailand since 1983, with responsibility for core library programs at a number of Thai universities.

These entailed the supply of library materials, the arrangement of visiting assignments for Australian librarians and study visits by Thai librarians to Australia.

The result has been a significant development in audio-visual services, collection management, library automation and the upgrading of library staff. Extensive goodwill has been built up towards Australia in Thai educational institutions.

Although the core library programs for Thailand are being terminated, Bill will continue to play a role in future IDP assistance to Thai libraries. He has also accepted the position of Senior Consultant responsible for library programs in Indonesia and will be embarking on a two-week tour of familiarisation later in the year.

A decision has yet to be made about responsibility for the Phillipines, which was handled by Ted Flowers until his retirement. Bill's experience with Asian educational institutions will be of considerable benefit to the University as we increasingly market our services overseas and he has already been appointed IDP Liaison Officer on this campus.

Jim Cleary and Elisabeth Guiford
Amalgamation

The PSA Workplace Groups from the University and the HIHE held a joint meeting on amalgamation on March 17. The Vice-Chancellor of the University and Principal of the Institute were present for part of the meeting and answered questions from members.

In spite of assurances expressed by Professor Morgan and Dr Huxley on union participation, there are, it seems, several areas which need to be closely monitored. For example, the only Amalgamation Working Group currently supplying unions with documenta-

tion is the Industrial Relations Working Group, indicating that the Administration believes union members need only be involved with 'industrial relations' aspects of amalgamation. The PSA's Management Committee believes that members can contribute constructively to such other areas as Administrative Structures and Student Services.

The meeting passed the following resolutions:

That the PSA

- totally rejects the proposed size and composition of the amalgamated University of Newcastle Council;
- strongly opposes the proposed reduction in staff and student representation on the proposed new Council;
- totally rejects the proposed elimination of general staff representation on the proposed Council;
- protests the relatively greater proportion of the proposed Council being taken up by Ministerial appointments;
- protests strongly that the Chancellor of the amalgamated University be appointed from members of the University Council;
- totally rejects the proposed Interim Council and proposes that the Joint Committee of existing Councils form the Interim Council;
- demands the existing By-laws of the three institutions be saved until new By-laws are drafted and enacted;
- seeks a commitment from the management of the three institutions (University, HIHE and the Conservatorium) to implement a program of industrial democracy and consulta-

tion with this Union, as indicated in the guidelines developed under the 1986 National Accord and laid down in the Federal Government's policy for industrial democracy.

- demands that the protection afforded to staff of the Institute and Conservatorium by Clause 31 of the Miscellaneous Bill on their transfer to the University be extended to continuing staff of the current University.
- The Amalgamation Implementation Committee be requested to co-opt representatives of the PSA Workplace Groups of the University and the HIHE to the Legislative Working Group for the duration of the Group's deliberation on new By-laws for the combined institution.
- that the Legislative Working Group be requested to conduct an open meeting as soon as possible to enable staff to contribute to deliberations.

Reclassification Committee

Two meetings have been held to date to firm up guidelines for the committee which was established under the 1985 4 per cent agreement. Last year's round of applications have proved a valuable mechanism for sifting out common problems in the area of staff reclassification. Further negotiations are to continue.

PSA/Management Consultative Committee

Matters to be discussed at the next meeting will include: internal advertising of vacancies, general staff appraisal system, review of flexitime, clerical/keyboard integration, freeze on general staff positions.

S. McDonald, Chairperson and G. Davies, Hon. Secretary.

AWEUN a.g.m.

The Association of Women Employees at the University of Newcastle (AWEUN) will hold its annual general meeting at 12.30 pm on Friday, April 21 in the Group Room, University Counselling Service, Courtyard Level, Auchmuty Library.

Come along with your new ideas and energy!

VACANCY

CENTRAL COAST CAMPUS

Campus Manager and Program Co-ordinator

(Position No. A42/89)

Applications are invited for appointment to the post of Campus Manager and Program Coordinator. Central Coast Campus. The post will be at the level of Senior Lecturer and it is envisaged that the person appointed will be seconded from his/her present post for a period of three years. The position is a joint appointment to the University of Newcastle and the Hunter Institute of Higher Education.

Essential Qualifications:

- Postgraduate qualifications with a specialisation in an area relevant to courses in Administration, the Arts including the Social Sciences, Business and Education.
- Administrative experience, preferably at a tertiary level.
- Teaching experience, preferably at a tertiary level.
- Ability to communicate effectively with academic and general staff as well as with the local community.

Desirable:

- Evidence of involvement in research, development of consultative activity.
- Experience in a developing organisation.

Further particulars are available from the University Staff Office and potential applicants are encouraged to contact Dr L. Eastcott, telephone (049) 68 7311. Applications close April 14, 1989.

General Information: Applications in duplicate should be addressed to the Staff Office, The University of Newcastle, NSW 2308. Equity of employment opportunity is University and Institute policy.

Places available for volleyball players

The Staff Keep Fit Volleyball Group, which plays in the Auchmuty Sports Centre on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from Noon to 1 pm, is short of a few players. Interested in fun game of volleyball? If so, roll up on these days.
The Drama Department's first offering for 1989 was Magic Afternoon, an Australian play about a few young people in the late 1960s. Their counterparts exist today: They express their individuality by dressing alike (black leather, black denim, carefully unkept hair). They 'reject rules' but live by a stringent code that demands promiscuity and drugs. They sneer at the lack of individuality in 'straight' society, but surround themselves with an equally rigidly defined environment: rock music, knee-deep litter and, of course, black candles.

In the course of Magic Afternoon, a character comments that he feels as if he inhabits a Tennessee Williams play. There are similarities: lives wasted in narcissism, bent on destruction of self and others. There are women who choose to be victimised by brutal men sublimating their homosexuality.

But Williams' characters reveal the histories that draw them to the crises around which his plays develop. Wolfgang Bauer's four lost souls tell us nothing of their origins and little of their pasts. They exist only in the Now, where their goal is 'to do as little as possible as fast as possible'. The twin goals lead to joyless sex, pointless violence, intoxication without exhilaration. Even the 'perfect woman doesn't DO anything; she's just there'.

Director David Berthold maintains an unrelenting pace; even the pauses are like held breaths. He works his cast ruthlessly and extracts solid performances from them: Tony Anthony, Rebecca Brandon, Martin Davies and Patrice Wilson. All were very good.

The director's notes say the playwright's 'aim is to provide people with an image of themselves so that they can clarify their position in society and take steps to change the order of things, if that is what is needed'. However, those of us outside the milieu the play depicts will find the wastefulness of this nihilism baffling.

Magic Afternoon is a disturbing play, providing much food for thought and discussion. This first-ever Australian production of Bauer's 1967 Austrian drama is strong stuff, well done.

Dorrit Nesmith

Lipstick Dreams is an apt title for Helen O'Connor's and Simon Hopkinson's play which involves four women. The action is set in a small country town somewhere in New South Wales. Makeup and hairdos, like the talent quest in which the women take part, help you to pretend that your environment isn't as stultifying as it seems.

The play deals with the disappointments of Jo, Jess, Jan and Jenny. Each has been bruised by men in different ways. The situations are simple, the dialogue has a ring of truth, and the transformation of the girls into a successful quartet is always predictable.

The lifelike, onstage figures are identifiable, possibly coming from Mudgee, Bombala or Inverell. However, the real locale is likely to be Armidale, because Lipstick Dreams had its world premiere with the New England Theatre Company last September. Julie Godfrey, Antonia Murphy and Helen O'Connor, as the three hairdressers, were in the original cast. TV-soape celebrity, Lorraine Bayley, is appearing in the show for the first time.

The chief hairdresser, Jo, is firmly resolved about entering in the talent quest because one of her ex-boyfriends, whom she hates, is also appearing with his barbershop quartet. Disasters occur quickly, such as Jess's boyfriend running off with the other member of their quartet, and the heated atmosphere is enlivened with customers either being neglected or receiving too much hair-dye.

The story begins in the Blue Heaven Ladies Salon, where the discussion is about the talent quest, which is provided free every Sunday night in the local Ming Hua Chinese restaurant. Jenny is waver- ing because her macho boyfriend doesn't want her to join in. Jan, a middle-aged customer, discloses that at 18 she sang in a high school band. She wants a different hair-style, because her husband has called her boring, and she is persuaded to join the quartet.

The second act, culminates in the actual performance in the restaurant. The women really sparkle in the show; by singing and wearing slinky outfits they achieve some of their fantasies. Further, they hit out at their narrow-minded men.

Julie Godfrey is marvellous. As she puts on her makeup she tells how, after being disappointed by the bright lights of Sydney she has returned to the town and established a salon 'with style'. The talent quest will prove that she's not as colourless as people think. By contrast, Helen O'Connor is lively and extroverted, although touches of irony occur because she has been really hurt by her boyfriend and has a weak, dependent father.

This is a good play to see with your friends, particularly after a satisfying dinner. Simple questions are asked, like will Jenny extricate herself from the boyfriend? Will Jess's dreams be realised? Of course it's a happy ending and the audience departs happy.

Lipstick Dreams is at the Playhouse until April 22.

John Armstrong

Strong demand for University places

Bond University may be having trouble attracting students, but in the public system demand is high, according to enrolment figures collected by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

Universities have reported strong demand for entry and the AVCC estimated that the system would reach its target enrolment by the official university census date, March 31.

The AVCC's 22 members will enrol 236,333 students this year - an increase of 4.4 percent over 1988. The record enrolment follows the Federal Government's decision to fund an increased number of places in higher education.

According to the Executiv Direcot of the AVCC, Mr Frank Hambly, the strong demand shows that young people particularly are enthusiastic about a university education. While the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) had not affected overall numbers, it appeared to have caused a reduction in the number of part-time students.

I Go To Tokyo

presented by the Australia-Japan Society and the Japanese Information and Culture Centre

a Japanese-language feature film, will be screened in Lecture Theatre B01 on Friday, April 21, at 8 pm

Everybody welcome

Presented by the Australia-Japan Society and the Japanese Information and Culture Centre.
Heart Week

The period April 16 to 23 is the National Heart Foundation's 1989 Heart Week.

The University Health Service is once again organising Heart Week on the Campus and this year it will be bigger and better than ever.

Heart Health Day is on April 17. In the Union foyer, health assessment questionnaires, free blood pressure checks and information and advice on healthy eating habits, lowering your cholesterol level, exercise, stress management and quitting smoking will be provided, beginning at 12.30 pm.

Your completed health assessment questionnaire will be assessed by the doctor, or nurse, taking your blood pressure.

Information tables will be staffed by representatives of the Dietary Department from Royal Newcastle Hospital, Quit for Life, and the Counselling, Sport and Recreation, and Health Services at the University.

Lifestyle appraisals and Cholesterol Level Checks will be offered on April 18 at the Health Service.

Professor Rufus Clarke, from the Faculty of Medicine, has made available a computer-based lifestyle appraisal program. You will be asked questions on your lifestyle and the computer will process this data. You will receive a printed commentary congratulating you on the healthy aspects of your lifestyle and advising you about any changes that may be desirable.

You will be able to have your cholesterol level checked on the spot by Health Service staff. The tests take five minutes and cost $2 (no charge for students).

Appointments for lifestyle appraisals and cholesterol level checks can be made at the Health Service (telephone 68 5763), or in the Union Foyer on Heart Health Day.

Heart Food

Everyday during Heart Week the Staff House will offer a selection of low fat/low cholesterol food as part of the lunchtime menu. On Thursday, April 20, there will be a Low Cholesterol Autumn Buffet.

On Monday, April 17, the Union Cafeteria and the Bistro will offer a low fat/low cholesterol dish as part of the lunchtime menu.

The aim of Heart Week on campus is to increase awareness of the risk factors associated with heart disease, encourage individuals to look at the risk factors in their own lifestyle and provide information and advice on how to reduce these risk factors.

Here are the risk factors:
- high blood pressure
- high blood fats
- cigarette smoking
- excess weight
- lack of physical activity

The Mobile Blood Donor Unit will be on campus on Wednesday, April 19, to receive blood donations from 10 am until 2 pm. The Unit will be parked on the Plaza between the Union and the Auchmuty Library.

Do come and participate!

Last - and first- on University Council

Elections will be held shortly to fill a place on the Council held by a member of the academic staff other than professors and two places on the Council held by students.

The elections are likely to be the last conducted pursuant to the University of Newcastle Act, 1964, and the By-laws before the University, the Hunter Institute of Higher Education and the Newcastle Branch of the Conservatorium of Music are amalgamated.

The election by members of the academic staff other than professors is by-election, necessary because Dr Robyn Cotton recently resigned from Council.

Nominations for election to fill the casual vacancy must reach the Returning Officer, Mr P.D. Alexander, by 5 pm on April 20.

In the case of the election of student members, nominations close at 5 pm on April 26.

It will be a normal election. The terms of office are stated to be one year from June 8, although they will probably be shorter than that if amalgamation of the University, the HIHE and the Conservatorium goes ahead as scheduled. If it takes place on July 1, the terms will be a matter of weeks only; if on January 1, 1990, the terms will be correspondingly longer.

The three members of the Council who are elected will have sentimental links with two members who served the University in the 1960s.

The late Dr Ivan Rose, formerly of the Department of Mathematics, was the first member of the staff in this category elected as a member of the Council.

Mr John Church, BCom (1965) and MEng (1970), was the first student elected as a member of Council. He is the Director of a Newcastle engineering firm specialising in fluid power.

Galapagos Islands excursion

The Department of Biological Sciences is organising a science excursion to the Galapagos Islands in January-February, 1990.

The trip has been primarily designed for students and graduate students with interests in evolution and ecology.

Staff of the Department will organise and supervise specific projects for Biology students participating and these will fulfill part of the requirements of the appropriate ecology and genetic subjects.

It has been decided to explore the Galapagos Islands in small yachts, each holding 10 to 12 people. Each yacht will have a local naturalist, as well as staff from Biological Sciences. Included in the itinerary is a four-day excursion in and around, an Amazon jungle camp.

Staff and students from other departments who are interested in the ecology of this fascinating region and would like to visit this unique area with a well-informed group, are invited to join the expedition.

The approximate dates for the trip are January 10 to February 7 and the all-inclusive cost is approximately $7,000. For further details please contact Pam Lake as soon as possible at 68 5534.

Jazz night in Staff House

New Orleans jazz and Cajun — Creole food are being offered by the Staff House for members and their friends on April 21 at 7.15 pm. The Maryville Jazz Band will provide the music and Mr Dallas Gold, will be catering. Tickets: $20 members, $22 guests. Telephone Sandy (Extension 430) for tickets.
Diary of Events

Tuesday, April 11, Noon
Luncheon concert in the Union Courtyard featuring Margaret Roadknight. Admission: free.

Wednesday, April 12, 12.30 pm

Thursday, April 13, Noon

2 pm
Department of Philosophy seminar entitled Davidson’s Presuppositions. Speaker: Dr Jeff Malpas, University of New England. Venue: A110 McMullin Building.

Friday, April 14, 2.30 pm

Monday, April 17, 11 am

Tuesday, April 18, 1 pm
Luncheon concert in the Union Courtyard featuring Footloose Comedy Theatre (three men and an obelisk). Admission: free.

Wednesday, April 19, Noon

1 pm

7 pm to Midnight
Jazz at the ‘Club de Groove’ in the Southern Cross Lounge. Tickets available at the Secondhand Bookshop.

Thursday, April 20, Noon

Monday, April 24, 11 am

Advertisements

For Sale
Walnut Yamaha Grand Piano G2J (57") in mint condition (one careful owner). This piano has been regularly tuned, has matching stool and piano cover. Asking price: $7,000 or near offer. Please telephone 43 3216.

1979 Lancer in excellent mechanical condition (OKU-995). Features include: four new tyres, driving lights, rear louvre and four speaker stereo. Asking price: $4,000. Please telephone 54 8512 or Extension 700.

Peugeot 10 speed bike (including lights, rack and mirror). Asking price: $220 or near offer. Please telephone 63 2960.

Holefill sleeping bag. Asking price: $110 or near offer. Please telephone 63 2960.

22" colour television with good picture, $140; Double mattress (next to brand new), $15. Please telephone Mr Zhou at Extension 509.

Solid, Singer Sewing Machine in near new condition (hardly ever used). Features include: Leather carry bag, instruction booklet and tool box. Asking price: $110 or near offer. Please telephone Angela at Extension 735.

Burgess solid teak wallunit. Brass front and shelves and adjoining shelf unit in excellent condition. Asking price: $1,000 or near offer. Please telephone 52 4305.

Ducks — Khald Campbell. Asking price: $5 each. Please telephone Extension 616.

For Rent
Person to share comfortable renovated terrace with one other (non-smoker). Rental: $70 plus expenses. Please contact Nicole at 68 5713.

Share a two bedroom partly-furnished flat with a couple in Broadmeadow. Rental: $52 per week plus expenses and bond. Please telephone Mr Zhou at Extension 509.

Tender for Trailer
Trailer, 8'x6' Single Axle. Weldmesh frame with double opening rear doors and canvas cover. Electrical brakes and controller for towing unit. In good condition.

For further information or inspection please contact Ms Robyn Gentle, Central Animal House (telephone 68 5293). Tenders must be forwarded in a sealed envelope marked ‘Tender for Trailer’, addressed to the Purchasing Officer, University of Newcastle, N.S.W. 2308. Tenders close at 11.30 am on April 14.

The University reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Wanted to Buy
Old furniture — hall stands, chest of drawers, sideboards etc., also china and classware. Cash buyer will call. Please telephone 59 2315 after 5 pm.

Accommodation Wanted
Visiting US academic requires accommodation preferably close to the University from September, 1989 until June, 1990. Please telephone Dr Dennis Sinclair, Department of Statistics, Extension 744.

Audiologist Wanted
Part-time audiologist required to assist in research work. Experience with children desirable. Applicants should be prepared to spend some time in Taree. Interested persons are requested to contact Dr J.E. Stuart, Community Medicine, Telephone: 26 6904 or 26 6905.

Sports Union’s a.g.m.

The annual general meeting of the Sports Union will be held in the Auchmuty Room in the Union on April 26 at 5.30 pm.

The agenda includes reports on the Statements of Accounts for 1988, the Budget for 1989, and the Treasurer’s Report, as well as the election of officers for 1989.

Nominations for election as President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer close on April 24 at 5 pm.