Gay leisure lacks research

by Alison Grahame

It's the biggest street parade in Australia, it injects just under $40 million into the State's economy each year, it attracts more television viewers than a rugby league grand final, and for thousands of people both in Australia and overseas, it's the social highlight of the year. Yes, it's Sydney's annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and for Kevin Markwell from the Department of Leisure and Tourism Studies, it's just one aspect of gay and lesbian leisure which he believes needs greater academic research.

"There has been some recent research on the cultural and social aspects of the Sydney Mardi Gras but virtually nothing on the place of leisure in the lives of gay men and lesbians nor of the meanings attached to leisure by these groups," he said. "What role, for instance, does leisure have in reinforcing gay identity? Is the homosexual experience, and if so, how do these differences manifest themselves within the domain of leisure?"

Mr Markwell said that no papers dealing specifically with these issues had been presented at the most recent ANZAL conference (Australian and New Zealand Association for Leisure Studies) held at Lincoln University, nor at any of the Tourism Research Conferences held in Australia over the last five years or so.

"This lack of research interest is occurring, however, at the very time when gay and lesbian leisure practices are beginning to have a significant impact on the wider Australian community. When Garry West was the minister responsible for tourism in the previous State government, he issued a ministerial directive that no mention of the Mardi Gras was to be made by State tourism staff. Things have improved a bit since then. The government has produced a brochure for the American gay market, called The Wonder Down Under: a gay and lesbian guide to Australia's east coast, but on the other hand the current edition of the mainstream publication Introduction to Tourism in Australia devotes one line to the Mardi Gras, and in Tourism Special Events, it doesn't even rate a mention!"

Such reluctance seems odd, Mr Markwell said, when you look at the rapid growth of gay tourism in Australia and at the economic impact it will continue to have on the State's economic prosperity.

"There is now a professional body called the Australian Gay and Lesbian Tourism Association which has sponsored several tourism, leisure and culture expos in Sydney over the last three years and in May it will host the first convention of the International Gay Travel Association World Congress to be held outside the US.

"There are gay travel companies and agencies in Australia and only recently it was announced that Double Island off the coast of Cairns is to be turned into Australia's third gay resort, at a cost of $20 million. In anybody's language, this is big business, and with statistics to show that Australia has one of the largest and best organised gay populations in the world, it can only get bigger," he said.

Faculties collaborate to produce new video package

A series of nine videos, to be marketed nationally by the University, has been officially launched by the Vice-Chancellor.

An initiative of the University's Faculty of Nursing in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, the videos deal with the vital issue of infection controls in hospitals. Sponsored by a Federal grant of $39,000 and produced by the University's Medical Communications Unit, the videos are aimed at providing a specialised, supplementary teaching resource on a subject of increasing concern to all health professionals.

"Infection control is a critical area in which a mistake by a student can have life-threatening consequences," said Ms Marilyn Pedder, senior lecturer in the Faculty of Nursing and Director of the Faculty's Continuing Education Unit. "The need for this project arose from the threat of, and actual spread of, serious life-threatening outcomes," said Ms Marilyn Pedder, senior lecturer in the Faculty of Nursing and Director of the Faculty's Continuing Education Unit.
threatening blood-borne infections over the last two decades.

"There is probably no greater threat to the health of the general public since the introduction of antibiotics than the advent of the hepatitis viruses and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), and so it is absolutely critical that students acquire a thorough knowledge of the manner in which infection is transmitted and then, how that transmission can be prevented." She said that videos were a great help in illustrating many of the subtleties and abstract concepts involved in teaching the principles of transmission and prevention of infection.

"Our aim was to produce something that would both illustrate the subtleties of the principles and emphasise critical thinking and decision making, so that students would be able to test themselves by watching various scenarios, gauge the level of risk present and then decide what they would do to overcome that risk," she said. "So the emphasis is on clinically assessing the degree of risk in any situation and acting accordingly."

The video series represents the first collaborative venture of its kind in the University. It has been overseen by an advisory committee which included representatives of the Faculties of Nursing and Medicine and Health Sciences and clinicians including occupational therapists, radiographers, doctors and nurses working in the field of infection control with the Hunter Area Health Service.

James Ellroy struggles with the two awards

The Miles Franklin of crime

by Alison Grahame

"Make every second word an obscenity - that seems to be the way to go."

Not the kind of sentence one would normally associate with a Dean of Architecture but then our Dean of Architecture isn't just a Dean of Architecture.

Barry Mulhall had just had a close (very close) encounter of the first kind with real fame and he seemed a little ambivalent about the experience. He had just met that most celebrated former alcoholic, drug-addicted womaniser turned crime writer, James Ellroy. The occasion was a crowded gathering of writers, writers, readers, and, let's not forget the media, who jammed into Berkelouw's Bookshop in Sydney recently for the presentation of the inaugural Australian award for crime fiction to be known as the Ned Kelly. Barry won.

Actually he shared it with fellow crime writer Paul Thomas.

And James Ellroy made the presentation.

"He's the most extraordinary guy. Every other word unfit to print. I overheard a television crew bemoaning the fact that half way through the evening they still hadn't got anything they could put to air. He's supposed to be off drugs and the rest of it, but he gave a good impression of a man pretty well out of it. Of course, it might be just his act, the Ellroy persona which he brings out for such media events - show business. It's hard to tell. But there's no doubt he's a master of self promotion."

But a Barry's like a fan and all true fans he's able to look past the personal imperfections of his hero. He just took along one of Ellroy's books in the hope that he'd sign it.

He did.

"It was just a sentence with the words Ned Kelly in it. But in just that one sentence he managed to convey the Ellroy style. He's an amazing guy."

So with his first novel, The Marc Sizers, hailed as one of the best first crime novels of the year, the sequel, The Malcolm Stass*, earning him the crime equivalent to the Miles Franklin and, even as we spoke, a third at the publishers, was Barry tempted to chuck in the job of academic and aim for the big time, Ellroy style?

"Well I was talking to a writer in London not so long ago who also happens to own a bookshop called Murder One - it sells only crime. He'd had a job but decided he wanted to write full time. He lasted a year - he nearly went mad. Writers talk about the isolation and it's true. I guess you have to have the knack. Isn't that right, James?"

"I don't know if you've seen the bookshop but so far they haven't had anything that could put to airing. He's a writer. He hasn't even considered buying a ball terrier. Architecture has him for a little while yet.

* The Malcolm Stass is reviewed on page 6.

Photo: courtesy Luke Patterson
Women staff at the University have been meeting on a regular basis. The group was initially called together by Prof Jenny Graham (Pro Vice Chancellor, External Relations), Prof Margaret McMillan (Dean of Nursing), Tracey Bunda (Wollotuka) and Carolyn Pidcock (Architect). The reason for the group’s establishment was to address the difficulties being experienced by women on decision making committees established by Council in 1993. The group is working towards the development of strategies to make it easier to meet the targets.

The University’s initiatives in this regard are supported by the Higher Education Management Review (Hoare Report) which recommends that women be adequately represented in decision making processes.

The scope of the Network has now broadened to raising the profile of women’s issues at the University and improving communication between women on campus. Concern has been expressed that although Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Affirmative Action (AA) programs have operated for some time, there has been slow progress. This concern is reflected across the higher education sector. The Hoare Report notes that in university academic profiles, women are concentrated at the lower levels with a relatively high proportion in short-term contract employment, and general staff women are heavily concentrated in occupational groups which are lower paid and where there is little opportunity for career advancement. “There is a developing consensus among senior women managers that EEO and AA should be looked at within the wider framework of diversity and valuing differences. This perspective needs to be taken into account in developing University policies and practices,” Professor Jenny Graham said recently after attending a meeting of senior University women.

The Hoare report goes on to say that there is clearly a commitment across the sector to redress gender imbalance and to actively support equal employment opportunity. However, many universities - faced with rapid changes to the teaching and learning environment and confronted with more volatile budgetary circumstances - are understandably preoccupied with ensuring that they have flexibility in their staffing arrangements.

It is the Network’s task to persuade management that valuing differences and developing flexible employment arrangements which take into account the family responsibilities of staff members will ultimately benefit the University as a whole. One of the keys to improved communication is through E-mail and so an E-mail women’s group has been established. It’s hoped that this will be a way for ideas to be developed. The EEO staff see it as a way of getting feedback on the initiatives they are developing.

“Although we have always tried to consult widely, the very busy lives people lead make it hard for them to come to meetings. E-mail means they can respond quickly and easily. We’re able to tap into other people’s ideas and find out if they think we’re on the right track,” EEO Manager Alethea Taylor said.

“We’re hoping that 1996 will see major improvements in women’s employment at the University. We have a number of exciting plans and the developing networks offer us opportunities to involve more staff than ever before. Any women or men who are interested in joining the E-mail group or coming along to Network meetings are welcome.”

The next University Women’s Discussion Network meeting is on 17 April at 12.15pm in the Purdie Room. Tea, coffee and juice will be provided. To join the E-mail women’s group send a message to mailserv@cc.newcastle.edu.au. The message should say “subscribe women”.

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BHP donates spectrometer

BHP has donated an instrument worth $5,000 to the University’s Surface Physics group. The PH1550 Auger Electron and X-ray Photoelectron Spectrometer is designed to provide fast analysis for industrial applications.

Head of the Physics Department, Associate Professor John O’Connor, said that the group already had extensive analysis facilities but they were not suitable for fast turnarounds. “Newcastle was chosen over other possible institutions because of its national and international standing in surface physics,” Dr O’Connor said.

“We also have a strong overlap in research interest with the BHP research laboratory in Wollongong, and this was enhanced last year with the appointment to the Physics Department of Dr Paul Dastoor who shares an interest in the role of polymers in 'industrial coatings applications.” To advance this particular project on polymers, BHP has also donated a further $8,000 to provide an honours student with a scholarship and maintenance assistance.

Gay leisure lacks research

From Page 1

“It’s my belief that academic research is needed in areas such as the role of leisure in shaping gay and lesbian identity; the significance of pleasure within the leisure practices of gay men; perceived barriers to leisure participation; safe sex education within leisure contexts; and gay and lesbian studies within Australian universities also need to develop a critical perspective on the construction of leisure itself, as part of a larger critique of society generally. “Gay and lesbian scholarship may well be placed to challenge some conventional assumptions about the nature of leisure, which might then lead to a more developed and better understanding of the concept. It might also serve to illuminate aspects of mainstream culture as well,” Mr Markwell said.

Perhaps the next ANZALS conference which will be held in Newcastle next year could begin the process.”

The University of Newcastle Union

Functions Centre

Offering the ideal location for weddings, engagements, 21st, 40th or 50th birthday parties as well as retirement dinners for staff.

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Enquire about our “Christmas in June” Dinner Dance on Saturday 27 July 1996. We promise a night to remember with great entertainment, 3 course dinner with hors d’oeuvres & a Christmas theme. Bookings are a must.

For more information, contact the Functions Office on ext. 6755 or 68 3993.

Looking good - playing it cool at O'Week

Pass the sauce and don't spare the onions

Over 900 newly enrolled students, parents and friends attended the Commencement Ceremony in the Great Hall last month, to mark the beginning of semester.

Although the Commencement Ceremony is an annual event, it was a popular part of the program for the University’s first ever Orientation Week which also included tours of the computer labs, a NUSA party, a sausage sizzle cooked with the University Chaplains in conjunction with the Union, and library tours.

Student Administration Unit Director, Judith Willmore, who was responsible for coordinating the week’s events, said that the faculties had been delighted with the response from students. “The feedback I’m getting would suggest that Orientation Week will become an annual event too. We’ll be in a better position to plan further ahead for next year which will mean we’ll be able to offer our new students a more diverse program,” she said.
Dinosaurs and green machines

by Tim Isles

They look, oh so sleek! Like sculpatures on wheels - wrought in lightweight metal, glass and plastic. But how environmentally friendly are the cars that will drive us into a new century of motoring?

It may come as a surprise to many that some of the “dinosaurs” of Australian motoring - family cars touring our highways, they have been actually weighed substantially less than their high-tech successors currently gracing showroom floors. According to Professor Neil Page from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the Holden saloons of 1952, for example, weighed 1013kg. Today’s 1995 Holden Commodore, weighed about double that amount - 2026kg.

A case in point is a 1952 Holden Commodore, weighed only 838kg, which was much more fuel efficient and its fuel economy was lower. Mr. Sparke explained this was due to the earlier model’s lower weight and the more efficient engines.

He pointed out that the new model also includes power motors for electric windows, noise insulation, a larger two-speed wiper, a turn signal system indicator, head restraints, seat belts for every passenger, three rear view mirrors, anti-lock braking system, and many other components. Then, of course, there is the major issue of safety, and the dramatic improvement to the primary and secondary safety of today’s model, including the fitting of air bags and the system controlling the bags.

“Do you take into account that today’s model is much lighter than the earlier model?” Mr. Sparke asked. In fact, for its size it’s much lighter than the earlier model.

Mr. Sparke also referred to the wheels and tires, which played a critical role in avoiding an accident (related to primary safety) and which, on the Commodore, weighed about double those of the early model Holden.

“The tires also afford about twice the road contact and these are the things that provide the primary safety of the car and add more weight to the car,” Mr. Sparke said.

Mr. Sparke said that today’s “updated” Commodore was far more fuel efficient and its fuel emissions were only a fraction of the earlier model and well within the current legal limit. The fuel economy of the 3.8 litre V6 Commodore, he said, was now superior to the four-cylinder (2.2-2.5 litre) mid-size Japanese cars on the Australian market.

Professor Page said some aspects of modern cars were even more environmentally friendly than others. High gearing for example, made them quite economical on the highway. “In Australia with our relative absence of (city) freeways most of our driving about town involves the use of low gears in which cars chew up vast amounts of fuel.”

While there had recently been spectacular market gains by small-car manufacturers, such as Hyundai and Daewoo, Professor Page said he suspected this was more a factor of lower price and clever marketing to a young market than concern for the environment.

“To be frank, I think that engineers have come to the end of the road with the conventional internal combustion engine in terms of engine efficiency and that is why there is this push in the United States for electric vehicles.”

Taking the Paris option

by Alison Graham

The Hartley Bequest Scholarships are recognised as the most generously funded French scholarships in the Commonwealth. Offered by the University’s Department of Modern Languages, they have been awarded this year (their second year) to three students, Sherry Webster, Frances Scott (both mature age students) and John Percival.

“I feel extremely privileged and blessed to be granted the scholarship,” delighted Sherry Webster told The Ear.

“I will be going first to Nevers in the Loire Valley and I’ll stay there with a host family and try to acculturate. Then we travel to Paris and stay for about three weeks doing an intensive language course. From Paris we go to Bilbao where we’ll spend the rest of our stay at a local language school.”

Sherry is a mature age student. She studied French at high school and started a social science degree but stopped midway to have three children whom she subsequently raised on her own. She didn’t return to university for 20 years.

“Five years ago I started learning French again at home and loved it so I decided to go back to university and finish my degree.”

Newcastle gave her credit points for the work she had completed 20 years earlier at the University of New England, and she will finish her degree next year.

Sherry’s two adult children live in London. The youngest is 14 and will stay at home.

“She’ll be fine. I hope to get the opportunity to meet the other two in London. I can’t wait to go. I’ll have no care or responsibilities except to study - it’s like being a teenager again!” Sherry is also on a promise.

“Last year’s scholarship winners were taken out to dinner in Paris by Professor Dutton who visited them en route to the States. He’s promised the three of us that he’ll do the same this year. It should be wonderful.”

Another win for maths

Mathematics PhD student Alan Gore has won the prize for the best student paper presented at the recent international conference of the Australian and New Zealand Industrial and Applied Mathematics (ANZIAM) group.

The conference attracts mathematicians working in applied areas from around the world and this year 170 delegates took part, most of whom delivered papers.

“The conference is quite large so they have three sessions running in parallel and they do the student papers through out,” Alan explained. “This year there were 35 student papers and mine was chosen as equal best.”

Winners of this year’s Hartley Bequest Scholarship are: 1st to r: Frances Scott, John Percival and Sherry Webster.
LEISURE & RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

Inside the Chamberlain Case
One night lecture only (Code 2180)
Wednesday 20 March
Fee: $12 Time: 6-8pm Venue: The Lecture Theatre
To the Lighthouse
sunset walk (Code 203)
Friday 22 March
Fee: $18 Time: Leave Fort Scratchley car park at 6pm FULLY BOOKED
The Bawmore Collection
(Code 212)
Friday 22 March
Fee: $30 (all inclusive) Time: Leave University at 1.45pm
Broughton Island National Park
A one day cruise
Sunday 24 March
Fee: $60

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SHORT COURSES

Essential Skills for Supervisors
Dates: 6x90 min sessions commencing 19 March
Fee: $395 Time: 9am-7pm Venue: University Union
Coming to Grips with Competence Based Training
Dates: 26, 27, 28 March
Fee: $395 Time: 9am-5pm Venue: Industry Development Centre
Marketing - A Birds Eye View
Date: 30 March
Fee: $175 Time: 9am-5pm Venue: MCLG49 McMillan Building

Music Lovers Club

Music Lovers Club meets at Newcastle Conservatorium each second Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm until 9pm in Room 416 (4th floor) for music and discussion.

April
Brian Barnes: "Modern Classical Music" - a loving explanation and at times, a rather warm discussion! Come and challenge or be challenged.

May
David Barker: "The Mighty Five" - yes, those Russians: Balakirev, Borodin, Cui, Mussorgsky and Rimsky-Korsakov. For further information phone John Allen on 497421.

Music Appreciation Group

Meets the last Thursday of the month in room 416 at Newcastle Conservatorium at 10.30am.

Next Meeting - 28 March
Michael Darvall: "The Music and Culture of the Aboriginal People" - Michael exists on the didgeridoo! For information please telephone John Allen on 497421.

Next Deadline date
27 March 10am
Distribution date
9 April
MATTERS

Improved Internet Access
The University of Newcastle now has from four to sixteen times its previous Internet bandwidth following the commissioning of a new Telstra/AT & T network connection to the UTS (University of Technology, Sydney) last month. The old SDN (InTEGRAL Server Digital Network) link to the University of Sydney has been decommissioned. The new link is set up to give a minimum available bandwidth of 512 kbps (kilobits per second) using a 2 Mbps connection. It will mean improved network response times to the Internet.

Eudora Electronic Mail
Eudora training and installation program continues for staff and post-graduate students who have yet to improve their electronic communications. Eudora is client software to provide users of PC (with MS-Windows) and Macintosh computers with a friendly 'front-end' to the electronic mail system. Some users will only use email to communicate with others on the campus, but many will find the fast (and cheap) method very useful to keep in touch with colleagues around the world.

The training is set at two levels:

INTRODUCTORY:

For those who have never used Eudora and those new to electronic mail, no email experience is assumed and this course will provide the basics.

ADVANCED:

Designed as a refresher for those who have completed our introductory Eudora course or those who have used Eudora previously. Principal topics include Attached Documents, Personal Mailboxes and Message Filtering.

Both courses are 3-hour hands-on tutorials with a refreshments break and are to be found on the University's home page. You then click on University of Newcastle, Access from University's home page. You then click on University of Newcastle, then click on the Access to Eudora link in CALT.

New Phone Number Help Desk
The Telephone Help Desk answered by switchboard telephonists has a change of number. Please note that it is now 8700. The old number 5723 is now strictly for emergencies only.

Office Relocation
The Discipline of Environmental and Occupational Health in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences has moved off-campus to the Hunter Building. Contact details are:

Internal Mail Box 13, Hunter Building Mail Room
Discipline of Environmental and Occupational Health,
The University of Newcastle,
Callaghan 2308

General Enquiries: 8674
OH&S Course enquiries: 8672
Fax: 218677

The Mater Occupational Health Unit will remain at 86 Pratt Street, Warners.

The University Counselling Service
The following group program will be conducted for students and staff by the university counselling service during first semester.

Relaxation and Stress Management Course (5 consecutive weeks)
Venue: Group Room (HAY200), University Counselling Service, Hunter Building

For further information please call or phone 3810.

FOOD AND DRINK

The many friends of Ron Goodnew are invited to his farewell lunch
in The Brennan Room at the Shorthand Union on Friday 12 April at 12.15pm.
Cost: $16
For further details please contact
Kathleen Kooc and Ron EA209 or Diane Pidde Room EA210.

FAREWELL

The many friends of Ron Goodnew are invited to his farewell lunch in The Brennan Room at the Shorthand Union on Friday 12 April at 12.15pm.
Cost: $16
For further details please contact Kathleen Kooc and Ron EA209 or Diane Pidde Room EA210.

NOTICES

EEO Data Collection
The second phase of the collection of EEO data will take place towards the end of March. Staff will be asked to provide information which will be used to help us implement fair and equitable policies and strategies to meet the needs of all our staff. The information to be provided relates to membership of EEO groups so that their progress within the University may be tracked.

In November we surveyed all permanent staff and all those on contracts continuing beyond the end of 1995. In this second phase we will be sending forms to all staff including casual staff and new employees. We will also be contacting those who have not returned their earlier forms.

You are reminded that you do not have to answer the questions. It is a voluntary but we would appreciate your assistance. The information helps us to plan EEO programs for all staff and to report on progress.

Further information will accompany your survey form. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact the EEO staff on 6457.

IMPORTANT DATES

SCHOOLS VISIT DAY (Callaghan campus): Friday 19 July
OPEN DAY (Callaghan campus): Saturday 21 September

Stores
Recycled computer paper PS 265 001 will be discontinued when current stocks have been depleted as it is no longer being manufactured. See the CWIS for Stores updates.

Pilot Mentor Scheme
As part of the 1996 Affirmative Action Plan, a pilot mentor scheme for women is being introduced. Mentors are experienced and trusted advisers who can help. Many, if not all of us, have had informal mentors in our lives. A more formal means of providing support would fill a need for many female staff. The scheme is based on one developed at the University of Melbourne.

A Professor Penny Little from PROBLAR C (Problem Based Learning and Research Centre) CALT will be conducting training on 22 April and 10 May for women and men who would like to be mentors. You can choose either of these two days. Lunchtime meetings for women who would like a mentor will be held on 13 and 15 May.

The scheme is open to both academic and general staff. If you are interested in becoming a mentor or you would like a mentor, please contact the EEO Section or Rochelle England in CALT.

Mobile Blood Donor Unit
The Hunter Blood Bank mobile blood donor unit will be visiting our campus on the following dates:

Thursday 28 March
Friday 29 March
The bus will be located at the Hunter Union (in car park adjacent to Union Building) from 10am to 3.30pm.

Homestay Accommodation Required
In April and Play a group of 21 lecturers and students from the Rajabhat Institute, Suann Dusit, Bangkok will visit the University.

Lecturers require homestay accommodation from 21 April to 11 May. Students require accommodation from 21 April to 18 May.

The University contributes $110 per week to host families.

This is a great opportunity to share the strengths of the Hunter Region and to experience the warmth and friendship of the Thai peoples. If you are interested in hosting a Thai lecturer or student, please contact Chris Weckert in the Faculty of Education on extension 6775.

Next Deadline
27 March 10am
Distribution 9 April

If you are not familiar with the procedure this is what you do: Open the computer program Netnews and you should automatically find yourself on the University's home page. You then click on University of Newcastle local information then click again on campus news and services. Now you're on your way.

CLASSIES

FOR SALE

• Volvo B11 Viking pak, 11/96 reg O'NID 3993, very good condition, $4300. Please telephone Glen on extension 5157.
• Reduced $1000, 1985 Volvo GLE 244, silver-grey, auto, sun roof, many extras, immaculate condition $10,500 ono. Please telephone 573866 or extension 5347.
• Engagement ring valued at $850 sell $500. Please phone 578865.
• Academic gown, Masters $80 o.n.o. Please phone 6081.
• 2 Chambry boxes blows both with floral trim, one with sleeves, one with extended shoulders, size 12, $20 each. Please telephone 437993.
• Subaru Sherpa 4845, 2-seater, good condition $2500, own phone 5655 or 665235.
• Beautiful block of land in private Port Stephens bushland/beaning with water views across to Nelson Bay CBD. Includes unique Council approved and reasonably architect designed 3/4 bedroom pole home design worth over $35,000 plus approved civil engineered driveway plans. Have forced sale. Price reduced to $23,000. Please telephone 820966 or (066) 876226.
• Cafes by Hermann Dolling inr. A fine instrument in excellent condition, $5,250. Please telephone 6086 or 572035 (home).
• Swimming pool, 24' x 12' above ground, complete with good filter pump and 7 panels of pool fencing. Best offer will knock this off! Phone Ron on extension 6750 or 573757.
• Art works on paper by Arthur Boyd. Please
• Golfers by Hermann Dolling inr. A fine instrument in excellent condition, $5,250. Please telephone 6086 or 572035 (home).
• Swimming pool, 24' x 12' above ground, complete with good filter pump and 7 panels of pool fencing. Best offer will knock this off! Phone Ron on extension 6750 or 573757.
• Art works on paper by Arthur Boyd. Please...

WANTED TO BUY

• Above ground swimming pool (suitable for children) with filter, if possible. Depth at least 1.2 metres. Please telephone Glen on 5276.
Memoir of a great benefactor

The recent launch in The Treehouse of the book, Kevlar Hartley, is a special event for a number of reasons.

It brought together a lot of Professor Hartley's colleagues and gave them a chance to swap anecdotes. It gave a number of his former students, both from the University and from Newcastle Boys High, the opportunity to tell their favourite Kevlar Hartley story. It also provided an ideal moment in which to announce the 1996 winners of the scholarships for travel and study in France funded by the Hartley Bequest.

What made the event particularly special, was that here, in the form of a book, was the University's way of keeping alive not just Professor Hartley's memory of the man who was so devoted to his beloved French Department.

The book is a collection of essays brought together and edited by Professor Ken Dutton, who succeeded Kevlar Hartley as Professor of French, way back in 1969. As well as the essays it contains a biographical sketch, an extract from Professor Hartley's essay, Optimism, completed about 1949, and a bibliography of his academic works.

It makes fascinating reading. Here are the anecdotes, the memories, the impressions of an extraordinary man written by his colleagues and students. There is a moving piece by Barbara Jones-Ross, the wife of his only close friend, and a splendid essay written by Sydney Morning Herald columnist, Richard Glover - an excerpted version of the newspaper story he wrote shortly after Professor Hartley's death.

Kevlar Hartley - A Memoir has been published by the University on behalf of the Kevlar Hartley Bequest Program. It is available at a cost of $20 from the Department of Modern Languages.

Will they miss us?

Two members of staff with over 67 years service between them will leave the University this semester. Ron Goodhew, Technical Services Manager, aka The Webmaster, retires in April after 37 years and Peter Myors, Manager Supply, left earlier this month after 30 years.

During Ron's 37 years at the University of Newcastle, he has been responsible for a major logistic exercise.

"Accelerating use of computers needed dedication to learning new techniques. For example, the first digital computer purchased by the department in 1970 was a DEC PDP 11/20 with 8 kilobytes of RAM (core memory) and when its first hard disk arrived (paper tape was used initially!) it was considered enormous at 256kB. Today people generally have a personal computer on their desk with more than 1000 times those numbers and still complain of lack of power!"

When Apple released its new graphically-based personal computer, the Macintosh, in 1984, Ron saw it as an opportunity to improve his golf swing. He became obsessed. He needed as the software went through various upgrades of his excellent tutorial manual were still complaining of lack of power!"

Ron experienced much of the early development of the department and it was promoted to Technical Officer while completing his Diploma and BE degree. Soon after his graduation in 1964 Ron accepted an academic position with the department as Senior Tutor (like the Associate Lecturer positions of today). After three academic years of teaching, the opportunity was available to return to his real love of technical work in the laboratory when the new foundation professor, Brian Anderson, advertised for a Professional Officer to supervise the development of his laboratories.

When Engineering moved to the new Shortland campus in 1971 Ron helped with what he said was a major logistic exercise.

"Electrical Engineering was located on Level 3 of the Tighes Hill building," he said. "Extracting the larger laboratory fittings and workshop machinery involved removing windows and hiring cranes to operate in confined spaces!"

Ron managed his new laboratories at Shortland for many ensuing years. Keeping in touch with the rapid advances in the technology was a major challenge.

"When Engineering moved to the new Shortland campus in 1971 Ron helped with what he said was a major logistic exercise. "Electrical Engineering was located on Level 3 of the Tighes Hill building," he said. "Extracting the larger laboratory fittings and workshop machinery involved removing windows and hiring cranes to operate in confined spaces!"

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The late Professor Kevlar Hartley

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elver Hartley was the University's first Professor of French. Following his retirement, he decided to try to accumulate $1M which he would then donate to the University. It became such an obsession that he sold his Sydney apartment, moved to a $25 a week one room flat in Glebe, and invested every cent he had in the stock market. He lived like a hermit for the next 18 years. By 1987, he had exceeded the target and held shares and other investments worth some $1.3M. Then came the stock market crash. The investments dropped to $500,000. Professor Dutton's book records that Professor Hartley wrote a final letter to the University, indicating that he was about to enter hospital and feared he would not come out again, but confirming that he had left his entire estate to found a prize in French. Having posted it, he arranged neatly the few meagre possessions he had, changed into his night attire, lay down to await the final roundness and oblivion brought on by the combined effect of whisky and barbiturates.

Professor Hartley committed suicide. Inconceivable over the stock market crash and the recent death from cancer of his only close friend. The book continues. "The University's letter of acknowledgement and thanks never reached him. It was returned, unopened, with a covering note from a fellow-tenant wondering whether Professor Hartley might be the old gentleman who had died recently."

Professor Hartley died believing he had failed. A week later his fortune was worth $1.3M. A bit of a surprise.
Title: The Malcontenta
Author: Barry Maitland
Publisher: Hamish Hamilton
348pp
RRP: $35

According to Kathy Kolla, the main character of Barry Maitland’s new crime novel The Malcontenta, the setting and characters of the novel are perfect for the classic whodunit. The novel, set in a house that was once a gymnasium with the romantic story of a faded beauty, is the second in a trilogy, and this means the novel introduces an unusual aspect of the detective tale that has been recycled and it would take years to match the excitement of a murder conspiracy, just as she has despised anything but the most mundane cases being given to her in the sleepy country district.

Kathy Kolla is a Detective Sergeant who has been banished to an English country borough, where she is left to pine for the bright lights and intriguing crimes of the London Met. The reason for this exile is presumably explained in Barry Maitland’s first book, The Mars Slayers, which was shortlisted for the CWA John Creasey Award for Best First Novel. The Malcontenta is the second in a trilogy, and this means the novel tends to assume a familiarity with the background of the main characters so that there are no gaps in the plot, but not too much that the book is dependent on the earlier one. Indeed, in places it tantalises the reader to the extent of prompting him/her to a desire to read the other book (always a good response for the author’s pocket). Apart from this, the plot of The Malcontenta has intrigues enough for any reader, as it incorporates all the elements of the classic detective story, with clues in abundance, a murder weapon, and unconventional witnesses.

Detective Sergeant Kathy Kolla is suddenly plunged into all the excitement of a murder conspiracy, just as she has despised anything but the most mundane cases being given to her in the sleepy country district. When an apparent suicide occurs at a naturopathic clinic Kathy is not convinced that all is as it seems. The investigation of the death of the clinic physiotherapist involves her in complications which range from high level corruption to low level blackmail, and almost ruin her already shaky career prospects. In despair she enlists the help of Detective Chief Inspector Brock, who decides to enter the clinic undercover and discover the truth of the matter. And this introduces an unusual aspect of the novel’s narrative method. The first section of the novel alternates between a narrator telling the story, and Kathy detailing events to Brock after they have occurred. But even in the portion where Kathy is talking to Brock, her version is recounted by a narrator external to the events. It provides a curious mixture of objectivity and personal anecdote, leaving the reader unsure of whose perspective is being presented, and whether to trust the killer or the tale. An uncertainty regarding where the truth lies is common in crime fiction, but this novel blurs the distinction more than most through its unusual narrative structure.

The book probably sufficient to say that no reader will ever view acupuncture treatment in the same way again. Kathy Kolla is in the mould of the strong, determined woman struggling to succeed in a traditionally male field, a pattern which appears to be prevalent in this genre of late. She is eminently incisive and ambitious, and is repeatedly found to prove herself capable of more than being buried in Family and Juvenile Crime. Equally, Brock has the air of the kindly, understanding mentor figure who sees her potential and is prepared to risk a bureaucratic backlash in order to act upon her instincts.

The process of the resolution involves all of the detective promises. An arrangement of challenging symbols (such as needles about to pierce eyeballs, razors, hands transfixed by needles, and medical instruments) reflects the atmosphere of the novel, with its sinister coupling of the health clinic with an unhealthily mixed capable of a tragic murder. The title of the book equally conveys a psychologcal maladjustment, even though its real meaning is explained as the name of a mansion with the romantic story of “an unloveable daughter of the family who was exiled from the temptations of Venetian society, and whose ghost is said to haunt the house still.”

The back cover blurb describes this book as “a fast-paced and suspenseful new novel which explores the themes of health and corruption, both physical and moral.” And this tends to sum up this novel nicely. If you enjoy an intriguing plot with a touch of the bizarre (and who doesn’t?), which moves along at a cracking pace (if you’re extended), then settle down with The Malcontenta and a good bottle of red. But don’t make an appointment at the acupuncturist for the next day.

PROFILE

from CUSTOMER to DIRECTOR

by Alison Grahame

Don Reeves’ first intention as a young lad was to be a plumber. He went to a technical high school and so the choice seemed logical. Forward and a change of heart. After a couple of false starts - two years studying to be a mechanical engineer at RMIT and a job as a janitor clerk in the Victorian Railways - he decided his interests really lay in teaching. For the next 20 years he continued his formal education. While teaching in small country schools he studied via external studies programs. He spent two years completing adult matriculation because the study he had done at RMIT was not acceptable to universities. He worked full time and studied at night and eventually gained a place at Monash. His first degree was in Economics, his second in Education. By 1981 he had an MA from the University of London and six years later the same university awarded him his PhD. After a distinguished career, firstly with the Victorian Ministry of Education, and more recently, in the NSW Department of School Education, this last appointment as Regional Director of Personnel for the Hunter, Dr Don Reeves has been appointed the University’s new Director, Human Resource Management.

But he hasn’t forgotten his earlier experience in one teacher schools nor the lessons it taught him.

“It was very important in grooming you for leadership. You have to work with small communities and you have to realise from the outset that you couldn’t just come in and impose your will. It was their school.”

Dr Reeves’ first move into the specialised area of human resource management came in 1990, a time of great change in the NSW Department of School Education following the
The University of Newcastle

Matherell reforms. “Because aware that teachers and administrators were not used to having freedom. They weren’t used to making decisions for themselves and being responsible for those decisions. There was a certain culture of ‘I’ve always been told what to do.’ Our main initiative was introducing local merit selection for teaching staff. It was probably the singular most dramatic change schools have had to face.”

Dr Reeves said that during that time the real challenge was in trying to show people that the new processes would be fair and open. “There was a degree of suspicion. Under the old system you got on the promotion list and you waited your turn. But suddenly there were teachers gaining promotion well ahead of those who were senior to them. This created a certain amount of discord but it just had to be worked through.”

Having been a customer of the university system for many years, mostly as a mature age student, Dr Reeves said he had always had a great attraction to the idea of becoming involved in what universities do. As Director of Human Resource Management, he now faces the challenge of assisting the University with its plans for cultural and organisational change.

“The real challenge is to find ways to value this University’s traditions while at the same time enabling it to move in new directions. We have to be more outward looking and entrepreneurial in our approach to education to ensure that we retain a sharp cutting edge.”

Dr Reeves said that human resource management was not, as some people might think, just a recruitment function. “My approach will be to work with departments and faculties to ensure that they have all the appropriate strategies to enable them to manage their own team of people. I also see training and development as an integral component of the human resource management function.”

Staff morale, Dr Reeves said, is a major challenge. “We have to reassure staff who are experiencing change that their interests are being considered. But we have to do that in the context of the overall welfare of the organisation. I’m bold enough to say that in my observations what is relevant to the University of Newcastle may not necessarily be relevant to another university located in a very different environment. We must have sufficient flexibility in the mix of staff to enable us to address a changing curriculum in a changing society. I think that will continue to be a challenge.”

In his recent book, The State We’re In, British economist Will Hutton describes British society as being 40-30-30. He is talking percentages. The top 40%, he says, is made up of those in permanent secure employment, paid enough (and for a smaller percentage, considerably more than enough) to live in varying degrees of comfort. The second 30%, he argues, is the working poor.

These are the Britons who are in casual, temporary and part-time work (a great proportion of them young and mainly female) and who are paid less than a living wage. The bottom 30% are what Hutton calls the dispossessed, the permanent underclass. They have no regular jobs and are unlikely ever to have them. This appalling state of affairs, in Hutton’s assessment, is a direct result of Thatcherism.

As far as the British Labour Party leader Tony Blair is concerned, Hutton is right. It is also a view shared by increasing numbers of social and political commentators both within and outside Britain, and it is this depressing picture of British society that is now driving the British Labour Party’s policy agenda as it heads towards the next general election.

Enter Dr Roy Green from the Department of Economics. While completing his PhD at Cambridge in the 1980s, he was approached to become an economics adviser to the British Labour Party. What began as a part-time job ended up virtually full-time and lasted for five years. “I commuted daily from Cambridge to London and worked with John Prescott who is now Blair’s deputy but who at that time was shadow Employment Secretary under the leadership of Neil Kinnock.”

In 1987, he was somehow lured back to Australia, he says, by Ralph Willis, then Minister for Industrial Relations, to work on the workplace reform program. It was in 1990 that he eventually moved to take up his current position as senior lecturer at Newcastle.

But his contacts with British Labour have always been kept up and so it wasn’t surprising that with Blair’s appointment to the leadership and Prescott’s to the deputy’s position, Dr Green was invited to advise them of Australia’s various programs, particularly those relating to industrial relations and employment and training.

“We now have a regular relationship. I’m a sounding board as it were on the more innovative Australian policy initiatives of recent years. They ask me things and I try to provide them with the answers,” Dr Green said.

“While understandably the British Labour Party won’t want to be publicly associated with a party which has just lost a Federal election, nevertheless the recent defeat of the ALP shouldn’t distract the British from their interest in the substance of Australian Labor’s economic and social policy initiatives.”

Hutton is very interested in programs to support enterprise bargaining, especially our best practice demonstration program and it seems very likely that this will be adopted if he comes to power,” Dr Green said.

“What Blair wants is a highly skilled workforce and a high productivity economy. At present the UK is the low wage investment centre of Europe and he wants that changed. The Japanese, for example, have established a number of companies that pay low wages and offer weak minimum entitlements, and they then use them as a springboard into European markets,” Dr Green said.

The UK is becoming the Hong Kong of Europe and it’s a title that the current Prime Minister, John Major, is quite proud of. But Blair would rather see the comparison with Singapore where industries are high tech and where there is a social safety net.”

Dr Green believes that the only way facing Blair, should he become Prime Minister, is enormous.

“There are not many countries that get a second chance to get their economy off on a new footing. But Britain had the chance with North Sea oil. Unfortunately the chance was squandered. As is often the case in politics, the short term won over the long term and the modernisation of British industry, which should have been underwritten by the windfall in revenue, didn’t happen.”
Hockey player Alison Dally recently sat down and looked at her diary. The task made her take a few deep breaths. Over the next couple of months she will attend a ten-day Australian Hockeyroo acclimatisation camp in Darwin and then travel to Melbourne to prepare for the Australian U/21 championships for the best part of April. Somewhere in the midst of this she will attempt to commence the second year of her full-time, four-year Occupational Therapy course at the University.

Still, you get the impression that if anyone is capable of keeping all the balls in the air, then it's 19 year old Dally. A regular member of the Australian U/18 and U/21 teams for many years, she has been juggling hockey, school, family and social commitments since she first picked up a hockey stick at the age of eleven.

Picked out as a future prospect by junior NSW coach, Judy Laing, Alison started training at the University's Senior Youth Squad, the group from which tomorrow's senior players will be chosen and which will also take part in the World Youth Cup in next year in Seoul.

The good news is that she has recently been selected in the Australian Senior Youth Squad, the group from which tomorrow's senior players will be chosen and which will also take part in the World Youth Cup next year in Seoul.

As to how all of this success has been assimilated into just 19 years of life, Dally is typically philosophical. "I feel a sense of achievement about what I've done but I've always tried to keep it in perspective," she explains. "In the end, if I don't make the senior team but I've done everything I could to try and get there, then so be it. You can't do any more than that".

Aiming for Sydney 2000

by Lindy Burns

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Meet the sports union staff

by Helene O'Neill

When the University of Newcastle won the Australian Universities Soccer Championships in Darwin in September 1995, the club did not realise the magnetic effect the win would have. Magnetic to the extent that former Socceroos John Kosmina and Joe Szabolcs, will both sign with the University's Soccer Club for the 1996 season.

While Kosmina is keen to run around with the club, he does not plan to resurrect his career. After thirty years of competitive soccer, two nights a week of further club training will not be on his agenda. Kosmina is a straight shooter (both on and off the field) evidenced by the record 43 goals he scored for Australia, and will make appearances for the club when time allows him such a luxury. John does not want to give the impression that his appearance for the club will lift either its profile or attract top line players. He simply wants to stay involved in soccer during the Breakers off-season, have a social kick and retain some anonymity.

Since arriving in Newcastle to take up his coaching appointment with the Breakers, John's 'call-a-spade-a-spade' approach to life has endeared him to many people among Newcastle's die hard soccer fraternity and the media. He also has a genuine interest in university sport believing it provides the opportunity for those who want to play at a competitive level but whose top priority is having a good time.