I am most happy to welcome the first number of the University of Newcastle News and its Editor, John Armstrong.

The University, though still small, has grown to the point where grape vines tend to get tangled. It is the purpose of this news sheet to distribute factual information about ourselves to ourselves. No amount of written communication can compensate for the lack of personal communication, but by providing maximum information on the workings of official University groups - Council, Senate, Faculty Boards, and, if they wish, S.R.C., Union Board and Sports Union, this news sheet should remove at least some of the obstacles of ignorance that impede the useful interchange of ideas.

Among the cynics and the idealists, it will no doubt be held that this news sheet is an "Establishment" project; to some extent, it is, since Council finances it. But I am content to leave to its readers to bring to notice any departure from objective reporting. The University of Newcastle News is not an organ of opinion, but a disseminator of information.

Read it, criticise it and support it with contributions.

I wish the venture all success.

B. NEWTON-JOHN,
Acting Vice-Chancellor.

SEATE COMMITTEE ON SEMESTER SYSTE IS

It was reported at the August meeting of the Staff/Student Consultative Committee that the University Senate had set up a committee to discuss semester systems and had asked the Staff/Student Consultative Committee to appoint two student representatives, one from Arts and one from either the Sciences or Technology. Miss Lee (Arts) and Mr. Bayl (Architecture) were elected.
STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

At its last meeting, the Council set up a committee to investigate and to report to it on the whole question of student participation in University affairs.

The Committee has thirteen members. Mr. W.G. Derkenne, a member of Council elected by Convocation, is Chairman and the Council and the Senate have each elected six members.

The Committee, being aware of the importance of the task it has been given, agreed at its first meeting that all formal bodies within the University, and any individual members of the University, should be given an opportunity to tender written submissions on this question for consideration by the Committee.

Any interested bodies or members of the University are accordingly invited to make written submissions. They should be addressed to "The Joint Committee on Student Participation", C/- The Secretary.

Submissions from individuals will be received up to 15th October, 1970, and from University bodies up to 20th November, 1970.

STAFF PREMISES

The Vice-Principal (Professor B. Newton-John) was elected President of the Committee of the University of Newcastle Staff House Club to succeed Mr. W.F. Geyl at the Annual Meeting in August. Mr. Geyl declined nomination for another term. Mr. H. Floyer was substituted for Mr. K.F. Collis as Treasurer, Mr. Collis became a committee man and Miss J. Murray replaced Mrs. R. Wallace on the Committee.

In his report on the operations of the Staff House Club this year, Mr. Geyl said that 191 members had enrolled up till August 7th. Since the inauguration of the Club term trading had been reasonably good, but trading during vacations was reduced by about half. A big question was how trading would be during the forthcoming long vacation.

"It is estimated that based on a membership of 200 or more and with the continued support of the University there will be a small profit, say a few thousand dollars if we estimate the income at about $18,000 this year. This estimate doesn't provide for the considerable expenditure which is desirable if amenities in general are to be improved. It doesn't provide, for example, for equipment associated with the application for a liquor licence.

"However, the estimate of the profit provides for several items of equipment which had already been bought, including a new kitchen range. Thanks are due to the Faculty Wives' Committee for the gift of three tables, valued at $120.00, and to Mrs. Anne von Bertouch for the loan of paintings.

"So, while we feel we have successfully launched the Club and have safely piloted it through the first leg of its voyage, there is no room for complacency and I foresee that a campaign for funds could be expected shortly."
Mr. Geyl said the Committee had been concerned by the very modest attendances for evening meals. However, the Committee regarded these meals as a service for members and he considered that they must be continued. It was also considered that a greater number of members would eat at the Club in the evening when a liquor licence had been approved. He said that, likewise, the number of functions held in the Club would probably increase following the granting of a licence. He urged Departments of the University to follow the example set by those which held regular luncheons and dinners at the Staff House. Profit would improve as a result of Departments and people staging functions at the Staff House.

The new President (Professor B. Newton-John) paid a tribute after the meeting to the special efforts of a number of people who had assisted the Staff House Club to become operational. He said Mr. D.D. Morris had given great assistance by selecting the original furniture.

The following members were elected to form the Committee of the Staff House Club:

President: Professor Newton-John
Vice-President: Professor R.G. Keats
Hon. Secretary: Mr. R.B. Taylor
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. H. Floyer
Committee: Miss J. Murray

Mr. K.F. Collis
Mr. E.B. Jacobs
Mr. K.E. Lindgren

REDUCTION OF EXAMINATION ANXIETY

The Student Counselling Unit will run, in third term, a series of sessions devoted to assisting students who find that anxiety is having a grossly disruptive effect on their study capacities. The preliminary session will be held on Friday, September 11th, in Rooms G24 and G25 between 1.00 and 2.00 p.m. and students interested are invited to bring their lunches.

The Senior Student Counsellor (Mr. A.P.T. Loftus) said that if any members of staff felt students could be helped to reduce the anxiety they experienced in examinations, he hoped they would mention the special course to these students.

Mr. Loftus said a recent study by Gaudry and Bradshaw in Melbourne had demonstrated, with some 300 grade seven and eight pupils, that students who were found to be very anxious on a test done at the beginning of the year did less well in a terminal examination than in a progressive examination situation. Conversely the low anxious children did better under the single end of year examination conditions than they did on progressive assessments.

"Experience would suggest that the same sort of effect occurs at University level," he said. Each year, counsellors see students who can detail a progressive disruption of their study activities under threat from the November examinations, while others work on undisturbed.
"Such experimental data is clearly of interest in formulating policies regarding examinations. In view of the individual differences shown, one could make a case for the student opting early in the year for a particular form of assessment for himself.

"The course which my unit will conduct will consist of three parts:

(a) an evaluation of the current level of anxiety and its effects;

(b) the use of a graded set of relaxation and desensitisation exercises undertaken either in a group or individual setting;

(c) using the same exercises at home to gain skill in the processes involved.

"The retraining programme used last year, both here and at other Universities in Australia, has shown beneficial effects for the majority who entered it.

"However, one should be explicit and say that desensitisation is not a magic cure - if the individual does not know his work no programme of this nature will put the information into his head. However, those who have studied will find that they can make a more effective use of what they know."

Mr. Loftus said further details could be obtained from the Student Counselling Unit (Extension 255).

**COMING EVENTS**

Presumably television sets in the Union building will be turned off "Four Corners" on the night of September 19. It should be more interesting to hear Michael Willessee "live". Willessee will be guest speaker at Newcastle University Union's tenth annual dinner to be held in the Union that night. He will videotape his "Four Corners" TV show a couple of days before he comes to Newcastle.

NBN Channel 3 and Newcastle City Council will help to sponsor the forthcoming art exhibition and prize to be conducted by the University Students' Association. Paintings entered in the event will be exhibited in the Union from September 18 to 25.

Mr. J. Roberts, Lecturer in the Department of Chemical Engineering, will present a paper on aspects of the disposal of industrial waste at a symposium to be staged by the Newcastle Division of the Institution of Engineers of Australia in the P.D. Riddell Theatre, Tighe's Hill, on September 24. The symposium will look at the disposal and treatment of industrial waste. The Vice-President of the Water and Waste Water Association of Australia (Dr. T.C. Judell) will also give an address.
The steps leading to the main entrance of the Arts-Administration Building will be the stage for performances of Euripides' "Bacchae" on the nights of September 16, 17 and 18. The audience will be located in the courtyard.

Mr. I.A. Allan, Lecturer in Classics, is producing the play and members of the cast have been provided by the Student Players. "Bacchae" will be presented in English translation.

Members of the cast include Graham Hughes (Dionysus), Darryl Palmer (Pentheus), Annette Hughes (Agaue) and Andrew Clarke (The Messenger). There will be a chorus of four players and Paul Amour (Clarinet) will provide accompaniment. Julianne Daisley is business manager for the performances.

Is wise senility preferable to youthful impetuosity?
Dr. B. Helmore and Messrs. W. Derkenne and B. Maloney will argue that it is, and three students will support the cause for youthful impetuosity in the Union on September 15 at 7.30 p.m. Chairs will be provided for the Government speakers should they need them.

Professor B. Nashar is expected to return to the Geology Department on September 17 after a month's overseas tour which included visits to Port Moresby, Hong Kong, Japan, Taipei, Bangkok and Singapore.

Professor Nashar went overseas to present a paper on behalf of Mr. A. Purvis, a former postgraduate student at this University, and herself to the International Mineralogical Association, which met earlier this month in Tokyo.

Between 11.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. on Sunday, September 13, it will be Open Day on the University's Campus.

Members of staff will be available in all departments to advise prospective students on academic courses and answer questions from members of the general public. The Students' Representative Council has arranged for some students to be guides.

Various student groups, including the Sports Union, Fencing Club, Asian Students, the Folk Singing Club, the Musicians and the Student Players, will perform in the courtyard near the Library. The S.R.C. will hold an Education Forum in the Science Lecture Theatre.

Demonstrations, displays, talks, experiments and other events will occur in various departments across the University. It will be the University's first Open Day since 1966.

Newcastle Student Moratorium Committee has supplied the following programme of some proposed Moratorium events:
Meeting, McLarty Room, Union, September 15; visit by representatives of "Tharunka", September 16; Teach-in, New Common Room, Union, September 18 (Moratorium Day) 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.; Dance, Namatjira Room, Newcastle Trades Hall, September 20.

Mr. Mackay, M.H.R., has accepted the committee's invitation to elaborate publicly on his "Guidelines for the A.B.C." proposal on September 14 in the Union.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS AVAILABLE

Information about and application forms for the following awards are available from the Secretary. Students interested should enquire at the Student Records Office.

COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS: Available for full-time or part-time study in approved courses at the University. Closing date for applications at the Commonwealth Department of Education & Science, Sydney: September 30.

A.I.N.S.W. POST-GRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS - 1971: For persons wishing to enrol for a higher degree after completion of a Bachelor of Engineering or Bachelor of Science, Honours degree course. Applications close with the Secretary November 6.

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIP & FELLOWSHIP PLAN - UNITED KINGDOM AND HONG KONG AWARDS: These awards provide opportunities for Commonwealth students to pursue advanced courses or undertake research in the country making the awards. Applications close with the Secretary on October 9.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Mr. J.M. Heuzenroeder, M.A. (Adel.), Dip.Ed. (Adel.), Lecturer in English. Before Mr. Heuzenroeder was Lecturer in English at the University College of Townsville.

Mr. F.J.C. Stanton, M.A., Dip.Ed. (Syd.), Senior Tutor in Economics. Mr. Stanton completed his Master's degree before joining the University.

EDITOR'S NOTE

People should form a queue outside the Editor's door (G.68, Ground Floor, Arts-Administration Building) clutching copy for the next issue of "University News". Issues will be produced on Thursdays every two weeks (next, September 24). The deadlines for contributions will be noon on the Mondays preceding the days of printing (e.g. noon on September 22 for the second issue).

Note that it is planned to reserve a section of every issue for advertisements, for which no charge will be made. Please submit copy, advertisements and enquiries to Mr. Armstrong, Secretary's Division (Ext. 341).