LIBRARY - are we more disadvantaged

Users of the Auchmuty Library are now more disadvantaged than their fellows in the other Australian universities. The University Librarian, Mr. E. Flowers, says that the other universities were lucky enough to secure additional library space before capital funds dried up.

"The efforts of the Library staff in adjusting to straitened circumstances have had a lot to do with the maintenance of satisfactory levels of service. It is encouraging, that the University is doing its utmost, having regard to its other besetting problems, to preserve its Library operation."

There was a steadily increasing workload caused by shortage of space and the expedients resorted to because of this. As yet, the Library had not had to use off-campus storage.

"The move into foredge shelving has been the subject of considerable adverse comment from our users". Mr. Flowers said.

Despite the increase in funds for the purchase of library materials, cost increases, estimated for the Australian university libraries for 1981 as 12.8 per cent for serials and 19.3 per cent for monographs, were much greater. Many significant serials, of which the Library held the only copy in the region, had to be cancelled.

The decline in current monograph purchases, in all disciplines but particularly in science-technology, was, Mr. Flowers said, likely to be more serious and less remediable.

"Clearly, the diminishing book allocation will lead to an increased dependence on other libraries through the Inter-library loan network. This facility is not available to undergraduate students".

The Auchmuty Library is very concerned about the continuing decline in coverage of current publishing output. The following figures for books accessioned showed the position, Mr. Flowers said: 1977, 17,250; 1978, 15,716; 1979, 13,332; and 1980, 9,735.

More than 200 serial titles were cancelled in 1980, although not all of these were lost to the region.

DEATH of PROFESSOR D.C. MADDISON

Professor David Clarkson, Maddison, M.B., B.S., D.P.M. (Sydney), F.R.A.C.P., F.A.N.Z.C.P., Foundation Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, died suddenly at his home on November 3.

On hearing of Professor Maddison's death, the Vice Chancellor, Professor D.W. George, said he was deeply grieved.

"The Newcastle Medical School was David Maddison's creation in the real sense of the word. The tragedy is that he himself will not be here to enjoy the world-wide recognition it has achieved.

"But he had drawn to him many people of a like mind. Because of that, his dream will go on."

The President of the Australian Medical Association, Dr. Lionel L. Wilson, said: "Professor Maddison was one of Medicine's great innovators. The loss at 40 young age of the creativity of this fine teacher and administrator is a blow to the profession. He had so much more to give."

A memorial ceremony for the late Professor Maddison will be held in the Great Hall of the University on Wednesday, November 18 at 4.30 pm.
Dear Sir,

The last University Council meeting emplotted to me the absolute necessity of making the decision-making process in this University in such ways that it cannot go unmentioned. Firstly I find it remiss that Council did not adopt a policy of refusing to collect tuition fees next year. I can understand them ignoring the pleas of one token student on Council like myself, but to ignore 782 students and staff of this University is totally reprehensible. That was the number of signatures I collected in one and a half days to present to Council asking them to say they would not collect fees. Unfortunately Council did not have the guts to follow in the steps of other universities and colleges, and instead adopted policy of collecting fees if compelled to do so, but "unwillingly". A compromise which means nothing.

Secondly the decision was made to increase the fee at Edwards Hall by $9 to $80 per week. There was barely any discussion, or even realization that perhaps students could not afford such high rents. Possibly not many students and staff were aware that this proposal was going to Council and it appears to have not been made into an issue (ostensibly I am sure so people cannot make a fuss and therefore to avoid any opposition).

Finally the other issue which enrages me was the recommendation that the Secretary of the University be given the authority to grant exemption to students who do not want to pay their fees to the Students' Association, University and Sports Union; and that instead the money be paid into the Vice-Chancellor's discretionary fund, supposedly to be used for the provision of student amenities all.

This recommendation was made without any consultation with the respective organisations, a move I regard as a direct affront to the supposed autonomy of our student bodies. I will necessarily magnify the financial difficulties of all universities with its inevitable concommitants: increased pressure to purge all non-tenured staff and to freeze all academic vacancies - i.e. the necessary reduction of the number of individuals working in each discipline in order to increase the rewards to a short-inking is required (not to mention ageing) elite.

I for one can not see how my receiving a 6 per cent pay rise increases the quality of education at the University. Nor can I see how any academic personage in my ken whose quality of performance will be enhanced. However, I have witnessed and fully expect to continue witnessing a most definite decline in academic standards and the further compromise of pedagogic ideals through the continuing loss of young, talented people in my faculty.

Therefore, I would suggest that anyone SINCERELY interested in the quality of tertiary education (who also makes the pretense of rational consistency between their view of the world that large scale (and personal actions in it) should join me in calling for the Staff Association of this University to demonstrate their good faith by demanding the postponement of any salary increases until the financial position of tertiary institutions becomes more viable.

MARGARET RAVANAGH
President, Students' Representative Council.

Dear Sir,

PAY RISES & THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

The media has been burdened of late with great volumes of rhetoric concerning the ultimate importance of maintaining the quality of tertiary education and university standards in particular. I would think that academics holding this view would find it very difficult to reconcile this position with the acceptance of (much less fighting for) the recent 6 per cent pay rise for academic staff.

It seems quite obvious to me that this increase in pay will necessarily magnify the financial difficulties of all universities with its inevitable concommitants: increased pressure to purge all non-tenured staff and to freeze all academic vacancies - i.e. the necessary reduction of the number of individuals working in each discipline in order to increase the rewards to a short-inking is required (not to mention ageing) elite.

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NORTON JACOBI
Department of Economics.

Dear Sir,

As a matter of principle I did not attend the recent demonstration in the Hunter Street Mall and have since been sufficiently dismayed by the self-indulgent huff of some of my fellow academics as to want to state publicly the reasons for my position. In the campaign being waged by the vice-chancellors and university staff associations, three separate issues are being confused to give a quite distorted and emotional impression that there is some assault by the Federal Government on university autonomy and academic freedom. These three issues need to be clearly distinguished:

1. The re-introduction of fees for second and postgraduate degrees. As every economist knows, the objective of making the fee is to increase the demand. University staff and students therefore have a vested interest in free tertiary education, provided interest is particularly strong at small universities such as Newcastle, Deakin and Murdoch which would suffer most from any decline in student numbers. It does not, however, constitute a good justification for a subsidy. The introduction of free tertiary education by the Whitlam Government was a regressive measure to the benefit of middle class parents who could afford to support at university children who were not clever enough to obtain Commonwealth scholarships. If fees were introduced and at this stage they are not being introduced for undergraduate degrees - some children of poorer parents could suffer but this could be overcome by providing scholarships, more generous (means-tested) TEAS
allowances and/or student loans. If academics are genuinely concerned about the welfare of poorer students, then they should be exerting pressure upon the Federal Government to ensure that such facilities are provided. By maintaining a blanket opposition to the reintroduction of fees, academics seem to be endorsing the specious student slogan "University education is a right - not a privilege".

The closure of the engineering school at Deakin University. The portrayal of this as an attack upon university autonomy is quite hysterical. Deakin is a marginal university - the fourth in the Melbourne area - which ought never have been built in the first place. As far as I can judge the closure of the engineering school is a sensible rationalisation. I share some concern at the way the decision seems to have been reached and the reasons for it might establish, but I would see the appropriate response as being to seek assurance from the Government on those matters rather than opposing the closure itself.

The merger inter alia of Newcastle University and the CAE. I am presently opposed to the merger on two grounds, first that it may further lower academic standards at this University - although the Senate Guidelines seem to suggest how this might be minimised - and secondly that it will not, if done fairly and properly, save the funds which the Government claims. That the mergers have not been thought out seems to have been tacitly admitted by the Government in its back-down over the merger with New England University. Strong protest is therefore called for but it ought to be concentrated upon those two aspects and not confused by a general campaign against cutbacks in education spending.

The low standard of debate over these issues suggests to me either that some academics in this University are incapable of logical reasoning or that they are prepared to be intellectually dishonest when their self-interest is at stake. Academic freedom is something to be cherished, and if need be defended, but it also has to be earned. More than any other group in the community, academics ought to be able to distinguish between public interest and self-interest and be willing to place the former before the latter. The defence or self-interest by emotional appeals to university autonomy and academic freedom will not go down with the general public, which rightly regards academics as highly privileged. It worries me that in unionising to maintain their privileges academics are embracing the status of employees, as more or less glorified high school teachers, and it worries me even more that this is accompanied by impatience with those who still cling to the ideal of a community of scholars. It worries me also that of the many who are so vocal on the issue of academic freedom, so few have ever made use of the facilities and speak out on matters of public concern. Above all, it is chastening to reflect that colleagues were prepared to march down Hunter Street in defence of the rights of those when they had never taken part in a demonstration on any other public issue. The rot has really set in. I hope that these comments may help to stimulate a more honest debate and thereby shatter the spurious consensus on these difficult issues.

HOWARD DICK, Economics Department.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

On October 14, Emeritus Professor James Johnston Auchmuty, who served the University and its predecessor, the University College, for nearly 25 years, died. The remarkable career of a historian-educationalist-Internationalist was at its end. We advise our readers that a memorial service for the late Professor Auchmuty will be held in Christ Church Cathedral on Thursday, November 26, at 11 am. The Dean of Newcastle, the Very Rev. R.G. Beal, will conduct the service. He said that he was sure Professor Auchmuty would have wished his former colleagues from the University to take part. In the procession wearing their academic dress. The procession would move off from the Cathedral Hall at 10.50 pm. Rt. Rev. G.F. Parker, Auxiliary Bishop of Newcastle, will represent the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor D.W. George, will read a lesson and the Acting Vice-Principal, Professor K.R. Dutton, will deliver the Eulogy. The Warden of Convocation, Mr. P. Miller, will participate as a server. The Dean said that the late Professor Auchmuty's academic gowns would be placed near the altar in the Cathedral.

Minister consulted

In Sydney on October 29, the Minister for Education, Mr. Mulock, and members of a delegation from the University, comprising the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Chairman of Senate, discussed the proposed amalgamation of the University and of Newcastle College of Advanced Education.

The Deputy Chairman of Senate, Professor M. Carter, said the Minister had listened very sympathetically to the points made. The University's representatives had stressed that it was absolutely important for a recognised and recognised university to be maintained in Newcastle and the Hunter Region.

"We explained to Mr. Mulock that there had been considerable discussion within the university on the mode of integration that should be implemented and a very clear consensus had been arrived at favouring a mode which will ensure that the University will sustain its spiritual and international importance, while, at the same time, provide guarantees that advanced education-type courses will be continued in the region"
There will be some major changes in the University's administration in 1982, says Professor Ken Dutton.

Professor Dutton, who will take up duty as Vice-Principal and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in January, says the University's decision to operate from 1982 with only one post at the Deputy Vice-Chancellor level will make it necessary to re-review and rationalise senior administrative tasks.

"We shall be reverting to the senior administrative structure of the late 1960s," Professor Dutton said. "In the growth period of the early 70s, a second Deputy position was created on a part-time basis, and later became a full-time position. This was a reflection of the increasing complexity of the organisation. "Although expansion has now given way to contraction in most areas, the University has continued to become more, rather than less, complex in management terms. Yet we can no longer afford to respond 'incrementally' to the increasing administrative workload, and the central administration has to take its fair share of staffing cutbacks. "The only answer lies in the rationalisation of tasks," Professor Dutton said. "It will clearly not be possible for one man to carry out all the duties which have previously been undertaken by two full-time appointees. "Though a Senior Lecturer will take over most of my research supervision and senior undergraduate teaching, I shall still need to maintain a large departmental role than my predecessors, who had the advantage of a professorial colleague in their own discipline."

"The cutbacks will mean that a number of routine administrative tasks will need to be passed on to others", Professor Dutton said. "In general, any task which can be undertaken further 'down the line' will be handed on. "At present, a good deal of the Vice-Principal's work is of a routine clerical nature. It is not good management practice to pay a man a Deputy Vice-Chancellor's salary for work which can be equally well performed by an officer at a lower level".

Two examples which Professor Dutton quoted were parking fines and correspondence relating to promotions. "Parking is the bane of the Vice-Principal's life, but it is inevitably an area in which emotions run high. It seems to me that the imposition of fines should not be undertaken at the Vice-Principal level, since it is largely a routine operation and tends to portray the senior administration as bureaucratic and punitive. For many people, the only contact they have with the Vice-Principal is when they get a parking ticket issued in his name: in fact, though parking accounts for only a small fraction of his work, some people get the impression that this is all he does. While he will probably need to be involved in disputed cases, he can hand over much of the clerical work so as to free himself for more major policy issues. That is, after all, what he is paid for".

"Promotions correspondence is which can equally be transferred elsewhere. "I have handled some 600 items of correspondence in promotions this year, which in most other universities would be dealt with by an officer of the Personnel Division", Professor Dutton said. "Once again, I see the Vice-Principal being involved only when a particularly delicate issue arises".

Professor Dutton sees the need for rationalisation of administrative tasks as the sort of challenge which will soon face all sections of the University. "Many of the cutbacks which are taking place in other areas need also to be seen as opportunities to establish priorities. We have to face the fact that we are unlikely to see any marked improvement in our financial position for some years to come. What we need to do, without ceasing to press the government for a reversal of its funding policies, is find ways of maintaining and even improving our effectiveness with the reduced funds and diminished staff positions which are the present facts of academic life."

"For instance", he said, "by the middle of 1982 something like a quarter of our established non-Medical Chairs will be vacant. It is clear that we will not be able to afford to fill them all, or not for some years to come. On the other hand, the University will find it hard to maintain its credibility if they are simply left vacant indefinitely. "This makes it imperative that we develop our long-awaited academic plan, so that we can work towards clearly defined goals, rather than just respond negatively to those circumstances as they arise. It may be, for example, that not all of the vacant Chairs need to be advertised - or not in the present form - because we may be able to identify some areas for which a different strategy can be developed without sacrificing the academic standards that are vital to our work".

Two areas in which Professor Dutton hopes to play a significant role are graduate relations and town-and-gown relations. "We need to tap all available sources of support for our work. Convocation, the Friends of the University, the Positive Initiatives Committee, and the University's Alumni should all encourage and back-up. In these areas, as in that of building up our student numbers, the first task is to identify accurately the likely 'market' and then put adequate resources into getting our message across."
David Maddison's sudden death has robbed the students and staff of the Faculty of Medicine of a well-loved leader and a father, but not before he had managed to create an institution and an ethos that will become a fitting memorial to his life and work. Like most of us, he experienced a traditional education in medicine, but he perceived more clearly than most that mid-twentieth century medical education was inappropriate in its emphasis on disease rather than on the person who is ill. A distinguished academic career in psychiatry was a not unexpected outcome, but David also developed a distinctive vision of the role of doctors in society, and of how their education should be undertaken to make such a role possible. His experience as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Sydney convinced him of the difficulty of changing the habits of an existing educational institution, and he saw the development of the Newcastle school as an opportunity to put into practice the ideals that he had developed. His restless vision attracted a number of others who also despaired of wading perpetually through educational treacle, and he collected around him in Newcastle a team of foundation Young Turks to implement the shared philosophy. It is a measure of David's perception of the potential of the staff he appointed, of his skill in bringing out the best in people, and of the potency of his ideas, that the resulting curriculum was far more innovative and exciting than any of us had dared to hope.

The traditional forms of education have been by-passed. Students start by confronting in group discussion a series of problems presented by patients, and use the problems as the stimulus and focus for learning all the sciences, attitudes and skills basic to medicine, both for the individual patient and for communities and groups. All these activities are informed and permeated by David's quintessentially human perception of the practice of medicine. Thus, although he delegated the entire administration of the educational programme, his insatiable capacity for work enabled him to keep an eagle eye on the flood of educational documents produced by the Faculty, with an incisive memorandum to the relevant committee chairman if any proposal seemed counter to the Faculty's declared philosophy. David's command of, and defence of, the English language were an example to all who hold literacy dear.

His deeply-held views about the potentially destructive influence of a departmental Faculty structure led to a matrix organisation, in which power and finance are channelled through a number of committees, whose performance has fully vindicated his views. He came to recognise and confront the conflict between his natural desire for democracy and the spread of responsibility on the one hand, and on the other hand the sense of ownership which is inevitable when one starts an enterprise from a single-handed beginning.

With the Faculty securely established, his influence spread well beyond its confines. The network of innovative medical schools sponsored by the World Health Organisation claimed much of his attention, since he rightly saw it as a way of advancing the joint causes of the Newcastle school and of innovation in medical education on the world scene. The recent Task Force meeting in Newcastle represented the first tangible fruit of this initiative, and his efforts in this area will be sorely missed.

His other major preoccupation was the Faculty's relationship with the local hospitals and health care agencies. He recognised the Herculean nature of the task of integrating a new medical school into an existing health care structure, let alone that of integrating an innovative programme into a conservative, understaffed and under-resourced environment. His colleagues in the Faculty share his frustration and disappointment at the relative lack of progress, especially in the procurement of resources for health care in the Hunter region, after ten years of unremitting effort.

The friendly and informal atmosphere of the Faculty, often the subject of positive comment by visitors, derives directly from his personal style of democracy. This atmosphere, coupled with the academic and professional freedom that we have enjoyed here, has made this, for many members of both staff and students, the most rewarding, even if perpetually challenging, task that we have ever experienced. It is a bitter disappointment to us that he did not live to see in action the graduates of whom he would justifiably have been so proud. For us, who are left to carry on what he started, his death is a deep and grievous loss which will be hard indeed for us to endure. But this is not the end, only the end of a great beginning. The Faculty is united in its determination to meet the new challenge and in the position of world leadership and innovation in medical education that David Maddison showed us how to establish. Our programme and its graduates will be a lasting tribute to his vision and energy and humanity. David, we will not let you down.

RMC on behalf of the Faculty of Medicine.
Review

BOOK WITHOUT BARRIERS
(Nimrod Publications)

Although the anthology may have been written by, and about, the disabled in our region, it has importance and relevance for all of us.

Through the poetry and prose in Book Without Barriers, edited by Norman Talbot, the question is raised: What is normal? Margaret Cook's short prose passage My Personal Privilege states that, although she belongs to that section of the population called "normal", her entry into the world of the handicapped for one year has made her aware of the "fallacy of thinking that the handicapped are different".

Much of the poetry in this slim volume is of a very sensitive, personal nature, as is, for example, that of William Tyler. His poem, Tragedy In Life, is a particularly poignant questioning of the meaning of life: "Does nothing leave us as we would?" The poem succeeds in universalising his plight, uniting it with that of all who have ever questioned their place in "God's plan".

Also, the confusion and fear expressed through the poetry of David Bullen, as he contemplates life and death, is reminiscent of that experienced by all of us at some time.

David Kibble's conversational poem Stroke reminds us of the limited power of verse to express "what's inside a head screwed" by disability and, so, of the difficulty to communicate in words the intensity of one's feelings.

By encapsulating the contributions in this book between Beatitudes for Friends of the Disabled, by Brian Delaney, and Epilogue, by Geoffrey Cowper-Hill, the editor has succeeded in transmitting the message behind the book: "What makes an individual ... is the God-given self which no disability can confine". Geoff Cowper-Hill's fine poem seems particularly appropriate to end this brief anthology as it urges the spirit of man to dispense of the "armour of logic" and roam freely; through this freedom, he says, we will achieve security.

Book Without Barriers, released for the Week Without Barriers, can be bought from Norman Talbot (Department of English) and Norton Jacobi (Department of Economics). The book is priced at $2.
University

Following approval of the constitution the following office-bearers were elected:

President, Mr. Ken Gordon;
Vice-President, Mr. Keith Barbour; Secretary, Mrs. Lorna George; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Wilhelmine Kellerman; Treasurer, Professor Laurie Short; Publicity Officer, Mr. Brian Relf. These and the following ordinary members, comprise the Executive Committee:

Mr. John McNaughton, Dr. Don Angus, Mr. John Peschar, Mr. Justin Davies, Mrs. Wilhelmine Kellerman, Brian Relf. These and the ordinary members, comprise the Executive Committee.

The Lord Mayor extended a cordial welcome and Sir Bede Callaghan expressed appreciation of the work done by the Steering Committee.

Mr. McNaughton, a member of the Steering Committee, said that there had to be a link between the University and the Hunter community. He was very confident that this could be established by the Friends of the University.

Dealing with the proposed activities, Mr. McNaughton said that the Steering Committee anticipated all members of the University should be allowed to hold whatever functions served the group's objects. "A book-fair is one suggestion and an art show another", he said. "Members of the business community are expected to be included in the group's initiatives". The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ken Dutton, acknowledged the University's gratitude for the support of the people who were at the meeting. The gathering was a great encouragement to those who spent their professional lives within the boundaries of the University at Shortland.

Concluding the meeting, the Chancellor said that people sometimes got things out of perspective when they were close at home. "We have a tremendous University in Newcastle. We tend to down-grade it. If we are overseas, however, we remember its magnificence".

WWB contribution

Almost 100 intellectually handicapped adolescents and adults, from as far afield as Muswellbrook and Ingleton, converged on the Union on November 4 as part of the Week Without Barriers of WEA. They took part in an experimental seminar, conducted by members of the University Counselling Service, with help from the Health Commission Developmental Disabilities Unit.

In parallel with this workshop, Mr. Leon Burwell (Lecturer at the NCAE) assisted by students and personnel of the Department of Sport and Recreation, conducted a non-competitive sports programme in the Drama Studio. Activities such as painting, identifying unseen objects, seeing and discussing themselves on closed circuit video and other group orientated 'games' devoted to gaining social skills were very well received by the participants, and several requests were made in the course of the day for a repeat 'next week'. As well, many supervisors from the Activity and Occupation groups found much to discuss between themselves.

During the lunch period the Union Student Amenities Officer had organised a Sydney-based group called Playback Theatre, who acted out stories provided from the experiences of the youngsters. These vignettes created much amusement as well as excitement and audience participation.

In total the day provided a worthwhile experience to enrich the lives of all who attended.

computer jargon

It is not unreasonable to be irritated by the ugly jargon generated by and for the computer. How can one react, though, when the jargon has the unmistakable touch of the literate?

In a request for a missing periodical received in Secretary's Division recently the following paragraph appears:

For your information you will find - beside the title, publisher and missing issues possibly the ISSN, delivery address and the date on which the Periodicals Department has signalised the lacuna.

Week-end camp

Enthusiasts of poetry and creative prose are being offered another Week-end Writers' Camp at the Morpeth Conference Centre.

The Department of Community Programmes and the WEA are jointly organising the camp. The week-end writers' camp at Morpeth in December, 1980, worked so well that there was wide agreement that it should be repeated this year.

The aim is to provide simply and inexpensively an opportunity for people to spend two days, in pleasant surroundings and with good company, totally involved in writing - and with expert guidance. Accommodation will be in the "cottage". The full fee for the camp will be only $20. Enrolment will be limited to a maximum of 30 people.
Professor Short retires

Prior to the appointment of Professor Short to the Foundation Chair of Education at the University of Tasmania in 1966, education courses in the University were provided by staff of the Newcastle Teachers' College. With Alan Barcan (now Head of the Department), John Choppy, Jack Doocy and Kevin Collins, Professor Short set about developing subjects in the Arts degree and, the Diploma in Education, although for some time the College continued to do the work in teaching methods for the Diploma.

In 1968 the University was still building its basic accommodation on the Shortlands site and the new Department had six offices (one for each of the academics and one for the secretary) and one seminar room. Departmental equipment consisted of a typewriter; library resources were very limited, having been developed in the College rather than the University; and the shortage of accommodation frustrated ambitions to develop experimental approaches to the teaching and study of Education.

The Department built up its subjects for the Arts course, enrolled its first postgraduate research students and with the appointment of additional staff in 1970 was able to assume full responsibility for the diploma course, although for some years it received assistance in certain areas of teaching method from college staff.

Professor Short retires at the end of the year, at a time when despite the general reduction in demand for teacher education, the Department he helped to establish is faring very much better than most others in the University. Through the development of its range of postgraduate courses, especially for practising teachers, the Department is now second only to Commerce in its student load. "The turning point in student enrolments in the University was in 1977. "We've seen a decline every year since, but Education's numbers have been maintained, reflecting a competition for promotion in teaching and the greater emphasis on professional development."

In his 14 years in the University, Professor Short has served as Head of Department, Deputy Chairman of Senate, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Acting Vice-Chancellor and chairman or member of innumerable committees. Recently he chaired one of the working groups appointed to review the University's finances and drafted its report on the academic activities of the University.

As Deputy Vice-Chancellor (part-time in 1976 and full-time thereafter) he has been responsible for the preparation of the University's submissions to the Federal authorities on the funding of the University. He sees this as promoting the University's claims to resources to provide a wider range of activities than would be appropriate were it to be regarded as a small adjunct to the metropolitan institutions. He has handled many other administrative responsibilities including 2NUR-FM, the Child Care Centre, the Electron Microscope Unit, the Computing Centre, the Library (1967-1981) and the Language Laboratory (1981). Professor Short is responsible for the allocation of accommodation and in this he works closely with the University Planner; he serves also as chairman of any building committees for new buildings, although, in his own words, "we don't have many of those these days". His major effort in this area was the development of the brief for the Clinical Sciences Building, which required the integration of the needs of the Medical School, the Royal Newcastle Hospital and the Health Commission.

Professor Short at his desk.

Professor Short retired on January 23, 1971. His father was a post office employee at that time serving at Pallamallawa, but subsequently to move to various places including Sydney, Gosford and Armidale. He began his education at Gosford in the old stone school now incorporated in the Technical College, and spent his high school years in Armidale. He recalls that during 1936 and 1937 the proposal to establish a university college in Armidale caused much excitement. To win approval for the scheme, the local community had raised £10,000, at that time and in that community a substantial amount.

The family moved to Sydney again at the end of 1937 and Laurie Short entered the University of Sydney with an Exhibition which covered fees and a teachers' college scholarship of £180 per year. He studied Science and after graduation completed the Diploma in Education course at Sydney Teachers College.

While teaching Science at North Newton he completed research for the degree of Master of Science and in 1946 accepted the appointment as Lecturer in Chemistry at Wollongong Technical College. "As the word was out that the University of Technology was to be established we were advised to become active in research - somewhat frustrating as we taught a wide range of subjects, long hours, made laboratory equipment for teaching, and had neither laboratory nor library facilities for research." In 1948, he was awarded one of the first Australian National University Scholarships for overseas study and proceeded to Oxford, for work on infrared spectroscopy. On graduating D.Phil. in 1951 he took up an appointment with the Department of Medical Chemistry of the ANU, at that time located in London.

At the suggestion of the late Professor R.S. Nyholm who was then Head of the Department of Inorganic Chemistry in the University of Technology he took up an appointment as Lecturer in that department and returned to Sydney in 1952, about one month after James Auchmuty and Geoff Cranfield, on their return from their appointments at Ultimo, he remembers these as exciting times, with new ideas about the nature of the new university education being translated into courses and research activities, the need to round out and establish the philosophy of the new institution, which was under attack...
from the more conservative forces, and not least, a revolution in the way of modernizing the whole field of inorganic chemistry. In 1953 he was elected President of the newly formed Staff Association. From 1955 until mid-1958 he was Head of the Department of General and Inorganic Chemistry. Writing in the Australian Educational Review (1957) the Vice-Chancellor (Professor J. P. Baxter) decided that the University should institute its own attack on the problem of failure rates, which the Committee had described as "a national extravagance". In 1958 he set about establishing a unit to investigate study failure and wastage, and invited Laurie Short with Mr. George Gray, a senior Service Counselor from the Department of Technical Education to undertake the study. In 1960 the group presented an extensive report giving details of the performance and background of students and of the University as an educational institution, with many recommendations. One result was the establishment in 1961 of the Educational Research Unit with Dr. Short as its Head. "Our concern", he recollects, "was to encourage and help people to analyse their educational work, the design of courses, the teaching and examining, and to improve their performance. We investigated the selection of students, the relations between school performance and university success, the reliability of pass rates, the reliability and validity of examinations, the content of courses and the quality of teaching. At a time when it was popular to blame poor performance on such single elements as selection, or school teaching or the teaching of the university, we were able to demonstrate that the problem was far more complex, requiring action on "fronts". The ERU developed a teaching aids section, a testing advisory service, and the University television service.

From this type of activity it was a natural progression to the Foundation Chair of Education at Newcastle in 1968, and from that to University administration as Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Professor Short sees administration as an opportunity for creative work rather than, as it is so often presented, as the operation of a bureaucracy sharing out resources and shuffling papers. "I am interested in the way in which the activities of the individuals and departments can be brought together to maximize the impact and contribution of the institution. I believe that the University is potentially much more than the sum of its parts, and that the realization of that potential is a challenging task. One must attempt to bring the contributions of the units to the service of common goals and to be complementary to each other. "One must try to persuade people that their efforts can in fact mean more if they are brought within a particular framework, and one must be prepared to share a vision of what that framework should be. That, I believe, is the challenge to the administrator in a university, and it is made more difficult by the respect one must share for the tradition of allowing maximum freedom to the individual to develop his own contribution".

Professor Short was Deputy Chairman of Senate in 1971 when with the concurrence of the then Vice-Chancellor (Professor Auchmuty) he introduced proposals for the incorporation of the Newcastle Teachers' College into the University. He believes that the University and teacher education missed a great opportunity at that time. "The possibility existed then of consolidating teacher education into one institution and of providing a more appropriate environment for the professional preparation of teachers. That proposal failed because it was seen as a threat to the University".

As far as the current move towards amalgamation is concerned, Professor Short is among those who see advantages, if the matter is handled properly. He had his dissent recorded when Senate recently approved specific proposals as the basis for amalgamation. "I do not fear the outcome provided that obvious safeguards are included to guarantee protection for the basic functions of the University and of the College, and that staff are treated fairly in the adjustments that must be made. There must be some potential for saving in bringing the two institutions together and, more importantly, there must be potential for the more effective use of the available resources. I do not see the University's reputation being threatened by association with the College".

Knowing Laurie Short, he will not sit back in passive reflection during his retirement. Interested in art, he is President of the Newcastle Gallery Society and of the Gallery Foundation which he helped to establish as a means of raising funds for the Gallery. He is a Director of the Royal Newcastle Hospital and President of the Hunter Region Art Group of the Australian College of Education. He has recently become addicted to bowling, at the New Lambton Heights Club, and is trying to master the secrets of grass and weight.

The Department of Education will say farewell to Professor Short on two occasions. The first will be on Thursday, November 26 when he will be a guest at a Staff Lunch in the Staff House. The second farewell will take the form of a dinner for Professor and Mrs. Short at a Newcastle restaurant on the evening of Tuesday, December 1.

FOOTLIGHTS'

Robert Bathurst and Emma Thompson in the Cambridge footlights' 'entertainment' Botham (the Museoal) coming to Newcastle. The revue is presented on stage by five graduates of the University of Cambridge, who wrote the sketches. Past members of the Cambridge Footlights include Jimmy Edwards, Peter Cook, Jonathan Miller, David Frost and Tim Brooke-Taylor. Botham (the Museoal) will be presented in the Civic Theatre on November 30 at 8 pm.
Women's employment and educational opportunities within the University should be maintained and expanded. A situation whereby women students and staff would be disproportionately affected following the amalgamation of the University and the CAE should be resisted. These primary aims were agreed to at a meeting on Women's Employment Prospects in Tertiary Education Institutions in the Senate of the University of Sydney. The meeting, attended by about 40 people, was convened by the Women on Campus Group, the Public Service Association and the Staff Association.

At the meeting, the Association of Women Employees of the University of Newcastle was formed along the same lines as the Association of Women Employees of the University of Sydney. Margaret Henry, who chaired the meeting, said the status of women in universities was deteriorating. There was a very small number of women on the Council of the University and among the academic staff.

The Association of Women Employees of the University of Sydney (AWEUS) and reported on the Association's efforts which had led to the Senate of the University of Sydney adopting a report by the Vice-Chancellor, then Professor Sir Bruce Williams, recommending a programme of administrative change and research aimed at improving the employment status of women. "AWEUS represents the interests of women across all job classifications, academic and non-academic", Jo said. We have refused to stop work for 10 minutes every hour and be professionally trained, with refresher courses also provided. Betty Johnson predicted that the University of Sydney would eventually have work stations, with word processors, right across the campus. Departmental secretaries would be re-designated clerks.

She took the linking of word processors with computers, telephones, printeries etc. and the increase in part-time employment as examples of developments which would reduce women's employment opportunities.

Joan Bielski, of the Social Development Unit of the Office of the Minister for Education, spoke about Equal Opportunity Legislation and its implications, in particular the responses of academic institutions to the legislation. Joan said that academics tended to resist the application of anti-discrimination legislation to universities and CAE's on the grounds that it would interfere with academic freedom. However, this position ignored a number of facts. Discrimination in academic institutions was offensive to many people sensitive to the issue of equality in academic appointments, and moves to overcome it were not incompatible with University autonomy.

The Association of Women Employees of the University of Newcastle (AWEUS) will hold its first meeting in the Auchmuty Room in the Union on November 18 at 12.30 pm. The Association is concerned with the position of academic and non-academic women. All women employees of the University are welcome.

SPORT

SPORTSMAN'S BAR - Now is the time to make arrangements for end of term or Christmas functions. Please telephone Mr. John Hay at Extension 500.

PAVILION SPORTS SHOP - New stock - Rock-bottom prices - buy now and avoid the Christmas rush! The shop is open for business from 9.30 am to 10 pm seven days per week.

Inter-Tertiary Staff Golf Competition for the Inter-Tertiary Shield will be conducted at the Steelworks Golf Club on Friday, November 13. University TAFE and CAE will compete.
Another graduate of the University has received high academic recognition by being appointed to a Chair at a University.

Dr. Clifford J. Hawkins, 42, the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Hawkins of Merewether, has been appointed to the Chair of Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Queensland.

Professor Hawkins completed his schooling at Hamilton Marist Brothers High School in 1955, being school captain during that year. He graduated with a B.Sc. degree from Newcastle University in 1955, being school captain during that year. He graduated with a Ph.D. from the John Curtin School of Medical Research of the Australian National University. In April this year he was awarded a Doctor of Science degree from that University for his work on Molecular Dissymmetry and Co-ordination Compounds.

During 1963, the then Doctor Hawkins spent two years with Professor Jannik Bjerrum in the H.C. Orsted Institute, University of Copenhagen. In 1965 he took up a lectureship in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Queensland, being promoted to a Senior Lecturer in 1968 and to a Reader in 1972. In the last 16 years, 25 honours, two Masters of Science and seven Ph.D. students have graduated from his group.

Professor Hawkins has published extensively in international scientific journals and has written a monograph "The Absolute Configurations of Metal Complexes" published in America by Interscience Publishers. Since arriving in Queensland, he has been awarded personal grants totalling about $250,000 from the Australian Research Grants Committee.

Professor Hawkins is leading a team investigating the phenomenon of left and right handedness in molecules. Dissymmetry, or "handedness", is extensively present in nature at levels visible both to the naked eye and through the microscope. For example, the spiral windings of a vine vary in direction according to location in the northern or southern hemisphere.

Professor Hawkins said the "left hand" and "right hand" of molecules in a drug had quite different effects on the body, and these handedness characteristics could be manipulated to give the drugs special effects.

His research team last year also discovered that a type of sea animal, the cunjeo, which is a member of the sea squirt, or ascidian family, can use sulphate as an alternative to oxygen for respiration. It is the first type of multicellular animal (a group which includes people) known to have this alternative available.

The Hawkins family has close affiliations with the University of Newcastle. Cliff's sister, Marcia, was the Warden's first secretary and after a period of retirement is now secretary in the Department of Geology. His elder brother, Frank, completed a B.Com. degree at this University and is currently Faculty Secretary to the Faculty of Economics and Commerce.

Cliff Hawkins' appointment to a Chair has increased the historic interest of this photograph. It shows the 1957 University First Grade Rugby team regarded as a "glamour side" because not only was it composed mainly of teenage students but it made the semi-finals in its first year in the top grade. The front-row was Cliff Hawkins (as reported, now a Professor), Barry Gordon (Asso. Professor in Economics at this University) and Kevin Marjoribanks (Professor of Education at the University of Adelaide). Cliff and Kevin are in the centre row, second and third from the left respectively, and Barry is in the back row, eighth from the left. Of interest, too, is the presence of Ken Booth, in the back row fourth from the left. Ken was the Amenities Officer of Newcastle University College and an active player with University Rugby Club. Terry Casey, front row centre, went on to be chosen as full-back in John Thornett's Wallabies in the early Sixties.

Photo kindly supplied by Barry Gordon.
FOR SALE
Four bedroom brick/veneer and tile house in Eleelemba. Large basement, double garage, facing south close to waterfront with magnificent view of the Lake. $127,000. Please contact F.M. Henderson, Extension 526.

HORNBY TRAIN SET (worth $1,300) will sell for $600 or near offer. Please telephone 22 490.

The following items may be purchased by telephoning Extension 288 or 49 8548.

TIMBER OFFICE DESK with four drawers, 1370 mm x 760 mm $1,350. BROWN VINYL SWIVEL CHAIR - $25.
CHINA CABINET (ideal counter display unit), olive green finish with sliding glass doors and shelf, on castors, 1570 mm x 600 mm and 770 mm high - $80.

CORONET CARAVAN - 15'6" x 8' (including annex). Excellent condition, on site at Lemon Tree Passage. $2,950. Please telephone 43 5942 after 4 pm.

FOR RENT - ADAMSTOWN HEIGHTS AREA

WANTED TO RENT
Three bedroom house close to beach. House is required for six weeks (December to January). The house is required for Dr. Hans Tinneberg and his family from West Germany. If you can help please telephone Extension 577.

FOR SALE BY TENDER
2 SINGLE ACCORDIAN DOORS - 2,800 W x 2,330 H
2 DOUBLE BI-PARTING - 5,900 W x 2,330 H
All doors are finished in Hufcor Vinyl and are in excellent condition. Doors can be inspected at the Child Care Centre, University of Newcastle by appointment only with Mr. N. Pettigrew - 685 205 between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm.

The doors will be dismantled by others after the tenders are received and the successful tenderer would be required to remove the doors from the University's site before November 30, 1981.

Tenders to be forwarded to: The Purchasing Section, University of Newcastle, N.S.W. 2308. in a sealed envelope marked "Tender for Doors", and will be received up until 4 pm on Friday, November 20.

The University reserves the right to reject all tenders.

HATHA YOGA & RELAXATION CLASSES
Classes will be held on the campus for beginners up to the advanced stage. Anybody who is interested is asked to contact Extension 444 as soon as possible to arrange class times.

SITUATIONS WANTED
The following persons would like to type theses, reports, occasional papers etc.
Mrs. D. Rogers, New Lambton, 57 52 57.
Mrs. J. Marsden, C/- Extension 696.
Mrs. B. Walker, Birmingham Gardens, 69 1166.
Mrs. J. Rose, Mayfield West, 67 5769.

DIARY OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
8 pm Newcastle Film Society presents: DERSU UZALA (Japan/USSR 1975) - Akira Kurosawa.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
3 pm Third Term General Meeting of the Staff Association - Drama Theatre.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
12.30 pm First meeting of the Association of Women Employees (AWEUN) - Auchmuty Room.
4.30 pm Memorial Ceremony for the late Professor D. Maddison - University Great Hall.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
8 pm Newcastle Film Society presents: COUSIN COUSINE (France 1977) - Jean Luc Tacchella.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
2.30 pm Official Opening of NEWMED - to be performed by the Governor-General (Sir Zelman Cowen).

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26
11 am Memorial Service for the late Professor J. Auchmuty - Christ Church Cathedral.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11
7 pm for UNIVERSITY DINNER

7.30 pm

University NEWS is published on a two-weekly basis in the Secretary's Division for the Editor, The Secretary, The University of Newcastle. Stories and items should reach Mr. John Armstrong and Mrs. Linda Aureliou, C/-Room 687 or Room G80 in the McMullin Building by 5 pm on the Thursday before the publication date. Third Term publication dates are: August 20, September 3, September 17, October 1, October 15, October 29, November 12 and November 26.