Students’ Executive

When the University News was going to press, the Students’ Representative Council announced the results of the elections to executive positions on the SRC for next year.

Chris Craig, a full-time Arts student, is President-elect. In a ballot Craig received 459 votes, John Robinson received 273, Ibby Malas received 82, Greg Jackson received 59 and Brian Birkefeld received 55 votes.

Ian Kirkwood, a part-time Arts student who is 1985 Education Research Officer, was elected Media Officer. Voting resulted: Kirkwood 291, Bill Keir 234, Greg Colyer 210 and John Cleor 82.

The President and Media Officer are paid officers of Newcastle University Students' Association.

Other positions that were filled in the elections:

Honorary Secretary, Bernadette Dooley (Arts, full-time).

Honorary Treasurer, Matthew Bates (Architecture, part-time).

Inter-Campus Liaison Officer: Rose Vivian (Electrical Engineering, part-time).

Women’s Officer: Gislaine Gauthier (Science, full-time).

Sculpture exhibition

The annual Sculpture Exhibition by 2nd Year Architecture students was displayed recently near the Library and Union Buildings. The exhibition of over 20 sculptures was mounted as part of the students' coursework in Visual Studies. As always great interest was shown in the variety of forms, materials and colours of the works themselves and also in the way they had been arranged to form a delightful group exhibition.

The Treasurer-elect, Mr. Yates, is currently SRC President.

This year’s executive will continue to serve through the transition period from the end of this year to 1986 -- up to the Students’ Associations' annual meeting in First Term.

A feature of the elections this year was the very high tally of formal votes, nearly 1000, for example, indicating their preferences for President.

THE STAFF HOUSE’S annual general meeting will be held on Monday, October 21 in the main dining room of the Staff House at 1.30 p.m. A light smorgasbord lunch will be served before the meeting.

INSIDE: Facts About A.I.D.S.
China-University links

It is proving a fruitful year as far as interaction between University of Newcastle and Chinese academics is concerned.

Professor J. A. and Dr. D. M. Keats, of the Department of Psychology, recently returned to Australia after spending a month's study leave at the Institute of Psychology of the Academy of Science in Beijing.

They renewed links between the University and the Institute first forged in 1978 when a party of Australian psychologists led by the Keats paid a visit to China.

The various exchange visits that have taken place since then have led to co-operative research and publications, as well as discussions at international conferences.

At the Institute of Psychology, Professor J. A. Keats conducted a series of workshops on Psychometrics.

He said that two of the graduate students who attended the workshops who were completing masters degrees expressed interest in applying for scholarships so that they could carry out research towards Ph.D degrees at the University of Newcastle.

Professor Keats also gave a lecture on the measurement of environmental factors affecting cognitive development to students and staff associated with the Department of Psychology at the Normal University of Beijing.

Dr. D. M. Keats took the opportunity whilst at the Institute of Psychology to work on co-operative research and plan future research projects and joint publication.

The University is host to two researchers from China.

Dr. Hsu Ling-hsun is visiting Professor Robert Burton's lab in the Faculty of Medicine. She is working on a natural killer cell project for six months. She is from the First Hospital, Beijing Medical College. Contact between the two researchers began in 1981 when Dr. Hsu and Professor Burton were partners in research undertaken at Massachusetts General Hospital at Harvard Medical School.

Niu Erping, from the Institute of Chemistry at Academia Sinica, Beijing, is spending a six-month study leave in the Department of Chemistry with Dr. Ralph Cooney. Her visit to Newcastle is sponsored jointly by the Australian and Chinese Academies of Science. During her visit she will be investigating the luminescence and Raman spectroscopy of photocatalysts.

Our photo shows Niu Erping (back) with Dr. Hsu.

Paul Erdos' Visit

Professor Paul Erdos, well-known throughout the world for his many contributions to various fields of mathematics, presented a seminar in the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science on September 17.

Professor Erdos has written joint papers with literally hundreds of mathematicians, including Dr. R. B. Eggleton, Senior Lecturer in Mathematics at this University. He was awarded the Wolf Prize, which holds similar prestige to the Nobel Prize, and accorded the distinction of a corresponding fellowship of the Australian Academy of Science.
Emergency help

For students of this University who need money to cope with emergencies, several sources are available and can be investigated.

The Australian Government (1973) Fund provides loans of up to $1000 -- normally interest free until graduation or withdrawal -- to a student to meet a short-term financial emergency. Loans are normally repayable in less than one year.

The Australian Government (1985) Program of Special Assistance is available to Australian students. It is intended particularly for assistance with accommodation costs for students living away from home, and for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Assistance is normally in the form of a loan, repayable at a low rate of interest, but grants can be made in exceptional circumstances. The maximum amount available is $1500, repayable in up to two years.

A number of other funds may be available in special circumstances:

* The Good Neighbour Council Special Assistance Fund.
* The AFUN-NSW Hunter Valley Branch Fund for Postgraduate Assistance.
* The University of Newcastle Women's Group Postgraduate Loan Fund, and
* The W.F. Gey1 Fund.

The funds are subject to similar conditions to those applying to the Australian Government (1973) Fund.

The seriousness of the need, the prospects of successful completion of the course, the availability of alternative funding and the capacity to repay the loan within the normally prescribed period are criteria for eligibility for loans. Mr John Birch, C/- the Secretary's Division, has further information. He is found in the Student Administration Section.

Letters

Dear Sir,

The Australian Tourism Committee has recently produced an excellent publication called "Fare Go" which provides details of a myriad of tourism facilities available to the Australian holidaymaker.

On the subject of accommodation it is stated that "University halls of residence or colleges provide inexpensive accommodation during university vacation periods". After giving some further operational details the publication then lists the 15 Australian Universities which provide these facilities particularly during the December -- February period.

It is of some regret that the University of Newcastle is one of the four Universities not included in this list. It would seem to me that the University would do well in its positive initiatives program to support the local tourist authority with its drive to promote the Hunter Region and there could be no better way than to provide low cost accommodation as is made available by the majority of our sister residential Universities.

I commend the matter to the University and the Board of Edwards Hall for very serious reconsideration.

B. A. ENGEL
Dept. of Geology

Dr. M. Blackmore, Warden of Edwards Hall, comments on Asso. Professor Engel's Letter as follows:

Low cost accommodation within university colleges and halls during the long vacation period can only be provided if there are sufficient customers available to keep a fair proportion of the beds occupied. There has been no evidence in the past to suggest that such a situation could be achieved here in Newcastle in the December to February period and Edwards Hall has opted to close and send its staff first on annual leave and then on stand-down. It should be appreciated that to operate the catering service even at a minimal level will incur staff labour costs of the order of $1,500 per week before food and other domestic costs are brought into consideration. In the event that a financial loss on an enterprise of holiday letting were to be incurred, this loss would have to be borne by students as the Hall is essentially a self-funding institution.

However when the new self-catering accommodation presently under construction is brought into service early next year it may well be possible, after satisfying the needs of students, to make some of these units available to holiday-makers. I am sure that the Board of Trustees will give this matter consideration when the accommodation in question becomes available.
"Powerful" achievements

Professor Geoffrey Blainey, the guest speaker at the Silver Jubilee Union Dinner on September 20, spoke on the bicentenary of British settlement in Australia and our difficulty in deciding what exactly we are celebrating.

Professor Blainey, noted historian and author and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne, said that as a nation Australia seemed to be passing through a moderately serious crisis of identity and one of the clearest symptoms of the crisis was an inability to handle our pride and our unease -- some would say our guilt.

He believed that amidst all our failures and shortfalls we did have achievements, powerful achievements to which every section of the nation had contributed.

Professor Blainey listed achievements:

"In the last 200 years Australians have developed this continent so that some 40 or 50 times as many people live here today as lived here in 1788. We not only feed ourselves but each year we feed tens of millions of people in China, Egypt and other lands. This achievement was made in the face of severe obstacles.

"A second great achievement is to establish one of the early democracies of modern history and to keep that democracy alive.

"There is a third achievement. This nation of relatively few people has contributed more than its share to the world stock of new skills and valuable ideas."

Professor Blainey added that the achievements were worth celebrating because if we ceased to be aware of them and the sacrifices that they required the achievements would be imperilled.

The dinner, which was attended by some 160 people, marked 25 years of work by the Union, which was formed at Newcastle University College under the Chairmanship of the late Mr. O. (Lyon) McLarty.

In recognition of the contribution of past Presidents and Board members, an honours board incorporating the arms of the University has been erected in the Union.

Book Fair Profit

This year's book fair result was an improvement on the first Book Fair in 1983.

The Friends of the University, which organises the mammoth sales of books, lifted profit from $23,000 to $29,000.

With earnings from other activities this year the Friends' overall result was $30,000.

A cheque for this amount was presented to the Vice-Chancellor at the group's annual general meeting on September 3. The money will be directed to new student housing at the University.

An election of officers resulted:

President: Mr. K. Gordon;
Vice President: Mr. K. Barbour;
Secretary: Mrs. L. George;

Asst. Secretary: Mrs. S. Morris;
Treasurer: Professor L. Short;
Publicity Officer: Mrs. W. Kellerman;
Auditor: Mr. J. Davies;
Committee Members: Mr. J. McNaughton, Mrs. J. Page and Mr. A. Buchanan.
Professor John Warhurst, Head of the Department of Politics at the University of New England, will present the first annual lecture in Australian Politics at the University on October 16.

Professor Warhurst will discuss the topic "In Defence of Single Issue Interest Groups" in Lecture Theatre V01 (Maths) at 8 p.m., jointly sponsored by the departments of History, Philosophy and Sociology.

Mr. Alan Walsh, B.A., Dip. Ed. (Newcastle) and MLA for Videiland, will be chairman.

Professor Warhurst has taught Politics at Flinders University, the Warnambool Institute of Advanced Education, the Australian National University, on a visiting basis, at the Universities of Tasmania and Kent. For the past two years he has been on the staff of the newly established Australian Studies Centre, University of London.

Professor Warhurst's research and writing interests extend to many aspects of Australian politics including federalism and intergovernmental relations, interest groups and political parties and policy studies. Professor Warhurst believes in communicating beyond the academic and university communities. His activities have included working as a political commentator on radio and television for the ABC, teaching courses for adult, continuing students, and for public servants in Canberra, and writing for non-academic publications.

Patricia Neal, the well-known American film actress, will give the keynote address at a seminar at the University on October 19.

Patricia Neal will attend the one-day seminar to discuss support services for stroke victims and the role that the family can play in assisting recovery.

The seminar, to be held in the Union, has been organised by Toronto Branch of the Straight Talk and Stroke Club in association with the Department of Community Programmes.

Patricia Neal herself suffered and recovered from a stroke. Since her own stroke she has devoted herself to helping other people who have had stroke experience and is visiting Australia especially for Stroke Awareness Week.

The effect of fire, wind, drought and sand on the flora of the Tomaree Peninsula will be the topic of a public lecture in the University's Science Lecture Theatre (H01) at 8 p.m. on October 14.

Mr. Don McNair, Visiting Convocation Scholar, will focus on the various land surfaces in the Tomaree Peninsula -- beach dunes, swamps, marshes, volcanic hills and scrublands -- and summarise the ecological changes that have occurred.

The public lecture has been organised by the Biology Society and Convocation.

The Biology Society will provide wine and cheese after the talk.

The Visiting Scholar has been provided with an office by the Department of Biological Sciences in which his efforts are currently directed to the completion of a survey of the flora of the Myall Lakes.

Recently Mr. McNair completed a similar survey of the flora of Port Stephens and stated that he had been shocked because of the devastation he had documented in Port Stephens Shire Council's new town development known as Salamander.

Picnic

An outdoors picnic lunch in the area surrounding the Great Hall on October 23 is expected to attract many students from various cultures.

Although food and drink will be available, people may bring their own if they wish.

The organisers have also announced that the wearing of national costumes is strongly encouraged, although not compulsory.

The picnic has been organised by the Society for Uniting Nations (SUN). It will be held from 12.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

SUN has this year conducted a program of activities to promote good understanding between the cultures represented on the campus. People can make arrangements to become members of the society in 1986 at the picnic.
Staff Reclassifications

The Management Committee of the University's Sub-division of the PSA has received numerous complaints from members of the association regarding the length of time they have had to wait before hearing anything from the University on applications for reclassification.

According to the Chairperson of the Sub-division, Mr Lionel Farrell, the committee believes the delays have not served to promote a good industrial relations climate on the campus.

Mr Farrell told the Sub-division's general meeting on September 18 that the restructuring of the Bursar's Division had recently taken place and a Staff Office had been set up.

The Director of the Office, Mr M. Covill, who was invited to attend the general meeting, said a backlog of applications for reclassification had built up because the Staff Office did not have enough staff members.

However, with the granting of additional resources to the Staff Office some inroads have recently been made into the backlog.

Mr Covill said that the number of outstanding cases of reclassification was 26. After March next year his office should make rapid strides in reducing the backlog and after next June it should take only a couple of months for the Office to deal with applications.

Mr Farrell said that following growing concern throughout the University regarding RSI (repetition strain injury), and further to the Vice-Chancellor's memoranda outlining University Guidelines, the Management Committee was instrumental in focusing attention on the need for an information-giving seminar for all members of staff concerned.

He said a Temporary Committee was set up to discuss the organisation of a series of seminars, the first which took place on July 25 and others were scheduled for the long vacation.

Mr Covill described RSI as a major problem area and said funds would be made available for an occupational therapist to give assistance to operators of key-board equipment on a regular basis and visit areas where operators had problems.

He said Heads of Department would be requested to view a film dealing with the problem of Repetition Strain Injury, how it began, and approaches to preventing and treating it. If the response of the Heads was unsatisfactory the Vice-Chancellor might have to instruct them to attend.

Mr Farrell said he saw the Occupational Health and Safety Committee as the best mechanism for dealing with the growing problem of RSI.

It was submitted in discussion that operators of key-board equipment were responsible to Heads of Departments, who were mainly interested in seeing that research projects were carried out. The Heads should be instructed to learn about all the factors that contributed to RSI so the operators did not have to make decisions about "knocking back" those who made work demands upon them.

Explaining what the establishment of the Staff Office meant, Mr Covill said he hoped the University would see the Heads as having the injury to a greater or lesser degree. Many others, he said, talk about "feeding the odd twinge".

"There is general ignorance about RSI - how it affects you, methods of alleviating the symptoms", Mrs Kealy said. "There is little understanding of basic methods of coping with the problems caused and sufferers have very few avenues of receiving practical help with their complaint."

"RSI is not just a question of physical pain and incapacity. There is the constant slur of being thought a neurotic, even
by the local G.P. There is the loneliness of exchanging a full working life, mixing with other people, for a life where a sufferer is restricted in everything she or he does."

A meeting of all people interested in joining the support group was held in the Union on October 1. Robyn Dee, from the telecomm support group, gave an address.

The next meeting of the R.S.I. Support Group will be held in the Godfrey Tanner Room in the Union on Tuesday, November 5 at 12.30 pm.

Scholarship Awarded

Mr. B. Oliver, a Commerce student of this University, is the first student to be awarded a Flinders University Summer Research Scholarship.

Mr Oliver will spend the 10 weeks of the 1985/86 vacation working at the Flinders University of South Australia. He will receive a weekly allowance to cover accommodation and living expenses and a return air ticket to Adelaide.

SPORT

A Class of Instruction in Body Building and Weight Training commenced in the Auchmuty Sports Centre Weight Training Room on September 23 and 25, from 4 to 8 p.m. Mr Allan Irwin, a well-known identity in the field, is conducting the classes.

Lockers in the Auchmuty Sports Centre are again available to individuals on an annual, or daily, hire basis. Allocations will be made when orders are received. Booking forms may be obtained from the Sports Centre or the Sport and Recreation Office.

Fifteen universities competed in the Inter-Varsity Women's Basketball Contest and Newcastle Universities finished seventh. Jenny Hughes was selected in the 1985 Australian representative team.

In the IV Men's Basketball contest, 16 universities were represented. Newcastle finished 15th.

Eight universities competed in the IV Cross Country Contest. Results: Arthur Kingsland - winner - Craig Hansford, 15th.

The University's Cricket Club appears to have unique recruitment problems.

Firstly, the club cannot recruit junior players like other clubs. Secondly, it does not have access to a suburb or district for recruitment. Finally, because of the nature of the University's year, it loses large numbers of players - temporarily during the Christmas holidays and permanently when students complete their degrees.

The problems mean that the Cricket Club depends upon a heavy enrolment from the undergraduate population. Despite the problems the club has done remarkably well over the past few years, with one Club Championship, a First Grade premiership and consistently good performances in most grades.

Recently the club has made changes. Its new Management Committee is young, confident and friendly.

With the return of the B-52s to the club's ranks (our sixth team) and a new, state-level player signed to captain First Grade, the club feels that it can, this year more than any, cater for cricketers of most levels of skill and most age-groups.

The club recently commenced weekend and mid-week practice sessions at NO1 oval. The last of these practice matches was held on September 28.

Anyone interested in playing cricket for the University are invited to contact Wilfred Schultz 33 6000 (work) or Alan Norrey 58 0301 (work).

IBM Computer on Loan

IBM Australia Ltd has loaned an IBM 4361 mainframe computer system to the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science until approximately the end of 1985. The system has a variety of software facilities and a graphics capability. It can be used for performing quite ambitious number-crunching jobs and jobs which have substantial memory requirements, in multi-programming mode.

On behalf of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science and on behalf of IBM, the Professor of Computer Science, Professor L. Keedy, has invited Heads of Departments and their staffs to make use of this powerful computer system. It can be used for serious computational work, Professor Keedy said, or simply to allow staff to be exposed to the use of a mainframe computer.

The system is located in the computer room on the ground floor of the Mathematics Building. Anyone wishing to use the system should contact Mr Richard Dear, who has been seconded to the Department from the Computing Centre to assist in the loan programme, on Ext 596. Richard is willing to explain the facilities available and how access to the system can be arranged.

Recently IBM arranged for six independent suppliers of statistical, engineering and scientific software to present some of their products and demonstrate them on the 4361 system. All departments in the University and the Administration were invited to attend the demonstrations.
Folk High School for Hunter

The Australian Folk High School Association is hopeful of opening the Hunter Region's first residential centre devoted wholly to adult education early next year.

The project is approaching completion in the old Bandon Grove Public School in the Williams Valley near Dungog. The centre is about one-and-a-half hours drive from Newcastle.

Establishment of the residential adult education centre, or folk high school, will be the culmination of considerable effort by the Australian Folk High Schools Association to find a suitable site and develop suitable facilities.

The AFHSA, a company chaired by Mr John Collins, Lecturer in Community Programmes had discussions with the New South Wales Department of Education about disused Hunter Valley schools and Bandon Grove Public School was found.

The AFHSA is a non-profit company which takes its unusual name from similar institutions in Scandinavia which were visited by Mr Collins during his outside studies programmes. One of these organisations is the Norwegian Folk High Schools Association. Some of the members of the Bandon Grove project had experience with folk high schools while living in Scandinavia as Rotary and Lions exchange students.

Mr Collins says the Association has established the residential centre because similar existing facilities in the Hunter Region are not operated on the basis of low tariffs being charged specifically for adult education purposes. The arrangements at Bandon Grove will allow experiments with courses and monitoring of demand.

The area around Bandon Grove is of considerable historic and geographical interest. There is swimming, bushwalking and various other natural amenities in close proximity to the School.

The facilities at the centre include double bunks in several separate rooms, a kitchen, a classroom, septic toilets, hot water and lockable storage space for periodic users.

Although the Australian Folk High Schools Association will administer the centre, it is open to Departments within the University and the Workers' Educational Association. Excursions, field studies, stuvacs, play rehearsals and research are some of the uses to which the centre can be put.

Hire fees, still to be finalised, will approximate Youth Hostel rates of $6 per person per night.

Arrangements can be made to hire the Bandon Grove Community Hall, immediately adjacent to the School property. The hall has a stage and dressing rooms.

Enquiries should be directed to Mr Collins, C/- The Department of Community Programmes, Ext. 291. It is expected that the facilities will accommodate 8 to 9 students by January, and a full complement of 16 students by March.

Two Plays on Programme

When University News went to press, the Drama Department's double bill of Australian drama was commencing in the Drama Studio.

Barry Dickins' the Banana Bender, directed by Drama student Kate Westbury, and The Overcoat, by Jack Hibberd, directed by Tutor in Drama Tana Barfield, are being presented from October 2 to 5 and October 9 to 12. Admission is free.

Kate Westbury said that the Banana Bender has been described as "the sexual fantasy of a Queensland hobo and religious fanatic." However, Dickins, through his mad, sad caricatures of the eccentric, the frustrated and the despairing, manages to weave a tale whose concerns touch at the very heart of what it means to be alive and struggling in Modern Australian Society.

Tana Barfield said that The Overcoat was an adaptation of Gogol's short story. The production leaned heavily towards the anti-naturalist, the overly theatrical. "The laugh stands in for the scream and a man tries to survive in a lunatic world."
Facts about A.I.D.S.

As of August, 1985, there has been 106 confirmed cases of AIDS in Australia and the number will continue to rise in the next few years as the retrovirus continues to disseminate. The number of new cases thereafter "will depend on the effectiveness of measures to stop the spread of the disease", and society's willingness to prevent, or at least curb, the rate of transmission.

Dr. Jeremy Coleman, of the Department of Immunology at the Royal Newcastle Hospital, spoke at the University on September 24 about the facts about AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). Since 1979 the virus has spread throughout most Western countries, with the most confirmed cases being in the United States (11,352 in July, 1985). Although it appears males are predominately affected, in Central Africa the disease occurs in males and females with equal frequency.

Despite heavy media coverage and the efforts of Community Organisarion, acting to provide education and support services for high risk groups, many members of the community still remain ignorant to the virus AIDS. What is AIDS? How is it contracted? What are its symptoms? What does blood the screen test show? Who is in the high risk groups?

The symptoms of the virus are divided into three categories, Category A (AIDS) being most serious, attacking the body's immune system. The average period between the time of infection and the actual occurrence of AIDS is between three and five years. Two diseases commonly associated with AIDS (category A) include a lung infection, caused by a parasite, and a rare form of cancer (Kaposi's sarcoma). "Lymphadenopathy syndrome" (Category B) is less severe with its symptoms, including fever, night sweats, swollen glands (enlarged lymph nodes in neck, armpits or groin), unexplained weight loss, diarrhoea, persistent coughs, fatigue and/or loss of appetite. Category C is the most common, where the infected person remains free of symptoms of Categories A and B for more than at least 5 years.

Laboratory tests used to diagnose AIDS, or lymphadenopathy syndrome, include those of the immune system and an antibody test. However, AIDS cannot be diagnosed or excluded on the basis of a single test. The screen test used on donated blood detects the antibody produced by the body 2-3 months after the virus enters it. The presence of the antibody in the blood stream indicates the virus is present. However, only one in 10 people infected will actually develop AIDS within five years. A further two or three will develop Category B within five years and seven in 10 will not develop any symptom within five years (Category C).

A number of recommendations have been put forward by the AIDS Task Force regarding the prevention of the disease. These basically refer to avoiding sexual contact with persons in the high risk groups (those associated with male-to-male sexual contact in the last seven years, their sexual partners and intravenous drug users). Those in the high risk group should NOT donate blood. People should avoid having multiple sexual partners and refrain from sharing needles used for intravenous, and other, injections.

Despite current beliefs, there is no evidence of infected children spreading the virus in schools, children contracting the disease from an infected family member, or the disease being spread through social contact or mosquitoes. Nor, is there existing evidence to support transmission through air, water, or by sharing crockery, cutlery, toiletries, coughing, sneezing, etc.

Haemophiliacs are no longer in a high risk position due to a blood decontaminating process by heating introduced in November, 1984 in the preparation of Factor VIII, and due to the precautions in place for blood transfusions. Also, there is no risk of infection using the hepatitis B vaccine, because of the process of manufacturing which inactivates viruses.

Currently, a number of drugs are under study which are effective in arresting growth or spread of the virus in the blood cells, but no prospect of a cure is offered. Other treatments, such as radiation, drugs, and surgery for many of the illnesses suffered by AIDS patients, are being used.

For more information please get in touch with the A.I.D.S Task Force, P.O. Box 100, WODEN, ACT, 2606.

Mattara poetry book

Dr. Paul Kavanagh, Lecturer in English, is the editor of Poem of Thanksgiving, the fifth annual anthology of poems selected from the Mattara Poetry Prize.

Dr Kavanagh says that the Anthologies have set out to represent as objectively as possible the best of the great volume of work the judges see each year - estimated this year to have been more than 8,000 poems. The Water Board has sponsored the Mattara Poetry Prize since its inception.

The judges of this year's prize are Les Murray, Chris Wallace-Crabbe and Dr Kavanagh.

Dr Kavanagh says that the result has been to date that relatively unknown poets have been given a run in the collections with the top names in Australian poetry. This has made each volume as sensitive a record of what is going on in the art each year as we've seen so far in this country.

Poem of Thanksgiving sells for $10 and can be purchased from the Department of English.
Higher Degree Reports

There has been speculation since the 17th century about how, in our changing environment, the brain of man and animals maintains body temperature within narrow limits (see picture). A modern controversy rages about the identity and function of chemical substances utilized in heat conservation and loss. Since rabbits have large ears covered with special skin through which the brain can effectively cause heat dissipation and conservation, they act as superb models for the study of temperature control by the brain.

This has been the approach of Dr. Frank Traugott, who received his PhD in Human Physiology at the graduation ceremony in April of the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Traugott's thesis provides an accurate outline of the anatomical distribution of brain regions involved in temperature regulation and the mechanisms of action in these regions of chemicals known as monoamines (nor adrenaline and serotonin). These substances were found to activate specialized breathing patterns and changes in the circulation of thermo-regulating skin under clearly defined circumstances. In order to arrive at these findings, Dr. Traugott made two important technological advances; he miniaturized and built ultrasound instruments for the study of changes in blood flow in the tiny arteries of the ears of normal rabbits, and he designed a servocontrolled, airconditioned chamber in which the animals could sit comfortably during changes over the normal range in surrounding environmental temperature.

Dr. Traugott's work is of great interest in other respects. On a philosophical plane his findings reject the theory of a discrete brain thermostat for controlling body temperature. Rather, his work shows clearly that body temperature control by the brain is a function of mechanisms distributed at many different levels in the central nervous system.

His work also raises grave doubts concerning the theory that differences exist between mammalian species in the mechanisms of temperature regulation. The mechanisms identified in the rabbit brain were found unexpectedly to resemble those in the primate brain. These are important, since they provide insights into human mechanisms, and they have a direct bearing on the reasons why people treated with modern drugs which affect brain chemicals have difficulty keeping cool and warm in summer and winter. Since such people can also be at risk if working in extreme thermal environments, his findings will be followed up with great interest.

Dr. Traugott is currently pursuing research as a staff member of the Anaesthesiology Department at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney.

Dr. Edwin Galea is soon to take up a postdoctoral position in the Department of Applied Mathematics, University of St Andrews, Scotland. The Department's main research interests are in astronomy and astrophysics and Dr. Galea will be engaged in research on the behaviour of magnetic fields on the solar surface.

Dr. Galea recently completed a Ph.D. under the supervision of Dr. Warren Wood of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science.

The thesis, entitled Rotating Magnetic Upper Main Sequence Stars, was concerned with the theoretical description of the magnetic fields which occur in a particular class of stars known as Ap stars. The magnetic fields, like gravitational fields, permeate the entire Universe. The earth has its own magnetic field. It is dipolar in nature and has a surface field strength of about 0.6 gauss, at the poles. The sun has a large scale field of about 1-2 gauss with localised fields up to 10000 gauss. The appearance of sunspots on the solar surface is due to the presence of these strong localised fields.

from: L'homme Rene Descartes, published by Jacques Le Gras, of Paris in 1664
Despite the presence of a magnetic field in the sun it is not classified as a "magnetic star" since at stellar distances its field would go undetected. By far the most numerous of the known magnetic stars are the A stars. The fields of these stars, which seem to cover the entire stellar surface, range from a few hundred gauss to about 34000 gauss.

In his thesis Dr Galea was concerned with the construction of mathematical models which would describe the structure of the magnetic fields of these stars. The modelling of these stars is complicated by the fact that in addition to possessing a sizeable magnetic field these stars are also rotating. The mathematical description is made more complex in this situation since there is no natural symmetry for the problem. The easiest way to visualize this is to consider a sphere which rotates about some axis while the magnetic field has a symmetry about another axis which is at an angle, the obliquity angle, to the axis of rotation. The observational evidence shows that the obliquity angle may assume any value between zero and ninety degrees. Previous theoretical studies on this problem imposed a restriction that the obliquity angle be either zero (aligned model) or ninety degrees (perpendicular model), purely for mathematical convenience. Predictions concerning the magnetic field for the aligned model were at odds with the perpendicular model results. Results from the aligned model suggested that the more rapidly rotating the star the smaller the surface magnetic field. The opposite effect occurs in the perpendicular model. Why the two models should produce conflicting results was not understood, nor was it known what could be expected for stars with obliquity angles between the two extreme cases. One suggestion put forward in the literature was that large scale meridional circulation currents in the stellar interior might cause the differences predicted by the two models.

Galea formulated a general model in which the obliquity angle could be varied so that it was a parameter of the model. Thus it was possible to construct models in which the obliquity angle could assume any value from zero to ninety degrees. The mathematical formulation of such problems requires many equations to describe the physical system. These equations can be solved by using numerical techniques which require many hours of computer time. Investigation of these models revealed that a critical obliquity angle exists. Stellar models in which the obliquity angle is less than 55 degrees display the same trends as the aligned model, while stars in which the obliquity angle was greater than 55 degrees followed perpendicular model trends. Galea was able to conclude that the differences between the two model types arises from the geometry of the magnetic field. Some recent observational evidence seems to confirm the findings of Galea in that stars with obliquity angles greater than 55 degrees seem to be rotating quite rapidly and to have large surface fields.

Galea was also able to show that meridional currents in the stellar interior merely serve to enhance the differences between the magnetic fields whose obliquity angle lies on opposite sides of the critical angle.

If further observational investigations support Galea's findings then we will be reasonably confident concerning our description of the magnetic field in these peculiar stars.

**Position with Chairs**

The Vice-Chancellor told the Standing Committee of Senate about progress being made on filling Chairs at the University.

Professor George said the Chair in Drama had been offered and accepted. (Professor Victor Emelianov, Associate Professor of Drama at the University of New South Wales, will take up the position in December).

An offer had been made in connection with the Chair of Commerce but had not yet been accepted.

The Selection Committee for the Chair in Civil Engineering would meet in October. The Vice-Chancellor hoped that an offer would be made before the end of the year.

The Vice-Chancellor said the Selection Committee for the Chair in Geography would meet in December.

The Chair in History might be filled by invitation. A Selection Committee was necessary to ensure that appropriate procedures were followed.

The advertisement for the Chair in Economics had been finalised and advertising would begin immediately.

**Glenn Murcutt**

Architecture buffs and others will be able to learn about the architectural form of the designer of the Staff House, Glenn Murcutt, via a new book by Phillip Drew.

The book, *Leaves of Iron*, is a look at Murcutt's life and the influences that shaped him into the distinguished architect he is today.

Phillip Drew is a former lecturer in Architecture from this University. He is Architecture Critic for The National Times.

*Leaves of Iron*, with 36 colour plates by Max Dupain, has been published by the Law Book Company and sells for $37.50.
Advertisements

CONTRACT BRIDGE

WANTED: any member of staff interested in playing bridge some lunch hour.

STANDARD: If you’re available, you’re good enough.

CONTACT: Lionel Farrell (extension 213)

TYING DONE

Lynne Warnaby, of 3/38 Nesca Parade, Newcastle, Phone 25104 (W) 22471 (H) is a medical secretary who is available to type thesis, reports, etc. and can operate an electronic keyboard.

Thesis, assignments or any sort of typing for University students done in a professional manner at a very low price (80c per copy). The work is done in a given time. For further information contact Kim between 7 am and 9 pm (7 days a week) on the following address: 12 Sherwood Street, Elermore Vale.

FREE LOVE

Abandoned or lost at Lake Fair: gentle young German Shepherd x-breed. She and her healthy pups need good homes. Mum is intelligent, affectionate, housebroken and has been inoculated. Ring extension 411 or 48 8439 a.h.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Tuesday, October 8, 12.50 p.m.
Contemporary Workshop Orchestra, the Courtyard.
3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Lectures by Mr. Humphrey McQueen on The Petrov Affair, for the Department of History, Lecture Theatre V07.
5 p.m. Music in the Bar

Wednesday, October 9, 6.30 p.m.
Ballroom Dancing Classes, Cafeteria $2 admission.
8.15 p.m. Plays, The Banana Bender and The Overcoat, Drama Studio until October 12.

Thursday, October 11, 6.30 p.m.
Film Buffs’ Club, “Country Hospital” and “Early to Bed”.

Friday, October 11, 2 p.m.
Film Buffs’ Club, “Dream Doll”, “Leisure”, “Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde”, “Hunchback of Notre Dame”.

Thursday, October 17, Noon
Movie, The Cotton Club, Common Room.
1.30 p.m. Philosophy Department meeting with Linguistics Department. Dr. David Powers (Macquarie Uni.) will talk on Revisiting Native and Nativist Language Learning.
6 p.m. Movie in the Bar

Friday, October 18, 2 p.m.
Film Buffs’ Club, “Dream Doll”, “Leisure”, “Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde”, “Hunchback of Notre Dame”.

Monday, October 15, noon

WANTED

Donations of household and office furnishings and equipment for Bandon Grove School project. (See story page). If you have any items surplus to your family’s needs, we will collect. Contact John Collins, Community Programmes, Extension 291 or 30 5328.

HOUSE FOR SALE

ABSOLUTE WATERFRONTAGE, Fennell Bay/Fassifern Area (20 minutes from University), Modern architect designed 4-bedroom brick and western red cedar home, 3 bathrooms, formal lounge and dining room with open fire, modern kitchen and family room featuring glass ceilings, library/study, wine cellar, double garage/workshop, and in-ground pool. $180,000.
Phone: 591 555.

OKTOBERFEST, the Courtyard.
5 p.m. Music in the Bar.

Wednesday, October 16, 6.30 p.m.
Ballroom Dancing, Cafeteria, admission.

Wednesday, October 16, 6.30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 10, noon

Film, Clockwork Orange, Common Room.
1.30 p.m. Philosophy seminar, Professor Raoul Mortley (Macquarie Uni.), “Desire: Plato or Freud?”, Room A110.
6 p.m. Movie in the Bar

Tuesday, October 15, noon

Film Buffs’ Club, “Country Hospital” and “Early to Bed”.

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Lost

In the McMullin Building, one silver and amethyst ring sentimental value.
Katrina ext. 673