Students getting more involved

The President of the Students' Association for 1986, Mr. Chris Craig, has noted greater student involvement in student affairs and vital education issues.

"I am very encouraged by the level of participation in the annual elections last year. As with some of the Orientation week activities, the response to the elections was at least double the previous record," Chris, an Arts II student, told University NEWS.

He has succeeded Architecture student, Mr. Matt Yates, in the elected President's position which involves him in withdrawing from his studies for a year so that he can look after the interests of students.

Chris believes that just surviving the President's heavy workload, with many demands being made on him by students, will be one of his main priorities.

"The range of difficulties facing students is surprising. For example, the rights of students appear to have been violated at Edwards Hall and an unusually large number of students have been excluded from courses in Economics. I am hoping the SRC can alert students to their rights in any area of concern."

Chris says the issues which his Association will have to monitor closely during 1986 include the threatened reintroduction of fees and the amalgamation of the CAE and the University.

"Student bodies at the University of New South Wales, the University of New England and some other universities have agreed to participate in a protest against fees during the ALP's National Conference in Hobart next June.

"Following my attendance at an amalgamation conference in Armidale, my Association is better prepared to mount a strong anti-amalgamation campaign."

As a student member of Senate and, hopefully, a student member of Council, he is interested in such University issues as the introduction of the BSc (Aviation) course and the standardisation of procedures for students to submit medical certificates.

"The Aviation degree, which will be run on a full cost-recovery basis, might not be a good thing and might have a bad effect on some future developments," Chris says.

Inside: University's history to be written
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I greatly enjoyed reading Professor Colin Keay's philip-pic on the new Council policy relating to non-sexist language (NEWS, 17-31 March).

It would be a pity, though, if any of your readers, expecting the objectivity and accuracy of observation that benefits a scientist of Colin's distinction but unaware of his impish sense of humour, should wrongly conclude that he was actually reporting facts.

Just in case, let me set down the truth of the matter.

Council's policy relates solely to a change in the official titles of persons heading University committees and similar bodies. In moving to gender-free titles, Council is admittedly following the practice already adopted by that well-known group of trendies and radicals, the Australian Universities Vice-Chancellors' Committee. The policy does not (pace Colin Keay) relate to lecture material, research papers or individual usage, and persons chairing committees and other bodies remain at perfect liberty to refer to themselves as "Chairman" without expecting a dawn visit by the thought police.

The old chestnut about the need to change "person" to "perit" because "son" is masculine is of course etymological nonsense, given the derivation of "person" from the Latin persona (which is, incidentally, feminine).

The reference to "the EEO Coordinator and her three staff" is presumably meant as hyperbole. For the record, the Coordinator has an assistant and a wordprocessor operator, as well as a small allowance ($1,000) for research assistance: only half of the EEO salary bill is met by the University, the other half by the CAE. A glance at the 1985 Statistics Handbook will reveal that the total University salary bill for EEO in the year was $31,400 - a Lecturer's salary.

Finally (contrary to Colin Keay's assertion), the EEO Management Plan does address the issue of sex-based disparities in the NSW State Superannuation Scheme: this is included in the Plan as Strategy 5.20 and is a matter on which representations need to be made through the Equal Opportunity Office in Sydney to the Superannuation Board. This is, of course, being done.

K.R. Dutton
Director of Affirmative Action

VC's announcement welcomed

Staff unions at the University have welcomed the announcement of the appointment of Professor Keith Morgan to the Vice-Chancellorship of the University.

The Secretary of the Staff Association, Mr. Pran Chopra and the Chairperson of the PSA, Mr. Lionel Farrell, issued statements following the announcement.

Professor Morgan, from the University of Lancaster in England, will succeed the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Don George on January 1 next year following Professor George's retirement.

Mr. Farrell mentioned that in its submission to the Selection Committee, the Management Committee recognised that the person appointed to be Vice-Chancellor would have a distinguished academic record but argued strongly that in today's educational and political climates a Vice-Chancellor must be able to deal effectively with the administrative and management pressures which government and community expectations currently impose.

"We advocated strongly that greater emphasis than previously should be given to the administrative and management skills of the applicants, including their understanding of and flexibility regarding industrial issues," he said.

Professor Morgan's credentials fitted those criteria to a tee. His academic record spoke for itself and his skills in administration and management had been demonstrated.

"Moreover, we are pleased to learn that he has also been involved, regionally and nationally, in industrial relations, negotiating conditions of employment and wage and salary settlements with the trade unions covering non-teaching staffs.

"The Management Committee looks forward to working with him in promoting that harmonious relationship between the University and its staff which is necessary to the development of the University both as a place of learning and as a place of employment," Mr. Farrell said.

Mr. Chopra pointed out that the President of UNSA was a member of the Committee which selected Professor Morgan and recommended his appointment to the Council.

"Over the years UNSA Executives have worked hard to establish and maintain a harmonious working relationship with the previous and present Vice-Chancellor and it is our hope and expectation that we will be able to continue this with Professor Morgan.

"This is especially important," Mr. Chopra said, "as in our view the University will almost certainly face increasingly uncertain times and unprecedented problems in the near future."
Tracing the University's real story

Dr. Don Wright and Ms. Rhonda Geale have commenced researching a "story of struggle and success" which they will write "warts and all." The project's goal is a medium-sized, well-illustrated history of the University of Newcastle.

The need to record a history for prosperity has been felt for some time, while people who have been associated with the University are able to help. Hopefully, Dr. Wright says, many people will be willing to assist by drawing upon personal reminiscences.

Dr. Wright, Senior Lecturer in History, took up the offer to write the official history of the university when he was invited by the Vice-Chancellor.

He envisages he and Ms. Geale, his assistant, working for a couple of years and the actual writing being completed by the end of 1988, resulting in a book containing 200 to 250 pages.

He makes it clear that the book will not be a "whitewash" like some histories of universities he can name.

The overall project, Dr. Wright says, will begin with the story of the struggle to establish a genuine international-standard university in a regional environment.

"Some people might see this as a contradiction, but a university in a clearly defined district, like the Hunter Valley, must serve that district whilst conducting its activities in accordance with standards set by an international community."

He proposes to tackle the research task gradually in "large chronological chunks." Initially, the motivations behind the founding of Newcastle University College and the struggle to establish the autonomous university will be looked at.

Next, the "Auchmuty Era" will be investigated to establish the main themes, including building work at Shortland and the establishment of a scholarly reputation for the University.

From an assessment of the "George Era" he expects a number of main themes to emerge such as the maintenance of standards in the face of cutbacks of funds and the amalgamation crisis. Another matter for consideration was the reviews of University Government.

Rhonda Geale and Don Wright make preparations for the research part of the production of a history of the University.

Dr. Wright says he will definitely mention the University's identities and characters. Discussion of their roles, including their anecdotes, will enrich the narrative.

He refers to the tapes in the University's Archives which were recorded by the University's first executive officers. These will be invaluable to him. "The co-operation of the Archives, not only as regard the oral reminiscences, is greatly appreciated."

Finally, Dr. Wright makes the point that he welcomes retired and older members of staff, as well as graduates who were enrolled in earlier periods of the University's life, getting in touch with him in the Department of History. "It is absolutely essential for me to talk to these people so that I can get the feel of the University in the past in particular before I came in 1968."

Homecoming lunch

An invitation is extended to all members of staff to attend the Home-coming Lunch for retired staff in the Staff House from noon on Monday, May 5.

Homecoming Lunch is intended be an occasion whereby former staff members renew friendships and are encouraged to feel they are still part of the University of Newcastle.

The number of retired staff is now in excess of 70. A large attendance of current staff members will help to make this day a social success.

Normal catering arrangements will operate in the Staff House on this day.

Monday, May 5 - A Diary Date!
Friends and colleagues of Dr. Gordon Johnston, Director of the Electron Microscope Unit, were saddened by his death on February 4 after a short illness.

Gordon first joined the staff of the then University College at Tighes Hill, in June, 1956 as a Technical Officer in the Department of Metallurgy. He was appointed a Lecturer in the Department in January, 1957. Gordon completed his M.Sc. through the University of N.S.W. in 1960, and in 1966 he obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Newcastle for his thesis titled The Structure of Certain Magnetically Ordered Ternary Alloys Containing Manganese.

Much of his research for the thesis was done using the neutron diffraction equipment at Lucas Heights, and his published work is still cited as basic to our understanding of these alloys.

In 1974 he was appointed to the Electron Microscope Centre which was then located in the Metallurgy Building, and under his careful direction the Centre expanded and in 1979 moved to its present location in the Medical Sciences Building to become the Electron Microscope Unit.

Gordon was looking forward to seeing Halley's Comet perhaps more than most, as astronomy was one of his hobbies. It was a desire to computer control his telescope that began an interest in microcomputing. As microcomputers were not readily available at competitive prices at that time, he set about building his own, subsequently he became recognised as somewhat of an expert in the field.

In later years his advice on microcomputing was often sought by both members of the University staff and the community. He was a foundation member of the Newcastle University Microcomputing Club which was formed in October, 1976. He served two terms as President, 1979 and 1980, and has been Vice-President of the group since that time. His valuable contribution to the Club is sadly missed by its members. A number of Gordon's computer books and magazines have been donated to the Club to form the basis of a library.

Gordon's death has caused a great loss to the E.M. Unit. His contribution to the University over many years was invaluable and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. To his wife Margaret and their son, David, his friends and colleagues extend their sincere sympathy.

Garry Weber

Busy voting year

Dr. Don Wright, commissioned to write the history of the University, should record 1986 as the Year of the Ballot Box. The year will see elections for membership of the University Council in every category.

Not only are we to have the Council election for student members, the Professors, the academic staff and the non-academic staff, but also the amendment of the University Act will cause two more elections. The Act is likely to see an increase in the academic staff membership from two to three and in the Convocation-elected members from six to seven. This will mean more elections for those categories once the Act comes into effect.

1986 will therefore be a good year for the number of elections - or a bad one, depending on whether you are looking at them from the view point of a voter or an organiser. Einstein said that what you see depends on where you are standing, or words to that effect, and I think he was on the right track, although he was probably not talking about University elections.

The first in the series of Council elections will be the student one. And this year marks a first. Apart from the transitional arrangements that have operated in the last couple of years, the two student members have previously been elected in alternate years for two year terms of office. 1986 will be the first occasion that two members are elected at the same time and for only year only.

The election gets under way on April 2 with the notices calling for nominations which will be distributed throughout the University as well as being advertised in the Newcastle Herald. It will be followed at the beginning of May with the elections involving the Professors, academic staff and the non-academic staff.

Anyone who would like more advance information on the elections is invited to contact me on extension 473. Meanwhile I can only reflect that whilst for the Chinese this year is the Year of the Tiger, for University elections it is more appropriately the Year of the Busy Beaver. I offer this explanation to anyone passing my office over the next few months who may hear what sounds like "Jai! Jai! Dam! Dam!"

Lionel Farrell
**Takes on new title**

Professor Cyril Renwick is a familiar name to members of the University. He offered the first Economics courses in 1954. After a long association with the Hunter Valley Research Foundation, he has reappeared as a Visiting Professor.

The Visiting Professorship is in Political Economy and the Department of Economics has provided him with a niche (Room 129) for the one-year term of his appointment.

Professor Renwick's career in Newcastle commenced at the old Newcastle University College at Cooks Hill, where he was Assoc. Professor of Economics in the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Former students of Professor Renwick remember his strong interest in the history of economic thought and his impressive library, from which they borrowed treatises.

"The University of Technology, our parent institution, appointed young graduates from Sydney, Mike Bernaseck and Barry Gordon, as the first staff members," he says. "We apparently got things right and developed to a stage where we were producing first class honours graduates. As the College had no Faculty of Arts, supervision of courses was trusted to the University of New England and later to the University of New South Wales."

"I think great advantage came from the BHP's decision to sponsor their staff if they enrolled at the College and a great influx of young Economics students began, with a lot coming from country areas of New South Wales."

Cyril Renwick served as the first Head of the Department of Commerce, which combined Economics, Accounting and Law. He ran the Department from 1956 to 1959, when he left to become Director of Research for the Hunter Valley Research Foundation. When he retired from the Foundation last year his outstanding service was recognised by public tributes.

He says that right at the outset the Foundation had used the expertise of economists at Newcastle University College. He also mentions the fact that the first staff appointments at the Foundation were graduates of the College.

While attached to the University, Professor Renwick plans to produce a monograph on J.M. Keynes, the famous British economist who influenced the growth of capitalism in the period 1930 - 1960. "I last wrote about Keynes when I was a Senior Lecturer at Sydney University in the 1940s," he says. He will also talk to staff and students about the history of economic thought and give some lectures. He will be in the Department on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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**Halley's Watch Night**

Convocation is to hold a Halley's Watch Night for graduates, students and staff of the University.

You will be able to learn more about Halley's Comet at an informal sighting /discussion at Fort Scratchley on April 10 at 9 pm.

Assoc. Professor Colin Keay will actively participate in the night, giving advice and help to the comet watchers.

He said the location above the ocean, and the time (shopping would be concluded, lessening the glow of lights), were favourable. He intended to take a telescope suitable for looking at Halley's.
Cricketers against tax

Three University XIs were again delighted to play host to three teams from the Newcastle Tax Office on Sunday, March 9. As on the first such occasion, all three matches were keenly contested and the University sides were victorious by two matches to one. On this occasion, two staff-based sides, captained by Professor Saxon White and Professor Norman Talbot, and one student side captained by Chris Craig, the SRC President, were engaged for the fray.

On the Ray Watt Oval, Talbot's XI Bowled first, and the learned opening attack of Whiteheads (2-12) and Feletti (3-16) set the Taxmen back on their collective heels. Gurr and Floyer also bowled tightly. Excellent fielding and catching -- especially from the father-and-son combinations of Whiteheads and Talbots -- kept the total down to 89; Talbot the older finished with 5-9. Spike Anderson was the most effective of the Tax Office bowlers (2-18) and the University XI relied heavily on opener Don Matthews (50 not out) in reaching 7 for 125. The veterans were delighted to receive a welcome back stalwarts Cliff Hanna (English), Aub Everett (Education) and John Gurr for this very pleasant fixture.

University's student XI won a high-scoring match on the No. 2 Oval. Several things about the score-card are not clear, including the names of most of the University wicket-takers, but Peter Tate took at least 2-10 and Ian Kidd at last 2-25. The Tax Office openers, Stewart (40) and Parker (21), aided by Kearney's Middle-order 28, contributed most to their side's score of 206. University's colossal 252 off their 40 overs was based on Peter Tate's 91. (How did that happen? Most friendly matches retire a batsman at 50!) Ian Kidd, opening with 20, also showed himself an all-rounder, and Andrew Butler (27) and Garry Smith (35) contributed generously. Mazzoni (3-41) and Chadd (2-7) took crucial wickets for the Tax Office.

On No.1 Oval, the spikes were on the other foot. University's captain, Saxon White (79) opened and dominated their healthy innings of 186, with that great amphibian Joe Drzyzga contributing 28, mostly in boundaries. Chad Butler (2-18) and Dave Coventry (2-9) were the most successful bowlers. Chad Baker's 44 and S. Tonks' 24, with two un-expected knocks by Don Herron (51) and Mark Glover (39), took the Tax Office XI past the White's XI for the loss of 5 wickets. Saxon White employed his all-round skill, too late, ending with 2-20 on an excellent batsman's wicket.

The series of friendly matches with the Tax Office have been a credit to all concerned, played in an excellent spirit. The overall organiser, and go-between Joe Drzyzga, and the University Cricket Club deserve special congratulations.

PSA ballot needed

There are four candidates for election as the two endorsed PSA candidates for election as non-academic representatives on the Council.

Nominations from members of the University's Sub-division of the PSA closed on March 21, with the following having put themselves forward:

Mr. Trevor Askie, Accounts Branch.

Mrs. Joy Hoesli, University Counselling.

Dr. David Kay, Biological Sciences, and

Mr. John Sanderson, Accounts Branch.

When the NEWS went to press, ballot papers for an election of the two endorsed PSA candidates were being distributed. They must be returned by April 14.

First for 1986

John O'Donoghue, Newcastle author and playwright, will be the first writer to be presented this year by the Friends of the University in their Lunch With a Writer Series.

Mr. O'Donoghue wrote the play -- A Happy and Holy Occasion, which opened the Hunter Valley Theatre Company's 1986 season. In the last 10 years it has been produced in Perth, Adelaide and Sydney.

Mr. O'Donoghue's Essington Lewis -- I am Work was very successful in Newcastle in 1981 and, as a result of its Sydney production last year, was chosen by the Sydney Theatre Critics Circle to receive their 1985 award.

The main details of the Lunch With a Writer:

Date: Friday, April 4, 1986

Time: 12.15 pm

Place: Sea Witch Restaurant, The Travelodge

Tickets: $13.50 each. (Art's Warners Bookshop, or from Mar. Tietze, 63 2774).

Appointments continuing

The year 1986 should see another seven Chairs filled, the Vice-Chancellor told his term meeting with staff on March 18.

The appointment of a Professor of Biostatistics would probably be announced first, Professor George said.

He listed the other Chairs which will be filled:

History, Law, Economics, Accounting, Community Medicine and Surgical Oncology.
GRADUATION 1986

The University's conferring of degrees ceremonies this year will be held on Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3.

Degrees in the various Faculties will be conferred as follows:

May 2, 5.30 p.m.: Faculty of Economics and Commerce, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Mathematics.

May 3, 10 a.m.: Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Medicine.

May 3, 2.30 p.m.: Faculty of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science.

Bush Ball

A Night of Traditional Dancing

Ladies in white, off-the-shoulder crinolines, being twirled by gentlemen in bright Crimean shirts of the 1850's to the 1870's will be seen in Maitland Town Hall on April 12 when Newcastle's Traditional Dance Group stages their second Heritage Week Bush Ball.

The evening will commence promptly 7.30 with the Grand March. It is preferable that dancers arrive even earlier in order to 'book' their partners for the various dances.

A delicious supper will be provided and a demonstration of fine traditional dancing will be performed by the Sydney Group, Australian Heritage Dancers, during the break.

Tickets are $10.00 each and $19.00 a double or family. Children under 16 are admitted free and are most welcome.

Numbers are limited, so obtain your ticket early from the Westpac Bank University Union.

Greek tragedy is more talk than action, passion in verse rather than in deeds. It relies for a large part of its effect on a Chorus who describe and reflect and muse but hardly ever do anything. The here-and-now audience, which has anyway to learn the legends painfully each time to get them straight, and for whom the poetry is in translation from a remote culture as well as from another and for whom the poetry is in translation from a remote culture as well as from another language, needs a lot of help to feel anything like as strongly about the plays as the audience they were written for.

Michael Evans' production of Agamemnon, currently in the Drama Studio, does try to give some of this help. The translation is his own, fresh one, and it is down-to-earth and even humorous -- I enjoyed the irreverence of having an Elder way his finger at Kassandra and warn her they'd have none of her prophesying here. Those playing the main protagonists, Vanessa Turton as Klytaemnestra and Barry O'Connor as Agamemnon, obviously had making sense their lines uppermost in mind and spoke firmly and clearly, though Klytaemnestra is a little too unbending in the haughty tone she strikes from the beginning. For almost all his long rendition of the fortunes of the Argive armies, Steve Hopp as the Herald was colloquial and comprehensible. In the more demanding role of Kassandra, whose intervention in the action does happen in real time, as it were -- prophecy and fulfilment follow close on one another, as we watch -- Jan Hunt is a lightning rod of trouble fizzling with electricity.

Yet so much else in the production seemed to act only to hinder the effect of the powerful story, the dense and evocative imagery, the gripping alternation of waiting and happening in the play. The Chorus, distractingly, wielded batons like a ponderous version of the other sort of chorus line, and even when without their batons were put through a series of postures startlingly reminiscent of the Salute to the Sun. Of course they found it hard to speak their lines with the special clarity necessary as well.

The play has been set in a colonial Orient; the opening incidental music is what one imagines experimental Burmese music sounds like; there is an impression of camouflage about the floor colours. Costumes suggested the Edwardian Empire if anything -- Agamemnon is magnificently vice-regal -- though Kassandra was dressed for a harem not so far East. Such shifts in time and place away from the mythical Mediterranean certainly prevented any easy identification of the drama with one culture's myths, if that was the idea; but there was no consistent framework put in its place. The audience was disoriented, but that was all.

Experiment with ways of unlocking the energy of classic Greek drama on the modern stage must go on, and performers and crew will have learned a great deal from their close-quarters look at a great tragedy. The audience will only plead for some more help and a little less distraction in coming to grips with the issues and significance of the play, and for a presentation that makes them feel more, not less directly the pity and fear of its action.
Professor Victor Emeljanow's Inaugural Lecture will be given in the Drama Theatre on Wednesday, April 23, at 5.30 p.m.

Professor Emeljanow took up his appointment to the Chair of Drama at the end of last year. Professor Emeljanow's previous position was Associate Professor of Drama at the University of New South Wales.

Professor Victor Emeljanow was educated at the University of New Zealand where he obtained his BA and MA degree with First Class Honours. His doctorate of Philosophy was awarded by Stanford University after study there in 1961-63.

Professor Emeljanow has had extensive theatre and radio experience in New Zealand, the USA and Australia. He was national drama critic for ABC TV-Survey (1967-68) and Sydney Theatre critic for the National Times (1975-79). From 1974-78, he was Artistic Director of the Bondi Pavilion Theatre and has had extensive experience as a director for the stage in Australia and overseas.

He has indicated since coming to Newcastle that he wants the Drama Theatre and the Drama Studio to have a higher public profile. He is a strong believer in popular theatre and sees the need for the Department of Drama to be close to the community.

As part of his plan for "the town" to come to "the gown" to see shows, the Department will present a regular series of lunch hour performances of plays in the Green Room of the Great Hall beginning with Gotcha from March 25 to 27.

Professor Emeljanow says he will discuss the question - There a Future for Drama Newcastle? and other matters in his Inaugural Lecture.

Advertisements

Typing Done

Typing done at home - prompt service. Please contact M. Kennedy. Please telephone S1 6352.

Wormed Pedigree Dachshund Puppies, 6 weeks old. Please Telephone 48 6228 after 3 p.m.

Give away to good home: Female Doberman (neutered), two years old. (lived as family pet) Please telephone 43 7051.

For Sale


Windrush Surfcat Catamaran with trailer, good condition $800. Wayler surfboard, one year old, perfect condition. $650. Please telephone 43 7051.

Diary of Events

Monday, March 31
Easter Break

Tuesday, April 1
Easter Break

Wednesday, April 2, 7-10pm Entertainment in the bar - FREE

Wednesday, April 2, noon German Film, Die Moral der Ruth Halbfass, Audio-Visual Room (A 132) McKechnie Building. The film has English subtitles.

Thursday, April 3, Noon Movie: The Goonies, Common Room - (50¢ donation).

Friday, April 4, 1-2pm Film Buffs Club in the Common Room - FREE.

Monday, April 7, 7-9pm 5.U.N. Dance in the Common Room, $1 per lesson. Watch the Union News weekly for details.

Tuesday, April 8, 1-2pm Lunchtime Concert in the Courtyard - FREE

7-10pm Entertainment in the Bar - FREE.

Wednesday, April 9, 2pm Market Day in the Courtyard - $2 tables. Bring anything but food and booze (and drugs).

7-10pm Entertainment in the Bar - FREE.

Thursday, April 10, Noon Movie: Lawrence of Arabia in the Common Room - (50¢ donation)

7-10pm Entertainment in the Bar - FREE.

Friday, April 11, 1-2pm Film Buffs Club in the Common Room - FREE.