HOW HEALTHY ARE THE TREES?

The News spoke to him when he was demonstrating a new technique for cavity filling to members of the grounds staff.

The tree surgeon mixed an amount of polyurethane foaming resin and used it to fill a large hole in a spotted gum. The liquid amplified its volume many times and was transformed into hard foam.

Mr Herb Presker, Grounds Supervisor, said fungus was the main concern for staff working to retain the existing trees. Previously, large cavities were filled with concrete, he said.

The trees growing on the main campus area are in good shape, although there is evidence of fungus, termites and gales causing damage.

The trees, of course, create a very pleasant environment, which has made the University famous.

In implementing a long-standing policy of tree preservation, the Property Division makes every effort to retain existing trees in developed areas, save as many trees as possible when new buildings are constructed and plant additional native trees.

According to Mr Peter Hill, contract tree surgeon for the University, the healthy state of the trees is due to the Property Division's sound management approach, including caring for trees and planting young trees.

Another factor, Mr Hill says, is the almost total absence of vandalism on the campus, indicating that those associated with the University respect trees.

The Property Division calls Mr Hill when difficult problems arise, such as debilitation caused by fungus or termites and damage resulting from storms.

Watching Mr Peter Hill fill a cavity in a tree with foam are (from left) Mr Herb Presker, Mr Geoffrey Clarke, Mr Paul Jones, Mr Scot Harris and (below) Mr Jim Prince.

FRIENDS HAVE NEW EXECUTIVE

The Friends of the University elected its officers for the next year at the annual general meeting on 13 August.

The election resulted:

President, Mr K. Gordon;
Vice-President, Mr K. Barbour;
Secretary, Mrs S. Morris;
Treasurer, Professor L. Short;
Assistant Secretary, Mr L. Harris;
Publicity Officer, Mrs R. Dorman;
Auditor, Mr J. Davies; Committee Members: Mrs J. Page, R. Freijs, E. Short, H. Morgans, T. Wright and Messrs R. Tietze and O. Field.

Mrs Mary Beeston gave a very interesting talk on the Hunter Tapestry, she brought along the working sketch for the panel and also swatches of woven tapestry for the colour of the panel.

INSIDE: Plan for the University's future
Letter to Editor

Dear Editor,

The front page of the *Newcastle Herald* of Saturday, August 29, informs me of a new Academic Plan. Having since learned the details, I find this Plan distressing. It is proposed that existing faculties (Medicine excepted) amalgamate into four 'super' faculties to be headed by appointed Deans. Deans will have extensive new powers which as yet have not been spelled out.

The Plan also omits to spell out the reasons underpinning its proposals. Evidence indicates that the authors of the Plan simply take a dim view of an open style of university government. The Planning Committee (PC) has refrained from consultation. The Plan has caused surprise and perplexity as a result. Yet, Senate is to reconsider the matter with haste. Moreover, the Vice-Chancellor has rushed to declare his position to the media, thus preempting debate. The presentation of grievance cases? But, I hear the PC passed off as just a hiccup of a fait accompli.

Present faculties, the PC asserts, are 'inefficient' and 'ineffective' and amalgamation will save on the costs of meetings. This is enough defense of the wholesale overhaul of academic structure. The *Herald* prints a further casual reference to 'economies of scale'; as if scale were both necessary and sufficient for economies to be realised. One would guess that faculties with well over 100 members and without the necessary academic cohesion, might foster patterns of bitter faction fighting at the expense of more constructive and congenial ways of co-operation. What is being achieved by these imposed marriages? And what intriguing matchmaking! My own discipline of economics, for instance, is not recognised as a social science. Indeed, it is hardly recognised at all because the PC seeks to allocate mathematicians or statisticians to teach economics and commerce.

We are told that now apparently is the time for tough measures. The University has to cope with new government targets of austerity. It is true. The starving of the educational sector is a serious problem in an anti-intellectual country which produces two scientists for every six in Japan and which has earned an educational rating at the bottom of the OECD tables. However, reshuffling departments or faculties is not going to alter governmental constraints any more than is reshuffling a bridge hand after the bidding has gone astray. Again, what is the point? Could it be the overturning of the democratic nature of university government by removing power from base levels and placing it in the hands of the Vice-Chancellor, two Deputies and half-a-dozen Deans, the latter all nominated by the Vice-Chancellor?

Such a move would, inter alia, detract from the role played by departments and the Senate. It would result also in a degree of day-to-day autocracy that is not only foreign to Australian universities but to universities in America and continental Europe. Slow progress towards democracy made on this campus over many years — including the widely supported reforms of two years ago — would be largely undone overnight and without argument. Democracy is being treated like a rash or at best a fashion. Yet, it endured merits by allowing the full exploitation of a plurality of views and by resisting concentration of power. Democracy also improves morale by offering scope for input and, consequently, it reduces both nihilism and radicalism as well as the number of grievance cases. But, I hear the PC asks: is democracy efficient? Doesn't it require participation by everyone in everything, thus inhibiting academic work for the sake of few and incoherent decisions? Why should it? Democracy and strong executive power are not mutually exclusive entities.

Let elected office bearers get on with their job, provided only that they act in the common interest. I am afraid, a do-as-you-are-told university model does not look ahead.

Instead it looks back to the authoritarian principles governing Australia's colonial past. Maybe, in view of this past, the Plan can be passed off as just a hiccup of a bicentennial identity crisis.

J.A. Doelman,
Department of Economics.

---

### TOP AWARD TO CHEMISTRY STUDENT

**Mr McAlpine**

**Mr NEALE S. McALPINE**, a PhD student in the Department of Chemistry, was awarded the Physical Chemistry Student Prize at the Eighth National Congress of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute at the University of New South Wales. Mr McAlpine was awarded this prestigious prize for work, supervised by Dr Ron Fredlein, on the interactions of tunnelling electrons: impurity-assisted versus resonant tunnelling at Ti-doped Fe$_2$O$_3$ electrodes.

He faced competition from nominated students from an array of universities in Australia and New Zealand.

The work of Mr McAlpine and Dr Fredlein was cited as innovative and original in that, on the basis of a number of impedance experiments, they were able to model the Ti-doped Fe$_2$O$_3$/electrolyte solution interface and investigate the role of Ti donors in tunnelling processes across the interface.

Whilst the value of the prize is only a nominal amount ($100), both Neale, Ron and the Department of Chemistry are extremely pleased because this is the first time that the award made by the RACI has come to Newcastle University.
A project to help power transmission

DR T.S. BHATTI from India, and Dr J. Hill, Senior Lecturer in Electrical and Computer Engineering, hope to make a contribution to more stable power transmission in large power stations.

They have been collaborating since April on research into improved mathematical models for power system stabiliser design.

Drs Bhatti and Hill have become partners because Dr Hill saw a need for the modelling research when he was working at the Lund Institute of Technology in Sweden last year.

He knew that Dr Bhatti is an expert in power system modelling and he was able to arrange for ARGS support to enable Dr Bhatti to become a visiting researcher in Electrical and Computer Engineering for a year.

Dr Bhatti hails from the Centre for Energy Studies at the Indian Institute of Technology in New Delhi. The centre consists of groups from electrical, mechanical and chemical engineering and physics. It is the national research centre in the energy systems area. He will be joined in Newcastle soon by his wife and two daughters.

How are Drs Bhatti and Hill approaching their research?

'We have developed a series of models and are ready to publish our proposals in international journals,' they said.

Next they intend to use the models in investigations into the stabilisation and control of power systems to be conducted in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and in Sweden.

Dr Hill said that whilst the tendency in power system technology was to use complex models and bigger computers he believed that simpler models, which preserved the essential behaviour of power systems, were a better basis for the application of sophisticated control techniques.

Dr Bhatti has established links with members of the University’s Indian community. He plays the Indian string instrument, the tabla, but it is not likely that he will find one to play in Newcastle.

Close look at management buy-outs

The main elements of management buy-outs, and their potential for boosting business in the Hunter, will be discussed at a University workshop.

The workshop, on the consecutive Fridays, 2, 9, 16 and 23 October from 3 to 6 pm, is organised by Graham Walker, Senior Tutor in Management, in association with the Department of Community Programmes.

Mr Walker said the workshop was not only to explain the characteristics of, and what was needed for, a management buy-out. Its aim also was to pave the way for actual management buy-outs in the Hunter, since taxation, legal, accounting and banking expertise were ready to act.

Mr Walker commenced the workshop to those people who desired to own part, or all, of their own enterprise, considered buying into an enterprise in partnership with the existing management, or contemplated selling their business, possibly to management.

The workshop will be held in Room W308 in the Behavioural Sciences Building and the registration fee is $80. Please telephone 685 600 or 685 522.

It is planned to form the Hunter Management Buy-out Association from those attending this and subsequent workshops. The Association will act as a mutual support and information network for those intending a management buy-out, those with a management buy-out and those providing services for management buy-outs.

[In effect, a management buy-out takes place when a management team purchases the company from its current owners and organises the finance to support the purchase, mainly with borrowed money.

There is an accelerating trend to management buy-outs in Australia.

Buy-outs were few and far between overseas in the 1970s. In 1977 for example there were thirteen in the United Kingdom, and the number rose to around 250 in 1986, with a total of $1.5 billion invested.]
INTERACTION ON SELECTING MEDICAL STUDENTS

Should those selecting medical students look for evidence of applicants having personal qualities, attitudes and skills, seeing that applicants having personal qualities, students look for evidence of credentials? What about the evidence of personal qualities?

The Faculty of Medicine believes that they should and hosted a workshop on selecting medical students on 3 and 4 September.

The News attended one of the later sessions of the workshop and obtained comments from two of the twenty-five delegates from universities and interested groups who attended.

Mr Richard Sebo, Assistant Registrar to Monash University said, his Faculty preferred to select students on the basis of academic merit and until a pilot test could be done on how well the students selected on the basis of interviews stood up during the course his Faculty would not be able to change selection for the whole lot.

When the workshop commenced, we might have thought we could work towards a national selection policy, or, if one School found a system that worked, then the others could take it over. One of the positions we finally came to is that there is value in having different kinds of medical courses and this involves tailoring selection systems to specific courses.

'We are thinking of developing a course that runs in parallel with our medical course with more general aims. It would be possible to move students between the courses. There is a lot of potential in that.'

Mr Sebo said one thing that really was problematic was whether Newcastle was selecting better doctors. Whilst the evidence that Mr David Powis gave of good selection procedures in terms of the students’ performance in the course seemed very powerful, Mr Powis had not had the time to go and check on the graduates to see whether they had made better doctors.

To the questions of the value of the workshop and the possible relevance of Newcastle’s procedures to those of her own university, Associate Professor Ann Sefton, Professor of Physiology at the University of Sydney, said:

'The workshop certainly has got us thinking. I don’t think that in Sydney we could apply what Newcastle does, which is a very good selection procedure, because of the sheer number of applicants we are confronted with and the short space of time we have to do it in. We have a yearly intake of 240.

'Although we process all school leavers, we take students from the top one per cent of the HSC output, which is ludicrous, because you don’t need that level of ability to do medicine.

'It’s difficult at Sydney to get a lot of information out of the computer, but I took a small sort of snapshot of the last graduating class. The student who got the medal as the top student got a HSC aggregate which wouldn’t have got him into medicine in any university. He was strongly motivated to do Science and transferred to Medicine later. So you certainly don’t seem to need a HSC aggregate of 445, or whatever it currently is.

'You cannot do what Newcastle University does, as there would be a fair amount of opposition, quite frankly, from at least some people, as Sydney is a very traditional place.

'We do have some freedom, manoeuvre with the Category Bs – the paramedics, the Aborigines and the tertiary intake. We could adopt some Newcastle principles.'

Professor Sefton went on to say she was hoping in the long-term that the Newcastle experience would be copied if it could be demonstrated that the personal attitudes and skills really were important in a doctor.

'It seems to me that we could start working towards a conjuring testing programme so students would do the tests if they are interested in getting into medicine and, as well, we could still take into account the HSC.

'Probably, there is still room for diversity. If different medical schémes have different ways of doing things, and attract different sorts of students, that’s probably good rather than a bad thing.'
Information night helps prospective engineers

A course and careers information night for Year 10 high school students put on by the Faculty of Engineering attracted a turnout of 200 students and parents.

The programme commenced with an overview of engineering and surveying, a review of the activities of the Faculty, the courses available at Newcastle and the HSC preparation required.

Each Department of the Faculty presented an overview of the courses for which they are responsible and career opportunities for graduates.

The visitors to the campus, emanating from the Central Coast and the North Coast, as well as Newcastle and the Hunter, also saw an engineering display organised by Goninan's.

Triathlon Fever

The first event on the New South Wales triathlon calendar this year is the Lake Macquarie City-Air Caledonie Triathlon to be held at Speers Point Park on Sunday, 27 September. The event comprises a one kilometre swim, forty-one kilometre cycle and a ten kilometre run for individual and team categories and is expected to attract about 500 athletes from local and national ranks.

A group of five fitness-conscious staff members of the University have attracted sponsorship from Wes Hughes Timber and Hardware, of Glendale, and are hopeful of doing well.

The group comprises Karen McLellan (Mechanical Engineering), Kathy Horton, Gary Gazibarich, Bon Gray and John Buxton (Medicine). The contingent from Medicine work together with Professor Saxon White in the Human Physiology exercise lab, which is destined to become the scientific testing facility for the newly-established Hunter Academy of Sport.

Any misguided rumours about male supremacy can be put to rest by revealing that Kathy and Karen are competing as individuals, whereas the males 'had to' enter as a team.

At 8 am on race day, John will leap into the lake and, although enthusiastic and mentally prepared for the swim, he is untested in competition at this distance.

The second leg takes Gary and the other cyclists on an undulating course through Edgeworth and Barnsley; then on to Wakefield, and returning through Fassifern to Speers Point Park, where the run commences.

The running circuit loops around Booragul and along the foreshores of the Lake, before returning over Cockle Creek bridge to the finishing line in the park.

Bon is expected to go well in the anchor leg following a recent second place in the Campus Scamper and a high placing in the Newcastle Herald Fun Run.

Kathy and Karen went well in the same event last year and owing to a more intense training schedule (ten kilometre swimming, 150 kilometre cycling and eighty kilometre running per week) are likely to achieve even better overall times.

However, regardless of performance the spirit of the Wes Hughes Timber Team is certain to remain high for future events.
**Support for child care standards**

- A delegation of parents of children at Kintaiba, the University's community child care centre, met State MsP at the centre to canvass support for being exempted from proposed child care regulations. If passed the regulations will reduce staff and affect the centre's high level of professionalism and care.

  Pictured with the Director, Mr R. Baxter (back row, from left) and some parents and children are Mr Price, Member for Waratah, Mr Wade, Member for Newcastle, Mr Face, Member for Charlestown and Mr Bowman, Member for Swansea.

---

**NEW POLICIES FOR 2NUR-FM APPROVED**

The University's radio station, 2NUR-FM, should widen and deepen the programme base of the station to give more scope for campus contributions.

The August Council was told this by the Committee of Inquiry into 2NUR-FM before approving proposals put forward by the committee.

The committee finds that the general demand for broadcasting services by 2NUR-FM as a community station is widespread and enthusiastic,' the committee said.

Made up of Council members Professor C. Renwick and M. Carter and Dr P. Hendry, the committee identified the following emphases in its report.

Volunteer presenter support continues to grow, as does external financing.

Better integration into University life is sought: in terms of programmes, audience, administration and accommodation.

- Staff morale has developed a noticeable sag, reflecting uneasiness and uncertainty about the future in general and the University attitudes in particular.

- Wider issues relative to publicity and public relations need to be considered.

To assist with the alleviation of difficulties uncovered and, with the design and implementation of suitable policies for 2NUR-FM, the committee offered the following main recommendations, which the Council approved:

- The University: continue to hold the community licence for the station to satisfy widespread volunteer and audience support of 2NUR-FM as a University function, both inside and outside the campus.

- Both the Advisory Board and the Executive Committee be abolished and replaced by a Board of Directors.

- A number of matters in connection with staff and their conditions of employment, including the appointment of a new Station Manager, to be dealt with by the Board as first priorities.

- The University underwrite the station's recurrent finances at the present level, CPI adjusted, for the next three years.

- The Board of Directors put in hand immediate discussions concerning future accommodation for the station. It is essential that the station leaves the Mathematics Building as soon as possible, since the space is needed for other purposes. A new building be located on the campus.

- The Board appoint a Programme Sub-committee to be responsible to the Board for overall station programming policy. It is essential that the station build upon its good programming record to better reflect the educational base of the University and the contribution the University can make to regional social, economic and cultural life.

- In the reformulation of the Administration, the Vice-Chancellor integrate the philosophies of the radio station and the Information Unit within his own overview. This might be done in such a way that a more positive joint effort can be made in conveying University goals and work to both campus and community, through a co-ordinated and expanded communication programme.

The Committee explained that to meet the requirements of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal community representation on the new Board of Directors was necessary.

Eight directors were recommended — two from the Council, one from the Senate, two from the community and one from amongst the voluntary presenters. The Station Manager should be a voting member and Executive Officer of the Board. The Chairperson should be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor.

The Committee said funding for the new building had been proposed along several lines: University loans and private sector sponsorship were the most usual suggestions. The Board of Directors would need to take wise advice on this matter.
Play season in Drama Theatre

- Some of the cast of the play *Cloud Nine* pictured at rehearsals. Described as 'an incisive comedy about sexual stereotyping', the play will be staged in the Drama Theatre commencing on 16 September. David Berthold is directing.

Good roll-up for Concrete Code talks

A two-day seminar on the new Concrete Code, organised by the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying, attracted about seventy practising structural engineers.

The Concrete Code, a document issued by the Standards Association, sets out recommended design and construction rules for reinforced and prestressed concrete structures. It is invariably adopted as a legal document in building and construction contracts.

Professor Rob Melchers spoke at the seminar about changes made in the overall code philosophy.

Dr Peter Darvall (Monash University) spoke about changes made in the beam and column design rules and rules for shear and torsion.

Dr Ian Gilbert (University of New South Wales) spoke about the changed rules for deflection calculations and the new provisions for quality control, which is a matter of increasing concern to structural engineers.

Mr Peter Kloeman outlined the new rules for load combination and Mr Mike Fitzgerald conveyed his views on the likely effect of the new code rules on the practising professional.

The packed programme on the first day was followed (for those who wanted more punishment) by a concentrated workshop, using the Faculty's computer terminal room. Participants were introduced to a range of computer programmes (VAX or PC oriented) designed to ease the transition to the new Code.

The seminar was supported by the Department of Community Programmes and was run in conjunction with the Civil Branch of the Newcastle Division, Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Physical Chemistry Executive

Dr El lak von Nagy-Felsobuki has been elected to the executive of the Physical Chemistry Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI). One of his immediate duties will be to act as Associate Editor of the RACI Journal, *Chemistry in Australia*.

Dr El lak von Nagy-Felsobuki said he was pleased that the outgoing executive had nominated him and, moreover, he was pleased that Newcastle now had a voice on the National Committee of the RACI.

25th Annual Union Dinner

will be held on

FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER

in the Union at 6.30 for 7 pm.

PROFESSOR KEITH MORGAN

will be the guest speaker.

Tickets are available in the
Second-hand Bookshop in the Union Foyer at a cost of $17 (members) and $20 (non-members). Following formal proceedings, drinks may be purchased from the Bar until 1 am. Dinner music supplied by Degage Ensemble, dance music by Roanwatt Sounds.

Physical Chemistry Executive

Dr El lak von Nagy-Felsobuki has been elected to the executive of the Physical Chemistry Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI). One of his immediate duties will be to act as Associate Editor of the RACI Journal, *Chemistry in Australia*.

Dr El lak von Nagy-Felsobuki said he was pleased that the outgoing executive had nominated him and, moreover, he was pleased that Newcastle now had a voice on the National Committee of the RACI.

- Dr von Nagy Felsobuki
ACADEMIC PLAN FOR FUTURE OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University has achieved a size which reflects well on the academic planning at its foundation and in the subsequent years. With some 5,700 students it clearly contributes significantly to meeting the demands and needs of society and students.

It would be inappropriate to pretend that the University can, or should, attempt to provide access to the full range of disciplines established in the larger and older universities. At the same time, there is expectation that this University will offer education, scholarship and community service to those who live in our Region. This implies existence of a broad academic base. Reconciliation of these two views has to be found in judgments on the range and diversity of our academic programme.

This is how the Planning Committee introduces its plan for the University’s future, released at the August Senate meeting.

The eighteen-page plan was given preliminary consideration and referred to faculties and departments for discussion and comment.

Senate decided to hold a special meeting to consider the plan and any advice forthcoming from the University on 21 September at 9 am.

In Part 1 of the plan, the University’s size, distinctiveness and structure are discussed before specific matters, such as growth, undergraduate studies, faculty structure and research funding, are addressed.

Part 2 focuses attention and discussion on the University’s existing faculty structure.

The Planning Committee says it is particularly important for a University which is still young to identify areas and characteristics which are to enable it to make distinctive contributions to learning and scholarship. Generation of new areas of distinctive work is fundamental to the development of the University. It has to be recognised that this will need to be accompanied by redistribution of resources from existing activities if it is to be successful.

THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

One unifying concept might well be found in an expressed commitment to the needs of students through concern for their well-being; through emphasis on the quality of our teaching and through a particular concern to provide our graduates with competence in numerical, communication and interpersonal skills.

The committee comments that there is an expectation, externally and internally, that the University will continue to grow in size. Internally the University has planned to continue the rate of growth achieved in recent years through to 1990. This growth at six per cent per annum would give the University 6,900 students by 1990. The rate of growth is larger than that envisaged by the CTEC, who suggest three per cent as an achievable target over the next six years. The extent to which the target is achievable depends substantially on the ability of government to fund growth.

It will be important, the committee says, to use the opportunity for controlled growth to address two outstanding problems of imbalance in our present arrangements. The spread of student/staff ratios provides some indication that our staffing provisions are significantly out of line with those in other universities. There may be good reasons for this, but there appears to be some faculties with unacceptably high ratios and some with unusually low ratios.

It is significantly easier to contemplate adjustments to these ratios during a period of growth, and the Planning Committee proposes a redistribution of resources over the next years: notably to the Faculties of Economics and Commerce and of Mathematics in order to sustain their ability for the important and inevitable growth; and from the Faculty of Arts in line with its relatively reduced load.

The committee identifies as an accompanying problem the use of the Discretionary Fund to sustain the current level of academic activity and, in particular, the levels of staffing. Institutionally our expenditure on non-academic activities and administration is not high. It is not intrinsically unreasonable that the Discretionary Fund should be applied to academic activities. It is, though, a substantial constraint on the ability of the University to initiate new developments and to support important initiatives if these funds are subsumed in the normal operational costs of the University. It is proposed that, over the next five-year period, planning should be based on the progressive elimination of the existing pattern of use of the Discretionary Fund.

PROBLEMS FACING UNDERGRADUATES

Developing a discussion undergraduate studies at the University, the Planning Committee states it is important to seize opportunities to examine the fitness of courses for the educational goals that they are intended to serve. Scrutiny of the existing degree structure reveals a large number of perplexing complications which cannot be readily comprehended or interpreted. Moreover, they appear to imply extravagant use of teaching resources.

Recognition of the problems encountered by students has to be an important component of the work of a professional teacher. Two aspects of this have been brought to the committee’s attention:

Crossing the interface between school and university can be difficult.

STAFF REACTION REQUESTED

The Staff Association has circulated to its members a questionnaire on the Report of the Planning Committee.

The questions asked:

Broadly speaking, do you support the creation of large amalgamated faculties along the lines suggested by the Planning Committee?

Do you support a move in favour of appointed Deans and away from elected Deans?

Do you need your working conditions to be adversely affected if proposals were implemented in their present form?

The return date for the last responses is 17 September.
It is suggested that faculties and departments should give consideration to designating directors of studies with special responsibility for new students; and that the director might be assisted by identifying colleagues as first year tutors with responsibilities for advice and counselling of designated groups of students.

It is suggested by the committee that faculties should consider the possibility of mounting special bridging courses for identified groups of students who, by virtue of educational or social disadvantage, have been denied fair opportunity for preparation: it is possible that earmarked Commonwealth funds can be available for such courses.

The committee notes that more generally students with limited achievement at HSC have difficulties in coping with the pace, content and rigour of university courses.

Solutions which demonstrate a sensitivity to the needs of students have to be considered and faculties are asked to undertake a review of their provisions in recognition of this.

If these measures can be successfully implemented there may be profound consequences for student numbers and their distribution in the University, the committee believes. At present little more than a quarter of new first year students progress directly to Year II; twenty per cent failing to pass Year I will remain in it; and before 30 April in the following year more than one in three of new students will have dropped out of the University.

Reduction in Faculties

As for the existing faculty structure, the Planning Committee sees good grounds for making changes.

The large number of faculties represents a significant administrative and academic burden in time and in diversity of regulation. Representation for the smaller departments and small faculties is both inefficient and ineffective; multiplicity of meetings is unnecessarily expensive.

Devolution of responsibility to faculties is seen as sensible and appropriate but can only be effective if it is supported adequately. It would be an extravagant use of resource to attempt to do this for a large number of faculties.

It is proposed that the existing eight faculties be reduced to four according to this scheme:

**FACULTY OF ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

- Board of Studies for the Humanities
  - Departments of: Classics, Drama, English, History, Modern Languages and Philosophy.

- Board of Studies for Social Sciences
  - Departments of: Sociology, Law, Education and Geography.

**FACULTY OF MATHEMATICS, ECONOMICS & COMMERCE**

- Board of Studies for Mathematics
  - Departments of: Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics.

- Board of Studies for Economics & Commerce
  - Departments of: Commerce, Economics and Management.

**FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

- School of Medicine
  - Medicine

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

- School of Engineering
  - Departments of: Chemical & Materials Engineering, Civil Engineering & Surveying, Electrical & Computer Engineering and Mechanical Engineering

- Board of Studies for Science
  - Departments of: Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Geology, Physics and Psychology

**School of Architecture**

Architecture.

It would be expected that each faculty would be administered by an appointed Dean; and each board of studies and school would have an elected director who would serve as deputy to the Dean.

The committee makes it clear that the faculty would be expected to have authority delegated by the Council and the Senate for academic matters relating to admissions, courses, examinations and awards; and responsibility for the administering of faculty funding and staffing: all within guidelines determined by the Senate and the Council on advice from the appropriate University planning and budgetary committees.

(Space precludes an account of Part 2 of the Planning Committee's Report in which proposals for changes in the academic structure of faculties are presented. The proposals will be summarised in the next issue of the News.)

---

Buildings of some historical significance

These Hunter Valley landmarks will be included in a bus trip which the Staff House will hold on 26 September.

The bus will leave the No.1 Car Park at 9:30 am and during the trip passengers will also have a wine tasting and lunch at Dalwood and visit a pub in the Coalfields.

Tickets cost $22.50. They are available from Mr Sandy Sanderson, Extension 430.
PHILOSOPHY
STAFF MEMBER
RETIRES

Professor Bill Doniela

The third member of the Philosophy staff to be appointed by the (then) Newcastle University College retired on 31 August after more than twenty-eight years at the University. Associate Professor Bill Doniela commenced duties at NUC in April, 1959, when the other members of the Philosophy staff were Emeritus Professor Alec Ritchie and Mr Sandy Anderson, who is still with the Department.

'I was brought up on traditional philosophical problems — so, at Tighes Hill, it was natural for me to teach logic and scientific method to the engineering and commerce students enrolled in the Humanities course,' Professor Doniela says.

'These days I sometimes get stopped in the street by very respectable looking people who declare that they were my students in the early 1960s.'

He was born in Lithuania and, as a child and a teenager, witnessed no less than seven military occupations and administrations as he and his family, with other refugees, looked for shelter in a Europe disrupted by the war.

After migrating to Australia in 1948, he studied at the University of Sydney, graduating with a BA and an MA, each with first class honours. He was awarded a Travelling Scholarship and he returned to Europe where he took his PhD at the University of Freiburg, West Germany.

During his time at the University of Newcastle, the staff numbers in Philosophy grew to seven. 'It still is a friendly and co-operative, as well as a productive place to work in,' he says. He has served as Head of Department on four occasions.

He says he has always liked lecturing, being with students and sharing interests and knowledge.

'In Philosophy, students are genuinely interested in certain problems. While some do expect definitive solutions, many come to see that solutions are not easy to come by and that a patient, tolerant, analytic grappling with problems results in greater intellectual satisfaction than a mere appropriation of dogmatic answers.'

The News recalled two former postgraduate students whose work Professor Doniela supervised — Ray Williamson and David Seargent. Their theses have recently been published. 'I have had a great deal of intellectual satisfaction working with postgraduates. At times I was supervising as many as five or six,' he says.

Whilst the Philosophy Club was formed by students (in 1966), Bill Doniela has been actively associated with it (as friend, staff adviser and liaison with speakers). The club inaugurated the annual camps in 1967.

Similarly, the club's journal, Dialectic, has been produced by students, but Professor Doniela has had to grapple with editorial and printing problems. Dialectic is probably the University's oldest publication, the number of issues having reached thirty.

Professor Doniela's attention has turned increasingly in recent years to a study of mentalities, for example egalitarian and authoritarian personality structures and their systematic manifestations in politics, religion, education, moral theorising, and so on.

'It is the dynamics of power that fascinates me, in particular,' he says, 'both at the individual and the social level. It is possible that this interest is a delayed reaction to my experience of the war. I think it was these experiences that showed me the power of human emotions and the hubris, which expresses itself as self-righteousness but is the very stuff that irrationality is made of.'

He has presented papers to international conferences at Salzburg, Moscow, Athens, Belgrade, Oxford and Rome and philosophy conferences, and other philosophy departments within Australia. 'I was also responsible for three conferences at this University (on Hegel, in 1984 and 1986, and Contradiction, 1986). Also I have been organiser of the conferences of the Australasian Association for Phenomenology and Social Philosophy and on two occasions, its President.'

Retirement for Professor Doniela will not mean giving up philosophy. 'For me, the discipline is not only a profession but an overwhelming hobby as well.'

'With more time to spare I hope to publish a few more studies, for example a work on Hegel's ethics and on his 'dialectics'. I am also polishing up a set of papers on Spinoza's ethics and another on a historical investigation of the foundations of logic.'

But, of course, he hopes to keep touch with his former department and academic life in general, both here and overseas.

OBITUARY
Mrs Lyn Harth passes away

The recent death of Mrs Lynette Sybil Harth, who graduated from this University with a BA degree in 1973 and a DipEd in 1974, was a great loss to the teaching profession and a shock to those who remember her as a student.

Lyn Harth (then March) came to this University from Maitland Girls' High School, where she was a member of the debating team which won the New South Wales title.

In 1974 Lyn began her teaching career at Jesmond High School. She was transferred to Orara High School, Coffs Harbour, soon after her marriage to Peter Harth.

In 1985, Mrs Harth went to Quirindi High School as head of the English/History Department. Less than eighteen months later she became ill and began to receive treatment in a flight against cancer. She was thirty-six when she died.
SCHOOL-BASED WORK FINDS ACCORD IN EDUCATION

Students involved in the University's redesigned postgraduate Diploma in Education course have found their studies taking them from solving classroom problems in schools to paddling canoes in the wetlands at Shortland.

The course has been altered over the last year so that the students receive more experience in the problems of teaching in the schools and in different contexts such as the wetlands.

According to the Acting Head of the Department of Education, Dr Phil Moore, who co-ordinates the units in the Diploma in Education programme, the new course, which depends heavily on school-based training, has gained approval not only from the students but also from teachers who work with them.

He said those students who studied the unit Problems in Teaching visited local high or primary schools every week to observe teaching practices and discuss problems. The unit involves far more than additional 'demonstrations' of teaching. Teachers discuss likely problems in planning, presentation and evaluation either before or after actual demonstrations. Alternative scenarios are discussed in a problem-solving context. He said that the methods used to train the students included modelling teaching procedures and, even, arranging for problems to arise. 'It's the first-hand contact with experienced teachers that is vital for the proper development of the student teachers.' This involvement of the students in real classroom situations offered many advantages and complemented the practical and theoretical tuition given by academic staff on campus.

Further changes in the Diploma in Education course had been implemented in Second Term when the students took part in the Practicum, the eight-week period of practice teaching.

Dr Moore explained that the Department of Education now used a wide-range of different contexts and locations for training the students. Instances were the Shortland Wetlands Centre, the Awabakal Field Centre, Supernova and local technical colleges.

'This enables the students to broaden their educational and training experiences and associate with a wider range of students in different learning environments.'

Overall, Dr Moore said, the changes meant that the expertise of teachers in the local region — from schools north to Taree, west to Muswellbrook and south to Gosford, was being used to assist in the University's work. These people were in an ideal position to discuss day-to-day problems of teaching with the Diploma in Education students.
The Australian University Graduates' Conference (AUGC)

Forty representatives from graduate organisations across Australia gathered at La Trobe University from 14 to 16 August to exchange ideas and find ways to further their common objective of encouraging support for Australian universities.

The Australian Universities Graduates' Conference (AUGC) was greatly impressed by Mr Fred Volkmann, Associate Vice-Chancellor and Director of Public Relations of Washington University in Missouri, USA, when he described the enthusiasm of the alumni of his institution and how generously they supported it.

'Their remarkable achievement last year was to raise $5 million, which, among other new ventures, enabled thirty new professors to be appointed,' he said.

The Conference was also addressed by Professor David Pennington, well-known as the Chairman of the National Aids Task Force and now Vice-Chancellor-elect of Melbourne University.

Professor Pennington welcomed the challenge of his future job while realising that many difficulties lie ahead for universities.

'Their traditional role is to train high calibre graduates for vital positions in the community, and to maintain and extend existing knowledge through research,' he said.

'At a time when funds for tertiary education are being cut back severely, universities are being asked by governments to give extra emphasis to co-operative ventures with industry with the objective of overcoming the country's economic problems and trade imbalance.'

Professor Pennington asked for the help of alumni and the AUGC to extend information and understanding within the general public of the contributions which universities make to the community and of the need for the support of graduates.

One of the accomplishments of the conference was a strategic plan for the years ahead and a set of priorities.

The Executive of the AUGC is:
- President, Ms Tedi Paul (Macquarie);
- Senior Vice-President, Dr Adrienne Thompson (New South Wales);
- Junior Vice-President, Mr John Bone (Flinders) and Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Mr Peter Andersen (New South Wales).

TO 2NUR VIA PUBLIC RADIO STATIONS

MS NICOLE STEINKE, 2NUR's newly appointed education producer, is already a familiar voice to regular listeners of the station.

Nicole replaces John Roden at 2NUR, and will produce the weekly Open Mind on Health. (Ironically, John left 2NUR to set up home in Adelaide.)

For the past two years she has produced public radio's Open Mind on Science, at the University of Adelaide's AM station, 5UV.

Top priority is to raise the public image of universities by improving communication, firstly between participating graduate organisations, then between these organisations and the graduates of their universities and finally between graduates and the wider community.

This strategy is directed at a better understanding of universities by the public at large. It is expected to result in more appreciative funding of universities by governments, by corporations, by industry and by the graduates themselves.

At twenty-nine, Nicole has a wealth of experience in broadcasting. A graduate of the communication degree course at Bathurst's Mitchell College, she has worked for ABC, commercial and public radio stations in New South Wales and Tasmania, as well as Adelaide.

A native of Oakland, California, Nicole came to Australia as a six-year-old and spent her school years in Wollongong.

Since graduating from Mitchell College, she has travelled widely, both in Australia and overseas.

Time

Management for Supervisors

Are you a manager? Are you well-organised? Do you delegate enough? Do you manage your time efficiently?

These are some of the questions that will be addressed by Mr Brian Palfrey, a leading Management Consultant, at a one-day workshop to be held on 23 October for University staff.

The workshop will last a full-day and will involve syndicate work on problem-solving in the afternoon.

Please write to the Staff Office if you would like to attend, or telephone Mr Covill at Extension 375.
The Price of Oligarchy

by ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ARIE BRAND (Department of Sociology).

Recently the well publicised claim was made that Newcastle University has an oligarchic structure. To most of us, I believe, this claim contained no news. It is strange, though, how it was lifted onto the platform of public discussion by mere virtue of the fact that it appeared in print. This discussion was undue and is now particularly appropriate. Therefore our thanks to Professor J. Biggs, even though he came up with the statement as a sort of final insult which a man shouts before he slams the door.

Before we go any further I should say that I believe that Professor Biggs, perhaps in the haste of the man who intends to get his word in before he leaves the premises, rather simplified the problem by only directing attention to what one could call our major oligarchy: the comparatively few people in the 'inner circle' at the top. Beside this major oligarchy there are, in the region outside the major inner circle, many minor oligarchies. We have faculty ones and even departmental ones. Another refinement of the problem is necessary. There are formal and informal oligarchies, those which are in accordance with the formal organisation and those which are not, which have no explicit basis in our rules. The latter ones are the most pernicious because they have a far more urgent overtone of usurpation and therefore elicit continuous struggle. I believe that at present we have mainly an informal oligarchic structure.

For the moment I will ignore this distinction, however, and ask what is wrong with having an oligarchy in 'general'.

The 'Oligarchic Screen'

I believe that the most general answer to this question is that in an oligarchy the available information and intellectual energy are underutilised. In an (academic) oligarchy information and power are monopolised together, with the former becoming the main basis for the latter. Information possessed within the inner circle is carefully screened off from the world outside — with as its inevitable consequence that its quality cannot really be tested. More importantly, the screen also works the other way. When information is the main basis for power, the claim to possess it is a power claim. It is a claim to status — status which is, from the inner circle, not readily granted to outsiders. Information coming from outside could thus be deemed, depending on whether it comes from that part of the outside world which is subject to the oligarchy's sway, to be somehow inferior. Comments from outside must, from the view of the inner circle, often appear to be not much more than impertinent criticism and, if they contain knowledge, this must somehow appear to be inferior or even 'subversive knowledge'.

To give only one example: Recently the question was raised, in the columns of The Australian, whether or not information on the basis of which a PhD candidature was terminated, had already been available for a long time. The answer to this might not be as straightforward as Christopher Dawson, the journalist who wrote the story, apparently assumed it to be. It could well be that, under the pressure of events, intelligence which had thus far been regarded as merely 'subversive knowledge', was reclassified as information.

Aggravation of Friction Loss

Thus the price of oligarchy, is, in part, the underutilisation of available information and intellectual energy.

Another part of the price is the aggravation of friction loss. The various goods an academic organisation can bestow (degrees, tenure, academic reputation in general, hierarchical status, research funds and equipment are in short supply. People and parties have to compete for them and this causes, inevitably, friction. In an oligarchy the certainty required for calculations in any market place, including this one, is lacking. The coming about of the modern market place is, as Max Weber has shown in his Economic History, among other things the disappearance of the discrepancy in the 'ethics of internal and the ethics of external relations'. The price of goods had to become uniform for outsiders and insiders alike. In an oligarchy this discrepancy often remains alive or, since information is lacking on its operations, it is presumed to be alive. This creates uncertainty and uncertainty aggravates conflict.

In my experience, an even more important basis for uncertainty and conflict is found in the fact that in an informal oligarchy, that is the type of structure which is not explicitly provided for by the 'organisational blueprint' or, frequently, is at odds with it, the exercise of power is even more keenly felt as usurpation by those who are at the receiving end.

Thus oligarchy generates conflict but an academic oligarchy has no adequate mechanisms of conflict resolution. The sociology of law throws some light on these matters via the concept of 'relational distance'. The extent to which people participate in each other's lives, the intimacy of a larger setting is, as Donald Black (in The Behaviour of Law) has suggested 'measured by the relational distance, on the average, between each person or group and every other, and by the range of people who are farthest apart'. Now the relationship, says Black, between law and relational distance is curvilinear. 'Law is inactive among intimates, increasing as the distance between people increases but decreasing as this reaches the point at which people live in entirely separate worlds'.

Relational distance does not only determine the frequency with which law is appealed to, but also the kind of law which is invoked. 'It predicts' says Black 'and explains whether law is accusatory, as in the penal and compensatory styles, or remedial, as in the therapeutic or conciliatory styles. ... Accusatory law varies directly with relational distance; remedial law varies inversely with relational distance'.

Our internal mechanisms of conflict resolution mainly provide for remedial law — they are, at any case in intent, therapeutic and conciliatory. However, the relational distance which goes together with an oligarchy, which is buttressed by a strong hierarchy, makes these mechanisms inadequate. Hence the relatively frequent appeals here to external legal mechanisms. Perhaps the bill for legal costs, which the University has run up is a strong indicator for its oligarchic character.

The Human Cost

Thus far I have looked at the price paid for oligarchy on the level of the organisation, but now I would like to remark on the, of course not unrelated, costs for the individuals involved. Important phenomena here seem to me to be, aggression and apprehensiveness, with their generally unpleasant physiological consequences.

It seems to be a fairly widespread ethological phenomenon, going beyond the realm of Man, that non-communication leads to the assumption of hostility rather than the reverse. Oligarchies are high on relational distance and, with that, low on the frequency and intensity of
communication right across the range of people involved. The undesirable emotions they tend to generate are found both within and outside the inner circle.

An even more important factor seems to me the following. Some biosociologists assume that the desire to have a 'sense' of one's own affairs, on a scale which can be easily surveyed, is an anthropological constant. From another angle, one of the most important contemporary social theorists, Jürgen Habermas, has built his impressive body of work on the 'central intuition' that there is in language itself an implicit thrust to the achievement of the 'ideal speech situation', in which all participants in interaction have a structurally equal chance for raising 'validity claims'. Whether this is true or not (I believe it to be largely true), it seems to me a fact of common experience that a continuous denial of the possibility to have an effective say in matters one feels to be one's own, leads to an accumulated bitterness which, both on the level of the organisation as such as on that of the individual, can only be regarded as negative. The worst offenders on this score are informal oligarchies because there the keen sense of usurpation adds to the frustration.

Present Plans

Present plans provide, among other things, for the creation of a group of appointed officials, who will all be beholden for their appointment to one person and whose accountability is mainly upward and not downward. Ironically this is, in one sense, an improvement because it might replace, at any case on the level of the University as such, its informal oligarchy, by a formal one. This will, at any case, lessen the sense of usurpation, but only to a certain extent, because it is clear that the structure is being imposed from the top — silence should not be mistaken for consensus here. In another, and I believe, much more important sense it is a retrograde step, because this formalisation of the University's oligarchic structure effectively blocks the road, at any case for the time being, to further democratisation and makes what has been achieved on this score partly undone. Thus the ills of oligarchy might become our 'permanent' pains. It has been said that these measures provide for decentralisation. That claim is only partly justified. Looked at from the top downward there is decentralisation here; looked at from the bottom upward one can only see the opposite: The power of the new 'super deans' will also be at the expense of faculty — and departmental boards.

I consider these measures 'retrograde' for the following reasons. I believe that, as a 'counterpoint' to the theme of bureaucratisation, and the dominance of impersonal market forces, there is an overall worldwide trend for democratisation which seems to provide substance to Habermas' claim that the 'logic' of development (as apart from its much more eventful 'dynamics') leads us in the direction of the 'counterfactual ideal' of the 'ideal speech situation'. Weber's rather different perspective, in which the possibility of 'sincification' stands central, that is the coming about of 'assorted' structures which deny the possibility of individual human responsibility, and with it human dignity, might have been too gloomy because he overemphasised the occurrence of 'rationalisation' in the technological-economic field and underestimated the significance of ethical rationalisation. As far as those rather central institutions of the western world, universities, are concerned, the contrapunctual theme of democratisation has, thus far, been most audible in West European universities now the first youthful excesses have been eliminated, for a variety of interesting reasons this does not hold true for British universities which I believe now to belong to the most autocratically governed academic institutions in the western world.

In the long run, the measures now proposed might, if implemented, come to be regarded as a temporary reversal in a long term trend. But then of course, as Keynes said, in the long run we will all be dead.

Many want to use keyboards

When the Staff Office decided to assist occupational health and safety at the University by putting on mini-touch-typing courses for staff who have not been trained in typing, they drew up programmes for three courses in September.

Mr M. Covill, Director Staff Services, told the News that the courses had been fully booked. The response was very pleasing and, consequently, the Staff Office would arrange for Mrs M. Davie, of the Computing Centre, to conduct additional courses.

(The staff members who are fronting up to learn typing skills come from diverse parts of the University, indicating that many people are currently using keyboards. Professors, academics, administration and library staff, and computer programmers are among those who have availed themselves of the courses.)

NATIONAL BODY FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Federation of Australian Social Science Organisations was recently established, partly to put the opinion of social scientists before governments and a UN academic was elected as its first President.

Professor Daphne Keats, Associate Professor of Psychology, will lead the new organisation, which will be a social sciences counterpart to the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASSO).

The FASSO's rationale includes encouraging the advancement of the social sciences in Australia, stimulating discussion among social scientists about the conduct and funding of research in Australia and promoting the general and collective interests of social scientists in government, industry and commerce and the public.

Professor Keats said the questions of immediate concern to the federation included the funding of research, ethical questions about the use of research and the provision of library and other research facilities.

Following discussions with officers of the Australian Academy of Humanities, the academy had welcomed the establishment of the social science federation and humanities associations would consider during the coming months the course they would take.

Professor Keats said that at the meeting at the Australian National University which unanimously agreed to the establishment of the FASSO there were representatives of twenty-one organisations, with a total membership of approximately 30,000.
Advertisements

For Sale

FX750T programmable calculator featuring two 4K ram cards plus instruction manual, $150 the lot. Plus a National one litre rice cooker in excellent condition together with instructions, $20. Please telephone 51 7137.

Portable typewriter with carry case, $110 or near offer. Please telephone Christine at Extension 301.

Pine wood double bed $160 as new (new mattress, $20) plus as new slat extended. Please telephone Extension 669.

Three-piece pine lounge suite plus two Jason recliner rockers (all offers considered). Please telephone extension 303 or 46 7601 after hours.

1976 Blue Toyota Corona which is mechanically A1 and is registered until February, 1988 (HPO 104). Pink slip supplied (three years still to run on mechanical Wynn's warranty) plus spotless interior and exterior (ideal car for the student to run as it's very economical), $3,800 or near offer. Please telephone 67 6334 after 5 pm.

A good home only — hi, my name is Benson, and I am a black gelding (still have my winter coat at the moment). I stand fifteen hands high and am ten years old. I am very quiet and sensible and am no trouble to float and shoe. I prefer the ladies, bushrides and pony club work. I am a real bargain at $500. Please telephone Gay at Extension 407 or 59 5315 after hours so that I may inspect prospective owners.

By Tender

One only Apple IIe Computer complete with external disk drive (contact Margaret Darby at 26 6141). Quantity of used Western Red Cedar timber (contact Neil Pettigrew at Extension 205). Damaged equipment — one GBC model 212HC twelve inch electric binding machine; one Copyrapid 0421 offset platemaker; one Copyproof CP38 etching bath.

For further information please telephone Peter Myors, Extension 372.

Tenders should be forwarded in a sealed envelope marked 'Tender for Used Equipment', addressed to the Purchasing Office, University of Newcastle, 2308. Closing date for tenders is 11.30 am 30 September, 1987. The University reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Wanted to Buy

Cedar or pine old furniture, chests of drawers, sideboards, hallstands, kitchen dressers in any condition. Also bric-a-brac. Cash buyer will call. Please telephone 59 2319.

Tripod for SLR camera, must be in good condition. Price negotiable. Please telephone Chris at 24 060.

Accommodation Available

One or two persons to share large three bedroom home at New Lambton with city view, close to Blackbutt Reserve. Suit quite, responsible, non-smoker. Rental, $50 per room. Please contact Juliet Tan 52 4015 (home) or Extension 357.

Position Wanted — Tutor

A tutor is required for Physics student (must be postgraduate student) possibly for two nights per week. Please contact D. Howley at 58 3381 evenings.

Lost

ME496 project notes. Please telephone 51 7137 (reward offered).

Singers Wanted

The University Choir will bring to a close its tenth anniversary year with the performance of Elgar's Dream of Gerontius, under the direction of Peter Brock, on 28 November.

Singers, especially tenors and sopranos, are needed, as the major work requires a choir of one hundred. There will not be any auditions, but an ability to sing in tune and an elementary knowledge of sight reading are the basic requirements.

To sing with an orchestra of sixty and three professional singers as soloists will make it an exciting experience.

If you are interested, please telephone Mary Shannon at 63 4043 or Judy Buchhorn at 52 3009.

Standard design for publications

The cover design above has been adopted by the University for most of its official publications. They include:

- The Undergraduate Guide — a pamphlet listing University courses and the HSC subjects recommended to be taken by school students.
- Undergraduate Studies — a booklet giving general information about the Hunter Region, the University, its procedures, facilities and faculties, and outlining courses available.
- Postgraduate Studies - Information for Overseas Students — a guide describing the various diplomas, coursework postgraduate degrees and research postgraduate degrees available and explaining the TOEFL test of English which some overseas students must sit for.
- Medical Course Aboriginal Admissions 1988 — a pamphlet outlining to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders the University's requirements for admission to the medical course.

The cover design will be continued across the range of University publications, including Faculty Handbooks and Studies in Aviation.

For copies of the publications please telephone Extension 370.
**Diary of Events**

**Tuesday, 15 September, Noon**
Department of Mathematics seminar entitled *Some Problems in Mathematical Biology*. Speaker: Dr Sean McElwain. Venue: V107, Mathematics Building.

**Wednesday, 16 September, 4 pm**
Department of Education seminar entitled *An Information Processing Approach to Basic Number Combinations*. Speaker: K. Prudence.

**8 pm**
Commencement of Drama Department's presentation of *Cloud Nine*, by Caryl Churchill (a savage comedy about sexual identity) and directed by David Berthold. Venue: Drama Theatre.

**Monday, 21 September, Noon**
Department of Geology seminar entitled *The Geology of the Hawkins Hill Gold Deposit*, Hill End, NSW. Speaker: Martin Hicks. Venue: Room CG04, Geology Building.

**Noon**
Movie in the Common Room entitled *84 Charing Cross Road*, admission, 50 cents.

**1 pm**
Department of History seminar entitled *Changing Images of the Physician in the 20th Century*. Guest speaker: Professor John Burnham, Ohio State University. Venue: Medical Sciences Lecture Theatre, K202. This seminar is jointly sponsored by the Faculty of Medicine.

**Tuesday, 22 September, 1 pm**
Lunchtime entertainment in the Courtyard — Next Stage Theatre, admission, free.

**7 - 10 pm**
Entertainment in the Bar featuring *The Plunderers*, admission, free.

**Wednesday, 23 September, Noon**
German feature film entitled *Wohin und zurück, Pt.2 and Santa Fe* (the latter with English subtitles). Venue: A132, McMullin Building, admission, free.

**1 pm**

**5.30 pm**
Inaugural Lecture by Professor William Walters, Professor of Reproductive Medicine entitled *Human Rights, Medical Research and Human Reproduction*. Venue: Medical Sciences Lecture Theatre.

**Thursday, 24 September, Noon**
Movie: *84 Charing Cross Road*, Common Room, University Union. Donation: 50 cents.

**Friday, 25 September, 1 pm**
Film Buff's Club presents 1941 (four minutes) and *Gentleman's Agreement* (118 minutes — starring Gregory Peck and Dorothy McGuire and directed by Elia Kazan) in the Common Room, admission, free.

**6 pm**
Annual general meeting of the Rugby Club, Sportsman's Bar, Squash Pavilion.

**8 pm**
Convocation's annual general meeting will be held in the Staff House. Guest Speaker: Dr Peter Hendry. Topic: *Whither Medicine*.

**Monday, 28 September, Noon**
Department of Geology seminar entitled *Meso- and Microscopic Kinematic Indicators in Serpentinite — Application to the Peel Fault System*. Speaker: Dr Robin Offler. Venue: CC04, Geology Building.

**1 pm**

**Tuesday, 29 September, 12.30 pm**
Lunchtime concert in the Courtyard featuring *King's Cross* (band), admission, free.

**7 - 10 pm**
Entertainment in the Bar featuring *The Witchdoctors* (rhythm and blues), admission, free.

**Wednesday, 30 September, 12.30 pm**
Newcastle University Sub-Division of the PSA will be holding a general meeting in R04, Geography Building, on 30 September at 12.30 pm.

The Regional Organiser for the Association has been invited to address the meeting on matters of current interest and concern.

**Thursday, 1 October, Noon**
Movie in the Common Room entitled *Colour of Money*, admission, 50 cents.

**Friday, 2 October, 1 pm**
Film Buff's club presents *Ems Nri* (Sweden, 1966, fourteen minutes — abstract composition). *La Fille de L'eau* (France, 1924, five minutes — fragments of Renoir's first film as director) and Friedrich Schillen *Der Triumph Eines Genies* (Germany, 1940, 108 minutes — German dialogue with English subtitles) in the Common Room, admission, free.

---

**Newcastle University**

**Sub-Division of the PSA**

will be holding a general meeting in R04, Geography Building, on

**30 September at 12.30 pm**

The Regional Organiser for the Association has been invited to address the meeting on matters of current interest and concern.

---

**DRAMA DEPARTMENT**

**presents**

**CLOUD NINE**

*(A savage comedy about sexual identity)*

Directed by

**DAVID BERTHOLD**

in

**THE DRAMA THEATRE**

on

16 to 19 and 22 to 26 September, 8 pm

Bookings: 68-5705