



NEWS NEWS

Newsletter for the University of Newcastle

12
Volume 10, Number 6, April 28 to May 12, 1986

Registration NBH 3127

GRADUATION 1986

About 650 students will graduate from the University of Newcastle at three ceremonies on May 2 and May 3.

At an evening ceremony on Friday May 2, beginning at 5.30, degrees will be conferred upon 200 graduands in the Faculties of Economics and Commerce, Education and Mathematics.

The second ceremony, when 200 degrees will be conferred in the Faculties of Arts and Medicine, will commence at 10a.m. on the Saturday.

At the Saturday afternoon ceremony, beginning at 2.30, degrees will be conferred upon 250 graduands in the Faculties

of Architecture, Engineering and Science.

The Occasional Address on May 2 will be given by the Principal of the Newcastle College of Advanced Education, Dr. D. R. Huxley.

Professor K. R. Dutton, Vice Principal of this University, will deliver the Occasional Address at the Arts/Medicine ceremony.

At the afternoon ceremony on May 3, the graduands will be addressed by the N.S.W. Minister for Education, the Hon. R. Cavalier.

The Vice-Chancellor will present a brief report on the

state of the University at every one of the ceremonies.

At every ceremony, one of the candidates admitted to the degrees will respond on behalf of the other graduates.

At the Saturday morning ceremony, the University will honour Mr. R. E. (Tom) Farrell, of New Lambton, a long standing supporter of the establishment of this University. He will be admitted to the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts.

University NEWS would be grateful if members of the University who know of any potentially "newsworthy" graduands gave the details to the Information Office (Ext. 328).

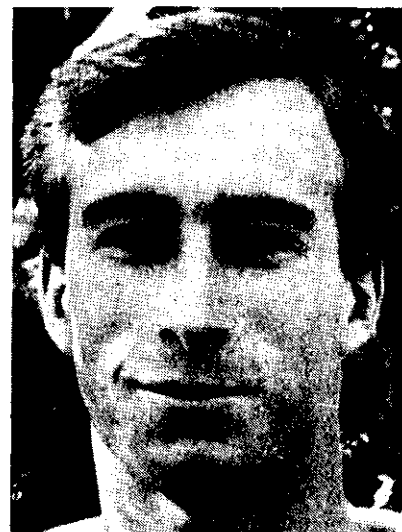
GERMAN SCHOLARSHIP

University NEWS last time mentioned Jean Snodgrass' exchange year at Kumamoto University in Japan.

Since then it has been announced that David Scott, an Arts III student, has accepted a visiting scholarship which will give him the opportunity to study German literature at the University of Erlangen-Nurmburg under Professor Ulrich Fulleborn.

David, whose academic record shows outstanding results in his German studies when he was a first and second year Arts student, has been awarded the scholarship by the Federal Republic of Germany's Academic Exchange Service.

He is currently studying German IIIA and IIIB and intends to enrol at the University of Erlangen - Nurmburg in Nuremberg in October, staying until February, 1987.



David Scott

INSIDE; Barriers to University and College

2 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir/Madam,

Is it not time to put a stop to the "Keay/Dutton affair?" I feel that all normal persons (?) who desired to make some kind of comment have by now had their say. Why allow the whole business to degenerate into an ego-trip for those who merely desire to display their erudition?

Surely there are other items of trivia about which those who feel inclined could argue?

Gerry Smith
C/- Arts Department

Dear Sir,

De Facto, De Jure and De Feat

The words of the President of the Staff Association (University NEWS 12/5) are interesting and reflect again FAUSA's interest in us "getting on with it", thereby confirming their own prophecy and a misunderstanding of local issues. What is signalled by Mr. Chopra's observations is the manner in which the proponents of amalgamation of the NCAE and this University are winning by a tactic of attrition.

There has been no argued case for the merger of two functionally different, viable institutions existing in a nationally important geographical area, no cost-benefit analysis, and no detailed independent study (the CTEC was some years ago judged to have been 'defused' by the then Government, leading to the detailing of a proposal for an Association of Australian Universities that could and would provide proper representation). There has been relatively strong community opposition against amalgamation (The Newcastle Morning Herald carried a good deal of this), staff of both institutions have been generally opposed, as have students, and graduates have expressed concern over the likely effects on the status of their degrees vis a vis other 'proper' universities compared with our pending hybrid.

Yet the 'grey suits' press on, sapping our energies, creating a climate of crisis, changing the rules as we go along; ever mindful of careers, empires, spheres of influence and power at the expense of a genuine concern for knowledge - John Anderson would turn in his grave! We have the concepts varied - amalgamation, forced amalgamation, rationalisation, merger, takeover, co-operation, absorption, selective absorption, co-ordination - and we have the terrain constantly changing as we proceed. Thus if one enters through the door of history and philosophy one is told that that is naive as the matter is philosophical, ahistoric, that the issue is politics. If one suggests going to the community, the trade unions and our representatives in this safe Labor seat, one is reminded that we are scholars who must remain aloof and get some conceptual clarification for terms like academic integrity, autonomy or Universitas.

Perhaps the enemy is within and we witness the fruition of John Passmore's fear that the universities would become stockpiles of experts who in no way cherish the traditions of the university to which they belong, nor except in accidental ways their colleagues and students. I hope not, but fear so in the present climate of defeat where the slogan "it's not if but when" is touted as wisdom, and the 'debate' is conducted without apparent regard to a long tradition of writing on the universities.

Bill Warren
Education

The Editor

The process by which the Swansea Traffic Study was immediately granted the status of Holy Writ by some local ALP members is an interesting one. Apparently the work of Mr. Essex came to their attention shortly after Newcastle Trades Hall lobbied the respon-

sible minister for an independent inquiry. Obviously the report was a real balm for bruised psyches. Their elevation of the report to the infallible category is perhaps understandable; is it unreasonable to expect a more reasoned approach from the **University NEWS?**

Apart from the uncritical regurgitation of dubious arguments, the **NEWS** makes at least one error of fact in its article. The **NEWS** States:

"Mr. Essex used a cost-benefit study to compare the DM proposal with other options, including a high-level bridge and a medium-level bridge and a tunnel."

And Mr. Essex himself states his abstract that:

"A Cost-Benefit study was used to compare duplication of the existing low level opening bridge with other options".

He uses the plural "options."

Section 5 of the report deals with the Benefit/Cost analysis. My reading of this section shows that there is comparison of one high-level option with the DMR proposal. There is no Benefit/Cost analysis of a medium-level bridge, a tunnel or any other option. The latter are simply rejected as feasible on a number of non-engineering grounds.

The Discussion section of the report concludes with a reference to the Spit Bridge at Middle Harbour. Reproduced by the **NEWS**, the reference to the Spit Bridge says that there are no plans for its elimination. The implication is obvious.

A number of observations must be made. 1. The Spit Bridge is a four-lane structure of much more recent vintage than the Swansea Bridge. 2. There is no plan to duplicate the Spit Bridge. 3. The existence of

the Spit Bridge says nothing of user satisfaction. 4. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Mr. Essex finds the Benefit/Cost analysis of the projected Yass by-pass much closer to the desired criteris than a high-level option. Yet the Yass

work has still to be completed. He makes the obvious point that funds are finite.

Would not a more natural Benefit/Cost comparison have been with the Taren Point Bridge? The Gladesville Bridge? Or even the medium-

level bridge at Hawks Nest which allows free access to the Myall river for yachtsmen such as I without holding up the horrendous traffic at that location.

Ian Seggie

ACTOR ACCEPTS NEWTON-JOHN AWARD



When Vic Rooney received his Newton-John Award, best wishes came from several quarters, including the Theatre. He is shown with actor Michael Taper and playwright John O'Donahue.

In a sense, the Southern Cross Lounge was transformed into a theatre on April 11.

The "performance" by Vic Rooney, winner of Convocation's Newton-John Award, and the high standard of the food and the company delighted the audience - the members of Convocation who organised the occasion and the theatre people, teachers and graduates who were the guests.

The essential element of the night was the presentation of the Newton-John Award - a leadlight panel made by leading artist, Lindsay Pring of Wallsend - to Vic Rooney for his contribution to theatre in Newcastle as an actor.

The Warden of Convocation, Father James Bromley, made the presentation.

Vic Rooney was born at Waratah and while teaching English and history at local high schools he has had a lengthy and successful acting career.

Included in the record attendance (120 guests) were his wife and several more Rooneys, aged from 19 to 85, as well as representatives of the theatre and the teaching profession.

Vic Rooney teaches now at Maitland Girls High School and the Principal, Ms. Claire Hunter, congratulated him in a letter, stating that all at the school were very proud of him.

Vic spoke of Newcastle being a town that is a great equalizer. "The moment that you take yourself seriously, someone's there to pull you right back into line."

"Recently, I was introduced to a group of people at a bowling club as 'Newcastle's leading actor'. Then the man who was introducing me turned to me and said; 'I'm sorry, what's your name again?'"

Vic Rooney reflected on the early days of his acting career when he took culture with New Theatre "right out to the

backblocks of Warner's Bay", and when all actors smoked, "because Noel Coward smoked."

"In the old Roxy days, when I was attending Newcastle University College, there was the University Revue and there was Rugby. I enjoyed each of them greatly."

Vic Rooney said he was thrilled to receive the Newton-John Award - "that goes without saying" - and pleased that mention was made by James Bromley, to the lovely time he had had in both acting and teaching.

He is a BA with Honours, and has been signed to appear in the Sydney Theatre company's production of **Measure For Measure**, by Shakespeare.

Appointment for Geologist

The Australian Academy of Science has appointed Professor Ian Plimer to the National Committee for Solid-Earth Sciences in Australia, provides liaison with international scientific bodies (notably the International Union of Geological Sciences) and liaison with other bodies affiliated to the International Council of Scientific Unions.

DR. BRAGGETT resigns



Eddie Braggett

Dr. Eddie Braggett, Senior Lecturer in Education, is to leave the University. He has been appointed Dean of the School of Education at the Riverina - Murray Institute of Higher Education.

The Riverina - Murray Institute of Higher Education has a student enrolment of more than 6,300 and staff numbers of about 750, distributed over more than 50 courses and eight Schools. It operates from Riverina Campus at Wagga Wagga, Murray Campus at Albury -

Wodonga and a Study Centre at Griffith.

The School of Education has 42 academic staff and provides studies in Education, Teacher Education and Nurse Education.

According to Dr. Braggett, his new appointment is a most challenging one because of the opportunities presented to him to influence policy within an Australian higher education institution and help develop post-graduate activities in Teacher Education and Nurse Education. Also, the opportunity to continue his research into the provision of better educational facilities for gifted and talented children is an attraction. He is very active in this field of research, with a 320 - page report, **Education of Gifted and Talented Children: Australian Provision**, completed for the Australian Schools Commission and some of its recommendations implemented.

Eddie Braggett was born in Newcastle and began his career as a local school teacher. He has a BA and Dip.Ed. from the University of New England, an MA from Newcastle when it was a

college of the University of New South Wales, an MEd from the University of Sydney and a PhD from this University. He has authored about 60 papers for publication and presentation at conferences, and in 1976 carried out research while on study leave at two universities in the U.S.

Following his appointment as a Lecturer in Education in 1970, he developed an interest in educational psychology. The education of disadvantaged and poor children then became one of his specialities. "I realised that the kids at the other end of the scale - the gifted and talented ones - are also disadvantaged by our education system in that they are prevented from going on as far as they wish".

Despite the pressure of lecturing at this university, Dr. Braggett has allocated time to students and administration. He has had terms as Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Education and, for a while, was the Vice-Chancellor's representative on the Students' Representative Council. He served as Chairperson of the Board of the Kintaiba Child Care Centre. He is also a former member of Senate.

One actor-several roles



Herbert Lederer, the Austrian Man of the Theatre, thinks of himself first of all as an actor, but writes his own material, including adaptations, parodies and operalibretti, conceives and plans all aspects of his performances



(with a little help from his friends) and plays all the roles in his one-man shows, using only one technical assistant, his wife.

He gave two performances for



the German Section of the Department of Modern Languages in the Drama Theatre on April 16. In between the stage appearances, he was photographed by Steve Hopkins for the NEWS.

DRAWN HERE FROM OVERSEAS



From left to right: Mario Salgado, Dr. Lim, Professor Chen, Marcia Fernandes, holding Alejandro, and Jose Fernandes.

The list of visitors in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering has a markedly international flavour.

Jose Manoel Fernandes is a Brazilian Ph.D. degree student who is accompanied to Australia by his wife, Marcia Boechat Fernandes and young son, Alejandro. Jose is working in the Department on the estimation of deterministic disturbances in noise.

Mrs. Fernandes is also studying for a doctorate at this University. She is enrolled in the Department of Linguistics working on a study of interactive structuring of discourse in listening and speaking skills, supervised by Professor Ray Cattell and Dr. George Horn.

Jose and Marcia are teachers at the Universidade Federal de Uberlandia in Brazil and have leave of absence to take their Ph.D. courses.

Like Jose, Mario Salgado has come to this University in order that he can be supervised by Professor Graham Goodwin, Professor of Electrical Engineering. Marcio comes from Chile, where he was previously a student at the Universidad Technico Fedeco Santa Maria in Valparaiso.

With a view to being awarded a Ph.D. degree, he has begun studying robustness issues in the implementation of adaptive control. He will shortly be joined by his wife and two daughters.

Dr. C. C. Lim is a Lecturer in Electrical Engineering at the National University of Singapore who is visiting this University and the Universities of Sydney, New South Wales and Melbourne under the International Development Programme, which has been specially supported by the Australian and Singapore Governments.

Professor Han Fu Chen came to the Department from the Institute of Systems Science at the Academia Sinica in the People's Republic of China. A world authority on stochastic adaptive control, he is collaborating with researchers and giving seminars before leaving at the end of April.

Philosophy Club

The traditional Philosophy Club Camp will be held on the last weekend of First Term, **from Friday night, May 2 to Sunday noon, May 4.** Location: YMCA Camp at Crangan Bay, a few kilometres south of Swansea.

As usual, the Philosophy Club Camp will combine an informal atmosphere with papers on philosophical and non-philosophical topics. Full cost for the entire weekend (accommodation and meals) is \$30, but part-time attendance is also possible.

After the exertions of the Term, come to the Camp for the

weekend or for a shorter period, to relax by the shores of Lake Macquarie. Bring along your friends, and you do not have to be a philosophy student to attend.

Details are available from Philosophy Club Executive or Philosophy Department Office, Ext. 411.

⁶ Scholarship won by mature student



From left to right: Professor Nashar, Professor Tisdell, Margaret Young, Mr. Scully, Professor George and, at front, Steven Young, Margaret's son.

The 1986 Greater Newcastle Permanent Scholar is Margaret Christine Young, a mature age student who completed the Higher School Certificate in 1985 at McCarthy Senior High in Tamworth.

The scholarship, provided by the Greater Newcastle Permanent Building Society, assists a student to undertake full-time undergraduate study in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce at the University.

The scholar is selected from applicants for admission to the Faculty who have completed Studies for the award of the N.S.W. Higher School Certificate in the year prior to admission. A panel considered, among other things, academic achievement, motivation and need. The Chairman of the panel commented on the continuing high standard of finalists. Other people interviewed were Nigel Geoffrey Bailey, Barry John McGaw, Chanelle Hughes and Wylie Douglas Bradford.

An annual sum of \$1,950 is given for each of three years, provided the scholar continues to make satisfactory progress in the course.

Margaret Young is the first mature person to receive the Scholarship, being a single parent with four sons with ages ranging between four and 18. Margaret lived with her family in Manilla when she decided to undertake study for the Higher School Certificate, perhaps with a view to gaining employment as a clerk.

Following receipt of her results Margaret decided to continue her education with a view to gaining a position as an accountant. She has recently purchased a home in Cessnock where she now lives with her family. Her parents, now retired, have lived in the Cessnock area for 18 years. The Scholarship was presented at a function attended by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor D. George, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the

Greater Newcastle Permanent Building Society, Emeritus Professor Beryl Nashar, the General Manager of the Society, Mr. J. Scully, and the Dean, Professor C. A. Tisdell.

Professor Tisdell thanked the Society for recognising the needs of students by offering the Scholarship and expressed the hope that other business enterprises would follow the Society's example.

The Vice-Chancellor congratulated Mrs. Young on her selection as the 1986 scholar and wished her well in her future career. He also paid tribute to the Greater Newcastle Permanent Building Society for its foresight in providing this Scholarship.

The scholar thanked the Society and said she appreciated the financial support provided and that the confidence shown by the selection panel in awarding her the scholarship would increase her motivation to succeed in the course.

Study in the U.K. or the U.S.A.

Students contemplating further study in either the United Kingdom or the U.S.A. are reminded that it takes 12 months or more to make arrangements.

All post-graduate or honours students or those contemplating reading for honours are invited

to attend an information session to be given in the Mathematics Building on Friday, June 20, the first part to be taken by a representative from the British Council and the second part by a representative from the Australian-American Educational Foundation.

A further announcement will be made regarding time and location of the information session.

Some literature is available for reading in the Careers and Student Employment Office relating to enrolment procedures, courses, financial assistance, etc.

Steady course needed



Rob Melchers

Professor Rob Melchers, the new Professor of Civil Engineering, will attempt to stabilise the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying following a period in which there has been considerable changes in staff and management.

Professor Melchers told the University NEWS that he had accepted the Headship of the Department with the object of being in a position to learn quickly about what was going on.

Professor Melchers, before coming to the University, was a Senior Lecturer in Civil Engineering at Monash University, which he joined as a Lecturer in 1975.

From 1962 to 1965 he undertook his first tertiary training at the Caulfield Institute of Technology. He then proceeded to Monash University, where he gained his BE degree with first class honours and his MESC degree. His PhD was obtained from Cambridge University.

Professor Melchers said that his Department was pushing very hard for firmer links to be established with the Institution of Engineers and its local members. "If we can offer any assistance to them we should be doing it. Currently, we are thinking about increasing the number of engineers' inservice courses."

He said the Department's student enrolment was increasing steadily and its research work was assuming considerable significance.

"The trend towards growth in the engineering profession in Australia should continue and, fortunately, the Federal Government is talking more and more about promoting technological development."

Professor Melchers said the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying was recognised in several important areas such as water catchment modelling, brickwork and masonry and underwater photogrammetry. In some other research areas staff would be encouraged to apply themselves and seek funding support.

It should be possible to improve the under-staffing situation in the Department when new accommodation was provided in the proposed \$6.6 million Science/Engineering building on campus.

He described the Department as "a happy Department with no personality problems." The Chair had changed hands, however, on two occasions in only a few years and, because of this fact, and other changes which had occurred, there was a need for stabilisation.

As a researcher Professor Melchers is making input into the structural engineering field. He is the author of **Structural Reliability Analysis and Prediction**, a specialist textbook which will be published by Ellis Horwood, of England, later this year. He is currently advising Woodside about preventing structural problems with its rig on the North West Shelf.

Robert and Rosalie Melchers have settled at Valentine with their children Bradley, aged 12, and Rachael, aged 10. He is 41 years of age.



Occupational Health Chairperson

Mr. Stu Wilson, a member of the University's Patrol Staff, has been elected the first Chairperson of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

The OHSC consists of 14 members who represent the staff or the University.

Mr. Wilson said the new approach to occupational health

and safety outlined in the Act aimed at among other things, securing the health, safety and welfare of persons at work and promoting an occupational environment which is adapted to their physiological and psychological needs.

Mr. Wilson said the committee's inaugural meeting would be held on May 1.

APRIL COUNCIL



For the fourth time, Sir Bede Callaghan has been elected Chancellor of the University. He was reelected unopposed for a further three-year term on April 18.

Sir Bede first came to the Council in 1966. He was elected Deputy Chancellor in 1973 and succeeded the Foundation Chancellor, Sir Alistar McMullin, when he retired in 1977.

Sir Bede was born in Newcastle and had a distinguished banking career, culminating in his appointment as Managing Director of the Commonwealth Banking Corporation.

He is well known for his service to financial, education, research and charitable organisations. In 1973 the University conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science in the Faculty of Economics and Commerce upon him.



Council approved the establishment of a Chair in Surgical Oncology, following a request from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor J. D. Hamilton. The Professor of Surgical Oncology will be appointed Foundation Director of the cancer service and academic centre in oncology at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, where medical oncology, radiotherapy and research services have already been established.

Professor Hamilton advised the Vice-Chancellor that the Wansey Trust, established by a bequest from the late Mrs. F. Wansey, had made available approximately \$380,000 for the establishment of Surgical Oncology. The University was unable, he said, to establish Australia's first Surgical Oncology Unit, consisting of a Professor and Wansey Fellow funded by the Faculty of Medicine, the Wansey Trust and the Mater Hospital, and a half-time Secretary funded by the hospital.

Professor Hamilton said: "I am sure you will share our excitement and sense of achievement in obtaining this bequest. Australia's first fully comprehensive, integrated cancer service for an entire population is currently being developed in the Hunter Valley and we believe this Faculty's initiative in Surgical Oncology is exactly in accord with the community-orientation of our Medical School and will facilitate its expanding role in the design, implementation and continued development of health care services for this Region."



Following lengthy discussion of a proposed strategy concerning the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission's recommendations on amalgamation of the University and Newcastle CAE, Council decided to approach the College with a proposal that a Joint Committee on Cooperation and Rationalisation be established.

It was agreed that the tasks of the Joint Committee will be to examine in detail the possibility of administrative and other rationalisation and, importantly, to initiate research aimed at establishing the key indices of economic and social development in the Region over the coming decades. These would include population projections

(size and composition), possible scenarios in terms of occupational structure, and education trends. Account would be taken of social policies on participation and equity. The compiling of these data, and its interpretation, were seen as a valuable reference point in determining the appropriate "share" of natural resources which Newcastle and the Hunter Valley deserves.



For the first time the University has a policy relating to the employment of staff who suffer from work-related R.S.I. (Repetition Strain Injury).

The Vice-Chancellor reported to Council that staff who had suffered work-related injuries as a result of keyboard activity were now provided with support and assistance in a variety of ways, regardless of whether any absence from duty occurred.

"An initial check of the workstation is carried out by the Safety Officer to ascertain whether ergonomic equipment is being used, whether lighting and other ergonomic factors are adequate," he said.

An occupational therapist visited the member of staff to investigate work practices and to advise both the individual and the University on any remedial measures required.

Where there had been an absence from duty, the Vice Chancellor said:

- The Staff Office required a medical certificate be provided, clearly indicating that the member of staff could return to duty, and on what basis.
- If the basis of the return was other than on normal duties, the Director of Staff Services, the occupational therapist and the Head of Department discussed these arrangements. "Everything

possible is done by the University to endeavour to get the member of staff back into the workforce. This includes, in special circumstances, extra assistance, from keyboard staff, for the Department," he said.

- The Director of Staff Services discussed with the member of staff when he/she returned to work the proposed arrangement, the University guidelines for keyboard work, etc.
- Either, or both, the occupational therapist and the Director of Staff Services followed up, at intervals the progress of the member of staff.

"If a member of staff is absent from duty in excess of six months on workers' compensation, the situation is reviewed in the light of the medical reports provided," the Vice-Chancellor said.

If there was a strong likelihood that the member of staff would be able to return to duty in the not too distant future, then he/said would be maintained on workers' compensation. In addition, the University would permit the utilisation of sick and annual leave credit, to be utilised to make up pay to normal rate.

Of, after the first six months absence, medical opinion indicated that either a return to work is unlikely or not likely for a considerable period, then consideration would have to be given to termination of services.

"This would be in the interests of the member of staff, who would institute appropriate claims against the University's insurers. In addition, it would permit the Department involved to rectify what would have been a difficult six or eight month period, when only temporary assistance (possibly from different people) would have been provided."

Council recommended acceptance of the policy pending discussions with the Public Service Association and the Staff Association.



Last February, the Council gave approval for amendments to be made in the Regulations relating to student discipline in Edwards Hall and the Board of Trustees of the Hall.

The Board had recommended that the amendments be made in order:

- That the Warden be given the authority to terminate the residence of a person residing within Edwards Hall on the advice of the residential staff and the Convener of the Hall's Discipline Advisory Committee;
- That a person whose residence has been thus terminated may appeal against the decision to the Board of trustees, any such appeal to be by way of a re-hearing; and
- That the Board of Trustees make the final decision with respect to an appeal or other matter relating to discipline within the Hall.

Council was informed that the By-laws and Constitutions Committee was seeking further advice from the Board of Trustees before submitting proposed amendments of Regulations to Council.

Mr. M. Yates, student member of Council, claimed that the Students' Representative Council's solicitors were of the opinion that there were faults in the draft regulation being considered. Council agreed that the Committee could also consider any information supplied by Mr. Yates.

Council appointed Professor R. E. Melchers Head of the Department of Civil Engineering and Surveying for three years from April 18.

Dr. John Fisher was appointed Head of the Department of Economics for one year from April 18.

Council appointed Dr. R. Evans Head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering from June 1, 1986 to February 29, 1988.

Dr. John Ramsland was appointed Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Community Child Care Centre.

Easy identification



As a result of the provision of new badges for the caps worn by members of the Attendant/Patrol Staff, the staff can be more readily identified on campus. The erstwhile badges were described as "pokey little things, difficult for people to see." Mr. Geoff Etheridge is shown examining Mr. Lance Roberts' new badge.

BARRIERS TO UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE

Examination grades, the quotas imposed by universities and colleges and personal finances are the major factors preventing high school students in the Hunter Region from achieving their goal of attending a university or college.

According to a study made by the Hunter Valley Research Foundation at the request of this University and Newcastle College of Advanced Education, the concern of students with marks and quotas reflects the structural limitation of the tertiary education system, either through the lack of facilities or lack of staff, while the concern about finance continues to be a significant motivational issue.

At a press conference on April 16, at which the study was released, the Director of Research of the Hunter Valley Research Foundation, Dr. W. Paradise, said that a comparatively high proportion of students in Year 11 and Year 12 in the Hunter Region aspire to tertiary study.

"Data collected by the Foundation indicates that approximately 65 per cent of Year 12 students aspired to study at a university or college of advanced education in their first year after high school. This compares with actual transition rates for Year 12 students advancing to higher education throughout Australia of approximately 42 per cent."

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor D. George, said that compared with the disappointing decline in transition rates from school to tertiary study and reductions in funding for higher education in Australia, Japan and the Asian countries were gallaping ahead in providing for both.

The Principal of the CAE, Dr. D. Huxley, said some of the conclusions made in the study called for further investigation.

"If we want Year 11 and Year 12 students to have a better understanding of the advantages of going on to university or college, we have to extend the research to obtain data indicating the aspirations of students in Year 10 and earlier stages of secondary education.

"The Education Commission has identified a smaller retention rate for Year 10 students advancing to higher school study in Newcastle than in the remainder of N.S.W."

The study finds that 26.7 per cent of Year 11 and Year 12 students in the Hunter Region want to undertake full-time study at this University in their first year after high school.

This was the most individually popular aspiration, followed by:

Overseas travel (24.4 per cent), full-time employment (other than apprenticeship/cadetship) (21.6 per cent), other university (full-time) (16.1 per cent) and the Newcastle College of Advanced Education (full-time) (15.5 per cent)."

To identify particular groups of students who might be particularly disadvantaged, the HVRF report made comparisons between students from different geographic areas, school types and socio-demographic backgrounds. It concludes:

- Urban students are more interested in attending the University than country students and less likely to rate accommodation as a problem.
- Country students are more likely to aspire to full-time employment, or attend a university other than the University of Newcastle.
- Government school students are more likely to want to attend the CAE full-time,

while non-government school students are more likely to aspire to attend the University, or other universities, full-time.

The study notes that students in government schools are more concerned that their marks in their Higher School Certificate may not allow them to achieve their aspirations. "This reflects a greater concern about the standards and requirements necessary to achieve their aspirations, or a lack of confidence on the part of the students."

Variables such as sex, year at school, ethnic origin of parents and students, parents' qualifications and parents' occupations were also analysed to determine if particular groups perceived specific problems with undertaking tertiary study. The findings include:

- Students with a father or mother born overseas are more likely to aspire to university study full-time when compared to students with Australian born parents. Dr. Paradise commented: "While the result is contrary to previous research which indicates that specific ethnic groups are under-represented in tertiary study, it must be remembered that this study analysed student aspirations rather than actual participation in tertiary study."

Professor George said the University and the CAE had needed a strong data base to assist them in the development of programmes and facilities to meet the needs of the regional community, particularly young people, who faced many barriers.

"The HVRF report also provides information which will be of value and interest to all people involved with tertiary education both at policy and management levels. The report

therefore makes a significant contribution to an understanding of the concerns of young people particularly in regard to their pursuit of tertiary education," he said.

Dr. Huxley expressed his extreme satisfaction with the report, which was objective and of high quality.

The study explained on this page is entitled Where do they go from here? Student Aspirations and Disadvantage: A Regional Perspective.

The result of 600 intensive interviews with Year 11 and Year 12 students from 27 schools throughout the Hunter Region, it analyses student aspirations toward tertiary education and employment as well as those factors students perceive as preventing them from achieving their aspirations.

Copies will be sent to the Federal and State Ministers for Education, Senator Ryan and Mr. Cavalier, the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission and the Higher Education Board.

Obtain the last two Newcastle Lectures¹¹

The last two Newcastle Lectures have been published by Convocation and a limited number of each is available free as a community service.

The lectures are:

Technology and Our Changing Perceptions of Life, by the Minister for Science, Mr. Barry Jones. This lecture received wide publicity because Mr. Jones advocated the use of new technology to reduce necessary work and transform our society into an activity society.

The Coca-colonisation of Australia, by Phillip Adams. Phillip Adams has been a controversial author and satirist for many years and in his lecture he explored the impact of American cultural imperialism on Australia.

If you would like copies of the lectures please ring, or write to, the Publicity Office in Room G 60 in the McMullin Building (Ext. 328). A stamped addressed envelope (postage 33 cents) is needed for delivery outside the University.



Mr. Jones



Phillip Adams

Staff Association News

It has been brought to the attention of the UNSA Executive that the GIO Insurance Company has required some repetition strain injury (RSI) claimants to fill out a detailed questionnaire. This, somewhat controversial, questionnaire is the subject of some disquiet among unions in general.

At a recent meeting of the NSW Labor Council it was resolved to:

- Hold a further meeting with GIO representatives and interested unions;

- Refer the questionnaire to the Human Rights Commission and the NSW Privacy Committee for their comments, and
- Advise Labor Council representatives on the Workers' Compensation Board of its concerns about the questionnaire.

The Secretary of the Staff Association, Dr. W. Wood, said that in the light of the resolutions the UNSA Executive advises Staff Association members not to fill out, or sign, any such questionnaire at this stage.

The Staff Association, in conjunction with the Federation of College Academics, is seeking to establish a short trade union training course for its members.

The course would be held over two days (June 12 to 13 or 19 to 20) and be run by the Trades Union Training Authority. It is hoped the course will foster an awareness of the considerations and skills involved in the industrial arena, particularly the education sector, and enable greater understanding by Staff Association members and informed critical debate at UASA/FAUSA level.

Those interested please contact either John Bern on Ext. 381 or Lynne Turner on 610.

Richest in years



At a luncheon arranged by the German Section of the Department of Modern Languages on April 18, the Vice-Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany, Ursula Muller (right), presented the Goethe Prize for 1985 to Mr. William Shannon (left). The prize is awarded annually by the Consulate-General to the student with the best result in a third-year German subject, if of sufficient merit. Mr. Shannon also has the distinction of being the student richest in years to have completed five units of German towards the B.A. degree and he expects to take the Honours Year in 1987.

Donation for PSA's campaign

Members of the PSA at the University will be encouraged to donate a day's pay to the association if they worked on April 10 when there was a PSA strike.

A general meeting of the University's Sub division of the PSA on April 16 decided that any money provided by those members who did not unite with the members who took part in the one-day strike would be donated to the PSA's fund for the campaign against the Public Service Board's proposals on part-time work and permanency.

The Chairperson, Mr. Lionel Farrell, said the proposals would have a major effect on all public sector workers in N.S.W.

"It is feared that if the Board's proposals are implemented they will be used as a model by all statutory authorities throughout N.S.W. in extending part time work on disadvantageous conditions to the detriment of existing workers. The Federal Government has recently entered into a much fairer agreement with the unions on the introduction of part time work and the Association seeks no less or no more for its members in N.S.W."

In a report on the Management Committee's main concerns, Mr. Farrell said he expected that the extension of membership of Departmental Boards to include all Professional Officers in the Department would be approved in June after which PSA members

Opus contrives.

In the eyes of its Editor, Student's Representatives Council Media Officer, Ian Kirkwood, OPUS has undergone something of a rebirth. He believes that by steering the publication back onto a more serious course it can again become a legitimate and respected vehicle for discussion.

Anyone who is interested in contributing material for OPUS is requested to see Ian Kirkwood or Julie Hare, in the OPUS office, or Kevin Guy, the Students' Association Services Officer, in the S.A.S. Office. Both of these rooms are located in the basement of the Union building. Alternatively, OPUS contribution boxes can be found in the Library and Union foyers.

will be able to participate in departmental affairs for the first time.

Mr. Farrell said he wished he could report to members of the PSA that the relationship between the University and its non-academic staff was in perfect harmony. "Unfortunately the indications are that this is not so," he said. "The Management Committee has referred to the PSA for action an increasing number of cases concerning particular individuals where the University has adopted a narrow, or less than sympathetic, stance. Formal dispute procedures have already been started and other matters show signs of going the same way. The Management Committee hopes that a willingness by the University to adopt a more flexible approach may yet see this trend reversed."

The Returning Officer told the meeting that an election had resulted in Mr. Trevor Askie and Dr. David Kay being elected as the endorsed PSA nominees for the election of non-academic representatives on the Council.

CATALOGUE AND ROOF REPAIRS

The Library's card catalogue was closed at the end of 1985. For books received since then, Alleycat, the Library's online catalogue, provides the only information at present.

Terminals accessing Alleycat are located in the Library foyer and will soon be available on the upper floor of the library also. Alleycat can also be accessed on any terminal which can access VAX A. Simply type in LBCAT. No password is needed.

Alleycat currently has two files giving details about books:

- **The short record file** which contains brief details of author and title. It is actually the Circulation file and covers the whole collection. Books can be accessed by author and title keywords.
- **The full record file** contains full cataloguing details (more information than the Circulation file). At present it covers about one third of

the collection - all new books from 1983, and some earlier books with an emphasis on the heavily used ones. Books can be accessed by author, titles keywords, corporate author and subject. This file will grow over the next few years as more of the collection is added to the database retrospectively.

It is important to remember that for comprehensive searches of either subject or author, library users must search in both Alleycat and the card catalogue. In other words, if users cannot find material in the catalogue they should always check in the other. For selective searches users will often find Alleycat the more useful catalogue as it has an emphasis on more recent and more heavily used material. It is important to remember however that some material cannot be retrieved from the short record file.

Any students who missed the Library Skills sessions on using the catalogues, Alleycat in particular, can still view a slide-tape in the Library.

Library staff of course are always available to give help on an individual basis.

Jenni Scobie, Jim Cleary and David Mercer will be talking to academic staff about Alleycat. Any queries in the meantime should be directed to Jenni on Ext. 246.



Repairs to the Library Roof will involve the removal of the paving bricks and the existing waterproof membrane and the provision of a new membrane and paving bricks as well as repair to the balustrade etc.

These works are scheduled to commence on Saturday, May 3. The noisy work associated with these activities will be carried out on weekends as far as practicable and the work is anticipated to take eight to 10 weeks to complete depending on weather conditions.

Students and staff should be aware that working conditions in the library during the May vacation may be difficult from time to time.

FROM THE PHILIPPINES



Dr. Jose Bernaldez, photographed with one of his partners in research, Dr. Roger Eggleton, comes from The Philippines. He

is one of the thousands who peacefully demonstrated at Camp Crame in Manila in support of the new President, Mrs. Aquino.

Dr. Bernaldez, who is visiting the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science for three months with support from the International Development Programme of Australian Universities and Colleges, is from the Mathematics Department at Ateneo de Manila University.

Dr. Eggleton, Dr. Bruce Richmond and Dr. Bernaldez are collaborating on research into graph theory.

SPORTING NEWS



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Don George, presented the Blues awards at the Blues Dinner on Friday night, April 18.

Professor George presented Blues to Robert Blyth for rugby and Rhett Cleal for golf. He also presented Colours to Peter Flanagan for powerlighting and Brad Joyce for rugby.

For the first time, the Sports Person of the Year Award was presented. The award is made by the Universities Credit Union. The winner is Terry Farrell for orienteering. The Newcastle University Office Manager, Ms. Debbie Wood made the presentation.

Professor Barry Boettcher was made a life member of the Sports Union in recognition of his contribution to its work over several years.

From left to right: Professor George, Brad Joyce, Robert Blyth, Rhett Cleal and Peter Flanagan.



The University will participate in a number of Inter Varsity Contests during the May Vacation. The list of the Championships is: athletics (men) Melbourne, badminton (men) Monash/Melbourne, baseball Monash/Melbourne, Golf (men) Adelaide, hockey (men and women) Adelaide, soccer (men) Sydney and squash (men and women) Melbourne.



The Singapore Students' Association is organising a Sports and Games Day to be held at No.1 Oval on May 8.

Mr. Chris Tola, a student of this University, is endeavouring to organise a cricket match between 30- or 40-a side teams. He has written from the Sport and Recreation Office asking sporting clubs to contribute at least five players each if possible.

"There will be very few rules (if any) and the game should provide a lot of entertainment for both spectators and participants. What I am asking your club to do, if you're interest-

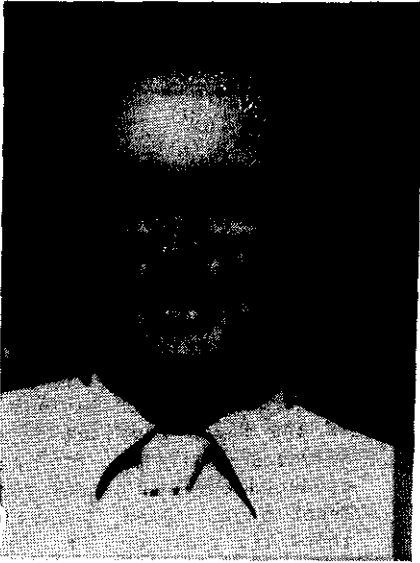
ed, is to provide a team of five players (male and female) equipped with a sense of humour, and as many spectators as possible."

There will be a small entry fee for players and spectators and play will commence at approximately 10.30a.m.



Barry Boettcher now a life member of the Sports Union.

ANALYSIS OF STOUT'S THEORY



David Seargent

Dr. David A. J. Seargent, one of this University's graduates, is the author of a new monograph, **Plurality and Continuity: An Essay in G. F. Stout's Theory of Universals**. The book, resting on a base provided by Dr. Seargent's distinguished Ph.D. thesis completed in the Department of Philosophy in 1982, was published by the international academic publishing house of Martinus Nijhoff, of The Hague. A special Foreward was contributed by Professor David Armstrong (Philosophy, Sydney University), himself a well-

known author of numerous publications on universals and one of the examiners of Dr. Seargent's thesis.

The problem of universals represents one of the lengthiest controversies in the history of philosophy. Dating back to Plato, if not earlier, it has since appeared in a variety of guises. For example, these days it includes the question of what sort of status is enjoyed by scientific laws; do scientific laws have counterparts in reality? Are they only abstract schemes drawn up by scientists to facilitate the conceptual grasping of the world's irreducible complexity? And so on.

Dr. Seargent's book states in detail, and critically examines, the solution to the problem of universals offered by George Frederick Stout (1860-1944), an English philosopher and psychologist. Stout put forward an idiosyncratic solution named by him "distributive unity". Leaning towards nominalism, his solution tried to do justice to some valuable points in opposing theories as well.

While the main body of the book consists of a systematic analysis, Dr. Seargent also locates the impact of Stout's theory within the wide controversies it caused at the time and identifies subsequent reactions and influences. There are numerous references to the work of two contemporary Sydney philosophers, Professor David Armstrong and Assoc. Prof. Keith Campbell.

The monograph is dedicated to Professor Bill Doniela, Assoc. Professor of Philosophy, who acted as the principal supervisor of the thesis when it was composed for the Ph.D. degree.

The monograph is Dr. Seargent's second book. A few years ago he published **Comets: Vagabonds of Space** (Doubleday, N.Y.), which reflected his other passionate interest, astronomy. While an undergraduate of this University, Dr. Seargent had formed the Astronomical Society and, later, had the distinction of discovering a new comet, Seargent 1978XV.

Dr. Seargent lives at The Entrance. Apart from his recent Ph.D., our University has also awarded him the degrees of B.A. (Hons) and M.A. - all for work in philosophy.

Classes in Mandarin



From left to right: Ling Wong Chiok, of the Malaysian Students' Association, Li Weiping and Sun Shon, Tutors for the Mandarin classes, Huang Chaopang, Lecturer, and Kee Keh Ting, of the MSA.

The Malaysian Students' Association is conducting Mandarin Classes from 1 to 2p.m. every Thursday in Room S02 in the Commerce Building.

The Class runs for an hour, comprising a 30-minute lecture by Dr. F. Hwang, staff member in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and a 30-minute tutorial.

Anybody interested is welcome to attend the lectures which are free.

16 Overseas Students tax ruling

Dr. I. G. Wallschutzky, Head of the Department of Commerce, has passed on information to the NEWS which is of interest to overseas students.

He said it had come to his attention that a number of overseas students who had worked in Australia had been treated as non-residents for tax purposes. This has meant that they had not been eligible for the tax-free threshold (ie. zero rating on the first \$4595 of taxable income). This

treatment was supportable in law if the Commissioner formed the opinion that the student had a permanent or usual place of abode outside Australia.

Dr. Wallschutzky said the Commissioner had now released a ruling which might be of interest to overseas students, viz. IT 2268 which provided in effect that where the overseas student was in Australia pursuing a course of study which extended beyond six months the students would

generally be treated as residents of Australia for Tax purposes.



The NEWS expresses its great thanks to Mr. John Single, of the Medical Communications Unit in the David Maddison Clinical Sciences Building for having produced the new banner for the front page. John, thanks. We think its a winner.

ADVERTISEMENTS

For Sale

The Department of Architecture has a number of used drawing tables for sale at \$15 each. The tables are 900mm high and comprise tubular metal frames with 780 x 1350 plywood tops 15mm thick, and a drawer unit. Inspection may be arranged by telephoning Mr. Peter Thomas, on Ext. 481.

Tables can be purchased by payment of the amount to the University Cashier, and presentation of the receipt to the Department of Architecture.

Typewriter for sale. Adler Gabriele 25. Excellent condition. Term paper conqueror. Portable with case. \$80. Please telephone Ext. 666 or 24475.

Safe-n-sound Child's car seat. Good condition \$55 or best offer. Phone 43 7573.

Catamaran, Maricat 4.3m, new jib kit, trapeze, large sail box, heavy duty trailer, all in

good condition, \$1750. Please telephone 46 9497.

Olympus Photographic Equipment. Motor Drive 2+NICAD pack \$500 o.n.o.,

T-32 Flash + Power Bounce Grip \$400 o.n.o.,

Zuiko 16mm Fisheye Lens \$475 o.n.o.,

All under 12 months old, mint condition, please telephone 23819 most nights after 7p.m.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Monday, April 28, 7-9p.m. SUN Dance, Common Room, \$1 per lesson.

Tuesday, April 29, 1-2p.m. Entertainment in the Courtyard featuring magicians David Whitson and Hubert the Super Magician. Admission free.

7-10p.m. Entertainment in the Bar.

Wednesday, April 30, Noon - 2p.m. German Feature Film: *Die falsche Bewegung* A132 (McMullin Building).

1-2p.m. Entertainment in the Courtyard. Admission free.

7-10p.m. Entertainment in the Bar. Admission free.

Thursday, May 1, Noon-2p.m. Movie: *All That Jazz* Common Room. Donation 50 cents.

7-10p.m. Entertainment in the Bar.

Friday, May 2, Noon Film Buffs Club, Common Room.

Noon Department of Chemistry seminar entitled: **Carbon Transport in Plants - Physical, Chemical or Impossible.** Guest

speaker: Dr. J. Patrick (Ecological Sciences). Venue: GG05 (Chemistry Building).

Friday, May 9, 6p.m. Newcastle Group of the Australian Institute of International Affairs dinner meeting. Professor Alice Tay will speak on **Law and Society in China today** Charge: \$10. Please advise if only staying for the address

Friday, May 16 to Sunday, May 18 The 20th Annual Symposium on **Advances in the Study of the Sydney Basin** will be held in the Geology Department. Keynote speaker: Professor Phillipa Black (Auckland). Enquiries: 68 5229.