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A NEWSLETTER FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

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October 23, 1981.

Government interference with what is and what is not to be taught by the country's education system is fraught with dangers, according to Vice-Chancellor of Deakin, Professor Fred Jevons.

Addressing a rally of staff and students from Victoria's four universities at the University of Melbourne this month, Professor Jevons said the specific aspect of autonomy which concerned the people at the rally - 'and there is no aspect which is more important - was the freedom to decide what to teach'.

'The principle at issue is a general one, the significance of which extends far beyond Deakin: is it for a Government to decide what should and what should not be taught in a university?'

Professor Jevons quoted historical examples of government interference in education, such as in Nazi Germany when the 'Jewish Physics' of the theory of relativity was denounced, and in Stalinist Russia when Mendelian genetics was denounced as bourgeois by the Lysenko School.

The full text of Professor Jevons address follows:

'My decision to close Deakin University from 11 o'clock this morning, so that members of the university could attend this protest meeting, was an unprecedented

A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT AT DEAKIN

one taken in response to an unprecedented situation. Let me explain why I took it.

The principle at issue is a general one, the significance of which extends far beyond Deakin. It is this: Is it for a government to decide what should and what should not be taught in a university?

The Commonwealth Government has prohibited Deakin University from teaching engineering to any new students. Make no mistake about the nature of that decision: it was a straightforward, blunt prohibition. It was not an invitation to the university to consider the phasing out, along the lines of the letters recently sent by the University Grants Committee in the U.K. to some British universities. Nor was it merely a statement by the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission that the grants to Deakin University have been calculated on the assumption that engineering will be phased out. It was a Government decision, arising from the Razor Gang and announced to the Federal Parliament by the Prime Minister on 30 April, that no new engineer-

ing students may be accepted by Deakin University after this year.

As a consequence of that decision, even if we managed to scrape together the necessary dollars to continue our Engineering School, we could not enrol students without directly defying the Commonwealth Government: and any students who did enrol would probably not be eligible for assistance under the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme.

Such a decision by the Commonwealth Government is to the best of my knowledge unprecedented: but it seems that the government sees nothing untoward about it. Thus, in a letter sent to my Chancellor in July by the Commonwealth Minister for Educ-

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Vice Chancellor's comment...

The following comment has been made by Vice-Chancellor Dr. K. McKinnon.

It is apparent that the delicate relationship which should exist between Universities and the Government as the funding body are in grave danger of breaking down.

The relationship depends upon respect by the Government for the freedom for an institution to decide on its courses, approaches and standards; Institutions which are dependent on Government finance need to understand the Government's concerns and be able to reflect these. The action of the Government in directing the closure of a particular teaching unit is more than heavy handed. It treats Universities as if they were Government departments. Whether the

wording of the Government directive on Deakin was intentional or simply careless, the impression is given that only teaching acceptable to the Government will be funded. Today it may be a question of efficiency and economy, tomorrow it will certainly be a question of ideology.

It is apparent that there is a need for a much better and more firmly agreed set of procedures protecting Universities against such arbitrary action. The Universities will only achieve this if they relate sufficiently well to their communities to win continuing understanding.

We must therefore work with sophistication and persistence to achieve better, more reliable planning procedures, which do protect autonomy and achieve essential levels of community support.



'An oddly Marxist flavour'

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ation, he says: 'The final decision regarding the future of the Engineering School at Deakin University is, of course, one for the Commonwealth Government'. The same sentence occurs also in letters to a number of other people. It is the two words 'of course' which highlight the insidious danger. They indicate that it is considered quite self evident that it is proper for the Government to take such a decision.

The Prime Minister, in his statement on 30 April, spoke of 'accelerating' the process of rationalisation. He said: 'In noting the view expressed by the Tertiary Education Commission ... that engineering courses in Victoria should be rationalised, the Commonwealth has decided to accelerate this process'.

The notion of accelerating a predetermined course of events has an oddly Marxist ideological flavour about it - like a Communist revolutionary acting to accelerate the overthrow of Capitalism which he considers inevitable and predetermined.

But in fact there was nothing predetermined about the closure of the Deakin Engineering School. No educational advisory body had recommended it. The Razor Gang's style was such as to make a virtue of non consultation, and it did not consult the State authority, but the Minister's letters refer to the inquiry into engineering education carried out in 1979 and 1980 by the Victorian Post Secondary Education Commission. VPSEC did not recommend closure. It did recommend funding at the level of an engineering school in a college of advanced education - a strange recommendation, since unit costs in engineering are almost the same in colleges as in universities, but certainly not tantamount to recommending closure.

The position of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission is that it has expressed itself in favour of rationalising engineering education but it did not nominate specific engineering schools for closure. It merely accepted the Government's decision on Deakin. Last month the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee asked the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission for a statement of principle on the question of the Government prohibiting a particular subject in a particular university: a reply is awaited.

What we are talking about is, of course, an aspect of university autonomy. I believe it is better to argue for specific aspects of autonomy than for autonomy in general.

A new course is to be offered by the Wollongong Institute of Education in 1982.

It will lead to the award of Associate Diploma in the Visual and Performing Arts. This exciting innovation for the Institute is the first outside teacher training. It extends the availability of educational opportunities for the residents of Illawarra.

The Associate Diploma in the Arts has been developed with the assistance of the University of Wollongong, Technical College, and Conservatorium of Music and will be offered with the co-operation of these organisations.

The course will be divided into two major areas - Visual and Performing Arts. In Visual Arts students will select a principal study from Painting, Textiles and Contemporary Craft. The selection in Performing Arts will be from Acting, Production, Musicology/Musicianship, Musical Theatre/Opera, and Instrumental Studies.

Although the Associate Diploma does not provide training for a specific profession, it is vocationally orientated and gives students the opportunity to develop management and production skills, which will be of great benefit in many areas of employment.

Shakespeare study tour

The Department of Adult Education of the University of Sydney is offering a Shakespeare Study Tour in May 1982.

This three-week tour to London and Stratford is designed to study the plays in and through performance. It includes performances by the Royal Shakespeare Company, lectures and seminars on the plays by members of Birmingham Univers-

ity's Shakespeare Institute, backstage visits and cast discussions, excursions, and workshop sessions with tour leader Derek Peat.

The cost of \$2,900 per person includes all fares and three-star accommodation in London and Stratford.

For further information contact or write direct to Ms. D. Dukes, Shakespeare Study Tour, Department of Adult Education, University of Sydney - 2006.

Full autonomy is as an elusive a will o' the wisp as full personal freedom. Let us not be so perversely existentialist as to emulate the hero - or is he an anti hero? - in Sartre who was not able until his dying breath to say, 'free at last'. Personally I believe that universities should emphasise their overall accountability as much as their overall autonomy.

The specific aspect of autonomy which concerns us today - and there is no aspect which is more important - is the freedom to decide what to teach. The principle to defend is that this decision should reside at university level. Government interference with what is and what is not to be taught is fraught with dangers.

To burlesque the situation, you might have half the Departments of Politics and Economics in the country being phased out by one Government, and then, when the other party comes to power, the other half. That, admittedly, is a gross burlesque, but there is no burlesque about the historical

Diploma course in the Arts

We are confident that the Institute is filling a need in the Community as 400 people have indicated their interest through a preliminary survey.

The introduction of the Associate Diploma in the Arts will coincide with the first "Craftsman in Residence" scheme in Illawarra. This scheme is promoted by the Australia Council. In co-operation with this Council, the University of Wollongong, and the Technical College, this Craftsperson will be involved with the Associate Diploma Course at the Institute and will also be available to work with other groups in the Community.

Next month the final selection of the Craftsperson in residence will be made. At this stage it is anticipated that it will be a prominent artist working in the Fibre Media.

examples from earlier this century: The case, for instance, of the theory of relativity, denounced as 'Jewish physics' in Hitler's Germany, or the case of Mendelian genetics, denounced as 'bourgeois' by the Lysenko School in Stalin's Russia.

Do you find these extrapolations far fetched? I don't find them so very far fetched. The Hidaka case shows that a foreign scholar can be refused entry to Australia on political grounds. You only need to put together the element of discrimination on political grounds with the assumption that it is proper for a Government to prohibit a subject in a university, and there you have a comparable situation. All that would be necessary is to combine elements from two decisions that have actually been taken in Australia in the last few months.

That is why I believe our protest to be important. If it is reasonably but forcefully made, I believe that most Australians, including most politicians and public servants, will accept our points.'

TRAVEL SERVICE FOR UNIVERSITY

'BEAUT COUNTRY' WINS A HEART



Open Letter to Staff and Students at the University of Wollongong.

It was with great difficulty (and a lot of tears) that I left your country. To say that I was not looking forward to leaving Australia would be an understatement. Because of your hospitality and friendliness towards me I had begun to feel very much at home in Wollongong. As a matter of fact I am really homesick for an Aussie "G'day". I miss the freedom to travel without worrying about being mugged and the slower pace of life. You have a beaut country but, being selfish, I don't want to advertise that fact. I'm afraid too many people will emigrate and destroy that beauty before I have a chance to return. Please protect your natural resources and open spaces. Don't let any government or multi-national corporation exploit them. Try not to make the same mistakes the U.S.A. made. Once an environment is polluted it is very difficult if not impossible to restore it to its original condition. Short term advantages must also be weighed against long term consequences. With any luck I'll be able to save enough in the coming year for a one way ticket back to Wollongong.

Take care and thank you.

Signed: Pat Deeney, 'Yank'
Exchange Student, Trenton
State College, New Jersey.

The University's Travel Consultant for 1981/82 will be Crown Street Travel, Wollongong.

All official travel should be arranged through this agency, by ringing 28-1822 or 28-1722.

One of the services offered is that Crown Street Travel are prepared to arrange for a member of their staff to visit to advise members on travel matters, whether they relate to study leave, other official travel, or personal travel.

Any such visits should be arranged by asking Mr. G.E. Dunn, Supply Officer, who will arrange for the visit, which can be in

the staff member's office and at a time convenient to the staff member.

A further service which has been arranged is related to study leave assistance grants. Under this arrangement, the University can pay direct to Crown Street Travel out of the staff member's travel grant for travel and related costs. This allows the staff member to take advantage of advance purchase fares. Any member of staff who wishes to make use of this service, is again asked to get in touch with Mr. G.E. Dunn, who will make the necessary arrangements.

PICTURE: Crown Street Travel Proprietor Barry Lee (seated) discusses travel prospects with Travel Consultant Greg Maloney. The firm offers special services to the University in 1981/82.

BANKING HOURS

Banking hours over the December/January period at the University Agency of the CBC Bank will be as follows:-

From November 30th until January 29th next, hours of trading 12.30 p.m. - 3 p.m. daily. Closure of the Agency between 24th December and 4th January.



TAKE NOTE

Items for "Take Note" should be forwarded to the Public Relations Unit, Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ext. 962.

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, GRANTS

OVERSEAS RESEARCH STUDENTS ORS AWARDS 1982 - Universities and Colleges in the United Kingdom. Some 500 new ORS Awards will be offered on a competitive basis in 1982 to overseas postgraduate students of outstanding merit and research potential. For details and the list of institutions in the U.K. at which the award is tenable contact the Public Relations Unit. **AINSE POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS 1982** - available for students whose work for a higher degree will require use of the special facilities at Lucas Heights to the extent that the student must spend at least one quarter of his tenure attached to the Institute. For details and nomination forms contact PR Unit.

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE - RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS - Applications are invited for Commonwealth Postgraduate Research Awards and University Postgraduate Research Scholarships tenable at the University of Newcastle in 1982. Applicants should hold or expect to hold before the beginning of the 1982 Academic year, a good honours degree or its equivalent. Applicants must have permanent residence status in Australia. Details at PR Unit. Closing date October 30.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (W.A.) INC. BURSARIES - Applications are called for the AFUW (W.A.) Inc. Foundation Bursary 1982 and the AFUW (W.A.) Inc. Mary Walters Memorial Bursary, 1982. Open to women of any age. Details available at the Public Relations Unit. Closing date March 12, 1982.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS - available to students holding a Bachelor's degree with at least second class honours and with a research proposal approved by the relevant head of department at the University. Closing date October 31. Details from the PR Unit.

NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL - FELLOWSHIPS IN APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES - available to graduates in a wide range of national health related subjects, including the social and behavioural sciences. Details PR Unit. Closing date October 31.

VISITING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS 1982-83 - UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities. Applications invited from scholars of established reputation and also from younger scholars holding a doctorate or offering equivalent evidence of aptitude for advanced study. Details from PR Unit. Closing date January 29, 1982.

THE LADY DAVIS FELLOWSHIP TRUST - Awards for study, research or teaching on graduate, post-doctorate or professional levels at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, for the 1982-83 academic year. For further details write to the NSW Friends of the Hebrew University, 283 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 (tel. 264-1192 or 264-6191). Closing date December 1.

GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS - MONASH UNIVERSITY - available for graduates with a good honours degree who wish to pursue research and proceed to a higher degree. For further details contact the PR Unit. Closing date October 31. **AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN - JAMISON AWARDS** - annual awards offered to outstanding women students in a university in NSW completing a final or honours year. Application forms must be returned to the office of the AFUW-NSW, Suite 919, 9th Floor, Challis House, Martin Plaza, Sydney 2000 by October 30.

SOCIAL WELFARE RESEARCH CENTRE - a postgraduate research scholarship is available to a graduate with at least second class honours in the Social Sciences who wishes to undertake research for a higher degree in a field relating to Australian Social Welfare. Applications must reach the University of NSW by October 31. **RADIO RESEARCH BOARD** - grant applications need to reach the Radio Research Board, P.O. Box 225, Dickson, A.C.T. 2602 by November 20 this year. Grants will be awarded for approved research projects early next year. For details contact PR Unit.

SWISS GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP - available to an Australian citizen by the Swiss Government for study in Switzerland commencing October 1982. Primarily intended for a postgraduate with a clearly defined objective of study in mind or for a student will advanced in his course. Candidates who have already been in a profession for several years after completion of their studies or those who are over the age of 35 are ineligible. Sufficient knowledge of French or German required. A three month language study course before October 1982 may be a further requirement. For details contact PR Unit. Closing date November 13.

SEMINARS

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT - Tuesday, October 27 - Room 134 Metallurgy Building. Dr. Gerald Nanson, Department of Geography, University of Wollongong will present a paper entitled "The distribution of Biota on the Southern Continents". **SALZBURG SEMINAR PROGRAMME** - sessions will be held in Salzburg in 1982 in

Wollongong and Sydney newspapers and magazines are now available from the Union Shop.

Staff and students are also reminded of the Higher Education supplements in Wednesday's edition of The Australian and in The National Times.

January, February, March, April, May, June, July and August. The purpose of the seminar sessions is the study of the contemporary problems of world wide scope and the internal problems of American society. Further information can be obtained from Sir John Bunting, KBE, 8 Arnhem Place, Red Hill, ACT, 2603.

MISCELLANEOUS

NATIONAL YMCA COLLEGE - operates a scheme in conjunction with the American National YMCA whereby young people with an interest and basic training in youth leadership can become involved in an exchange programme at a reasonable financial level. For further details contact the International Camp Counsellor Programme, National Board of YMCAs, 196 Albert Road, South Melbourne, 3205. (tel. 699-7655). **AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF TECHNOLOGICAL SCIENCES** invites participation in its next publication of technological innovations. Details of new developments during the past year can be sent to the Academy at Clunies Ross House, 191 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria, Australia 3052. Separate notes should be sent to Innovations Reporter, Mr. P.A.M. Bell, 23 Adelaide Street, Armadale, Victoria, 3143. Further details on the form the notes should take are available from the PR Unit.

Preparation for University for first year students.

During the first week before the commencement of Session One, 1982, the Counselling Centre at Wollongong University will be organising a two-day preparatory programme for first year students. The purpose of this programme will be to acquaint students with the campus and the system of learning at university; to develop an effective approach to study and to meet other students before session commences. Most of the activities of the programme will take place within small groups. Members of staff or students are needed to assist with the running of these groups. There will be a short training course to prepare people who want to help with the programme. Anyone who is interested can contact Greg Hampton, at the Counselling Centre (Ph: 28-2925).

Campus News is published by the Public Relations Unit, Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ext. 962.