Number 31, 1995

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

Wednesday, 1 November

CAMPUS NEWS

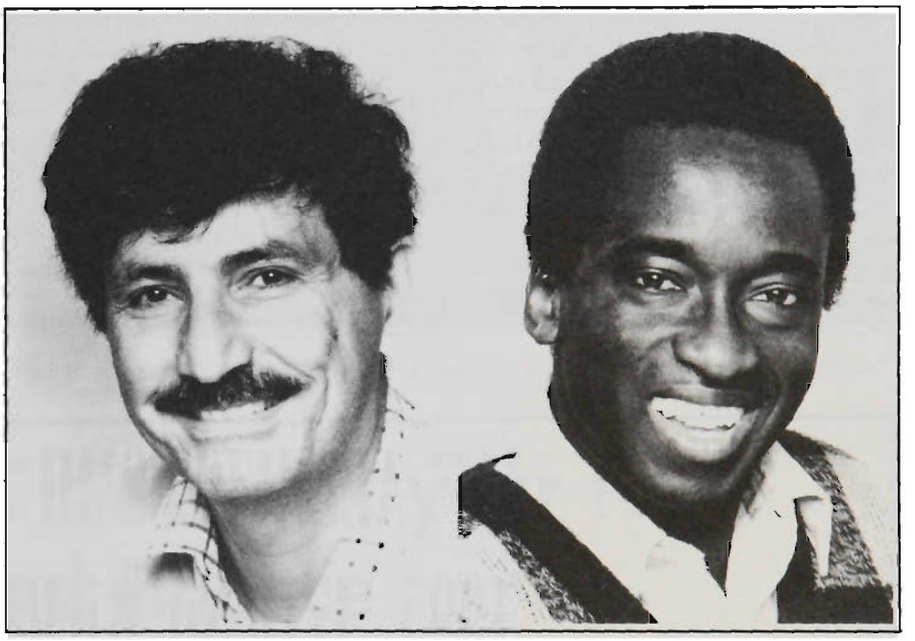
Research could improve rescues in mine disasters

The University and the Mines Rescue Service of NSW have received a grant of $110,000 from the Australian Coal Association Research Program to examine new strategies for mine rescue.

Associate Professor Najdat Aziz and Dr Ernest Baafi from the Department of Civil and Mining Engineering; Technical Manager of the NSW Mines Rescue Service, Mr Paul Mackenzie-Wood, and Manager of the Occupational Health Service in Wollongong, Dr Ian Tague, have formed a research team.

The team will develop a 'self-rescuer', to be worn by the mine worker. This self-rescuer will produce sufficient oxygen in a toxic atmosphere to permit rescue or escape to a safe area during a mine emergency.

This problem has been the subject of research in the USA and in light of the recent fatalities experienced in the Australian mining industry it is timely to consider introducing self-contained rescuers into the Australian coal mines.



Associate Professor Najdat Aziz and Dr Ernest Baafi

The self-rescuers approved for underground use in Australia are not designed to function in an oxygen-deficient environment and cannot be relied upon to save lives, particularly in situations where there is a fire or explosion in a mine.

The new generation of self-rescuers is designed to function in an oxygen-deficient environment for an hour under escape conditions.

This project is aimed at appraising the use of these units for escape from underground coal mines under Australian conditions.

The prime objective is to develop procedures for the possible introduction of these new generation self-rescuers into the collieries.

The oxygen consumption profiles of miners with different occupations and different ages will be monitored under underground escape conditions.

The results gathered will be used to establish the oxygen demand for profiles of Australian coal miners.

This information will enable the development of a procedure that can be used to evaluate a colliery's escapeways and to establish the optimal locations in escapeways.

Stage One of the program will involve the selection of mine sites to conduct field measurements.

It is proposed that the coal mines in the Illawarra and Newcastle regions will be used for the initial field trails, probably Elouera Colliery, South Bulli Colliery and Myuna Colliery.

The local mines are contributing $10,000 in kind towards the project.

Part of the grant will be used to support a Research Fellow for one year.

Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting

Representatives of the companies involved in the asbestos clean-up of Building 24 attended the Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting on 17 October.

They explained the process so far and what was to be happening in the near future.

These companies are Airsafe Laboratories, who are conducting monitoring, and Middlemass, who are carrying out the asbestos removal.

Work is expected to begin on 30 October and take about eight weeks.

Building 24 will be enclosed in a huge, reinforced plastic and wire bubble, contained within scaffolding.

The procedure will be posted outside the building, and more information can be obtained from Allan Hutton in Buildings and Grounds.

A representative of Sedgewicks was also present at the meeting. Sedgewicks are the consultants reviewing occupational health and safety and risk management on campus.

Input is still to be obtained from a few sources, including the SRC and the general staff, and then an initial report will be prepared for comment.

The meeting also heard that the University is working on a draft policy on ergonomics, and will soon be drafting a policy on sharps.

Sharps includes glassware and some laboratory items which are routinely being disposed of, as well as needles.

A policy for the handling and disposal of these will be of use to a variety of people across campus.

The OH and S committee has instigated a new meeting format where they conduct a site safety inspection of some area(s) of the University during the second part of each meeting.

Last month it was Buildings 25, 27 and 28. A report on these will be forwarded shortly to the heads of units responsible for these areas.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 November.

If you have a matter you think might be appropriate for discussion by the committee, contact the chair of the committee, Julie Gray, ext. 3441.

Launch of SCARP 27

SCARP 27 was launched at Aardvark's Cafe Bar on Wednesday, 25 October.

SCARP is a literary biannual publication produced with the assistance of the Faculty of Creative Arts and the University Union. It is supported by the Literature Board of the Australia Council.

SCARP 27 will be available for purchase at $8. Information from Ron Pretty, ext. 3867.

**** ALL WELCOME ****

1995 17th Sir Richard

KIRBY LECTURE

IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

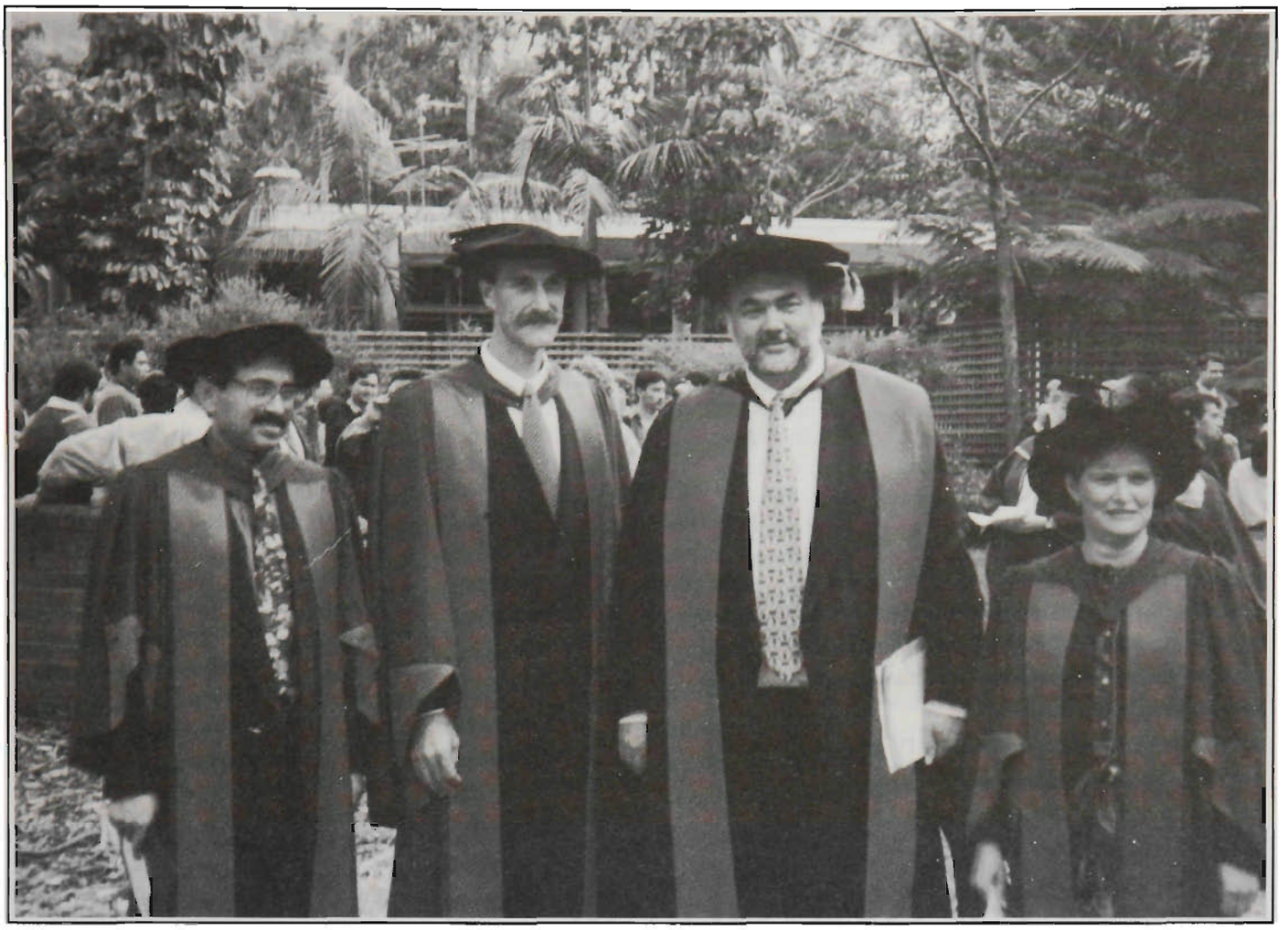
will be presented by

The Right Honourable Mr Jeff Shaw
NSW Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations

on

Wednesday, 8th November, 6.45 p.m.

McKinnon Building (67.104)
University of Wollongong



Three of the eight new PhD graduates with their supervisor: Dr Sudhir Lodh, Dr Warwick Funnell, Professor Michael Gaffikin and Dr Kathie Cooper.

Eight PhDs! A landmark year for Accounting and Finance

At October's graduation there were five graduates with PhDs in accountancy.

This made eight for the year and, according to a departmental spokesperson, this is probably more than the rest of Australian doctoral graduates in accounting in any one year.

It is also significant that six of the graduates were supervised by the Head of the Department, Professor Michael Gaffikin.

Professor Gaffikin started the doctoral program after he arrived at the University nearly eight years ago.

In order to get it established he found he had to take on almost all the supervision – often at the expense of his own research efforts, study leave, responsibilities as Head of the Department and family interests.

He did so on the basis that the program would snowball and as more supervisors became available they would take over some of the burden; which is now happening gradually.

In spite of his responsibilities as a supervisor, Accountancy, under Professor Gaffikin, has become one of the largest departments in the University and has performed very well on most counts.

It is ranked one of the best in the country and has attracted international interest.

Some of the PhD graduates this year are members of the Department of Accounting and Finance, which now boasts one of the highest proportions of staff with doctorates in such departments in the country.

Many staff members, as they have moved from industry to take up academic careers, have had to undertake formal doctoral study to be able to compete in the academic market.

Traditionally, doctorates in accountancy have not been common, professional qualifications and experience having been preferred.

Professor Gaffikin said he has had to continually explain to the uninitiated what higher degree research in accounting and finance comprises.

Many see these subjects in fairly black and white terms which, if this were true, would not explain why businesses and governments encounter financial difficulties and why some people can be so 'creative' with their financial dealings.

No amount of research will prevent fraud or dubious activities or the collapse of international investment banks, but research will help determine the early signals to watch for.

Robyn Iredale reports on the UN

Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Multicultural Studies, Dr Robyn Iredale, attended the Fourth United Nations International Women's Conference in Beijing as an independent observer. She reports on some aspects of the conference.

In this report I will highlight some aspects that have generally not been covered in other reports on the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September.

I attended the last few days of the Non-Government Organisations (NGO) Forum and one day of the official conference. I stayed on for another three weeks in China and was able to gather impressions after the conference.

The NGO Forum

The Forum was attended by more than 30,000 representing more than 3000 NGOs, but many women, like myself, attended independently.

There were more than 800 women from Australia registered for the forum. Many made it, but others, an estimated 5000 from around the world, did not get their visa issued in time.

I made two unsuccessful attempts, first as a tourist and then as a visiting scholar to a University in Beijing.

I was successful on the third attempt, the day before I was due to leave Australia.

The NGO Forum had been relocated to Hairou a few months earlier.

This was apparently after the Chinese officials claimed that the women were planning a demonstration in Tiananmen Square.

Consequently, the forum was moved to a location 90 minutes by bus from Beijing.

Buildings were rapidly erected, but some were not completed and so much of the activity took place in tents, school rooms and other venues, or outdoors.

There were suggestions that the interpreters were told not to worry about trying to interpret too accurately and that it was just women getting together to have a chat.

When they got stuck for words, they should say things like 'to improve the health and position of women'.

Nevertheless, the NGO Forum provided a unique opportunity for women to meet and discuss issues of concern to them.

The discussions covered many topics, such as the value of unpaid work, the situation of migrant domestic workers in the UK, the treatment of women by the media, female infanticide and female genital mutilation, laws of inheritance and the role of women in decision making.

At any one time there could have been up to 137 sessions running and there were more than 5000 different sessions in the 10 days.

Many moments were special, but I will highlight a few only:

1. The demonstration, during a session on Arabic women, by women and men to draw attention to the torture and execution of women who 'dared to assert their opinions and femininity' in Algeria. The rise of various forms of

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Official Opening 10am

*Instrument and Music Displays
*Childhood Music Education Program (CME)
(Be involved in hands-on workshops and talk to CME staff)
*Courtyard Concert featuring EROS Big Band
*Performances - Studio Recitals
*Rehearsals - BHP Youth Orchestra
*Conservatorium Choirs
*Displays - Stalls
*Friends of the Conservatorium
*Flute Masterclass with Virginia Taylor
*Cello Workshops with Denise Lawrence
*Come dressed as something beginning with "O" – prize for the most creative fancy dress

Enquiries: (042) 28 1122

Wollongong Conservatorium - Sounds Great

Women's conference in Beijing

fundamentalism and the part of culture rather than religion was a major issue at the NGO Forum.

2. The universal talk of women's rights was one of the outstanding features at Hairou. No matter where the women were from, the same language, the same desires and the same demands were being put before the forum.

3. The fight for women's reproductive health rights follows from the movement at the Cairo Conference on Population and Development from a narrow family planning perspective to a much broader perspective on women.

Executive Director of UN Fund for Population Activities, Dr Nafis Sadik, reiterated this change in a 'Great Expectations' session run by the Women's Environment and Development Organisation.

She said: 'The first mark of respect for women is support for their reproductive rights. No one has the right to impose reproductive decisions on them. For women to change, society must change.'

Reproductive rights involve more than the right to reproduce, they also include how and when to reproduce. They also include the right not to reproduce.

Comments such as these are clearly problematic in China where coercion is part of the one child policy.

Every work site/unit has its quota of how many babies can be born in a year.

An unplanned pregnancy that is not built into a quota generally ends in an abortion.

People I spoke to accept this policy, on the whole. One problem seems to be that rather than abortion being used as a backup it is used as the first method of birth control.

On the other hand, female infanticide continues in some rural parts of China, especially since testing the sex of the foetus and inducing a miscarriage where a male is desired, has become illegal.

The preference for males still prevails in some rural areas but in others females are coming to be preferred as they take better care of ageing parents.

4. The plight of female migrant workers. Britain's Immigration Law stopped granting work permits directly to people entering the UK as domestic workers.

In 1986, however, a concession (which is outside the immigration rules) was introduced to enable expatriates or returning British nationals to bring their domestic workers into the country.

Many of these workers are Filipino women, but they also come from Sri Lanka, Africa, Brazil etc.

The workers have their employer's name stamped on their passport and are tied to their employer. They have no recourse if they are denied their workers' rights.

At least 14 of the 40 articles in the UN Decline of Human Rights are contravened as a result of this policy.

This situation and many others where women are subjected to denial of their human rights and sexual abuse, were highlighted by NGOs.

The extreme cases of trafficking in women also seems to be increasing.

5. Unpaid work, (domestic, community etc) much of which is done by women, needs to be properly valued.

But including it in the GDP will raise per capita incomes and reduce the level of aid for which some poor countries are eligible.

Therefore some other mechanism is needed for valuing this work.

6. Austria is introducing/has introduced legislation to make child care a joint responsibility under family and matrimonial law.

Failure to comply will be a chargeable offence.

The NGO Forum was successful from the point of view of visiting women.

Every woman who attended would return home a little more empowered as a result of the experience.

Moreover, NGOs were invited by speakers such as Ishrat Husain from the World Bank to become actively involved in monitoring the development work of international agencies.

How this would happen was not spelt out, but the crucial grassroots role of NGOs is no longer ignored.

They have come to be seen, in some areas, as being best able to judge the effectiveness of money spent on women's environmental and development programs.

The UN Official Conference

Though I was not an official delegate I was able to attend the third last day of the UN Conference – just when the NGO representatives on delegations were beginning to agitate for an alternate UN Declaration.

The dissatisfaction with the progress that had been made on women's rights and issues at that point, in fact that much of what had been achieved in Cairo could be undone, led eventually to the development of an alternate document being drafted.

The official drafting team got wind of this move and it was subsequently used to improve the official UN Beijing Declaration.

Post-conference Beijing

There was no reporting in China during the conference of the harassment or discomfort that some groups of women were subjected.

But there were stories such as 'Sisters still face long march for equality with men' (*China Daily* 12/9/95, p4).

After the conference, however, there were many positive articles in the *China Daily* , such as 'Countries hail meeting on women' as well as articles of a reassuring kind, such as 'Media should balance forum coverage' written by an American woman.

The comments by Hilary Clinton on China's family planning policy set off a flood of letters to the editor on the need for China to control the number of births.

Many women I spoke to were confused by Hilary Clinton's comments.

As they point out, they would like to have more than one child, but for the sake of China's future, they realise that the population growth rate must be curtailed rapidly.

Chinese women, like all those who attended the conference and forum, will gain from the experience.

The commitments made by individual governments are an important outcome but in the end it is the empowerment of the women which will bring about most change in the status of women.

Wollongong hosts first national natural resources conference

The Centre for Natural Resources Law and Policy at the University of Wollongong and the Royal Institute of Public Administration will host the first national conference on 'Natural resources – decision making in a federal system' from 16-17 November.

The keynote speaker will be Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories, Senator John Faulkner, and former senator Graham Richardson will be the after-dinner speaker.

This conference provides the first opportunity to publicly review the direction natural resources decision-making has taken under the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment (IGAE) and other cooperative arrangements.

Key issues to be discussed include facilitating ecologically sustainable decisions, achieving certainty in the decision-making process, ensuring decision makers are accessible to the community, managing cross-sectoral interests, establishing communication networks and achieving accountability in the decision-making process.

Enquiries: The Royal Institute of Public Administration (02) 228 5853 or 228 4375.

New publications in the Library

The following publications have been placed in the University Library:

Water Quality R&D Survey, June 1994, Volume 1 Data Summary, Higher Education Division, Occasional Papers Series.

Water Quality R&D Survey, June 1994, Volume 2, Project Details, Higher Education Division, Occasional Papers Series.

The Conditions for Fostering Cooperative Education Between Higher Education and Industry, Higher Education Division, A T Davies & S Hase, Southern Cross University, June 1994.

The Higher Education Experience Survey, Higher Education Division, Bruce Guthrie, Graduate Careers Council of Australia, June 1994.

The Casualisation of Research Postgraduate Employment, Higher Education Division, Janine Collins, The Australian Institute for Women's Research and Policy, July 1994.

The Use of Students' Evaluations of University Teaching to Improve Teaching Effectiveness, Higher Education Division, Herbert W Marsh & Lawrence A Roche, University of Western Sydney, Macarthur, June 1994.

The Enabling Characteristics of Undergraduate Education, NBEET, August 1994.

Increasing the Learning Options, NBEET, November 1994.

Higher Education Council Ninth Report to the National Board of Employment, Education and Training on the Operation of Section 14 of the Higher Education Funding Act 1988 and the Higher Education Contribution Scheme, NBEET, May 1995.

The Performance at University of Equity Groups and Students Admitted via Alternative Modes of Entry, Higher Education Division, Donald E Lewis, University of Wollongong, August 1994.

International Links in Higher Education Research, NBEET, Commissioned Report No.37, May 1995.

Credit Transfer and the Recognition of Prior Learning, NBEET, October 1994.

Developing Lifelong Learners through Undergraduate Education, NBEET, Commissioned Report No.28, August 1994.

Review of Grants Outcomes No: 15, Classics, Classical Archaeology and Prehistory – 1986-1990, NBEET, August 1994.

Costs and Quality in Resource-Based learning on- and Off-Campus, NBEET, Commissioned Report No.33, October 1994.

A Study of the Academic Results of On-Campus and Off-Campus Students, NBEET, Commissioned Report No.34, October 1994.

Australian Research for Ecologically Sustainable Development, NBEET, Commissioned Report No. 38, April 1995.

Redefining a Working Life: Age and Performance in Higher Education, AVCC Papers No.4, Barry A Sheehan with assistance from Donna Smith.

An Enabling Vision, Open Learning and Students with a Disability, Open Learning Technology Corporation Limited.

Library News

Degrees of Quality

Invitation to Course Information Evening
7pm, Wednesday 29 November
The University Centre, 210 Clarence Street, Sydney

Discover our postgraduate programs in:
Total Quality Management (TQM)
Maintenance Management Systems Engineering

Study options include:
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RSVP before 24 November or call for a complete course brochure:

Faculty of Engineering
Tel: (042) 213 491 Fax: (042) 213 143

Need advice about the future? Here's the man to ask...

The University's new Careers and Appointments Adviser, Martin Smith, is keen to meet students who need advice and assistance on planning for their future career.

Formerly Careers Counsellor at the University of Western Sydney (UWS Macarthur), Martin comes to Wollongong with five years' experience in a university and nine years as a high school careers adviser.

Martin was the first Careers Counsellor at UWS and looked after the Campbelltown and Bankstown campuses.

He found the challenge of building up the careers service at UWS very rewarding.

Although he enjoyed being at UWS, he was looking out for a change and had thought about the possibility of working in Wollongong.

'The appeal of a new patch was strong,' he said, and lifestyle factors were also important.

Martin enjoys his work and is looking forward to meeting Wollongong students.

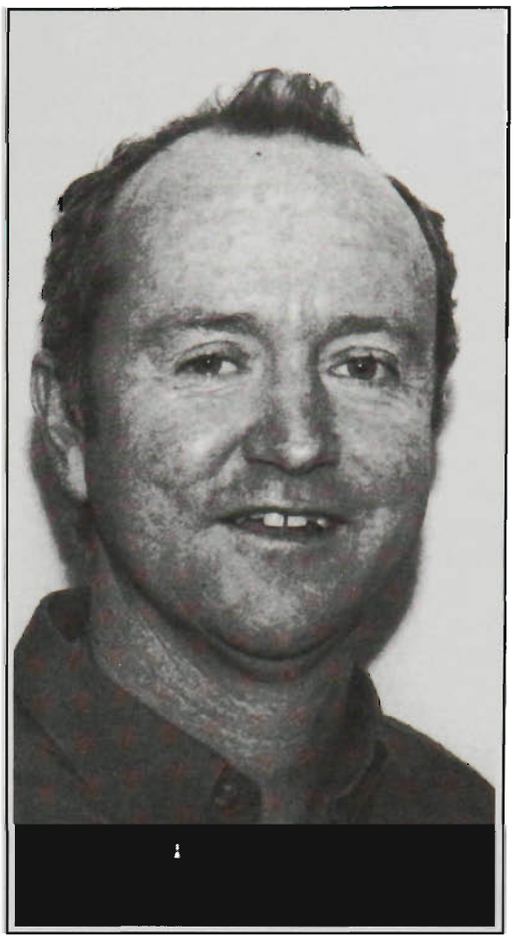
'I enjoy looking at the needs of different students to increase their chances of employment,' he said.

He particularly encourages students to come and see him in the second and third years of their courses, the year before they graduate. He aims to increase student awareness about their options.

He advises students to 'get prepared early and give yourself every opportunity'.

Martin is also the NSW/ACT President of the National Association of Graduate Careers Advisers. The National President, Patricia Webster, is the former Careers Adviser at Wollongong and is now at Latrobe University.

Martin is available from 9am-5pm every day for individual appointments.



The new Careers and Appointments Adviser, Martin Smith

He can provide advice on employment, further study, scholarships, and assist in preparing resumés, portfolios and letters.

From 1.30-3pm is the drop-in time each day and there is also a resource library in the Careers and Appointments Office.

New landscaping and cooperation will solve trouble spot

Staff and students may have noticed that Buildings and Grounds, Landscape Section is constructing a bus bay and relocating the pedestrian crossing on the Ring Road outside the Sports and Recreation Centre.

This area has been a trouble spot in the past with buses stopping on the Ring Road at the centre to drop off or collect passengers.

As there is no other provision for such vehicles, this has lead to traffic congestion on the Ring Road creating concerns about the safety of pedestrians on the foot crossing and movement of vehicles on the incorrect side of the road.

To alleviate these concerns the crossing has been relocated and the landscaped gardens positioned to encourage pedestrians to use the crossing.

A parking bay has been provided specifically for buses, to allow traffic to flow safely on the Ring Road.

The bus bay will be posted with 'No Stopping Bus Bay Only, Bus and Coaches excepted' signs.

Any motor vehicles found parking in contravention to the signs displayed on the bus bay may incur an on-the-spot $40 fine.

The campus community's cooperation is sought to ensure that this bus parking bay is available for buses and coaches only, at all times, seven days a week.

Summer Session accommodation needed

The Accommodation Officer, Michelle Carden, is receiving enquiries from academics who will be visitors to the University over the Summer Session (from the end of November to the end of January).

These people require furnished accommodation for themselves and their families during this time.

If anybody has a furnished house or unit that they wish to rent out to a visitor over Summer Session, contact Michelle as soon as possible on ext. 4622.

General

The Campus Alumni Bookshop is open on the second and fourth weekends of each month. Campus East, Cowper Street, Fairy Meadow (opposite Science Centre). All proceeds directed towards campus projects. Donations of material are invited. Enquiries to Alumni Office, phone 213 249 or 291 951.

7-9 November: Business and Economic Development in Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Countries. This international conference is being run by the International Business Research Group. Venue: The University Centre, 210 Clarence St Sydney. Enquiries: Mokhtar Metwally, Dept of Economics, University of Wollongong. (042) 214 017 Fax (042) 213 725.

26 November: Conference on surveillance, 10am to 5pm. Cost: $20. Enquiries: Brian Martin at the University on 213 763 or 297 393 at home, Ann Aungles 213 745, Richard Joseph 213 606 or Graham Sewell 213 642.

27-30 November: Australian Computer-Interaction Conference (OZCHI). Enquiries: phone (042) 213 757, fax (042) 214 474.

What's On

Long Gallery

Exhibition program for 1995:

Until 5 November: Archaeologies: Structures of Time, Diana Wood Conroy and Sharon Marcus. Reciphering: Katharine Nix. Pathways: Paper works by Ian Arcus.

13 November – 10 December: BCA graduating exhibition.

University Social Club

8 November: BBQ lunch, McKinnon Dining Room.

Become a member and enjoy a variety of social events. A chance to meet others across the campus Contact Jim McKee by E-Mail or ext 3376.

Union Activities

8 November: ABC concert, Don Spencer in the Union Hall. $6 a ticket (or $5 for groups of 20).

24 November: Henry Rollins and Babes in Toyland, all-ages concert. $25 Wollongong Uni students. $30 guests.

Middle East economic conference

The Fifth International Conference on Business and Economic Development in Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Countries will be held at the University Centre, Sydney, from 7-9 November.

The conference is hosted by the University's International Business Research Group and the Association for Middle East Economic Research and chaired by Dr Moktar Metwally from the Department of Economics.

Participants are coming from Bahrain, Egypt, India and Kuwait as well as delegates from NSW universities.

The keynote speaker, Director of the Institute for Economic Studies at Clark University, USA, Professor Attiat F Otti, will present a case study of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean countries.

Other topics to be covered will include A Macroeconometric Model for the Iranian Economy, Trade Relationships between Iran and its Major Trading Partners, The Impact of GATT on the GCC Economies, End of GATT and the Emergence of World Trade Organisations, The Construction and Reform of the Lebanese Economy, and Debt Servicing and Economic Growth: The Experience of Middle East and North Africa.

Stop Press

The Society for Free Radical Research Conference will be held at the University from 5-7 November with about 65 registrants coming to the Illawarra.

These scientists and clinicians will discuss the medicine and chemistry of free radicals including diet and antioxidants; atherosclerosis; cataract, and other disease implications.

Contact: Mark Baker, Department of Biological Sciences, phone 213 286.

Campus News is published weekly on Wednesdays. Send material, preferably by Microsoft Mail or on disk, to E-Mail account 'Campus News' by noon on Monday of the week before that of publication.
For any other enquiries contact the Editor, Gillian Curtis (042) 21 3926.
Campus News has a circulation of 3000. It is distributed on campus to staff and students. 1000 are mailed to the community and overseas including schools in Illawarra, southern Sydney and Canberra; local, Sydney and Canberra media; Friends of the University; business representatives; MPs and numerous individual requests.