

CAMPUS NEWS

The following articles by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Gerard Sutton and President, University of Wollongong Branch of the National Tertiary Education Union, Mr Mike Morrissey, appeared in the Illawarra Mercury on Saturday 25 May.

Your University at risk

Since its establishment, your University has provided more than quality education and cultural advantages. The University of Wollongong provides 5000 jobs directly and indirectly. It also is an enormous revenue source to the Illawarra and Australia.

Illawarra residents should be aware that the threatened cuts to the University of Wollongong's funding will affect everyone even if they have never had a reason to visit the campus.

The situation is reminiscent of the down-turn of the steel industry in the '80s. A regional asset that has taken many years of dedication and hard work by numerous people will be severely damaged overnight.

The effects will be both short term and long term. The immediate loss to the local economy of the mooted 12 per cent cut would be \$50m. The longer term consequences could prove even more damaging.

The University, with the local councils, is attempting to broaden the economic base of the region. Companies with whom we are holding discussions see a high-quality university as an essential prerequisite to establishing in the region.

The universities have already suffered an effective 12 per cent cut in recent years and the Government's own higher education policy statement makes it clear any further cuts (such as those mooted) put at serious risk the quality of your University.

A particularly unpleasant result of the cuts will be that fewer of our children will gain entry to their University.

The University would be forced to reduce its student numbers by between 1000-1500 resulting in many qualified applicants being disappointed and their

*By Vice-Chancellor Professor
Gerard Sutton*

future prospects diminished.

The development of the campus in the Shoalhaven could not proceed.

The Federal Government seems to have paid little consideration to the effects on the international student market. It is not well known that there are 12 universities in the top 500 Australian exporters. Your university is one of those.

The university sector brings \$1.5-\$2 billion into this country from international students. This is comparable to Australia's steel exports of \$1.5 billion.

The University of Wollongong's international students put \$60 million into the region's economy.

This market has grown to this level because of the very strong university sector in this country.

If the university sector were to be placed in a situation of chaos, which would be inevitable if the mooted cuts were to proceed, then my estimate is that we could expect a decrease of about a third in the number of international students coming to Australia.

This market is highly sensitive, competitive and well informed and these students will return to the traditional countries from which we have won marketshare, namely UK, USA, Canada and New Zealand.

This would reduce the income to this country by an amount greater than the amount of the suggested cuts to the sector. These cuts make no sense even in purely budgetary terms.

Universities do not want a special deal. All we ask is that the Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard, honour his election promise.



Professor Gerard Sutton



Mike Morrissey

Illawarra citizens can help. Urge your local Member of Parliament to insist that the Prime Minister honour his election promise.

The coalition claims a mandate for the sale of one third of Telstra. They equally have a mandate acquired at the same election to maintain the level of university funding.

As you will see from the following, the election promise was clear and unequivocal. Statements by John Howard indicated that it was not dependent on the subsequent state of the budget:

The coalition recognises that the sig-

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nificant per capita reduction of Commonwealth funds under Labour has had a detrimental effect on quality (of higher education).

This has been evident in overcrowded lectures, unworkable tutorials and inadequate libraries. The financial squeeze also detrimentally affected research infrastructure, research training and research capacity.

Overall, this had put at risk the quality of both education and research.

Higher education in Australia has been and remains overwhelmingly pub-

Your University at risk

licly funded.

'The Coalition accepts the responsibility that flows from this historical fact and while encouraging a broadening of the sector's financial base, will at least maintain the level of Commonwealth funding to universities both in terms of operating grants and research grants.'

There can be no question that the vision the Coalition Government has for Australia, in terms of economic, cul-

tural and social dimensions, must involve a strong university sector.

It will be the engine room that drives any such vision. It is an investment in the future.

Being driven purely by a fuzzy \$8bn black hole to break promises and suggest cuts that will inflict serious harm on your University is short sighted and will damage the future of our children, our region and our country.

The Economics of Town and Gown

Mercury readers may have all sorts of perceptions of the role the university plays in the Illawarra region, but probably not many realise the full economic importance of the University to virtually every resident.

This has increased enormously in the last 15 years and, in fact, the university was one of the key factors in the region's recovery from the crippling loss of jobs that took place in the 1980s.

During this time the University has:

- quadrupled its student enrolment to nearly 12,000 and rapidly increased the proportion of the student body who come from outside the Illawarra;
- increased the number of full fee-paying overseas students from none to more than 2000;
- increased its total employment to the equivalent of more than 1525 full-time staff, virtually all of whom live locally.

The University is now the second-biggest employer in the Illawarra and, on a rough estimate, is directly responsible for a flow of \$1 million into the local economy every working day.

The University is also under threat.

In spite of election promises to maintain spending on the tertiary sector at the level of 1995, Senator Vanstone, the Coalition's Education Minister, has now confirmed that there will be cuts in tertiary education.

Figures as high as 12 per cent cuts in total operating revenue are not being denied by the Minister, and this is just for starters.

We are promised a round of cuts in services totalling \$4 billion in 1996-97 and another round of cuts of the same magnitude in 1997-98.

Cuts to tertiary education will be only one part of this, but what do these particular cuts mean for the region?

First of all, a 12 per cent cut would

By the National Tertiary Education Union's Mike Morrissey

translate as around 180 job losses at the University itself, but the consequences don't stop there.

It is very likely that retrenched university staff would, in very large proportion, leave the region due to lack of alternative employment or, if they stayed in the region, would have great difficulty finding other jobs for a long time.

This means that their purchasing power would either be greatly reduced or would vanish from the region altogether. And that means that jobs outside the education industry would go as well.

Most studies suggest that as many as two additional jobs could go for every job lost at the university. So far we're up to 540 job losses from a 12 per cent cut, but it doesn't stop there.

A recent study showed that spending by the 2000 students from overseas who are studying at the Uni generated more than 700 jobs in the region.

More than a quarter of these were in a sector of extreme importance to a region with a desperate youth unemployment problem – retail and wholesale trade.

Add to this the jobs generated by the spending of the other 10,000 Australian students. Let's be conservative and say it's only half of what the overseas students generate.

That's 175 jobs per thousand students. That's 1750 jobs.

The point of this arithmetic is that a University with staff reductions of 12 per cent could not possibly maintain its enrolments at the current level.

A loss of just 10 per cent of the current student numbers would result in somewhere around 150 job losses in the region.

So far we've got a grand total of 690 job losses: 180 at the University and 510 outside it. These are the easy-to-estimate – money, costs of cuts to regional higher education funding. There are certainly a lot of others, but they are hard to estimate.

At Southern Cross University, (Lismore), which is less than half the size of Wollongong, it has been estimated that university staff contribute something like 2000 hours a week in voluntary service to a variety of cultural, welfare, sporting and other organisations.

There is certainly a similar contribution by Wollongong staff, although it has not been measured and it makes sense to assume that this contribution will diminish if staff numbers contract.

The staff of the University is determined to fight the intended vandalism of the Howard government in taking the axe to what is now recognised as one of the best universities in Australia.

Residents of the region, whether they are students, or have children at the University, or simply benefit from the employment opportunities and the enhanced quality of cultural and social life the University brings should see this as their fight too.

A good home for your books

Every few years, University people have kindly offered used and unwanted books, mainly but not necessarily books for children, for use by the experimental Project Enrichment of Childhood Preschool in Bourke, NSW.

If anyone with books or magazines to spare please send them to Susan-Lee Walker or Philip de Lacey in the Faculty of Education.

Department of Accounting and Finance builds strong links with Indonesia

Head of the Department of Accounting and Finance, Professor Michael Gaffikin, recently has witnessed the rewards of an international focus within the department.

Professor Gaffikin was invited by the Centre for Indonesian Accounting and Management Research to be a guest speaker at their conference in April this year.

The theme of the conference was 'Accounting: Past, Present and Future'.

It was held at the Malangkucecwara College of Economics in Malang, East Java.

The title of the session presented by Professor Gaffikin was 'Accounting for Now and the Future'.

Another key speaker at the conference was a recent doctoral graduate of the University of Wollongong and student of Professor Gaffikin, Dr Eko Ganis Sukoharsono, who presented a paper entitled 'Accounting in the Coming of Islam'.

The third speaker was Dr Bambang Sudibyo of Gadjamada University, generally regarded as the leading academic accountant in Indonesia.

The importance of the University of Wollongong to Indonesian accounting was evident in the representation of other graduates in the audience of more than 100 conference attendees who came from many parts of the country.

These included recent doctoral graduates Dr Eddy Rasyid, Dr Basuki, Dr Iwan Triyuwono, Dr Tjiptohadi Sawarjuwono, and Dr Imman Ghozali,



From left: Prof Michael Gaffikin, Dr Sukoharsono, Mrs Dahia, Dr Bambang Sudibyo, and staff attendant.

who are leading academics and professionals in Indonesia, as well as more than 20 of the department's masters graduates.

The conference acknowledged that since 1970 there had been dramatic shifts in the methodologies employed by accounting researchers.

The University of Wollongong is recognised internationally as a leader in this new era.

The focus has shifted from technical to social and everyday practical aspects of accounting.

Stronger international links have emerged from the experience.

An invitation was extended to the Department of Accounting and Finance to closely link the two education centres.

It was proposed that Indonesian stu-

dents (from that University) undertake some of their degree work at Wollongong.

Dean appointed to national body

Dean, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, Professor Charles Watson, has been elected president of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine for two years.

The Public Health Medicine group is a faculty of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

It has about 600 Australian and New Zealand members who are public health specialists in health departments, community practice and in universities.

The faculty is responsible for training and accreditation of public health physicians.

It is in a good position to play a major role in the development of training and professional development programs for remote and rural health professionals in the next few years.

The Federal Health Minister has made a commitment to invest heavily in this area and it is likely that the faculty will play a major advisory and management role with these programs.

Professor Watson, who is a keen advocate for effective gun control laws in Australia, believes that the Faculty can play an important role in public health advocacy, as well as its traditional role in training and professional development.

New Theatre South kids' show

Choreographer and Thirroul-born John O'Connell – the brains behind the dance and movement from the smash hit Australian films *Strictly Ballroom* and *Muriel's Wedding* – has switched from working on Paul Mercurio's pirouettes to working with animals, or more correctly, humans acting as animals.

Mr O'Connell was commissioned by Theatre South to choreograph their children's musical production of *The Adventures of Carlos the Cane Toad*.

Written by Faye Montgomery, *Carlos the Cane Toad* is for children from four to 10 years of age.

Carlos has been shipped out from his South American homeland to rid Australia of the sugar cane grub.

But Carlos does not want to be an environmental whizz. He wants to find a friend and a place to call home.

The production's original costumes are from top designer and lecturer in the Faculty of Creative Arts, John Seneczuk, music by award-winning composer Paul Coombes and direction by Des Davis.

Already the play is proving to be a national and international success.

Theatre South has been invited to perform the play in Japan and also at the highly regarded Out of the Box festival in Brisbane.

The Adventures of Carlos the Cane toad will be at the Bridge Theatre in Coniston until Friday 7 June. For bookings phone (042) 296144

General

Meeting dates for the Human Research Ethics Committee and the Animal Ethics Committee for this year are: Human Research Ethics Committee: 23 July, 20 August, 22 October, 19 November, 17 December. Animal Ethics Committee: 21 August, 20 November. Agenda items are due two weeks before meetings. Enquiries Karen McRae, Office of Research, by email or on ext. 4457 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

The Campus Alumni Bookshop is open on the second and fourth week-ends of each month (Saturday and Sunday 1-5pm). Come and browse through a wide selection of preloved textbooks and fiction. Location: 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.

Cell and Molecular Seminar Series: Held on Wednesdays in the Department of Biological Sciences (Building 35), University of Wollongong. Dates: 12 June, 31 July, 21 August, 18 September, 23 October, 30 October. Enquiries: Associate Professor Ted Steele, Associate Professor Ross Lilley,

What's On

Associate Professor Mark Baker, Dr Mark Walker, Ms Wendy Russell, Dr Ren Zhang or Dr Mark Wilson, phone (042) 213 013, fax: (042) 214 135.

14 June: Bioactive Molecules Research Centre one-day symposium, Metals in Biology and Medicine, University Bistro 9.30am. Inquiries: Associate Professor Stephen Pyne, phone (042) 213 511 or e-mail s.pyne@uow.au.edu, or Dr Geoff Wickham, phone (042) 214 418, or Dr Stephen Ralph, phone (042) 214 286. Department of Chemistry, University of Wollongong, NSW 2522. Fax (042) 214 287.

Creative Arts

Creative Arts productions '96

Each year students and staff in the Faculty of Creative Arts produce a diverse range of performances. They are presented in numerous venues across the campus depending on the nature of the performance.

Following is the provisional timetable for this year. Watch *Campus News* for confirmation and more details.

Stretching Exercise – until 8 June, directed by Janys Hayes and/or Jeff Kevin, Black Box Production,

Hope Theatre.

Graduation Production – 11-14 September, Hope Theatre and 18-21 September, Newtown HSPA, director Janys Hayes, producer Jeff Kevin and assistant producer Jacqui Clarke.

Classic Production (Shakespeare, Marlowe, Jonson etc) – 23-26 October, directed by John Senczuk and Jeff Kevin, Performance Space, Black Box Production.

Australian One-Act Plays or excerpts – 4-8 November, Kate Newey, Sharon Bell, Peter Shepherd possibly to direct. Performance Space.

Art of Lunch

Every Thursday during session, from 12.35-1.25pm.

6 June: Union Hall Foyer – 3rd year and Honours Music Performance students present works under study. Will include instrumental and vocal performances.

Venues are the Hope Theatre, Union Hall Foyer and Faculty of Creative Arts Music Auditorium. Brochures and information are available from Marilyn Meier, ext. 3990, and Jenny Fullerton, ext. 3996.

University Social Club

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

University Rugby Union Club defeats last year's premiers

The University Rugby Union Club's first grade team has had an outstanding start to the 1996 season by winning its first four games, including a 29-19 victory over last year's premiers Camden.

This was an outstanding display of rugby with F. Nati scoring two tries, M. Cleal, D. Phelps and Brad Kane one try each, with Kane adding two conversions.

The University backrow Deon Kelly, P. Nikoloski and Nati were outstanding and the backline also displayed their ability to play running rugby.

In a very strong competition of 10 clubs, Uni has had one of its best starts.

The club's last first grade premiership was in 1972, under the guise of Teachers College, so there is a big challenge ahead.

In the other games Uni defeated Tech-Waratahs 53-0, Kiama 12-0 and Vikings 24-11. Second and third have 3-1 records, with the Under-19 grade having three wins and two losses.

The women's team also has a fine record in the NSW Women's competition defeating Parramatta 43-0, Eastern Suburbs 12-10, University of NSW 66-0 and having only one loss – to Drummoyne 10-5.

Stop Press

Long Gallery

Works by students in local high schools

Performance Space

Second year theatre students present:

7 June – 'Crossfire'

5, 6 & 8 June – 'The Kid'

Bookings 214 214

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 3500. 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.