Divided or United?

Those readers who missed the Union Annual Dinner can read below the address given by Professor Ron King of the Department of Education at the University of Wollongong

* * *

In the 1950s the funding for universities resided primarily with the States: there were State operated Senior Technical Colleges and State Department of Education Teachers Colleges.

The Murray Report, tabled in 1957, led to the provision of substantial Commonwealth funding for universities, the number of which grew in consequence.

The Martin Report, tabled in 1964, along with the Wark Report (1966) led to the establishment of a so-called binary system of higher education through the development of colleges of advanced education that would offer diplomas (in technology and in liberal arts), while the universities would continue to offer degrees. Together, the force of these reports also led to the removal from State Education Department proprietorship of Teachers Colleges and to their ultimate incorporation into the Advanced Education network.

The universities, being autonomous, would tend to deal directly with Canberra; the colleges, not being autonomous, would deal mostly with the State authorities. That is how it transpired.

We can forego the details of this background for present purposes.

The issues that I want to emphasise in mentioning these reports are, firstly, that the sovereignty of the States in higher education matters was, to a degree, being surrendered to the Commonwealth both through the new funding mechanisms (including abolition of fees) and through a relatively primitive attempt at national planning of post-school education.

Secondly, that the main strategies employed for structuring the new arrangements were predicated on political sensitivities and not on convincing education principles.

Let me quote a comment from the philosopher Max Charlesworth: "... there was no compelling educational rationale for introducing a binary system (universities and colleges of advanced education) and then later a trinitarian system (universities, colleges of advanced education, and teachers colleges). Essentially, whatever their respective emphases and their different forms of organisation, universities and colleges provide substantially the same kind of education, and all the attempts to distinguish them in a systematic and formal way on the grounds that universities deal in 'pure' knowledge whereas the colleges deal in 'applied' knowledge, or that colleges have a 'vocational' bent whereas universities have a 'non-vocational' bias, or that universities go in for 'research' whereas colleges go in for 'teaching', or that typically universities provide degrees whereas colleges typically provide diplomas - all these attempts are vain and without any real basis in educational principle. The more one looks behind the myths and rhetoric used to justify the binary system, the more one sees it as the result of historical ad hocery ...."

Written at the same time for the same book, but without prior collaboration, my own comment:

COUNSELLING IS STRONG MEDICINE

A report on the study of counselling for ill or injured patients who are hospitalised was presented to the Commonwealth Department of Health this week by Associate Professor Linda L. Viney.

Associate Professor Viney is Chairman of the Department of Psychology at the University of Wollongong and, together with her colleagues Professor Alex M. Clarke, Dr. Terry Bunn and Mr. Hai Yap Teoh, she received a Government Grant of $123,000 to establish and evaluate a counselling service at the Bulli District Hospital.

The counselling service was developed over a 3 year period by a team of trained counsellors and many beneficial effects were identified.

Findings revealed that counselling helped patients to deal more effectively with the distress caused by illness and hospitalisation while they were still in hospital.

Also there was evidence that many people who had had access to the counselling service were physically more healthy in the long term and the cost of their health care was reduced.

The major recommendation made to the Government in the Report is that counselling services should be provided in all general hospitals.
... the binary system of tertiary education in this country was a system under pressure from its very inception. In the light of subsequent events it is difficult not to see the Commonwealth's support of the device as pragmatic politics in a process of shifting control in the direction of the supplier of funds. If the Commonwealth was to supply an increasing proportion of the funds, it would create a "system" out of the patchwork of tertiary institutions; it would have a clearly identifiable umbrella, a clearly stated purpose and a clearly recognised buffer of bureaucracy (a Commission) for the States and the Institutions to deal with. However, many colleges of advanced education tended towards a university orientation and many universities continued to develop courses in whatever spaces their autonomous elbows could make. In essence, the lines between the universities and the colleges of advanced education became increasingly blurred and, in the case of some courses in the do-it colleges, only imperceptibly different from parallel courses in universities.

There is nothing in the recent behaviour of governments or governmental bureaucracies to suggest that the binary system is immutable and fixed. The network of tertiary or post-school education in Australia contains a bit of everything ranging through the apprenticeship-oriented technical colleges to community colleges (such as Darwin), several levels and types of colleges and institutes, and universities. The binary principle is breached already. Indeed, there is quite a high level of toleration of rationalisations that are only rational if seen in the context of a preparedness to have lumped into one bag the whole of post-school education whenever necessary to achieve political goals.

This assertion is neither praise nor complaint, it is merely observation and recognition of the fact that the collective belief systems of governments, bureaucracies and educational institutions are subject to the same kind of closed logic of species survival.

The Commonwealth, as the single main provider of funds for the post-school system, does not mind so much what the structure or pattern of tertiary education is, but concerns itself rather more with functions and effects. If a new pattern of organisation must emerge in order to support the desired functions and effects, so be it. To the extent that sectoral and institutional contraction generate a siege mentality, it is more likely that the institutions themselves, rather than the Commonwealth, will try to hide within the protective folds of a particular structure such as the binary system.

Existing patterns of tertiary education in Australia cannot be seen as any sacred cow. That amalgamations have been forced or countenanced by the State and Commonwealth Educational Bureaucracies as a string of tailor-made pragmatic solutions, with inter-sector boundaries hold fast in one location, but compromised down the road, attests to this claim.

What point have we reached? Essentially, that there is still a binary system of sorts, but that it is far from immutable. It was necessary to establish this point in the light of what follows, especially in view of the fact that this University pretends to federate the two sectors within the one organisation.

A layman's interpretation of a rather complex psychological principle is that if you create an organisational structure, people will live in it. Or, put the other way: behaviour in organisations follows structure. The implication is that if one wants good/productive behaviour in an organisation, one might be well-advised to establish the basic principles and functions (as distinct from secondary expediencies) in order to ensure that a worthwhile structure can be derived which can, in turn, foster worthwhile behaviour.

In a university, that is by far the safest route towards protecting the interests of the foremost group of clients and participants - the students. It means working from educational principles towards curriculum functions and finally (and only then) to the development of an infrastructure that best suits the principles while allowing for sensible contact with the rest of the world.

Where does that leave us? I suggest that it leaves us with a choice between two main types of alternative futures. One based on the binary model and one that takes us beyond the binary model. I reject a partial binary model as a possibility because it is "nowhere land". It would be like being a bit pregnant.

I suggest that if we choose to predicate our internal structure on the binary model we will, as an institution, condemn ourselves to the status of a weak compromise. On the Ron Parry scale of 5 types of tertiary institution, we would most likely be in category 4, playing amongst the leftovers of the nation's higher education meal.

We would be a divided academic community operating under a pretence of logical association and rationalisation. That is how the outside world would see us, and to a degree, is beginning already to see us. To the extent that we are a divided community we will spend insufficient of our energies on divisiveness to become blind to the perceptions of the outside world.

I think that is where federation may lead us. Federation of the sectors of the higher education binary system really must be seen as a transitional phase - a pathway (that has already served its purpose) to somewhere better.

"Better", in my view, is a unified institution with a coherent curriculum ranging from the doctoral level to sub-degree programs and short courses: a place whose function is, and whose structure generates, the pursuit of excellence - and leaves no place for the odious comparison; a place that is organisationally healthy and a pleasure to be in.

In a working party on academic development planning we have set ourselves the task of preparing some options for growth up to, say, the year 2000. At times, I have wondered whether we could possibly achieve genuinely exciting university environment in 10 years. I have come to the conclusion that if we were to make few strategic (not tactical) changes over 10 weeks, we would have a very good chance of moving into such an environment in more like 10 months than 10 years.

To reiterate: Our future involves a choice: I believe that we can become a backwash of the binary system. Equally, I believe that we can become the leading edge of a slowly evolving system of higher education in Australia that reaches beyond the binary system; a university that meanwhile can handle an external binary system without being a slave to its worst features.

Firming up the federation should get us along the road to the first choice. Creating a single academic body where now there are two; and linking the activities, staff and students of the so-called sectors on definable educational grounds should get us a start towards the other. If the academic and regional communities decided to move on this other choice, students, education, scholarship and research should be winners. Having come this far, the prospect is delightful.
Indeed, the alternative of a closely bound federation is, in the long term, not likely to prove to be a real alternative at all, because the stresses may become intolerable. The real long-term alternative to an undivided university may be the full-turning of the wheel — separate institutions sharing some facilities. That would be tolerable. But having come this far, the prospect is appalling.

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General Notices

UNIVERSITY OPEN DAY

University Open Day and Radio 2WL's 80's Lifestyle Expo will be held at the following times:

Saturday, 22nd October, 12 noon to 10 p.m.
Sunday, 23 October, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Most Departments, Schools and Units are involved.

A crowd of about 30,000 to 40,000 people is expected.

A detailed programme for the weekend will be available at Information Centres on the day. One will be situated at the Union Foyer and the other at the Sports Pavilion.

Enquiries to Giles Pickford on 282428 or 297311.

UNIVERSITY OF NSW PRESS

The New South Wales University Press publishes books for staff, research centres and departments of tertiary institutions. The Press' list includes tertiary texts, upmarket general books and scholarly works. Main publishing areas include engineering, technical fields, humanities, commerce and contemporary issues. They do not publish fiction, poetry, literary criticism, medical books, fest-schriffts, monographs, bibliographies, theses or journals.

The Press distributes throughout Australia and has co-publishing arrangements overseas. For example, Darwinian Impacts was co-published both with Humanities Press (US) and Open University Press (UK) and rights to Reasoning and Argument in Psychology have been sold to Routledge and Kegan Paul (UK).

They operate much the same as a commercial publisher. That is, they pay royalties, edit, design, warehouse, market and distribute as a normal part of their service.

The editor of the Press, Carol Dance, will be at the University on Tuesday, 18th October, 1983, in the Social Science Building, Room 2041. Any staff member wishing to discuss publishing ideas or wanting further information about the Press, is welcome to see Mrs. Dance on that day or to ring her on ext. 989. Anyone wishing to arrange an appointment before Mrs. Dance arrives at the University may contact her on (02)6623547 to ensure a meeting.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION SECTOR PROMOTIONS

Applications for promotion or progression of Academic Staff are to be submitted by 4 November, 1983.

Details and application forms are available from School Secretaries or R.M. Walker, Assistant Personnel Officer.

UNIVERSITY'S REVISED POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON SUPERANNUATION

A notice on the revised Superannuation Policy and Procedure is available from Departmental Chairmen and Heads of Sections.

SHORT CHINESE COURSES AT BEIJING UNIVERSITY

Information about short courses in Chinese is displayed on the Campus News Notice Board.

Campus Community Interface

5TH ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURE IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Sponsored by the Friends of the University

We have been fortunate this year in gaining the services of Simon Crean for the above event. Mr. Crean (son of Frank Crean, Labor Federal Treasurer 1972-74) is General Secretary of the Federated Storemen and Packers’ Union, one of the largest unions in Australia, and a Vice-President of the A.C.T.U.

The lecture is part of the first year course “Wage Determination in Australia”, but is open to the public. Mr. Crean is scheduled for 25th October, at 7.30 p.m. in Pentagon 1.

THE FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY KEIRA GREEN CORRIDOR PROJECT

The next meeting of the Keira Green Corridor Project will be held on Wednesday, 2 November, 1983, at 12.30 p.m. in the Reception Room of Wollongong Town Hall. A light luncheon will be served.

Book of the Week

From Chris Wilder, University Co-op Bookshop

DALE SPENDER: THERE’S ALWAYS BEEN A WOMEN’S MOVEMENT THIS CENTURY
(Pandora Press) $6.95/$6.60

Five women talk to Dale Spender in this new book from Pandora Press. They are Dora Russell, Hazel Hunkins Hallinan, Mary Stott, Constance Rover and Rebecca West.

Dale Spender: And tell me, Mary, what did you do during the time when there was no women's movement?

Mary Stott: What do you mean, when there was no women's movement? There's always been a women's movement this century!

Also from Pandora this month, Lynne Spender: INTRUDERS ON THE RIGHTS OF MEN: WOMEN'S UNPUBLISHED HERITAGE. Lynne Spender tells us another story, the story of an unpublished heritage of women's writing. "Alas, a woman that attempts the pen/Such an intruder on the rights of men" - Anne Finch (1661-1720) ($6.95/$6.60).
Seminars

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Postgraduate Seminars by Visiting Scholars

All seminars are held in the History Resources Room (19.2013), 5.00 - 7.00 p.m.

October 26
Professor Peter Waite (Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia)

Topic: The Origins and Political Theory of Canadian Confederation

Professor Waite, who has published many books on 19th century Canadian history, is in Australia as the Canadian Visiting Fellow for 1983. In his paper he will relate the Canadian experience to Australian federation.

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

Topic: “Current Developments in Industrial Relations”

(a) The Steel Industry
(b) Retrenchments
(c) Centralised Wage Fixation
(d) State/Federal Relations


Date: Wednesday, 19 October, 1983 at 5.30 p.m.

Venue: Illawarra County Council Administration Building, Level 7, Bridge Street, Coniston.

Mr. Justice Fisher was appointed judge of the Supreme Court of N.S.W. in July 1979 and to his present position late in 1981. He was counsel assisting Royal Commissioner in Woodward Enquiry into Drugs and Drug Trafficking.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

We will offer a Continuing Education Seminar on October 27 in room 19.124 at 1.30 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. John Maze, University of Sydney.


CENTRE FOR MULTICULTURAL STUDIES POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME

The Centre for Multicultural Studies is interested in discussing its post-graduate programme with final year students who have interests in the areas of Aboriginal affairs, migration and multicultural studies generally. Higher degree (Master of Studies, M.A. or Ph.D.) can be taken solely within the Centre or jointly with other Departments in the University. The Centre will have a wine and cheese gathering on Wednesday October 19th at 5.30 p.m. at the Centre (53 Northfields Avenue - opposite the Union) where students can see the Centre and discuss plans. If readers know of former graduates or other students who may be interested, please pass the word on. Of particular interest would be students from a non-english speaking background though this is not of course a pre-requisite for study within the Centre.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Seminars will be held in the Chemistry Lecture Theatre Room 18.206.

Friday, October 21 at 11.30 a.m.

Mr. M.D. Imisides - “Some Kinetic and Mechanistic Aspects of the Electrolytic Hydrogen Evolution Reaction”.

Ms. E.A.I. Wilke - “Chemical Speciation and Biological Availability of Lead in Air”.

Friday, October 28 at 11.30 a.m.

Mr. G.W. Diven - “Some More Binuclear Copper(II) Complexes of Pentadentate Schiff Bases”.

Mr. W. Korth - “Ion Chromatographic Determination of Fluoride Ion in Electroplating Solutions”.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

The seminars will be held in the Austin Keane Building, Room 204.

Friday, 14 October: 3.30 p.m.

Mr. A. Kucera (Department of Mathematics, University of Wollongong).

“Series solutions for moving boundary problems”

Friday, 21 October: 3.30 p.m.

Dr. R. Paull (Department of Mathematics, University of Wollongong; formerly University of Queensland)

“Fundamental solutions of conically similar viscous flows”

Friday, 28 October: 3.30 p.m.

Dr. A. Hooper (Department of Mathematics, University of Melbourne)

“Linear and non-linear instability at an interface between two viscous fluids”

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Seminar: “Robot With Delicate Feelings”

Presented by: Dr. Andy Russell

To be held: 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, 3rd November, 1983, in Room G20, Building 4.

In most present day applications industrial robots lack sensors to feedback information about their environment. The provision of sensory systems for robot manipulators will allow them to adapt to variations in the objects they handle, perform quality control and detect unforeseen or hazardous conditions. Tactile sensors have advantages in robotic applications because they provide information which is directly related to properties being measured and hence relatively easy to interpret. Andy Russell will describe the development of tactile sensors for robot manipulators which is taking place in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT SEMINAR

Topic: "The Naughty Child in German Children's Literature"

Guest Speaker: Malte Dahrendorf, Prof. of Education, Hamburg University.

Date: Wednesday, 19th October, 1983 at 12.30 p.m.

Venue: Room 1116, Social Sciences Building.

Please indicate your support for this seminar by phoning Audrey Allen on ext. 836.

SEMINAR ON HARMONY
The Rosicrucian Order, AMORC

Topic: "Harmony"

Subjects presented: mystical attunement; reincarnation; Karma - and; the cycles of life; human aura; interpersonal relationship

The presentation will be given by Beryl Stephens F.R.C.

Date: Saturday, 12 November, 1983.

Time: 8.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Venue: Theatre 5, Pentagon, University of Wollongong

Fee: $20.00 per person
morning and afternoon tea included

For further information contact Hank Kist at 83.3721.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Readers are invited to attend a lecture given by Professor Stephen Knight of Sydney University entitled:

"Sites of Authority in Chaucer's Dream Poems"

The lecture will be held in Room 1123 in the Social Science Building at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 19 October, 1983. All are welcome.

Concerts, Exhibitions and Entertainment

THE PERFECTIONIST

Theatre South presents "The Perfectionist" by David Williamson. In his latest (many critics say his best) play, Williamson presents the diary of a marriage in crisis: "a fundamentally serious play about real people that fairly ripples with laughter" (Sydney Morning Herald). "Williamson's most important play to date" (National Times). "Vintage Williamson" (The Age).

Directed by Des Davis, Designed by Ian Robinson. With Peter Carmody as the Perfectionist and Julie McGregor as his wife Barbara.

Wollongong Town Hall theatre 8.00 p.m. October 7 - 22 plus 2.30 p.m. matinee 15th and 22nd at reduced prices. Bookings Theatre South, 28.2923 or counter book at Wilson's Record Bar.

WOLLONGONG CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

Gleniffer Brae will be the setting for the following concerts presented by the Conservatorium of Music.

*9th November at 8 p.m.
Jose de la Vega - Piano ... works by Liszt and Schuman.

Admission per concert: $5.00 and $1.50 concession.

Bookings at Palings, Crown Street; Keyboard Clinic, Crown Central and The Conservatorium of Music, Wollongong.

CITY OF WOLLONGONG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Music Director: John Wayne Dixon.
Guest Soloist: Robert Ampt, Organ.

Solo Organ Work; Poulenc: Organ Concert in G Minor; Dvorak: Symphony No. 8 in G Op.88.

8.00 p.m. 
Saturday, 12 November
Wollongong Town Hall
Tickets $7; $5 concession
Bookings at Jurjens, 232 Keira Street.

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WOLLONGONG POETS UNION

15 October:
Wollongong Poets Union announces the fifth in the Regional Libraries series of prose and poetry readings funded by the Australian Council at Helensburgh Library (opp. intersection of Lilyvale and Walker Sts) on Saturday October 15, 2 p.m. The performers will be Barbara Brooks (Sydney prose writer; author of 'Leaving Queensland', Sea Cruise, 1983; anthologised in 'Frictions', Sybylla, 1982; WEA tutor in creative writing); Sue Edmonds (local singer songwriter); Erica Calan (local poet and prose writer); Alan Jefferies, Rae Desmonjon and Peta Spear (members of Wollongong Poets Union). Admission is free.

29 October:
Wollongong Poets Union announces the sixth and final prose and poetry reading in the Regional Libraries series funded by the Australian Council in meeting room of Dapto Library (Byamee St) on Saturday October 29, 2 p.m. The performers will be Joanne Burns (Sydney prose writer; author of 'Ventriloquy', Sea Cruise, 1981; anthologised in 'Island in the Sun' /5, Sea Cruise, 1981; tutor in creative writing at NSW Institute of Technology); Sid Bristow (local short story writer); John Broomhall (ex-local singer songwriter, now working in Sydney); Malcolm Black, Dorothy Swoope and Debbie Wootton (members of Wollongong Poets Union). Admission is free.

WEDNESDAY GALLERY


Open Wednesdays Only 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Enquiries to Bev - 28.3853.

GOETHE INSTITUTE

The October to December programme of the Goethe Institute is available from the Editor.
Scholarships and Prizes

Details on the scholarships and prizes below are displayed on the Campus News Notice Board situated at the southern end of the Hut. Application forms are available from the Student Enquiries Office.

The Perpetual Trustee
The Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship in Prose, Poetry, Acting

AVCC
Visiting Fellowships

Department of Education
Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan Awards

Japanese Government
Monbusho Scholarship

Advertisements

TRAVEL

Members of the Union can receive top value service from National Australia Bank Travel, with good rebates available on many holidays, cruises and flights.

So before planning your next holiday or trip call in at National Australia Bank Travel (corner of Crown and Church Street), identify yourself as a Union Member and let them tell you what deal they can offer you.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Honours Graduate will undertake research for busy students or academics.

Experience in most Humanities, some Social Sciences and General Studies.

The Perpetual Trustee
The Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship in Prose, Poetry, Acting

AVCC
Visiting Fellowships

Department of Education
Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan Awards

Japanese Government
Monbusho Scholarship

Job Vacancies

Details of the following positions are displayed on the Campus News Notice Board situated at the southern end of the Hut.

Murdoch
Griffin Fellow in Mining Research

AMEB
Senior Music Consultant

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Research Posts

Tokyo
Lecturer in Australian Studies

Staff Changes and Movements

APPOINTMENTS
Dr. M.A. Magdy, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Dr. R. Paull, Department of Mathematics
Mr. S. Petrou, Electrical and Computer Engineering

FRIENDS BOOK FAIR: 22-23 OCTOBER

The Australian Federation of University Women (a member of the Friends) is organizing a book fair to raise money for the University.

Donations of books and journals will be gratefully accepted at the Friends Office in the Hut: Ph. 282955 (day) or 289558 (evening) to arrange pick up.

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LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS CAKES

Once again the Lion's Club Christmas Cakes are now available from Bill Trueman, Library, ext. 425.

Cost $4.95 for 1.5 kg. cake. Orders taken as well as sales.

PENTHOUSE APARTMENT TO LET UNFURNISHED


FOR SALE

Personal Computers
Jupiter Ace (New)
Sinclair 2 x 80 (in excellent working condition)
Sinclair 2 x 81 (not in working order)
ZX 16K Ram
ZX Printer
ZX Power Supply
Hipower Adapter, AC adapter model No. 630
Joy Stick PC-6062 (New)
Black and White T.V. set adapted as monitor.

Send reasonable offers to 6 Pacific St., Kiama, 2533.

A CAMPUS HOLIDAY IN MELBOURNE

Chisholm College, La Trobe University, offers family flats on campus, 15 km (25 minutes by car) from the City centre.

Enquiries to Bursar, Chisholm College, La Trobe University, Bundoora 3083, or phone 478.3122 ext. 2899/2875.