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UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

Chronicle

New Start Programme A Great Success

The number of adults commencing or recommencing university studies has increased significantly in recent years. The number of first year Special Admission students has increased from 113 (or 6.7% of all 1st year students) in 1969, to 217 (or 11.9% of all 1st year students) in 1979, and the number of students 25 and over has increased from 834 (or 13.4%) in 1969 to 1710 (or 23.1%) in 1979.

With this in mind a New Start Programme was initiated by the Department of Extension Studies this year, the aim of which was to help men and women to decide whether or not they wished to enrol at the University, to develop their study-skills, and to increase their confidence in their ability to undertake further studies. In a recent report to the Academic Administration Committee, Mr R. Tobias (Extension Studies) stated that the programme consisted of an initial half-hour interview with a university staff member followed by eight 3-hour Saturday morning sessions from August to October. These included lectures, discussions, and practical exercises on such topics as reading, taking lecture-notes, essay-writing, using the library, planning for studying, what it is like to be an adult student, and enrolment procedures. In addition there were three 'mini-courses' in the Arts, Social Sciences and Sciences, each consisting of three lectures and a tutorial or laboratory, and linked with this was an opportunity to write and receive comments on an essay or assignment.

Since this programme concluded only on Saturday, 18 October, Mr Tobias stated that it was too early to provide all the information necessary for a final evaluation. A detailed questionnaire was being sent to all participants, and this should yield valuable information. Nevertheless it was possible to answer some of the more pertinent questions.

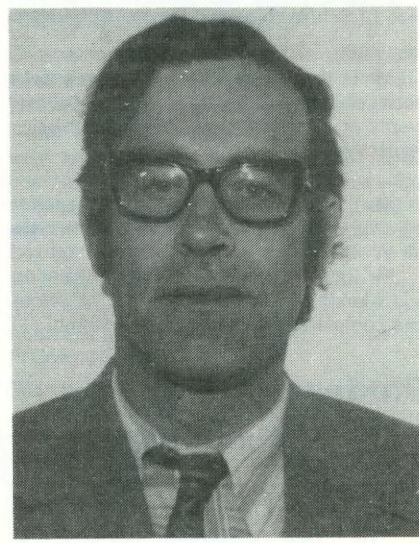
Firstly, how many people enrolled? And what were their backgrounds? One hundred and two people took advantage of the initial interview and, of these, 85 confirmed their enrolment for the programme. (The reasons why the 17 people did not confirm their enrol-

ment varied. Some had sufficient recent university experience so as to make their participation in New Start superfluous; others were currently heavily committed to U.E. studies and would not have time for New Start participation.)

The participants were a diverse group; 70% were women and 30% men. They ranged in age from 21 to 63 years. They consisted of professional workers (25%, including 9% teachers and 6% nurses), administrative and clerical workers (20%), service and sales workers (9%), production and technical workers (12%), housewives (29%), and retired and unemployed people and students (4%). As regards formal educational qualifications, 20% had none, 30% had School Certificate, 12% had 6th Form Certificate or one U.E. subject, 20% had U.E., Higher Leaving Certificate or Bursary, and 19% had a College Certificate or Diploma or at least one university unit.

Secondly, what was their reaction to the programme? Of the 85 people who enrolled, 51 handed in the essay or assignment towards the end of the course, and an additional 10 maintained attendance consistently although they did not complete the assignment. Disappointingly, only 8 people selected the Science mini-course on Energy with only one person actually completing the Science laboratory report. The balance of the participants were fairly equally distributed between the Arts course on Industrialisation and the Victorian City and the Social Science one on Regionalism. Among those who attended regularly there was a high degree of enthusiasm for the programme. For many, the writing of their first essay for many years proved a difficult but rewarding experience. A feature of many of the sessions was the high level of participation in discussions on academic matters and on the ways in which enrolment in a course of study at the university or elsewhere would affect their lives.

Thirdly, what of their plans for next year? The evaluation questionnaire will yield more precise information. However, at the concluding session those present were asked to indicate what their current plans were for 1981. 45% said that they intended enrolling for at least one Liberal Studies option at the University and 36% said that they hoped to



Mr R. Tobias

enrol for a degree course. 5% had applied for admission at Teachers' College and the same percentage said that they planned to study for U.E. at a secondary school, while 9% were still uncertain of their study plans for next year. A substantial number indicated that they would not have had the confidence to further their studies had it not been for the New Start Programme. There was considerable enthusiasm among many at the prospect of embarking on university studies, but for some the financial obstacles still to be overcome were considerable. An additional problem raised by several people arises out of the fact that so few university courses are currently offered after work-hours.

In conclusion, Mr Tobias paid tribute to the large number of University staff who gave generously of their time to make this first New Start Programme so successful. A letter was sent to all members of staff in May inviting their participation in planning and contributing to the programme. The response was so good that it was not possible to take up all the offers. In the end about 30 staff members from 17 departments and units of the university made significant contributions—an indication of the considerable measure of support this initiative received from within the University.

People

Miss G. M. Hobbs, formerly a Senior Librarian in the Main Library, has been appointed Head Cataloguer to succeed the late Mr O. C. Chandler.

Mr S. J. Hill has been appointed as Accountant in the Finance Section of the Registry as from 1 February 1981.

Mrs Jillian Pattinson has taken up an appointment as Administrative Assistant in the Academic and Records Section of the Registry. Mrs Pattinson will be working in the area of Scholarships and Special Admission.

Mr L. Buttle and Mr A. C. Gilmore have been appointed as Technicians in the Departments of Electrical Engineering and Physics respectively.

Mr E. Ratcliffe has taken up an appointment as University Printer to succeed the late Mr W. Boyle.

Mr Ratcliffe was formerly Administration and Marketing Director of a firm of colour and commercial printers in Christchurch.

Students Stand Up Well To Examination Stress

The Chief Supervisor of Examinations, Mr J. K. Moir, has received a letter from his senior examination supervision staff commending students on their courtesy and fortitude during this trying time.

On behalf of the Control Room Supervisors in the Arts, Science and Engineering blocks, Mr H. J. Gillbanks wrote:

"As the outcome of a remark by 1980 University examination supervisors and the general agreement of supervisors, it was resolved to convey to all concerned at the University and, if necessary, to the Christchurch public through the medium of the press, admiration for the examination candidates, their courtesy and their general attitude toward all those people with whom they come in contact at University at this time of year.

At a time of major stress and strain, when all are deeply conscious of the importance of the standard of presentation of their year's academic work, attitudes to people could be expected to suffer but in no instance has such a lapse come to the notice of supervisors. In fact, the contrary is the case.

1980 has been no exception to the pattern of examination behaviour over past years but it was felt that this was a suitable time to make the sentiments of the seasonal workforce known."

News from the N.Z.V.C.C.

Inter-University Conference For Teachers of Planning

Approval has been given for an inaugural conference for teachers of Planning to be held at Massey University in the August vacation, 1981. There are now in operation full professional planning courses in the universities of Auckland, Massey and Otago. In addition there is a set of options in the M.Sc. Course in Resource Management at Canterbury/Lincoln which is accepted by the New Zealand Planning Institute as a means of entry to the profession. In view of the variety of courses offering consultation amongst the parties concerned is seen as desirable. The organizing Professor is Professor Boileau, (Auckland) and arrangements for the conference will be made by Mr D. B. Williams, Senior Lecturer in Geography at Massey.

Inter-University Conference: English

Approval for a conference of teachers of English Language and Literature to be held at the University of Canterbury from 14-16 May 1981 has been given. Dr R. P. Corballis, Senior Lecturer in English at Canterbury will be the organizer.

Professor Ninian Smart Reports on Visit to N.Z. Universities

Between 7 September and 21 September, 1980, Professor Smart visited and gave lectures at Otago, Christchurch, Victoria, Massey, Waikato and Auckland. He had spent a term at Otago in 1971, and visited the other universities during that year. He was already familiar with the work in the field of Religious Studies in New Zealand. Professor Smart commented:—

"First, I think it may not be fully appreciated that New Zealand has been considerably ahead of Australia in the field of Religious Studies until fairly recently. Thus, only in the mid-70s have Australian universities acquired two departments, one in Brisbane and the other in Sydney. Moreover, some of the work is internationally recognised. That New Zealand has been a significant pioneer in the field of the study of religion (as distinguished from the more restricted and vocational concerns of Christian theology) is a credit to the universities concerned. Unfortunately a lack of realism about the importance of religion as a factor in human affairs is fairly widespread, and helps to account for the slow development of the field in Australia and in some other countries.

I think the standard of work in the field is high, and I have been especially impressed with the amount of teaching and research that has proved possible in Otago and Massey despite the small number of scholars involved. In mentioning these two programmes, I am not in any way wishing to detract from the excellent work in the rather larger centres at Victoria and Christchurch. Indeed, a problem with the field at the moment is the

exiguous numbers of teaching posts—two in Otago, 4.5 in Christchurch, 4 or so at Victoria and 2.5 in Massey. Compared with the investment in some more fashionable subjects this does seem exiguous. Perhaps times are not propitious for reinforcing programmes, but it would seem to me that a strong case could be made for increasing the teaching faculty in the four universities where Religious Studies is already established.

I also had the opportunity to talk with a number of philosophers and historians interested in the field of religion and enjoyed renewing intellectual contacts in New Zealand.

In view of the nature of the field and because of the special interests of New Zealand society and its political placement in the South Pacific, there might be a case for closer co-operation in the field of Religious Studies with the University of the South Pacific, in Fiji, which I also had the pleasure of visiting."

National Fellowships

Arising from recommendations submitted by the University of Canterbury following its selection of potential Fellows for 1982, the Vice-Chancellors' Committee recently approved the following modifications to its selection policies:

- That the Committee amend selection procedures by requiring those wishing to make nominations to first contact the proposed nominee to enquire if he/she would be available.
- That the Committee require nominators to provide for their nominees sufficiently detailed curriculum vitae, information in publications and other material relevant to the academic standing of the nominee, to enable the selection panel to properly compare those nominated.
- That to be eligible for consideration prospective visitors must be either French or German nationals resident in France or Germany.

Sub-Committee on Graduate Employment

The N.Z.V.C.C. has approved a meeting from 23-25 March 1981 in Wellington of its Sub-Committee on Graduate Employment. The meeting will include a training session on the use and administration of vocational interest and aptitude tests as well as visits to employers in the Hutt Valley and Central City.

UGC Research Committee Membership

Professor J. W. Tomlinson (Victoria) has been nominated for appointment to the UGC Research Committee to replace Professor D. Walker on his retirement.

Accommodation

To Let

Two-storey furnished house available in Fendalton from 19 November until June 1981. Mature family or couple preferred. Four bedrooms (1 double), linen available. Separate dining room, 2 open fires, central heating and extra strip heaters. Bath and two separate showers. Refrigerator and freezer, T.V., automatic washing machine. Garden and lawn care required for 26 perch section. Rent by negotiation. Ring 482-358.

Four bedroom, warm, sunny, older-style house for long term rent mid-January to December. Owner overseas on study award. Fully or partly furnished, easy care garden on hill section with native tree surrounds in Cashmere. Double garage and only three minutes to primary and secondary schools, one minute to bus. Long term lease, rental to be negotiated—reasonable. Contact R. Plummer phone 35-023 (a.h.)

Furnished house available from May/June 1981 until Dec/Jan 1983 in Bishopdale. Two double bedrooms available plus linen. Separate dining room, separate shower and bath; central heating plus heaters. Refrigerator and freezer, T.V., fully automatic washing machine. Minimal garden and lawn care required for 24 perch section. Garage. Rent by negotiation. Ring 596-470.

Furnished house in Spreydon available 1 December, 1980 until 31 August, 1981. Four bedrooms (2 double), linen available. Separate dining room, open fire, heaters, T.V. Refrigerator and freezer, automatic washing machine. Lawn care required for ¼ acre section. Garage. Rent by negotiation. Ring Ext. 8978 (work) or 35-792.

Fully furnished house available for negotiable period from January 4, 1981 in Burwood. Two double bedrooms and all linen available. Dining and living room, central heating and other heaters, separate shower and bath, combination refrigerator/freezer, T.V. if desired. Automatic washing machine and dryer. Minimal garden care required for 16 perch section which includes games room courtyard. Carport. This house is privately fenced in, secluded and in a good quiet neighbourhood. Rent by negotiation. Ring Devany 799-732 (day) or 858-347 (night).

Unfurnished flat with carpets, drapes, washing machine and fridge supplied. Five minutes walk to the University. Two double bedrooms, open fire and plenty of heating points. Garage. Small section requiring min. care. Available from 2nd week in December. Rent \$40.00 per week. Ring 554-490.

Three bedroom (1 double) furnished house in St Albans. Quiet street. Semi automatic washing machine, single garage. Reasonable

garden care required. Available from 2 December at a weekly rental of \$65.00. Ring 227-066 or University Ext. 8591.

Two bedroom furnished house in Ponsonby, Auckland, available from mid-December to end January 1981. Rent \$55.00 per week to careful tenants willing to feed cat. Ring 769-789 evenings or write to P. O. Box 47-379, Ponsonby, Auckland.

Furnished house in Fendalton (5 minutes walk from the University) available January 1981 until August 1981. Three bedrooms (1 double), linen available, separate dining room, open fire, central heating, heaters. Separate bath and shower, combination refrigerator/freezer, colour T.V., fully automatic washing machine. Garden and lawn care required for 32 perch section. Motor mower available. Garage. Rent by negotiation. Ring University Ext. 548 or 515-665.

Furnished house available from 9 December, 1980 until December 1981 at 14 Alpha Avenue (near University and shops). Four bedrooms (2 double), open fire, T.V., semi-automatic washing machine. Garden and lawn care required for ¼ acre section. Double garage. Rent \$50 per week. Ring Mr Horne 61-175 (bus.).

Furnished house in Sumner available January 1981 until December 1983 or 1985. Three bedrooms (2 double), linen available. Separate dining room, open fire, several heaters. Shower over bath, combination refrigerator freezer, colour T.V., automatic washing machine. Double garage available and barbeque area. Attractive hill section overlooks sea, city and alps. Five minute track to beach. Minimal garden and lawn care required for 33 perch section. Rent \$75-\$80 per week. Ring Sumner 6953.

For Sale

In Balgay Street (six minutes walk from the University) a three bedroom weather-board house, including sunroom, lounge, kitchen-dinette, open fire with wetback, single garage (with power). Large section (42 perches) in immaculate condition. Price \$28,500. Ring 482-009 Ext. 8845 or 43-508 (home).

Overseas

Cambridge, England; a four bedroom house is available for letting from January. It is centrally heated and of modern design, located in a picturesque village just outside Cambridge. The nearby station also has a direct rail link with London. The rental is significantly below current market rates in Britain. Apply Professor C. F. W. Higham, Anthropology Department, University of Otago.

Accommodation Required

Two or three bedroom furnished house required for 12 months or longer from Jan. 1981. University area. Contact Janet Rutledge, Computer Centre, Ext. 82/89.

Unfurnished one bedroom flat required by mature business lady. Prefer between Hagley Park and University. Can supply references. Please phone Jo Ward, Ext. 384.

One bedroom self-contained flat, unfurnished preferred. Local or Riccarton. Ring R. Dodds, Maintenance Department 482-009.

Three (or more) bedroom furnished house from late January to Christmas 1981 in or near Burnside High School area. Please write to Mr Philip Temple, Burns Fellow, Department of English, University of Otago, P. O. Box 56, Dunedin.

Parents of staff member visiting Christchurch from 19 December to end of February require furnished accommodation near University. Phone 44-356.

Four bedroom furnished house required to rent from March/April 1981 by responsible group experienced in caring for homes while owners overseas. Most areas considered. Prefer long-term but any period over 12 months suitable. References available. Phone University Ext. 562 (Chris).

Visiting American academic, wife and two young children require two bedroom furnished house or flat near Ilam campus for 8 weeks from February 23 to April 18, 1981. Contact Secretary, School of Forestry, Ext. 286.

Scientist of C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, who will be working at D.S.I.R., Lincoln requires a three-bedroom fully-furnished house from Christmas 1980 until August 1981. Ilam area preferred. Ring Dr D. Scott or Mr John Colman at D.S.I.R. Lincoln. Phone 252-511.

A local church is looking for a house to rent for a Kampuchean refugee family arriving mid-November. Avonhead Riccarton area preferred, three bedrooms or equivalent, unfurnished. Contact Graeme Wright, Ext. 232 or 584-492.

Visiting economist and family require furnished two-bedroom accommodation with beds for four from January (or mid-December) to mid-May, 1981 inclusive. References available if required. Contact Mrs Chaney, Secretary, Economics Department Ext. 8827.

Four to six bedroom unfurnished house required for 2-year period from January 1981. Contact Mr J. Young. Phone 558-338.

Senior students require four-bedroom house (preferably north-east of University) for period early February to November 1981.

Phone 383-931 or Rangiora 6187 after 22 November.

Notices

Commonwealth Fellowship

The Council of St John's College, Cambridge, invites applications for a Commonwealth Fellowship for the year 1981-82. The Fellowship, which is offered annually, is intended to afford to a scholar, who is a citizen of an overseas Commonwealth country or of the United Kingdom and on leave of absence from an overseas Commonwealth University, the opportunity to pursue his own study and research as a member of a Collegiate Society and to make contacts with scholars in Great Britain. It is intended for scholars holding academic posts, irrespective of seniority, and not for men still working for post-graduate degrees. Candidates who have held University posts, including Visiting Fellowships, in the United Kingdom in the five years immediately preceding the academical year 1981-82 will not be considered.

The Fellowship entitles the holder to a room in College free of rent if he should require it, and to the other rights and privileges of a resident Fellow together with an honorarium at the rate of £1000 a year. Election is made for one year. While it is expected that the Fellow will spend the greater part of his time in Cambridge, he will not be restricted by rules of residence.

The College Council proposes to make the election in March 1981. The academical year at Cambridge begins on 1 October and the Commonwealth Fellow will be expected to enter upon the Fellowship as soon after that date as is convenient and not later than April 1982.

Application for the Fellowship should be made to the Master, St John's College, Cambridge CB2 1TP, to reach him not later than 15 January 1981 and should be accompanied by the candidate's full name, the date and place of his birth, his present appointment, his previous career, his qualifications, his plans and the approximate date at which he would propose to come into residence, and by the names and addresses of not more than three persons acquainted with the candidate, to whom the Council, if they wish, may refer. *Testimonials should not be sent.*

British Short Courses

The booklet *British Short Courses Autumn-Winter 1980* may be seen at the Enquiries Counter in the Registry Concourse.

Vacancy: Technician

Applications are invited for the above position in the Scanning Electron Microscope Laboratory located in the Department of Botany.

Duties of the appointee will include general maintenance of the Scanning Electron Microscope (Cambridge 600), operation-instruction for non-skilled users, preparation of specimens and processing of photographic film. Previous experience of electron microscopy and a general science background are desirable though not essential.

The salary scale for Technician Grade 1 is \$8,547 to \$10,958 per annum. Commencing salary according to qualifications and experience.

Further particulars and Conditions of Appointment may be obtained from the Registrar. Applications close on 3 December 1980.

French Department Films

The following films will be shown by the French Department in November and December:

Wednesday, 26 November

Dernier Domicile Connu, 1970, Colour, 90 mins. Jose Giovanni, with Lino Ventura, Marlene Jobert.

A detective and his young assistant start looking for a key to an important murder trial at his last known address.

Wednesday, 10 December

La Femme Aux Bottes Rouges, 1974, Colour, Juan Bunuel with Catherine Deneuve, Fernando Rey.

The meeting of a very rich collector of paintings and a beautiful writer lends the way for the film maker to study variations on the theme of money, creative power, reality and imagination.

Screenings will take place at 7.30 p.m. in Lecture Theatre A1.

Vacancy: Secretarial Shorthand Typist

Applications are invited from experienced persons for the above position in the School of Forestry.

Applications, in writing, giving details of qualifications and previous experience should be addressed to the Registrar.

Lecture On Computing

On 21 November at 11 a.m. in Room A11, Professor Kristen Nygaard of the Norwegian Computing Centre, will speak on "Modern Programming Languages".

South Pacific Register Of Research

Members of staff undertaking research or investigations which relate to the South Pacific area (Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia) are invited to respond to a questionnaire which has been received from the Editor of the Fiji Register of Research and Investigations, which is produced at the University of the South Pacific.

Completed questionnaires will be used as copy for the South Pacific Register which will be published in printed form but whose contents will also contribute to computerised data banks identifying on the one hand persons with South Pacific research interests, and on the other hand works relating to the South Pacific.

Copies of the questionnaire are obtainable from the Registry Concourse.

University Golfing Society

A reminder that the Annual Match, Canterbury versus Lincoln College, is to be played at Templeton Golf club on Thursday 27 November.

Entries close with Ian Bennett (Computer Centre) on 20 November.