



## Fire Service approves emergency plan

The University of Canterbury's fire safety and evacuation procedures have received the stamp of approval from the Fire Service, which recently certified the University as a safe institution.

The approval of the procedures and the certification are the culmination of more

than two years of work for the University Health and Safety Committee and for University Safety Officer Paul Perry. Canterbury's emergency plan now meets the requirements of both the 1992 Health and Safety in Employment Act and the 1992 Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings Regulations.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Brownlie was presented with the certificate on 5 February by Neil Price and Terry Gibson of the Fire Service. Now on display in the Registry Concourse, the certificate says Canterbury staff "have been trained in fire extinguisher use and fire evacuation procedures to a suitable level of competence".

Close to 1000 general and academic staff took part in training at the end of last year. Mr Perry said while some staff had missed out, the numbers had been pleasing. People who attended both the practical sessions and the lectures on evacuation procedure would soon receive their own proficiency certificates from the Fire Service.

"It's taken more than two years to get to this stage but now the University is officially recognised as a safe place with the fire safety and evacuation procedures it has in place," he said.

The University's initial emergency plan was prepared by consultants and released for comment. It was modified several times in the light of submissions before it became the legal plan in December 1994 and came into operation a month later.

A revised plan dated December 1995 is now in effect and details of the amendments are the subject of a memorandum circulating the campus.

"We've tried to minimise the bureaucracy in the plan while meeting our legal obligations. Now the procedure is in place I don't think it should be too much of a burden, although it is important it be reviewed periodically," Mr Perry said.

The Fire Service would be present at all trial building evacuations during the next two years to ensure the procedures continued to work. Only the Ilam Flats and University Hall were still to undergo initial trial evacuations.

One of the unique aspects of the plan was that all staff became *de facto* floor or building wardens in the absence of the designated wardens. That had been recommended by the Fire Service because of the number of people who might be away at any one time and had necessitated training sessions for all staff.

"If staff become aware of the absence of the floor warden during an evacuation - they may see the warden's armband has not been uplifted - they should step in. Similarly, if they get to the control point and there is no building warden someone must assume that role for reporting to the Fire Service.

*Continued with photo on page two*

## Phys. Ed. staff driven up the wall



Physical education officer Jane Simpson is belayed by colleague Craig Johnson while assistant physical education officer Brandon Gold looks on.

They're climbing the walls at the Recreation Centre and it's still only enrolment week. But it's all above board, so to speak, as the Centre expands the range of offerings in its physical education programme.

During the student break an international-standard climbing wall has been erected in one of the Centre's squash courts and the wall is now open for business. For a fee of \$3 per half day, plus gear hire, Recreation Centre members can test their climbing skills on New Zealand's finest indoor climbing facility.

Physical education officer Craig Johnson says the wall will help the Centre diversify its programme. "It's something new, something different. Indoor climbing walls have become more and more popular, especially in Europe. This one is of international standard and state of the art for this country," he says.

The wall offers a range of routes, colour coded according to degree of difficulty. Three types of climb are possible: bouldering, or free climbing; top roping, whereby a rope is suspended from high on the wall and a climber in a harness is belayed from below; and lead climbing, where a climber takes the rope up with them.

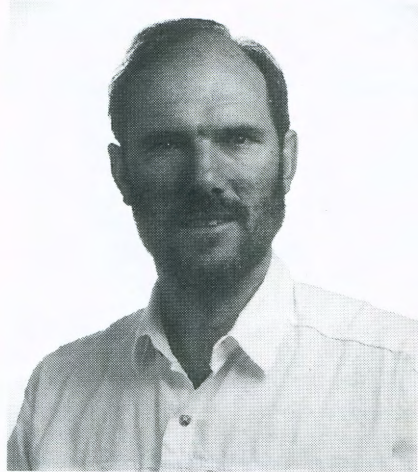
The Recreation Centre will be providing introductory courses and assessing users' level of experience and skill before approving their climbing plans. Wall climbing will also be open to novices during the Centre's Have-a-go Day in March.

The wall was designed by the English firm of DR Climbing Walls, the panels and holds were fabricated in Australia and the installation was done with safety paramount. A steel frame has been faced with hardboard and the rock coat panels and polymer climbing holds bolted through the board to the frame. Padding on the floor ensures a soft landing for those who over-extend themselves.

## February start for four new Canterbury lecturers

Biographies of four new academic staff members appear below, three of whom took up their appointments at the start of the month.

**Dr Keith Alexander**, who until recently was research manager and senior design engineer of the Jet Division of C W F Hamilton and Co Ltd, began a two-year lectureship in the Department of Mechanical Engineering on 1 February.



Dr Alexander gained a BE (Hons) at Canterbury in 1978 and completed his PhD in mechanical engineering, entitled *The Lifting Paddlewheel - a non-buoyant wheel enabling a high speed wheeled amphibious*

*craft to run on the water surface*, in 1983. Also that year and in 1984 he was a temporary lecturer in the Department.

A specialist in design and innovation, design for production, and fatigue design, he is also interested in technology transfer and engineering art. On leaving the University he worked as a senior consulting engineer for Rankine and Hill Ltd, where among other tasks he designed large wool presses, undertook seismic design of tanks, and carried out dynamic strain gauge and fatigue analysis of cranes at Bluff.

During his six years at C W F Hamilton, Dr Alexander managed the design and development section of Hamilton Jet, oversaw the commissioning of six new jet models and implemented a variety of new control systems for water-jets. As well, he undertook distributor and customer training, administered research programmes and wrote technical manuals.

**Dr Jane Higgins**, who was a New Zealand Federation of University Women Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Cambridge in 1994, started as a lecturer in the Department of Sociology on 1 January.

Dr Higgins was a fixed-term lecturer in the Department last year. She gained a BSc in mathematics at Canterbury in 1982 and graduated with a BA (Hons) in social anthropology from the University of Otago in 1987. Her PhD, entitled *Beyond the Ideology of Upskilling: The Theory and Practice*

*of Skill Trends Analysis*, was completed at Otago in 1993.

In her doctoral dissertation Dr Higgins undertook a critique of active labour market policy in New Zealand during the 1980s, with particular reference to the shift from wage subsidies to training schemes for the unemployed. She looked at the Christchurch labour market by gender and age between 1976 and 1991, identifying and analysing labour market dynamics and skill trends.



Her postdoctoral fellowship two years ago enabled her to study recent developments in labour market segmentation, labour process and active labour market policy. Dr Higgins visited the Centre for Labour Market Studies in Leicester and made contact at Cambridge with members of the Department of Applied Economics, the Centre for Economics and History, and the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences.

She also met staff of the Industrial Relations Research Unit at Warwick University and presented a paper at the Strasbourg conference of the International Working Party on Labour Market Segregation before returning to New Zealand.

*Continued on page three*

### The reason for us being here

The following inspirational gem was passed on by Janice Beaumont of the Liaison and Careers Advisory Service. Entitled "A philosophy to Work By", it comes from Koller and Fox's book *Strategic Marketing for Educational Institutions*.

"Our students are:

- the most important people on campus; without them there would be no need for the University;
- not dependent on us; rather, we are dependent on them;
- not an interruption of our work, but the purpose of it; we are not doing them a favour by serving them - they are doing us a favour by giving us the opportunity to do so."

## Postal enrolment completed by some 1996 students

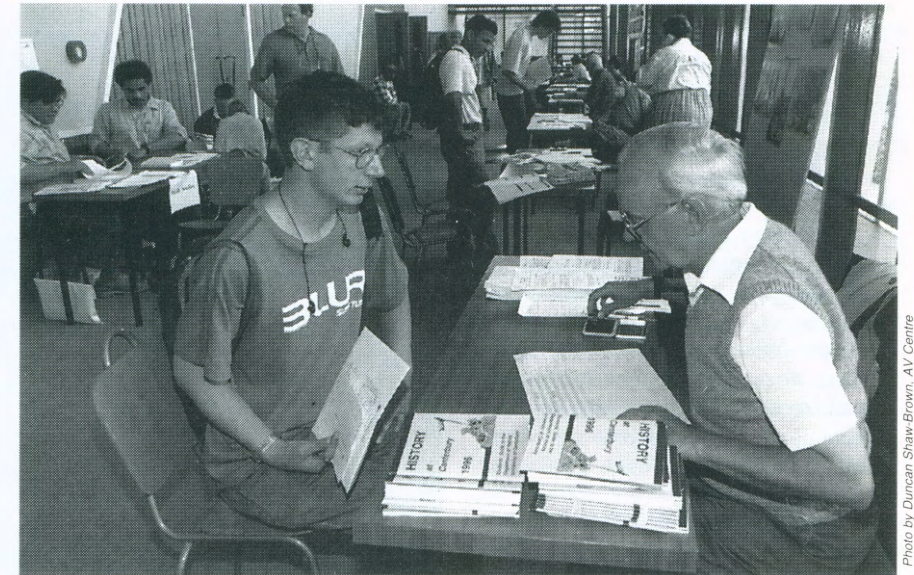
Postal enrolment became a reality this month for more than 1100 students trialling a system which could play an increasing role in future enrolments.

Enrolment Review Committee chair Dr Kelly Duncan said 200 students requiring student loans and 918 who did not, enrolled by post. All of these students were "clear" in the sense they did not need to attend interviews with deans or departments and had chosen "sensible" courses within their capabilities.

The committee had decided not to announce the trial in case it was affected by problems. It had been agreed that between 500 and 2000 students was a suitable number for the experiment.

Students were asked in their mailed enrolment packs to make course selections. Confirmation of their choices being available, or alternative course offers, were then returned to them and if they were satisfied they just had to post a cheque for their fees, Dr Duncan said.

"We hope next year that more departments will lessen their requirements in wanting to see every student enrolling in one of their courses. If they were more selective it would enable far more students to postally enrol.



History Department reader Dr Vincent Orange offers advice to a student at enrolment on Monday.

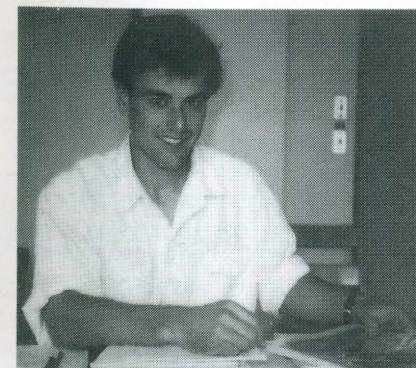
"Postal enrolment was tried in the 1970s but withdrawn. It's time again for us to offer this service to our students."

Dr Duncan believed it would eventually be possible to postally enrol all students but offered a more realistic target for next year of 50%.

He thanked members of the staff for their effort, especially the Information Services Section; Fees, Allowances and Loans Manager Mrs Linda East; and Mr Ken Allott of the Department of French.

## February start for four new Canterbury lecturers - continued

**Dr Andrew Kliskey**, who has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Arctic Institute of North America in the Yukon, Canada, began as a lecturer in the Department of Geography on 1 February.



Dr Kliskey specialises in geographic information systems (GIS) and their applications in natural resource management, wilderness and protected areas, wilderness and wildlife management, outdoor recreation planning, and regional and resource planning. He graduated with a Bachelor of Surveying from the University of Otago in 1986 and completed a Master of Regional and Resource Planning there in 1988.

His Otago PhD, *Wilderness Perception Mapping - a geographic information systems approach to the application of wilderness perceptions for protected area management in New Zealand*, is regarded as an innovative cross-disciplinary study.

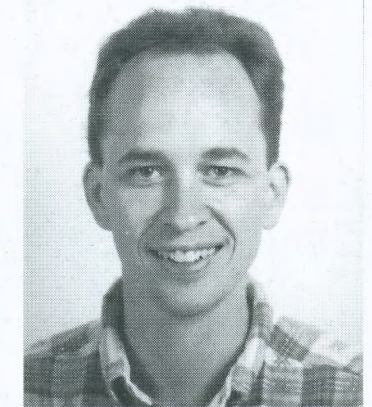
Since its submission in 1992, Dr Kliskey has continued his research linking GIS and the environment.

From January 1993 until April last year he was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of British Columbia's Resource Management and Environmental Studies centre, undertaking GIS modelling of recreation and wildlife for conflict analysis with forestry/wildlife/recreation activities in two British Columbian national parks. In the northern hemisphere summers of 1992, 1993, 1994 and 1995 Dr Kliskey worked for the Arctic Institute of North America at Kluane Lake Base in the Yukon Territory, applying radio-telemetry and GIS to ecological research.

**Dr Matthew Turnbull**, who studied the responses of selected Australian rainforest seedlings to different aspects of light, began as a lecturer in plant physiology in the Department of Plant and Microbial Sciences on 1 February.

Dr Turnbull is a specialist in the ecology and physiology of natural communities, in plant ecophysiology and metabolism (especially the influence environmental constraints have on ecosystem processes such as regeneration), and in the conservation of natural resources. His research has involved data collection from a variety of plant communities throughout Australia and the Pacific, including monsoonal, tropical and subtropical forests, coastal dune communities and arid zones.

He has a BSc in botany and zoology and a BSc (Hons) in botany from the University of Queensland, and completed his PhD, *The Ecophysiological Responses of Seedlings of Selected Australian Rainforest Tree Species to Light Quantity and Quality*, at Queensland in 1992. From 1986 until last year he was a part-time tutor and demonstrator at the university.



Dr Turnbull was most recently a postdoctoral associate at Queensland, specifically investigating nitrogen relations and metabolism in natural Australian ecosystems. Before that he worked as a field ecologist on the Solomon Islands' Forest Resources Inventory Project and on a study for the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service of the habitat of the threatened ground-dwelling eastern bristlebird.

## University's emergency plan approved - continued



Vice-Chancellor Professor Brownlie holds the certificate awarded to the University by Fire Service representatives Terry Gibson (left) and Neil Price. Safety officer Paul Perry is on Professor Brownlie's right.

"These things have to be done quickly. If a warden is away and nobody steps in, the Fire Service will have to check all the floors of a building to make sure they are clear," he said.

An important amendment to the original emergency plan was that written permission be obtained from a person with a disability before he or she was recorded in the building assistance register, kept in the blue evacuation control cabinets.

The legislation contained stiff penalties for loss of life caused by shortcomings in the procedures. A vice-chancellor could be fined up to \$100,000 and sent to jail for one year in the worst cases.

Lecturers also had ultimate responsibility for orderly evacuations of lecture rooms and were personally accountable for the safety of their students.

## Busy summer for Works & Services Dept.

The summer recess provides an opportunity to carry out maintenance and capital works across the campus and this summer, as in previous years, there has been plenty of activity.

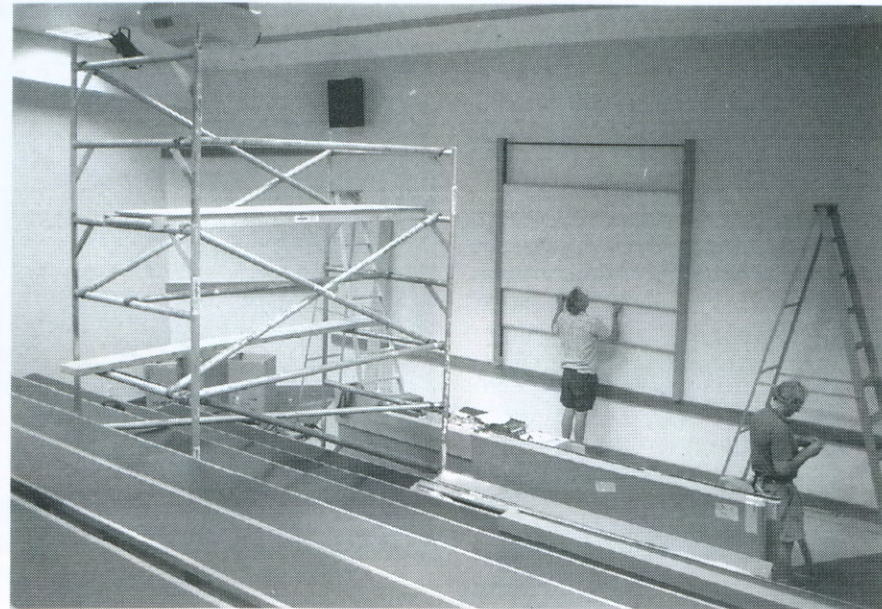
In addition to the major construction of the Commerce and Engineering buildings, now in full swing, a wide range of projects has been undertaken, with pressure to complete many of them before the start of Term One.

Projects are scattered around the campus and beyond, from the Recreation Centre to University Hall, in a large number of separate contracts. Several are being handled in-house by the Works & Services Department.

Works and Services Engineer Mike White said a huge amount of work was carried out each summer but because it was spread across the University some people failed to notice it.

Among projects being carried out this summer were:

- the major internal reconstruction of the Physics and Astronomy Department to make space for Department of Plant and Microbial Sciences (PAMS) staff;
- upgrade of Lecture Theatre A3 and associated foyer and toilets;
- re-roofing of Ngata and Connon halls;
- the installation of a sprinkler system for the Students' Association building;
- the construction of an additional sculpture studio for Fine Arts;
- new platform for the south Arts Lecture Theatre block;



Refurbishing is carried out in the A3 Lecture Theatre during the summer recess.

Photo by Duncan Shaw-Brown, AV Centre

- an air-conditioning upgrade for the School of Music;
- the construction of three dangerous goods stores;
- asbestos removal in the Library;
- refurbishment and alterations for the English Department, PAMS, Fine Arts, the Psychology Department, Recreation Centre, University Hall and the Cass Field Station.

Construction had also started on the expanded Forestry workshop and Wood Processing Laboratory, Mr White said.

A high level of activity would continue during the year with several major development projects to start construction, the largest of which was the new Mathematics/Computer Science building.

Departments should be aware that only the most urgent work would be undertaken in existing buildings over the summer recess from November this year to February 1997. Works & Services staff would be concentrating on fitting out new buildings for the shift of Commerce and Engineering faculty staff to their new accommodation, he said.

## Addition to Zoology's Free Radical Biochemistry Lab



Photo by Duncan Shaw-Brown, AV Centre

Dr Gieseg adjusts a detector above the high performance liquid chromatography machine's autosampling chamber and robotic injection arm. The steel separation tube and oven can be seen to the right of the autosampler.

A computerised machine able to separate and measure the concentration of substances in biological samples at less than one part per billion has been installed in the Department of Zoology.

The \$75,000 high performance liquid chromatography machine forms part of the Department's new Free Radical Biochemistry Research Laboratory, being established by recently-appointed lecturer Dr Steven Gieseg.

The machine has a robotic injection arm which can automatically inject up to 60 samples for analysis. Inside the machine the chemicals making up a sample are separated by a chromatographic process similar to the way dyes in an ink spot separate on blotting paper when dipped in water. The difference is that separation occurs within a stainless steel pipe inside the machine's oven.

Component chemicals are then measured and identified by either their absorbance of ultraviolet light, by fluorescence colour or by chemical reactions in an electrochemical detector.

Dr Gieseg plans to use the machine to identify the cellular chemicals which protect the white blood cells from the toxins they release to kill invading bacteria. The more harmful of these toxins are oxygen-free radicals, which are very reactive electrically-charged molecules believed to be involved in ageing, cancer and heart diseases.

The machine will also be used to measure oxidised fat, oxidised protein and anti-oxidant concentrations in mammal and fish bloods.

## Vivid welcome to geology for schools

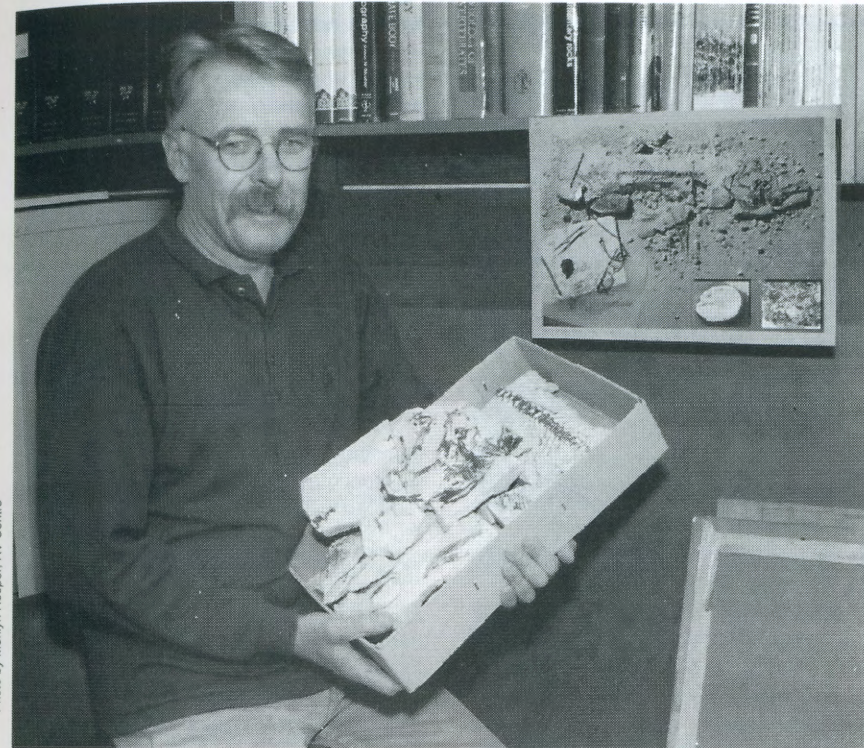


Photo by Marilyn Hooper, AV Centre

Senior technical officer Kerry Swanson shows off the fossilised fish used to illustrate one in the series of nine glossy A3 posters.

Striking colour posters depicting aspects of geology are on their way around the country to arouse interest in the subject among secondary school students.

The Department of Geological Sciences' initiative comes at a time when geology is becoming an increasingly important part of the school science curriculum. Until recently, geology was considered a small component within the field of geography.

Senior technical officer Mr Kerry Swanson said he came up with the poster idea in December 1994.

"The idea was to help teachers by broadening their horizons in terms of the subject matter and help them to think about potential topics for developing as classroom exercises and for fieldwork.

"The posters were not designed to cover every aspect of geology. Those we have chosen are intended to stimulate thought in certain areas."

Each of the nine glossy A3-sized posters shows a facet of geology at three different scales. The eye-catching photographs were taken by Mr Swanson and Departmental research fellow Dr Rod Burt, with

### PeoplePeoplePeople

Mr Alan Woodfield (Economics) was the New Zealand representative at a workshop on "The Economics Major" held in Sydney from 16 to 18 February.

Organised by the Centre for Applied Economics at the Australian National University, the workshop looked at ways of improving the quality of economics education for students.

graphics by technical officer Mr Arthur Nicholas.

The posters are: "Limestone - a history of the ocean", "A changing landscape - the past, a key to the present", "Coal - the how, the why, the where", "Folds, fractures and faults - tracking the movement and collision of continents", "Volcanoes - chemical signals from the Earth's interior", "Clay - nature's waste, man's bounty", "Engineering - reducing risk through science", "Minerals - supplying a technological world", and "Fossils - images of evolving life".

Mr Swanson is now writing a brochure which will explain some of the "more obscure" features in the posters.

Head of Department Associate Professor Steve Weaver said the posters formed part of the Department's "geology outreach programme".

"Geology wasn't really taught in schools and as such we are one of the subjects which feels it now has to work hard on its contact with schools.

"We're becoming more active in dealing with schools and finding out their needs. We regard it as part of our responsibilities to help them - that's where our 'customers' will come from."

Funding for the project came from one of the University's most generous benefactors, Dr Brian Mason. Curator Emeritus of Meteoritics at Washington DC's Smithsonian Institution, Dr Mason, a Canterbury geology graduate, visited the Department several years ago and donated \$6000 for a project which would galvanise interest in geology.

The posters have been sent to the heads of science departments at all South Island secondary schools and at selected North Island colleges.

## Students present surveys to ski club

The Craigieburn Valley Ski Club needs to promote itself more vigorously, according to market research work carried out last year by Stage Three business administration students.

Course work for BSAD 312, Marketing Research, requires students to undertake a practical research project. Department of Management lecturer Dr Graham Fenwick said students were given the opportunity to tackle a large research problem, which for some was the first time they had had to analyse their own data and make recommendations from it.

In previous years students had carried out market research investigations for the Arts Centre of Christchurch, the Canterbury Museum, Radio U and the University's Alumni Association. At the start of last year, two representatives from the ski club had spoken to the class of about 50 and defined the parameters of the investigation.

Students, originally in groups of four, then had to draft their research proposals, develop a questionnaire and sampling plan, generate the data, analyse it and present final reports.

"It's a very big job for students, but they enjoy it because it's a practical project - they can see it is something of use to another organisation. Most of them came to the same sorts of conclusions this year and in the end we presented the club with three of the best reports," Dr Fenwick said.

BSAD 312 student Bridget Banks said the research work was "very worthwhile". The teamwork experienced and the marketing skills learnt had been valuable.

"We had the same data and drew similar conclusions from it, but in the end some of our recommendations to the club varied slightly. We thought there was an overall lack of awareness of the ski field and the club really needed to push their promotion."

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## Professorship a "natural progression"

Certain forms of a type of molecule discovered by new Department of Chemistry Professor Don House are now being used in the treatment of Aids patients.

Professor House was promoted to his personal chair in the Department at the start of January. An expert in inorganic co-ordination complexes, he has been at Canterbury since 1966.

While honoured by the promotion, Professor House plans to carry on as he has done in recent years with his specialist research and teaching interests. He sees professorship as a distinguished but natural progression in a long academic career rather than an elevation to a rank in which attitudes, interests and the "job" all change.

Applications of his research have helped cancer sufferers and are now assisting those with Aids. However, it may be years before medical chemists work out why some of these molecules, called macrocyclic ligands, provide effective treatments.

Professor House was studying for his PhD in chemistry at the Victoria University of Wellington when he and his supervisor, recently-retired Professor Neil Curtis, discovered macrocyclic ligands – molecules that can trap metal ions in their centres.

As Professor Curtis' first PhD graduate, he was asked to speak at a conference organised in his honour last month. At that conference, Professor Curtis said he and Professor House had spent many years of their careers "making molecules to cure diseases which haven't been discovered yet".



Professor House said the treatment of Aids patients was "1996 chemistry – 'frontier of science' stuff".

"We've really no idea how the molecules work against Aids in practice. It's often the case in medical chemistry that a drug works but it's years and years later before we know why."

He has also worked extensively with platinum compounds that are used for the treatment of various types of cancer, particularly testicular cancer. The first generation treatments administered in hospital had quite bad side effects but third generation compounds were easier on the system and could be taken orally at home, he said.

Other metals had not proved to be of use as a replacement for platinum. Some compounds reacted too rapidly and their toxic properties and solubility were unsuitable.

After completing his PhD Professor House spent four months in the Antarctic in the 1963-64 summer, part of a team studying the chemistry and physics of frozen saline lakes in the continent's Dry Valley. He then had a two-year postdoctoral research stint at the University of California looking specifically at the chemistry of chromium and the speed of chemical reactions.

Professor House has spent several periods of study leave overseas and has written more than 200 research publications, including 10 major review articles. Despite such a heavy research workload, he still finds teaching an enjoyable experience.

"Over the years I've always enjoyed teaching first-year chemistry students and will continue to do that. Different skills are required to teach large classes and I still find it unnerving when 500 eyes are staring at you. One still gets a little nervous.

"I've also enjoyed working with students at the doctorate level. Supervisors and students can build up quite a special and long-lasting friendship, something I've always remembered from having (Professor) Neil (Curtis) as my supervisor."

## News from the AAU

### Audit panels

The Academic Audit Unit (AAU) has appointed panels to audit the Victoria University of Wellington and the University of Otago. The panels are chaired by Professor Brian Robinson (Otago) and Professor Tony Charleston (Massey) respectively. Victoria University presented its portfolio to the AAU at the beginning of February.

### Overseas activities

During the past six months, the AAU's advice on educational quality assurance has been sought by several other countries.

The United States of America's accreditation system is in some disarray and a variety of options in use around the world was described to a meeting of US accreditors.

South Africa is re-building its higher education system and introducing a qualifications authority and qualifications framework. There is great interest in the relation of degree courses to such a framework and the New Zealand experience is very useful to them (the word being used there is "aligned" rather than "harmonised").

The countries of Eastern Europe are coming to terms in various ways with the impact of the revolution on higher education, and the AAU has been assisting the Czech and Slovak universities to develop self-evaluation processes.

The OECD has initiated a study of the effects of external quality assessment on institutions and in December the Director of the AAU, Dr David Woodhouse, chaired a three-day OECD seminar on the first stage of this project.

Dr David Woodhouse

## Houdini-like botanist retires from PAMS chair

Escapology is not listed as one of Emeritus Professor John Lovis' research interests but perhaps it should be, given a few spectacular extrications during the years.

Professor Lovis retired from his chair at the end of January after 18 years in the Department of Plant and Microbial Sciences. A leading international authority in the evolution of ferns and more recently deeply involved in paleobotany, he is highly-regarded as a connoisseur of wine. In his younger days he was a fine cricketer, as well as a stylish competitive chess player with a talent for simultaneous play and chess "swindles".

Leaving his chair was not the "close shave" type of affair which characterised a few of Professor Lovis' earlier adventures. Born in London in 1930, he first demonstrated his ability to escape from tight corners when at school during World War Two.

"The war had quite an influence on my education, particularly the flying bombs. My first terms at secondary school were notable for lengthy periods spent in air-raid shelters and for long walks home after school, with buses and trains halted, while the Battle of Britain reached its climax overhead.

"That, for a 10-year-old, was exciting, but the flying bombs four years later were nasty. School was suspended because of them and there were no end of school year examinations. I was good at exams but otherwise a lazy devil and was demoted to a slow stream next session, which woke me up."

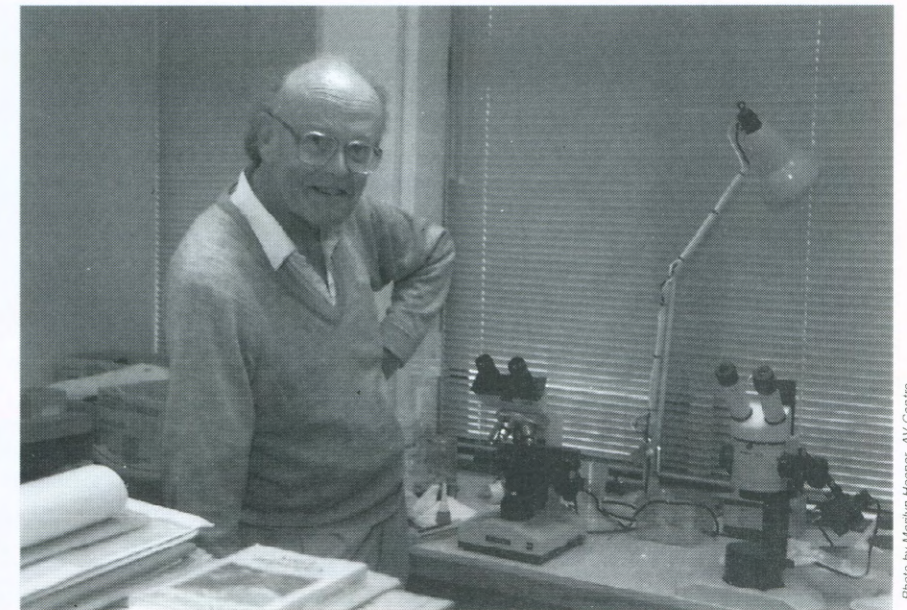
In the 1950s Professor Lovis twice managed to evade the call-up for conscripted national service without being arrested. The first time was before studying for his BSc (Hons) at the University of London's Queen Mary College.

"That was a question of people in the university having secret power. The Labour Department didn't want anyone to slip through the net but the Registrar of Queen Mary College didn't want me to go in 1949 because I had a Drapers' Company (an ancient liveried guild of the City of London) Scholarship. Deferment of the award would have fouled-up the finance.

"I got my call-up papers again six years later as a postgraduate at the University of Leeds. I'd already been through the Air Ministry's selection board and medical but was getting ready to leave the UK for a postgraduate fellowship at Canterbury University College. The indefinite deferment papers arrived on the breakfast table the morning I was joining the ship at Tilbury."

Professor Lovis also counts as fortunate his avoidance of permanent head of department duties since arriving at Canterbury in 1978. Before then professors were expected or required to act as head.

"Luckily my arrival coincided with the commencement of the (Vice-Chancellor Professor) Brownlie era, when the nature of



the headship changed from the formerly quite autocratic system.

"I felt obliged to offer myself for the position when (Professor) Basil Arnold stood down. Fortunately for me the Department then contained James McWha, only just promoted to senior lecturer but already showing the political and administrative talents which have now taken him to Vice-Chancellor of Massey University."

Professor Lovis was all set to be an entomologist when, in the sixth form at Whitgift School in Croydon, he was introduced to botany, chromosomes and research by outstanding pedagogue Cecil Prime. On completing his undergraduate studies at Queen Mary College he moved to Leeds University, where he studied the cytogenetic evolution of ferns for his PhD. His supervisor was botanist Professor Irene Manton – "a remarkable lady" – who with zoologist sister Professor Sidonie Manton, and as Fellows of the Royal Society, made up a formidable and unique academic pair.

From Leeds he applied for a Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Postgraduate Fellowship at Canterbury, which he took up in 1955-56, looking at fern evolution in New Zealand.

"It was great fun in the old college but conditions were pretty primitive compared with those today. We were in one of the prefabricated buildings which have long since gone.

"The whole experience of being in Christchurch and New Zealand then made me keen to come back," he said.

But it was another 20 years before that opportunity arose. In the intervening period Professor Lovis lectured in genetics and evolution at Leeds.

Once ensconced at Canterbury he continued researching the evolution of ferns and allied plants, particularly the archaic Australasian relic *Tmesipteris*. It was "surprisingly easy" to work on a global basis, despite the relative isolation of New Zea-

land. At the same time he developed a latent interest in biogeography, studying the origins and history of floras (especially alpine floras) and the then languishing area of paleobotany.

"I am very interested in the mid-Cretaceous period, which provides the great unsolved problem of botanical evolution - where did the angiosperms (flowering plants) come from? Early research indicated the existence of leaf beds around 100 million years old in sedimentary rocks along the Clarence River and on further investigation the 'Clarence Story' has assumed a great deal of importance in this puzzle.

"No other megafloora of this age is known in the Southern Hemisphere. In these beds there's an equal mixture of primitive angiosperm and gymnosperm (cone-bearing plants) groups, some of which are still living, though not necessarily in New Zealand. They include kauris, monkey puzzles, podocarps, ginkgoes and groups made extinct by the advance of the angiosperms. It's remarkable that these were occurring together at paleolatitudes of 70degS or even higher.

"Similar megafloora were discovered recently on northern slopes in Alaska with broadly the same paleolatitude and the same age, which shows there were once complex broad-leaved forests inside the Arctic and Antarctic circles at the same time."

The past few years have been busy for Professor Lovis. Teaching four fourth-year courses in paleobotany, evolution, biogeography and pteridophytes, as well as involvement in third, second and first-year courses, left him little time to pursue research. In retirement he hopes to clear a big backlog of writing as well as linger lovingly over his favourite wines.

"My weakness is for a fine pinot noir – it's fantastic stuff. The really good ones are infinitely subtle and the best are one of life's ultimate experiences."

## Wise heads in Department of Economics



An impressive display has been mounted in the Department of Economics of the 38 overseas economists made Nobel Laureates in Economics since 1969.

A handful of the laureates have been visitors in the Department, several of them on Visiting Erskine Fellowships. The first Nobel Laureates in Economics were Ragnar Frisch of the University of Oslo and Jan Tinbergen of the Netherlands School of Economics, "for having developed and applied dynamic models for the analysis of economic processes".

## From Christopher Columbus to cyberpunk

A healthy mixture of the new and old defined the 17th biennial conference of the Australian and New Zealand American Studies Association, hosted by the Department of American Studies from 2 to 6 February.

It was a welcome return to Christchurch for the association after a 20-year absence and a chance for Americanists in New Zealand to attend the first conference of the association in this country for a decade. The chief organiser was Dr Maureen Montgomery of the American Studies Department.

The conference, as benefits an association with a well-established identity and history, contained a mixture of new and old as well as an agreeable division between hard work and enjoyable play. As usual, it provided a forum for Americanists to present work in progress, which, at this conference, ranged from studies of Christopher Columbus to cyberpunk.

Conference organisers were able to attract a number of very distinguished speakers from the United States, including Professors Ron Takaki of Berkeley, John and Joan Kassin from Chapel Hill, Gabrielle Schwab from California at Irvine, and Lynn Spiegel from Southern California. Plenary sessions ranged from Houdini and Buffalo Bill to contemporary developments in literary theory and the representation of

art and artists on television. That speakers of such high calibre were at the conference was possible only through the generosity of the New Zealand-US Educational Foundation and the American Embassy.



Dr Maureen Montgomery

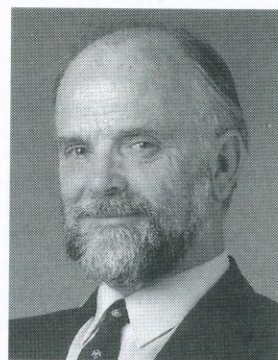
The Australian Centre for American Studies allowed more than 40 graduate students to attend the conference, many of whom gave their first scholarly presentations. These graduates benefited in particular from a separate graduate day, put on by Jane Gregg, a graduate student in American studies.

A notable first was to combine the conference with the production of a play, *Power!*, directed by Dr Sharon Mazer and

Mr Peter Falkenberg of Drama and starring among others Dr Robin Bond from the Department of Classics. *Power!* is a living product from the 1930s, updated for the 1990s, and has special relevance to American studies.

Despite the play's first night occurring on the hottest day of the year (35degC) in a sweltering theatre, the production was a great success, being acclaimed in *The Press* as the best political theatre in Christchurch since the time of Mervyn Thompson's productions.

Another welcome facet of the conference was its broader geographical reach, with papers from India, the Philippines, Taiwan, Canada, Singapore, the Pacific, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. The broadening of the association into a truly Asian-Pacific organisation, as well as the continuation of the interdisciplinary cross-overs that have always marked the association's conferences, are positive trends that helped make the Canterbury conference most memorable.



Mr Brian Wearing

A highlight for the University was the awarding of life membership of the association to former American Studies Department senior lecturer Mr Brian Wearing, who was first Head of Department when it was established in 1991.

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## Modern Languages' laboratory upgrade completed



Dr Henrietta Mondry, Head of Russian, tests the new system with willing helpers (clockwise from front left) Mrs Michele Downer (French Department secretary), Messrs Mike Clayton, Ian Roberts, Stan Whitfield and Mrs Judith Peters (all Audio Visual Centre).

The recent renovation of the 15-seat language laboratory in the Modern Languages building brings it into line with the 35-seat laboratory next door.

Audio Visual Centre senior technician Mike Clayton said the lab had been in need of an upgrade since its larger neighbour was refurbished in 1992. Original audio equipment installed in 1975 had now been replaced by Tandberg educational tape apparatus, which, among other advantages,

enabled greater flexibility for small group learning.

Desk tops were changed for those containing the new tape decks and desk frames were re-used. The room was made brighter with an area set aside at the back able to be partitioned for proposed computer-aided language learning sessions.

The work, completed just before Christmas, was financed to the tune of \$45,000 by a grant from the University, he said.

Language labs are used mainly by students of Māori, French, German and Asian languages, although they are open to everyone on campus.

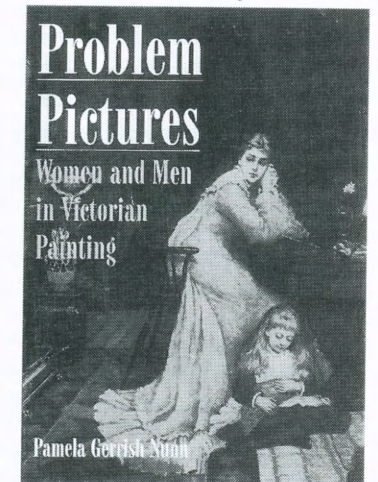
## Changes in Victorian women captured

Art and artists in the Victorian period, and the links between Victorian sexism, racism and the class system, are explored in *Problem Pictures*, written by Dr Pamela Gerrish Nunn of the School of Fine Arts.

A senior lecturer in art history, Dr Gerrish Nunn presents seven essays which examine Victorian painting and the "woman question". She analyses the change in representation of the family, romance, social issues, including emigration and colonialism, the use of the female nude and the traditions of portraiture, history painting and still life.

In 1858 the middle-class journal *Athenaeum* carried a story on the new feminist newspaper, the *Englishwoman's Journal*, recognising the growing importance being given to dividing the human race into men and women. In the book's introduction, Dr Gerrish Nunn says the rise of the "woman question" was of "momentous and fundamental" importance to Victorian society and culture.

"In prioritising sex as its organising factor, this examination of Victorian culture does not deny the influence of race and class as oppressive taxonomies in Victorian society, but it does express the author's belief that



gender was and is the most fundamental, crucial and pervasive of these discriminatory systems, and that any appraisal of the 19th century based on this belief is bound to reveal significant and useful truths."

Various genres and numerous works by men and women are scrutinised for their sexual politics, and artists from the famous to the "jobbers" are brought into play.

*Problem Pictures: Women and Men in Victorian Painting* is published by the Scholar Press, Aldershot, England.

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# Visiting Canterbury and Erskine Fellows

**Professor John Faulkner**, Professor of Marine Chemistry at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, will be a Visiting Erskine Fellow in the Department of Chemistry from 5 March to 30 April.

An expert in organic chemistry, Professor Faulkner specialises in marine natural products chemistry and its applications to biology, ecology and pharmacology. Present research includes discovering potential pharmaceuticals from marine invertebrates by isolating chemicals taken particularly from sponges, molluscs and reef organisms.

Professor Faulkner will lecture to CHEM 315 (Biological Chemistry) and CHEM 455 (Organic and Bio-organic Chemistry) students, and will present seminars in the Department.

**Professor Paul Joseph**, Professor of Sociology at Tufts University, Massachusetts, will be a Visiting Canterbury Fellow in the Department of Sociology from 26 February to 19 April.

Professor Joseph is a specialist in political sociology, the sociology of peace and war, peace studies and American society. The Chair of Tufts' Peace and Justice Studies programme, he is the immediate past chair of the North American Peace Studies Association.

During his fellowship Professor Joseph will give lectures in the Sociology, American Studies and Political Science departments, and to students of the interdisciplinary

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peace studies course. He has been on study leave at Canterbury since September, researching different concepts of peace and developing a series of case studies on peace processes.

**Professor Wladyslaw Kaminski**, of the Faculty of Process and Environmental Engineering at the Technical University of Lodz, Poland, will be a Visiting Erskine Fellow in the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering from 1 March to 29 May.

Professor Kaminski is an expert in the modelling of drying processes with particular reference to biosystems, in applied thermodynamics of sorption behaviour, and in the concentration and purification of products by ultrafiltration. A member of the Polish Consultants Society and the Polish Association of Chemical Engineers - Membrane Section, Professor Kaminski speaks French and fluent Russian.

While in the Department he is scheduled to lecture on thermal process engineering, artificial neural networks and membrane separation processes.

**Professor Kwan Kao**, Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, will be a visitor in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering from 26 February to 15 June.

A specialist in high field electrical conduction and breakdown in solids and liquids, and in electronic materials and ECR microwave plasma processing for deposition and etching, Professor Kao is a fellow of both the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Institute of Physics in the United Kingdom. He has acted as a reviewer for government funding agencies and as a referee for six international journals.

Professor Kao will give 12 lectures to master's students on electrical engineering materials, including electrical contacts and junctions, electric polarisation, luminescence and photoconduction.

Professor Helmut Knapp, of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the Technical University of Berlin, will take up his Visiting Erskine Fellowship in the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering from 25 February until early in May.

Professor Knapp specialises in thermodynamics and cryogenics, plant design, and the collection and correlation of thermodynamic and transport properties, and is Head of the Institute of Thermodynamics and Cryogenics at the Technical University of Berlin. Recently retired as Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, he has written a number of books and holds several important patents.

During his fellowship Professor Knapp will lecture to students on thermodynamics and plant design.

**Professor Paul Komar**, Professor of Oceanography at the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University, will be a visitor in the Department of Geography from 1 March to 30 April.

An expert in coastal landforming processes and coastal planning and management, Professor Komar's research interests include the generation of near-shore currents on beaches, sediment transport under waves, turbidity currents and deep-sea fan sedimentation, and the morphology and origin of channels on Mars.

He is the author of the influential coastal processes textbook *Beach Processes and Sedimentation* and is a prolific publisher in eminent international journals.

Professor Komar, who briefly visited Canterbury in 1994, will lecture GEOG 306 (Advanced Physical Geography) students on surf and longshore transport processes, beach erosion and sedimentation processes, and give research seminars on coastal erosion control and coastal management.

**Professor Rainer Lowen**, the Chair of Mathematics in the Institut für Analysis at the Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany, will be a Visiting Erskine Fellow in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics from 23 February to 5 April.

Professor Lowen specialises in geometry and topology. He is a regular contributor to several German mathematical reviews and was co-organiser of two international conferences - "Valuations, topological fields and geometries" at Luminy, France, in March 1993 and "Buildings in differential and topological geometry" at Oberwolfach, Germany, in May 1994.

During his time in the Department Professor Lowen will interact with Dr Gunter Steinke and give lectures on topological planes.

**Professor Douglass Morse**, Hermon Carey Bumpus Professor of Biology at Box G-W Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, will be visiting the Department of Zoology as an Erskine Fellow from 26 February to 1 June.

A leading researcher in ecology and behaviour, Professor Morse's research on birds and spiders is of particular relevance to Canterbury staff and students. His book *Behavioural Mechanics in Ecology* is especially well-known.

Professor Morse was editor of *Ecology* from 1983 to 1987 and has acted as a referee for 50 or more scientific publications including *Science*, *Nature*, the *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, the *American Journal of Botany* and *Birds of North America*.

While at Canterbury he is scheduled to lecture students of ZOO 307 in behavioural ecology and ZOO 452 in foraging behaviour.

**Emeritus Professor John Nevin**, of the Department of Psychology at the University of New Hampshire, will be a Visiting Erskine Fellow in Canterbury's Department of Psychology from 26 February to 20 April.

Professor Nevin is a specialist in learning, the experimental and quantitative analysis of behaviour, and behavioural approaches to war, peace and global survival. Other research interests include stimulus

control, Pavlovian conditioning, avoidance, punishment, and animal psychophysics. He is also a reviewer for a number of prestigious academic journals such as the *Psychological Review*, the *Psychological Bulletin*, *Behavioural and Brain Sciences* and *Science*.

Professor Nevin will lecture on his specialist subjects while at the University and also present a departmental seminar.

**Dr Robert Pankhurst**, Senior Geologist with the British Antarctic Survey at the Isotope Geosciences Laboratory in Nottingham, will take up his Visiting Erskine Fellowship in the Department of Geological Sciences from 1 March to 15 May.

A geochronologist specialising in the application of radiogenic isotope geology to the age, origin and evolution of igneous and metamorphic rocks, Dr Pankhurst has an international reputation for work on the geological evolution of southern South America and West Antarctica. In the past five years he has played a major role in the South Pacific Rim Tectonics Project, in dating the Jurassic volcanic rocks of Argentine Patagonia and in dating granites of the North Patagonian Batholith in Chile.

Dr Pankhurst is scheduled to lecture on isotope geochronology and geochemistry at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, as well as present research seminars and

take part in a 10-day field trip to Westport in May.

**Professor Terry Peters**, of the Montreal Neurological Institute at McGill University, will be a Visiting Erskine Fellow in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering from 4 March to 2 June.

A world authority on medical imaging, especially computed tomography models, Professor Peters is a full professor in the departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery, Radiology, and Biomedical Engineering and Medical Physics at McGill. He is also Director of the Neurosurgical Imaging Laboratory.

Professor Peters is a Canterbury PhD graduate in electrical and electronic engineering, and has been at McGill since 1978. He has been a member of the board of the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine for the past nine years.

While in the Department he will give eight lectures on medical imaging, present two seminars on recent research and talk to the Canterbury Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

**Professor Stephen Stich**, Professor of Philosophy and Cognitive Science at Rutgers University, New Jersey, will be in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies from 3 March to 6 April.

Professor Stich is an expert in the philosophy of mind and cognitive science. He has

been a consultant to both the President's Commission for National Priorities in the Eighties and the President's Commission on Ethics in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioural Research, and is on the editorial board of at least 10 academic journals.

He is expected to lecture to philosophy and psychology students and to students of INCO 219 (Introduction to Cognitive Science).

Professor P S Thiagarajan, of the School of Mathematics at the SPIC Science Foundation in Madras, will take up his Visiting Erskine Fellowship in the Department of Computer Science from 26 February to 19 April.

A specialist in models and logics for distributed computing, Petri nets, and logic, Professor Thiagarajan is Editor of the *International Journal of Foundations of Computer Science* and Editor of *Theoretical Computer Science*.

Professor Thiagarajan will lecture on logics and models for concurrent systems and on concurrency while at Canterbury and also present up to three seminars.

**Professor Michael Wells**, of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Montana State University in Bozeman, will be a Visiting Erskine Fellow in Canterbury's Department of Mechanical Engineering from 26 February to 14 June.

Professor Wells specialises in mechanical design, solid and fluid mechanics, and wave propagation. Other research interests include engineering design, mechanical vibrations, biomechanics and the mechanics of blood flow.

During his time in the Department Professor Wells will present lectures and seminars, supervise students involved in a creative design project and give tutorial assistance to groups working on projects for the annual Warman Design and Build Competition.

## Canty's pigeons on the rebound - continued

Instead, nylon string had been stretched horizontally across ledges in the worst corners (see photo), a solution which had so far been effective. Soon after installation surprised pigeons were seen rebounding off the string, he said.

"We've had a few generations of pigeons here now - they're born here and don't like to move away."

"Their droppings smell and get washed down the drains, blocking them up. They're a nuisance all year but probably the winter is the worst time because there's not much feed around out of town."

Birds also caused concerns in other parts of the University. Sparrows and blackbirds often tried to fly through the clear glass of the Science Faculty link, breaking their necks in the process.

Other animals which had caused problems on campus included silverfish, stray cats and dogs, opossums, stoats, bees, wasps and cockroaches, Mr Hean said.

## Time for some detective work



Does anyone recognise this photograph? It was found in the bottom of an internal envelope delivered to the Department of Management, but it may have been in there for several circulations.

## Talent confirmed by summer schools

The sixth annual Journalism Summer School attracted budding feature writers from as far afield as Nelson and Gore.

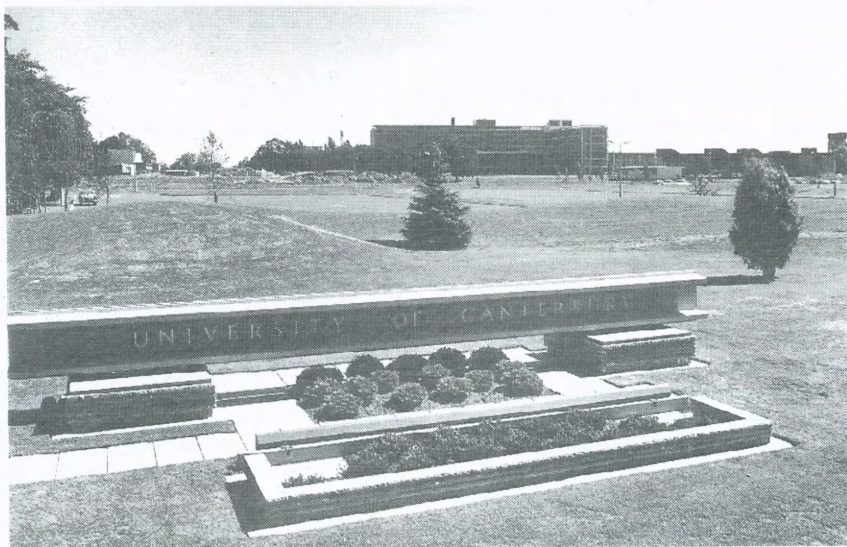
The 25 participants spent a week studying essential skills to write feature articles for newspapers and magazines.

Departmental Head Jim Tully said each summer school confirmed there was a large number of highly talented writers in the community, many of whom needed only an injection of confidence to fulfil their potential.

The reasons for attending the summer school varied. Some were seeking to retrain, others to hone writing skills, and some were keen to enhance their chances of selection for tertiary journalism programmes.

A number of summer school participants had subsequently completed the Diploma in Journalism at the University, he said.

## In the same place at a different time



Twenty-five years separate these two photographs of the University frontage on Clyde Road. The top picture was taken on a sunny morning in November or December 1970, the bottom one on a dull day this month. The campus is no longer visible behind growing trees and the dulleys have taken their toll on the freshness of the "University of Canterbury" sign.



Photo by Duncan Shaw-Brown, AV Centre

## Canty's pigeons on the rebound

Every effort is being made to reduce the number of equivalent full time pigeons (EFTPs) now studying at the University of Canterbury.

Unlike their student counterparts, the pigeons are more of a disadvantage to Canterbury than an advantage. What admiration exists for their enthusiasm to attend university, particularly this university, is tempered by the experience of what they leave behind.

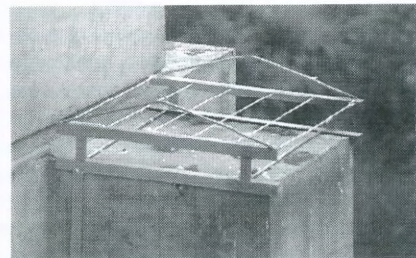


Photo by Duncan Shaw-Brown, AV Centre

Pigeons appear especially attracted to the Faculty of Arts. They are frequently present at window ledge tutorials on the Modern Languages, English-Education and History buildings, and often queue for advice outside lecturers' offices, albeit on the other side of the glass.

Some believe these buildings were designed with the pigeons in mind, with expansive window ledges flowing into spacious corner nooks and crannies. The best accommodation, between English-Education and History, offers the discerning pigeon evening sun and shelter from the easterly wind.

Architectural draughtsman David Hean, of the Registry's Buildings Section, said only limited options were available for dealing with the birds. Shooting or poisoning on campus was not allowed and "hot foot" – a sticky irritating substance which could be applied to ledges – needed frequent replenishing.

*Continued on page 11*

## PeoplePeoplePeoplePeoplePeoplePeoplePeoplePeople

**Associate Professor B. G. Butterfield** (Plant and Microbial Sciences) has been awarded an Erskine Fellowship to visit Australia, the United Kingdom and United States of America in connection with his teaching and research interests from 31 March to 3 June.

Visiting Erskine Fellowships have been offered to: **Professor A. Dress**, Universität Bielefeld, Germany, to be held in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics from 1 February to 26 April 1997; **Professor M. R. Fellows**, University of Victoria, Canada, to be held in the Department of Computer Science from 22 August to 25 October; **Professor F. W. Glover**, University of Colorado, United States of America, to be held in the Department of Management from 1 September to 15 December 1997; **Professor G. W. Harrison**, University of South Carolina, United States of

America, to be held in the Department of Economics from 15 July to 16 August; **Professor S. A. Jönsson**, University of Gothenburg, Sweden, to be held in the Department of Accountancy, Finance and Information Systems from 11 March to 20 April; **Professor D. H. Morse**, Brown University, United States of America, to be held in the Department of Zoology from 26 February to 1 June 1996.

Canterbury's Chancellor, **Mr Ian Leggat**, will chair the Committee of Chancellors in 1996. The position, which changes annually, rotates round the seven universities.

The Health Research Council of New Zealand has given a two-year grant of \$173,226 to a study of cognitive-behavioural and interpersonal psychotherapy for anorexia nervosa involving **Dr Cynthia Bulik** (Psychology).

The council has also awarded a one-year postgraduate scholarship to **Ms Elizabeth**

**Tully** (Sociology), for her study of midwives as independent birthing practitioners, and a summer studentship to **Mr Manu Barcham** (Zoology) for his work on fluorescent labelling of the thyroid hormone receptor.

## Chronicle

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