

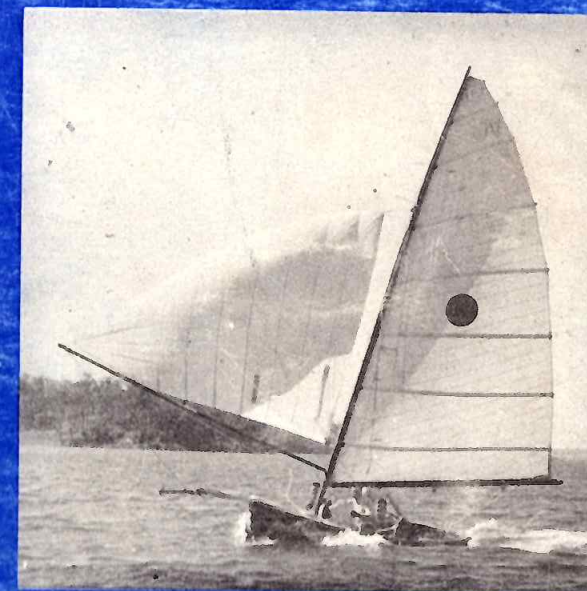
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VOLUME 59 DECEMBER 1969

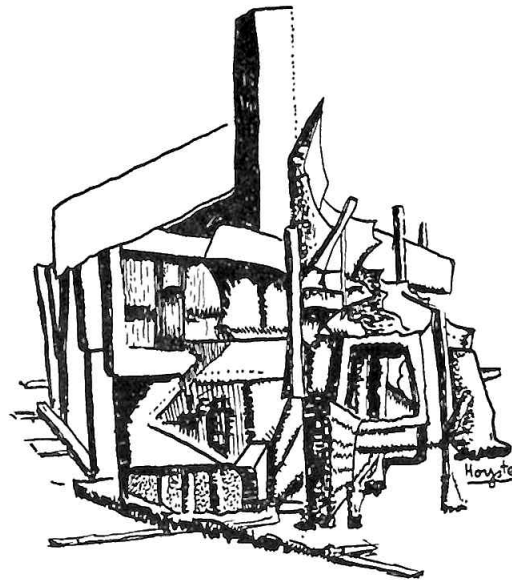
the novocastrian

YEARBOOK OF
NEWCASTLE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL
Waratah, N.S.W.



Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in.
I drink at it; but while I drink I see the
sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is.
Its thin current slides away, but eternity
remains.

Henry David Thoreau
(1817 - 1862)



Volume 59, DECEMBER, 1969

YEARBOOK OF NEWCASTLE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL
First published in 1911

School motto: Remis Velisque "With oars and sails."

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A small amount of research has shown that we can look forward to the diamond jubilee of this publication in 1971. For unexplained reasons the issues of the past few years have borne no volume number, nor does the school possess a complete file of past "Novocastrians".

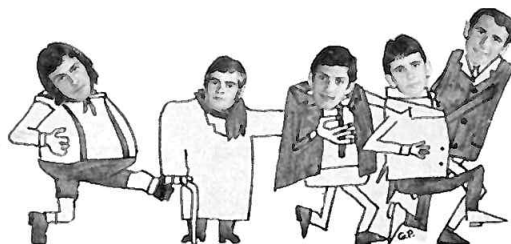
Will any good angels help? Will you lend or give us pre-1960 copies which may be in your family's possession?

In the meantime, to you all, good reading and good wishes.

The Editor



Gary David Philip Greg Brian



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Published at N.B.H.S.,
Turton Rd., Waratah,
N.S.W. 2298.
Telephones:
68-1939, 68-1330.
Printed by
Knight Brothers Printery
Pty. Ltd.,
Mayfield, N.S.W.

Foreword

L. T. Richardson, B.Sc.

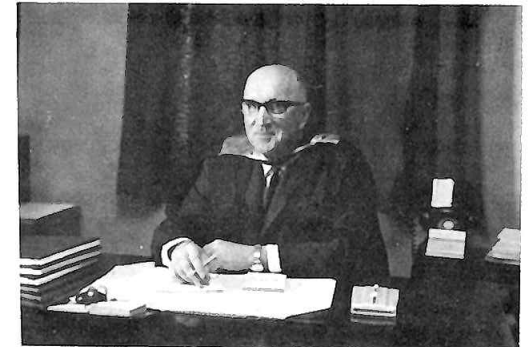


Photo: McRae Studios

AN ADVANCED SOCIETY produces pressure not only on business executives but also on students and teachers in high schools today, due firstly to the increased loads on the curriculum. Secondly, there are also social pressures on a senior student, because even if his intention is clear, the future is clouded. National Service at 20! Perhaps service in some theatre of war; perhaps Vietnam. He can accept National Service but how does he see Vietnam?

He sees other irreconcilables: the race problem in the U.S.A., Israel and the Arabs, Hindus and Moslems, and Roman Catholics and Protestants in Ireland. Is he adequately prepared to meet these uncertainties?

The present affluent society sees more and more parents adopting a Club life, so a young person is forced to look away from home for recreation and pleasure, and the strength of the home is weakened. Where is he to find his standards? Without moral strength a combination of apathy, alcohol, and drugs, can be very destructive. A civilisation without adequate standards must decay.

Our past standards are under attack, although this in itself is not dangerous. Reforms are best executed in an atmosphere of calm and normality, since destruction of public and private property, and even life, in the cause of some crusade is itself a denial of basic human rights.

The school should be conscious of these pressures, which are a great challenge to a senior student to adopt a more mature approach both to the subjects he studies and to the staff. There is a great need for mutual respect and understanding.

One asks how these pressures can be moderated. An imperative need, undoubtedly, is accommodation. If young men are to appreciate greater depth in their studies, and find a fuller satisfaction, they must have facilities that are not yet common in our schools. Senior students need space and time for argument and discussion, and for quiet reading and study, and they need facilities for physical recreation. Indeed, they need the facilities for many leisure activities of their own choosing, including art and music.

This free time must be programmed into their curriculum, without any attempt to superimpose new activities on present crowded syllabuses.

These features would assist materially to strengthen the weak who go to the wall under this pressure. Fortunately for us all, the strong are still in the majority—and survive.

THE PRINCIPAL

Cover inset: Former 16ft. skiff N.S.W. champion "Playgirl" on Lake Macquarie. Crew includes N.B.H.S. old boy Don Tennent, now Lieut. Commander, R.A.N.



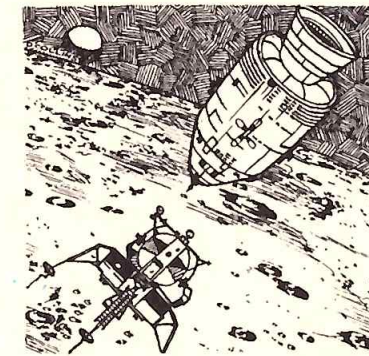
THE YEAR OF APOLLO



A Diary in Retrospect for 1969

THE first important formal occasion of the year for Newcastle Boys' High School is the Prefects' Induction. In 1969 it took place, at City Hall as usual, on Tuesday, 18th February, and the School was honoured by the chairmanship of Mr. A. G. Harvey, B.A., District Inspector, who spoke of the responsibilities undertaken by those students elected as prefects. It must be acknowledged that a highlight of the afternoon came when first-former Stuart Neal, speaking on behalf of the Junior School to congratulate the new prefects, was confident enough to say "When my turn comes to be a prefect . . ."! We hope he makes it.

Speech Day was on 29th May at City Hall, and the School received the courtesy, as it has done in the past, of the welcome presence of the Lord Mayor, Alderman D. G. McDougall, who acted as chairman. Other honoured guests were Mr. J. R. McQualter, Staff Inspector, and Mr. S. B. Jones, M.L.A., and Mr. A. G. Harvey, District Inspector. We were especially honoured, too, by Professor J. J. Auchmuty, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Newcastle, who gave the address, and in it he spoke of Australia's "great success story" as a land opened by engineering skill and technical progress. But technical progress is only a part of our lives, and, went on Professor Auchmuty, the best thing that could emerge from



OPPOSITE: A painting in oils by David Collins, recently exhibited at Newcastle City Gallery. (18" x 24"). Photo: (Agfacolor) W. Menary.

ABOVE: Apollo Eleven, a pen-and-ink sketch by David Collins, specially drawn for us and similar to his sketch which was published in "The Sun Herald".

a person's education, both secondary and tertiary. was a love of learning.

Speech Day is a happy occasion for prize-winners and their parents, though it tends to be somewhat serious in tone. A lighter note this year was the laughter and applause each time the name was called of last year's Captain, John Davis. Instead of John, who was away representing Newcastle University at rugby union, his young cousin Ian Davis in third form came up to receive John's many prizes.

The School is as always most appreciative of the attendance of distinguished guests at our Speech Day.

Our own Athletics Carnival was at Waratah Oval as usual, on 15th April, and was rated a success. A startling and amusing moment came when John Gilmour began race-calling in professional manner over the public address system. His efforts were enjoyed and certainly livened up one or two events, including the staff-students' relay. The Newcastle Zone B Athletics Carnival was on 30th April at Newcastle Sportsground. The significant results of these and other sporting events, including our Annual Swimming Carnival at New Lambton Olympic Pool, re-

ceive mention elsewhere in this magazine. However, it is appropriate here to congratulate several of our young men for individual honours. John Buxton came third in the N.S.W. Junion Diving, and Greg Price is both N.S.W. and Australian Junior Surf Champion. Then, of course, early in the year Gary Gilmour represented Northern N.S.W. against the West Indies touring cricketers, and both he and Stephen Hatherall will be going with the schoolboys' eleven to the West Indies.

On Thursday, 24th April, just before ANZAC Day, the School heard the Headmaster speak of the continuing reasons for remembering lives lost in battle, often in senseless slaughter, since Gallipoli fifty years ago. Even though some Australians abused the celebrations, Mr. Richardson said, the motives of those who paraded on Anzac Day were good. The School Captain spoke the ode of remembrance, and Peter Newman of fourth form played The Last Post and Reveille.

The Last Post and Reveille.

On 21st July, 1969, which was a Monday, Neil Armstrong stepped on the lunar surface from the landing module of the American Apollo-Eleven space mission. It was shortly after 1 p.m. Eastern Standard time. Armstrong was soon followed by Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, while the remaining member of the space team, Michael Collins, orbited anxiously out of touch in the command craft.

Years from now, those who watched the live television transmission of this first manned moon landing may remember the experience, shared by about 500 million people. Here in the school fifteen television receivers monitored the historic events and it was pleasing that nearly all students and staff were able to watch. It is not often that outside events take over entirely from school routine. More recently, the world has seen the highly significant Soviet triple Soyuz-mission which is an obvious step towards permanent orbital space stations.

Now, as "The Novocastrian" is published, the Apollo Twelve flight with an even more ambitious programme is in the news.

We can only briefly look at some other selected events of the school year. We were pleased to play hosts to two highly successful Film Study Evenings in association with the Hunter Valley Branch of the N.S.W. English Teachers' Association, on 28th May and 22nd July.

Congratulations are due to Alan Kennedy who won the senior division of the Royal Commonwealth Society's Public Speaking Tournament, matching his performance in the junior division of two years ago. But to all who through their own effort, and with the help and encouragement of friends, made a little progress towards their ambitions, we should also offer good wishes. It is good to win prizes, but the prizes are not an end in themselves.

STAFF CHANGES IN 1969

The past twelve months have again matched the high staff-turnover which has become normal, though scarcely desirable, in recent years. For various reasons we lost eleven from the staff, and gained only ten incoming teachers, so that the position does not improve even though Newcastle Boys' High seemingly is better off than some schools.

Last year we said farewell to Mr. George Whalen on his retiral. He and his wife are still thoroughly enjoying their extended world tour, and are at present based in the U.K., whence we get reports of their progress.

Before the start of the present academic year the following left us: Mr. A. Cunningham, transferred to St. Mary's; Mr. Paul Danks, transferred to Belmont; Mr. Gordon Lindsay, transferred to Whitebridge; Mr. William Galvin, promoted to Maths master at Gatehead; and Mr. James Waters, promoted to Manual Arts master, also at Gatehead.

In addition, Mr. Otto Haberl departed to take up a commission in the R.A.A.F., and Mr. R. Childs left for Melbourne to a University tutorial appointment. In the course of first and second terms this year no fewer than three more teachers have resigned from the service. Mr. B. Barnett has gone into the real estate business, Mr. Richard Bennett into the personnel division of an industrial firm, and Mr. Paul Whalen is now on the staff of the N.S.W. Teachers' Federation as an organizer for

schools in the north. He is, however, based in Sydney, but we have been pleased to see him here several times in pursuance of his new duties.

We welcome to the school three teachers coming to their first appointments, Mr. I. Dunn and Mr. G. Landrey to the Modern Languages staff, and Mr. R. Wright to the Maths staff.

Mr. R. Brydon came from Beresfield to teach Commerce. The Manual Arts staff gained Mr. R. Davies and Mr. R. Pratt both from Broadmeadow High. Mrs. G. Curry has come to join us as casual staff, and is teaching commerce. Mr. N. Winney came from Cardiff to our Maths Department, and Mr. T. Lynch from Junior High also to that department.

Our secretary, Mrs. Jentsch, left to go to Sydney, and we welcome in her place Mrs. Gover.

Lastly, we had the services for a while of Mr. A. Kelso in the Modern Languages and Classics Department, but the Education Department has since transferred him to Jesmond High to teach, surprisingly, Manual Arts.

At time of going to press, we are pleased to congratulate Mr. P. Maehl, our Maths master, on the news of his appointment to Gateshead High as Deputy Principal.

W.M.

CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

Each student this year has had a different challenge to meet and has met it in his own way.

A student cannot spend six years in this school without absorbing some of its traditions. With Sixth Form should come a sense of freedom, but one that is tempered by responsibility.

One of the greatest responsibilities to be experienced by a student is that of School Captain. This responsibility I have tried to live up to as faithfully as possible.

In this task I have been assisted by the Senior Prefect, Peter Howlett, who has efficiently organised the duties of the Prefects, and by the Vice-Captain, Peter Clarke. To Peter go my personal thanks for his friendship and practical attitude to problems.

Our Headmaster once wrote "... the future of humanity still depends upon the strength of such factors as truth, courtesy, compassion and faith in God." I feel that these words have a message for us all and they have been a guide to me in my term as leader of the student body. I'm sure that memories of Newcastle Boys' High School will be as pleasant as any I will ever experience.

JEFF HOGG, School Captain

PREFECTS' PLEDGE

I solemnly and sincerely promise to discharge faithfully the duties of Prefect of Newcastle Boys' High School, to strive to set the highest example to the boys of the School, and to lead them in all that will enhance the school's efficiency, reputation and service to the community.

P. AND C. LADIES' AUXILIARY ANNUAL REPORT, 1968-69

After another successful year it affords me much pleasure to submit this report of the past twelve months' activities. It was with much regret that we lost the membership of a number of ladies whose sons had completed their schooling. Most of these ladies had been active workers in the Auxiliary for a number of years. However, I am happy to report that the number of new faces has balanced out the loss. This year has been a successful one, both financially and socially.

The fund raising activities held during the year have been: Gas Cooking Demonstration at Newcastle Gas Company; Christmas Gift Stall and Mothers' Day Stall, which were well patronised by the boys; and Bowls Gala at City Bowling Club. Once again the Auxiliary catered for the School Sports Carnival and also the Area Sports Carnival held on two days. They have also staffed the canteen at the school dances. The swap shot continues, and the ladies are busy making P.E. shorts which are sold to the boys.

Due to the generosity of ladies who made their homes available, very successful functions were held. Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. McKinnon - Crazy Whists; Mrs. Corbett - Cosmetic Demonstration; and Mrs. Whitford - Patons and Baldwins Display.

Twenty seven cars took part in a drive to Mrs. Teterin's property "Melville House", Rutherford.

Our Annual Luncheon was again well attended

and enjoyed by all. A short musical programme was given, with Professor Beryl Nashar as the Guest Speaker.

Afternoon tea was served to official guests at the Annual Speech Day, Induction of Prefects and Passing Out Parade. Supper was served at the "Parent Teacher" nights, and afternoon tea given at a welcome to parents of first form boys.

When school resumed after the Christmas vacation the ladies were engaged for two weeks, organising and selling books and stationery to the students.

An enjoyable Christmas Luncheon was again held in the Assembly Hall.

The book-binding ladies deserve a big thank-you, and would welcome new members at all times.

We have been most fortunate to have Mrs. Burgess as our Treasurer. She has carried out her duties most efficiently and faithfully. As in other years, our President, Mrs. Corbett, has devoted herself to the many duties, and has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of every function.

In closing I would like to thank all those who have assisted our Auxiliary in any way during the past twelve months, and all executive officers and ladies of the Auxiliary for their assistance, and I wish the incoming committee every success for the ensuing year.

B. GIBBONS,
Hon. Secretary.

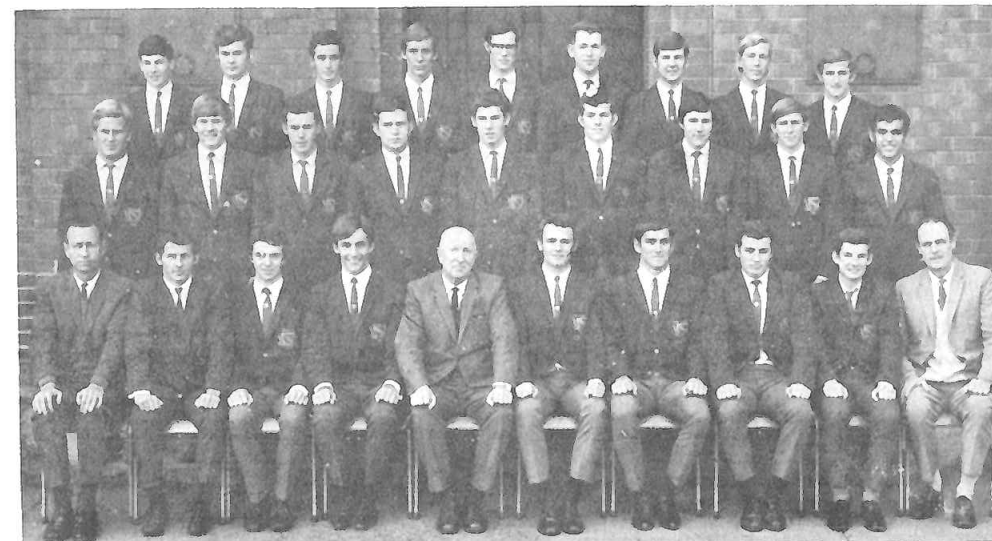


Photo: R. Chisholm.

PREFECTS

Back Row: B. Burke, R. Sanderson, D. Ryan, S. Bland, R. Staines, P. A. Graham, P. Scott, T. Lawrie, G. Gilmour.

Second Row: C. Wright, P. O'Hearn, P. Colditz, D. Cocking, P. Swiney, R. Wilkinson, R. Cheek, R. Cheek, R. Dunstan, J. Garis.

Front Row: Mr. W. Maiden (Deputy Headmaster), P. Hawkins, J. Farrell, J. Hogg (Captain), Mr. L. T. Richardson (Headmaster), P. Clark, P. Howlett, G. Jopson, M. Hannaford, Mr. A. Clark (Prefect Master).

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R. G. TANNER

WHY CLASSICS?

The numbers of Latin pupils to be found in secondary schools in New South Wales diminish—relatively if not actually—year by year, while the teaching of Greek is confined to not more than ten schools in the whole State. Perhaps the Education Day address by a country inspector of schools epitomised the attitude of most modern educational planners when he remarked “the teaching of modern Asian languages is infinitely more important to young Australians than the dubious benefits of a smattering of Latin or Greek”. No doubt most readers of this article have frequently heard similar views expressed, and it is the wisdom and prudence of this generally held opinion which I propose to discuss.



Professor Godfrey Tanner is a well-known personality on the campus of Newcastle University.

In 1960 he was senior lecturer in charge of the Classics Department of the then University College, and in 1964 he was appointed to the foundation chair in Classics as one of Australia's youngest professors.

His interest in schools, his energy in all he does, and his friendly help for students, are unflinching. His book on the Roman dramatist Plautus is to be published soon.

The worthy inspector's statement of course begs several questions regarding the meaning of education. First, he clearly equates it with the acquisition of useful skills for daily living. Here he joins hands with the Professor of Education at Armidale who wants to replace Latin, French and German with “survival skills” like road safety and car driving. Secondly, the inspector joins hands with the conditioners and planners who sit in the Ministry of Truth rewriting history in George Orwell's 1984. Like them he believes that knowledge of the contemporary behaviour of those of our neighbours which seem most important today is the best preparation for thoughtful or perhaps in fact for conformist, citizenship. People who want to base our education on the shifting patterns of foreign affairs run into the problem faced by people who want to set their Church hymns to the latest popular music: in both cases fashions change so fast that new techniques would require to be learnt every year or two. At present we are feeling very neighbourly towards Indonesia and we are ready to sacrifice any moral principle to flatter that country's wounded national vanity.

However, the coming of the first Japanese technicians to the State Dockyard and likely effects of Mr. Nixon's “Nothing west of Hawaii” policy may well see the present crash programme to produce thousands of Indonesian teachers in New South Wales secondary schools being replaced overnight by a new crash programme to produce thousands of Japanese teachers. Of course rapid learning facilities must be provided for people who wish to speak, read and write modern Asian tongues for business, travel and diplomacy; but this does not mean that teaching modern spoken usage will give us the kind of insight into Asian habits of mind that could be gained from the study of classical Arabic or Sanskrit or of literary Chinese.

The hostility shown towards Latin and Greek by some education experts would be advanced equally strongly against the classical Asian literatures. As Orwell saw, people with no knowledge of their cultural tradition, and largely devoid of a sense of continuity, are much easier subjects for the brain-washing techniques of modern mass-media. Further, it is alleged that grammatical study is the wrong way to learn language and it is also claimed that American scholars have proved there is no transfer value arising from training the mind in one area. However, all these happy shibboleths of the 1930s are now in some disorder. The work of the new leader of modern linguistics theory, the American-Russian Jewish scholar Chomsky, has shown that grammatical categories are a basic part of human consciousness, and that speech consists of grammatical transformation of basic sentence patterns. Further, Chomsky is disposed to feel that these basic patterns are the same for all languages, and that their origins are neural ones arising from the psychological

structure of the brain. Though his findings may demand some resetting of traditional Latin grammar, they rehabilitate it as a serious intellectual activity and forbid us to go on regarding it as a mediaeval classroom chore. Indeed the similarly inflected structures of Hebrew seem to have suggested many of Chomsky's lines of approach.

Apart from the respectability of Latin linguistics, has the literature also a legitimate role? Of course, Virgil was the model for Milton and Shakespeare was influenced by Seneca, Plautus and Terence, and the letters of Cicero, Pliny and Seneca provided the model for the English essay. But you are entitled to share Lord Macaulay's rejoinder that “the interest now exceeds the principal; for the volume of works of genius produced since 1600 vastly transcends the bulk and importance of those produced beforehand”.

On this view you might be forgiven for thinking that Latin literature was at best a minor aid to literary history and literary criticism. However, the recent work of Marshall McLuhan on communication theory served to suggest that Latin and Greek may play a valuable role in personal integration and self-awareness in the present phase of society. As McLuhan points out in his “Gutenberg Galaxy” we have moved from a society dominated by reading and the printed word to one dominated by broadcast sound and telecast pictures—a visual and auditory culture

is rapidly replacing a literary one. Now Greek and Roman culture was much more auditory than ours. In a world without printing where books were published by dictation to scarcely more than one hundred copists at a time, the standard gesture of initial publication was to read or recite the whole work aloud at a literary gathering. Thus poetry and history were written for a technique closer to modern broadcasting than to modern printing, while the traditions of political life and the law court led to elaborate preparation of written speeches which also were designed to be heard rather than to be read. Finally McLuhan remarks that the world has been made a global village by instantaneous communication; so here again the Roman concept of the unity of the civilised world is as good a training to offer Sixth Form pupils facing this new situation as any of the Social Studies techniques of the 1940s or 1950s are likely to prove.

Despite the great differences between the ancient and the modern world, recent society is showing a tendency to grow more like antiquity in important ways. Therefore the study of Latin helps us not merely to understand the roots and traditions of our history and the past experience of our Society but to plan our confrontation of a rapidly evolving future.

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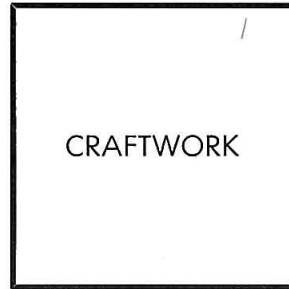
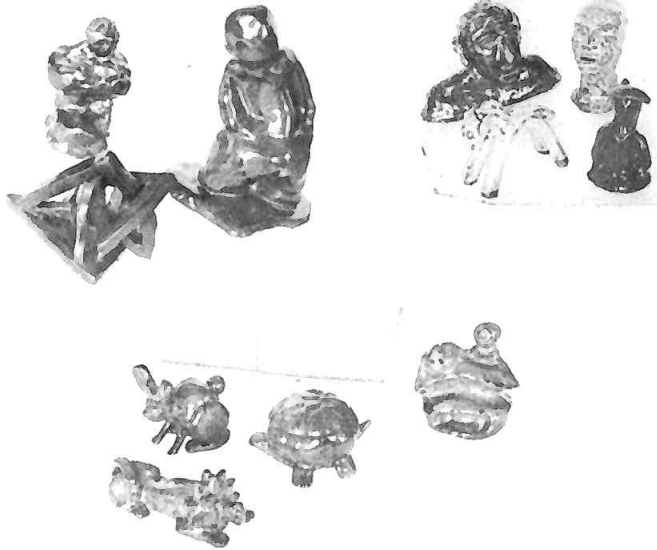
The pottery illustrated below is the work of five boys in second and third form: Graham Bond, Richard Graham, John Rothfield, Bassino Santarelli, and Malcolm Tuft.



These examples of ceramic modelling were made by Peter and Richard Graham. Peter is in third form and Richard is in first form.

Their brother Chris, who is in fifth form, painted the oil landscape below. It was recently exhibited at Newcastle City Gallery, and is mainly in shades of deep blue.

Also on show at the gallery (for the Secondary Schools Art Exhibition) were pictures by David Collins, Michael Carr, and Jonathan Henderson.



The following students gained Certificates of Merit in the 1969 Sun Art Show:

first form:

Richard Bridgewater
Dino Consalvo
Graeme Davidson
Michael Merrick
Wayne Pitts
Michael Toll
Phillip Warth

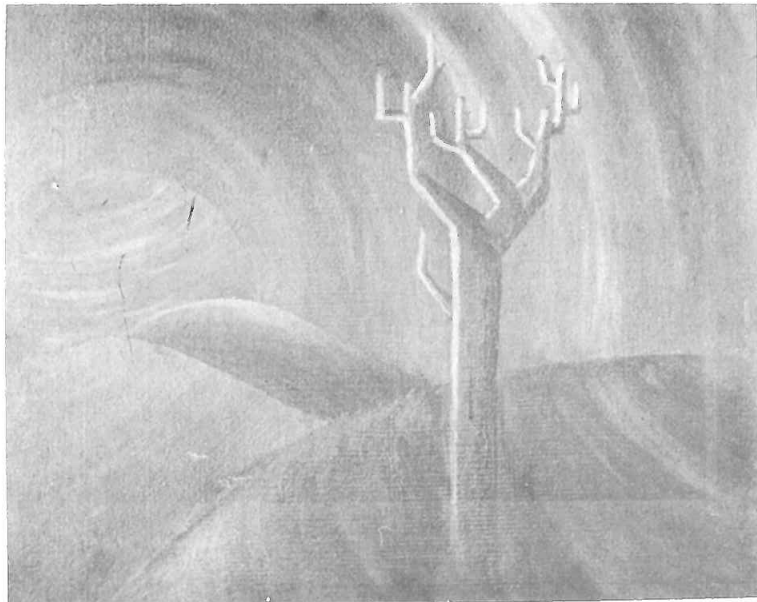
second form:

Kim Brien
Lee Carr
Darryl Grosse
David Jack
Greg Rayment
Lionel Solomon
Robert Thompson

third form:

Graham Bond
Geoff Lowndes
Michael Makaroff
Keith Rigby
Ian Watchorn

Michael Makaroff's and Lee Carr's pictures were photographed in colour along with 20 others for display in other schools.



Landscape with Tree,
Chris Graham

C. D. ELLYETT

THE PROSPECTS FOR SCIENCE

Professor Ellyett looks at how far we have come, and makes some observations on science research and education.

IN pure science one cannot lay down what is useful work to be done. In man's early days, many many centuries ago, he discovered how copper could be refined, but it took a long time after the discovery before the metal age really came into being. Copper was just useful for ornaments long before it, and later iron, were found to have practical value. More recently, Faraday's experiments with electricity were interesting laboratory findings to a handful of people, none of whom realized that he was ushering in the new age of

electricity. In our own century, experiments on the nucleus of the atom were for the pure physicist, and Rutherford himself could see no possible practical development of nuclear power. Immense nuclear power stations in Britain and America already prove him wrong. America has just announced it will put men on Mars in the 1980s. This will require nuclear engines for the enormous ride through space, taking perhaps up to two years for the round trip.

Likewise applied science uses the results of pure science, but often for quite novel purposes. Photography in colour, and in specific wavelengths in the infra-red and ultra-violet, has been developed over many decades but only in the last five years have these techniques really been applied. from aeroplanes and satellites to prospect for minerals, count animals in the outback — by their infra-red radiation — observe pests attacking crops, or areas of water and air pollution. A new science of 'Remote Sensing' has arisen, which is only beginning to reach Australia, and of which the above are only a few of the many applications already available. Vast economic gains lie in the development and application of these new techniques.

One could go on and on with illustrations from every branch of science showing its growth and usage. Applied to this country right now, it should not be just a case of the Universities doing what pure research they can, and the Colleges of Advanced Education teaching the proven techniques and applications. In this way the Universities will become isolated and the Colleges sterile. The Universities should not be ashamed to do some applications work, in conjunction with industry, and the Colleges must not be divorced from a significant research role. The two in this way will tend to grow together. Some competition will be inevitable, but healthy, and each should gradually attract students of equal calibre. The Universities will, of course, strive to get the best intellectual intake they can. Money will play a big part, and if teaching loads and salaries become equal, the Colleges will really be able to compete for the best students. At the moment, the Universities in this country have tradition behind them, and high calibre staff, but a big experiment in education is being attempted, and the next decade will show the success or failure of the Federal Government's attempt to open up greatly increased resources in trained personnel.

Well, we are getting a long way off science, but this is one of the important factors which will determine where it is going in Australia in the next two decades.

(Continued overleaf)

Professor Ellyett has held the chair of Physics at the University of Newcastle since 1964. He is a New Zealander, and originally gained his Master's degree at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

His doctorate is from Manchester University.

Professor Ellyett has two teenage sons, and tells us his sporting interest is badminton, which he plays as a member of the Ace Club in Newcastle.



Those who enter science, by whatever avenue, are influenced by their high school teachers. Here we hear gloomy pictures of masters going off to the princely salaries of Canada. But are they? I have been to Canada, and to America five times, and know the other side of the coin. Bitterly cold winters, where it is impossible to walk in the open when the wind is blowing the snow, have to be experienced to be appreciated. Winters go on interminably for month after month. Inflation is hitting Canada hard right now, so that big salaries are necessary for a reasonable standard of living. Many come back, but find that they are penalized for having gone away to learn all the good features of teaching in another country. They often go back overseas again. If they were rewarded for this teaching experience, which is in fact really extra

training, by having the time counted in their favour, a two-way traffic would develop, and the standard of teaching of science in this country could only go up. Let us hope, and press, for this point of view to be considered and granted.

I have no doubt that the pace of discovery and application will continue to grow, both here and overseas, and that our enjoyment of life will go up with the rate of discovery. In our short lifetimes, fantastic advances have already been made, and before the average lifespan is over, what we have seen to date will only be a small foretaste of what lies ahead.

*

TWO WAR POEMS

I look at the storm in the sky
And I see you,
Nobody being alone.
I fight back the impulse to cry
And I see you,
Alone on the throne:
Wondering how to escape from the way
Of all men
As they act out their lives as a play.
Falling behind, falling away.
Sentinel solitude, secretly said
To be false in the minds of a hollow head.
Let solitude die,
Let candles cry,
Let soldiers lie

with the dead.

ross staines/sixth

WINTER PARADE — 1943 — GERMANY

In ranks of three they stand,
stand waiting, always waiting,
in the snow.
Snow, falling deeply
around those waiting in the compound.

The voice in German goes on counting,
counting those waiting in the snow.
No better than cattle we are, growls one.
They go on standing in the cold,
waiting, for this bleak war to end.
If we stay here it will be the end
for us — another mutters.

Over there a tattered British uniform:
uniforms of the defeated
waiting in the mud,
mud of Germany.
Wish I had never seen
the place — curses one.
Now a voice in English calls —
Break off, go back to your huts.

They go back,
to dream of escape,
to dream of going home to Britain or wherever
home is.

And the barbed wire guards them:
and they wait in the huts,
waiting in Germany.

craig whitford/fourth



Page sponsored by R. E. A. Patrick, Esq.

PHILIP PATERSON



HENRY AND THE ACCIDENT

GOOD evening, Henry." The old man was speaking very slowly. "Father." Henry inclined his head in recognition. "Lovely night." "That it is. But shouldn't you be in bed?" — he'll be here at midnight."

"I just stepped out for a minute." Henry regarded the priest with sympathy — Christmas was no time for the old. "Church, to-morrow."

"Right you are, Henry. Merry Christmas." Father Delecreux walked, and stumbled on. He sang a verse of "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen", sighed deeply and looked back. The street was deserted except for Henry's retreating footsteps; the street was empty and cold. "Merry Christmas, Henry."

Henry heard the second greeting vaguely and acknowledged it with a smile. And breathed the night. There was no longer any fear in the creeping shadows and concealed terrors; there was something overpoweringly good in the air, that was lit by the coloured Christmas-tree lights and that reverberated with the tone of an unseen bell. Someone was very happy this night, someone was pleased with the humble results of a human mind.

The moon was swimming, cloudedly, in a clouded sky; it lit and shaded and beamed benevolently on the gentle suburban roof-tops, lying bare and exposed in the hail of moonlight. The shadows skipped past the rain, and waited in hiding for an unsuspecting pedestrian; to-night they had no power to frighten, and their impotence spread to all evil and hate. Everything was innocent and pure — life should never be any different, Henry sensed, as the quiet sighing of the tall plane-trees echoed that of Father Delecreux, breaking the sealed stillness with a whiff of hot steam.

"I just stepped out for a minute," Henry repeated thoughtfully. That wasn't strictly true. He was finding strength to face the concentrated happiness of Christmas. No-one had the right to be as happy as he was; there were starving children somewhere in the world. And yet, it was wonderful to be completely self-centred, to feel the exquisite breath of wind as if you were the only person on earth capable of feeling and understanding. What was denied and jealously guarded from everyone but him. It passed words and spread into complete knowledge.

"Hello, John." The little boy was sitting on the steps of his verandah, swinging his scrawny legs and trying very hard to look grown-up. "Anything wrong?"

Henry hadn't expected anything in reply. He was about to walk on, when the lad answered:

"Mom told us he can't call this year."

Henry was filled with something that approached pity, almost but not quite. He smiled kindly. "He's very busy, John. He can't be everywhere."

"That's what she said, but I know he really doesn't exist."

"Oh?" Henry prompted, a little saddened by the destruction of dreams.

"Mom just hasn't got any money, since Dad died."

"There'll be something in your stocking . . . Where do you think your father is?"

"In heaven. God loves him. But they could have helped him."

"Who could have helped him?"

"The people near the bus. Mom told us that. They didn't do anything for him, she said." John gazed in admiration at Henry's wiry frame, while he spoke with the sophistication and distance of an adult.

"There was very little anyone could have done. The wheels caught his legs." Henry watched a bright Christmas star fade a little in the heavens, reminding him of a stable in Bethlehem. A very unsophisticated association, he felt sure.

"People don't care anymore," the boy continued. "Mom says that people think too much of themselves. They don't want to become involved or responsible. Will I see you to-morrow, Henry? We can have a game of cricket."

Philip Paterson is in sixth form. The editor's impression is that Philip regards the above short story as among his rejected juvenilia. However, we like its low-key mood. Philip hopes to read modern languages at university.

Henry started to move away. He saw John head into the house. "When I've opened my presents," he whispered to the wind. After all, he'd seen that accident and there was nothing anyone could have done. No-one could possibly blame him; guilt was a completely personal thing and he felt no guilt at all. He thought of the silvered, glittering Christmas tree waiting for him at home. With its comfort and warmth and security. Suddenly he knew that everything was in harmony with life; there simply could not be any discords amongst this general goodwill. It was Christmas, and life would always go on, happily, unhappily, steadily.

"Joy to the world, the Lord is born, Let earth receive her King." Henry struggled with the words as he walked on. I'm glad to be alive; in a way that's all that counts.

"Will I see you to-morrow?"

"Of course," Henry called back. To-morrow, and every day.

GLENN HOLMES

THE SEABIRDS OF NEWCASTLE

This article has been reprinted, by permission, from Hunter Natural History, May, 1969.



VERY few species of birds have adapted entirely to a pelagic existence, tirelessly searching for the food organisms of clearly marked zones of the ocean surface, which rigidly control the breeding and feeding rhythm. The extent of this seabird population is rather speculative; some larger species can be identified from the shore, but most rarely approach land closely, and several are distinguished only by bill measurements, or minor plumage characters. Consequently, those individuals that are cast up dead or dying on the beaches are often the only indication that others of the species are present in the adjacent seas. Between Port Stephens and Norah Head, since July 1967, I have recorded 24 pelagic species; 5,300 individuals of 18 species were found beach-washed.

Seasonal fluctuations occur in the numbers found, and although the vagaries of the environment can affect these numbers, October, November, and to a lesser extent December, regularly yield the most. Storms and strong winds are an integral part of the oceanic environment and are not necessarily prominent in the destruction of birds, although prolonged storms may eventually cause plankton to descend out of feeding range, or cause some birds to be blown towards the shore, where they exhaust themselves fighting against the wind, and are finally washed up or blown inland in a starved or dying condition. Starvation, brought about by conditions not fully understood, is the principal cause of mortality. Most seabirds do not mature reproductively till after a few years; immatures appear to wander widely, often providing interesting records, and the ephemeral satisfaction of finding a dead rarity.

The species occurring locally have widely scattered origins: Cabbagetree, Boondelbah, Moon and Bird Islands in the Newcastle area; other Australian islands, especially in Bass Strait; New Zealand; Pacific islands; subantarctic and antarctic islands. Shearwaters breed in temperate seas and usually occur during the warmer months, while albatrosses and prions breed to the south and occur during the colder months; but the unpredictability of seabirds often results in the casual occurrence of some birds at any time of the year.

Of the 9 penguin species recorded for Australia, only the Little Penguin is resident, breeding around the southern coasts and Tasmania. Very few are beachwashed, and it is probably not common locally, being only occasionally sighted from shore. The nearest breeding locality to New-

castle is Moon Island, off Swansea, where they can be found under ledges and in burrows during spring and summer; they defend their nests vigorously. Moulting birds may be found as autumn approaches.

The petrels, or tube-noses, are the most successful of pelagic birds, being cosmopolitan, but achieving greatest differentiation into species in the Southern Hemisphere. I have recorded 18 of the 54 Australian species, almost all individuals of which were the Short-tailed Shearwater, a species present and breeding in south-eastern Australia from late September to May. As with all shearwaters and most small petrels, the single white egg is situated in a nest at the end of a burrow; the initially helpless young soon becomes clothed in a thick down, and may vomit a foul, oily liquid if disturbed. This species is famed for its annual post-breeding migration, across the Pacific Ocean past New Zealand to Japan and the Bering Sea, where it spends the northern summer, returning down the eastern Pacific past America to complete a vast figure-of-eight. Three other "dark" shearwater species, the Sooty, Wedge-tailed and Fleshy-footed, also occur locally, and exhibit migratory tendencies to varying degrees. A few dark shearwaters were seen on the North Arm of the Hunter during October 1967, but such an occurrence is very unusual. The Fluttering Shearwater, which flies with a peculiar series of quick beats alternated with gliding, is smaller and white below; it breeds in New Zealand and adjacent islands and occurs here throughout the year. A similar species, but smaller again, the Little Shearwater, I have found four times, in late summer and autumn. It breeds on Lord Howe and other islands, and was first recorded in eastern Australia in 1942. Like the Fleshy-footed Shearwater and Great-winged Petrel, it breeds in Australia only in the south-west, but has populations well-scattered elsewhere.

As large as the Fluttering Shearwater, and similarly coloured, the dainty Gould Petrel was first described from the population that breeds on Cabbagetree Island, off Port Stephens, the only known Australian breeding place. Here the birds mostly nest under palm-fronds, roots and boulders, and occasionally in the open, in a steep brush gully on the western side of the island. I have found three beachwashed around Newcastle in late summer and autumn; elsewhere in Australia they are seldom encountered. The slightly larger White-headed Petrel is closely related, but breeds on subantarctic islands and is usually a winter visitor to Australia, and moderately rare.

It was somewhat surprising to find a very decomposed specimen at Dudley in February 1969. The western Pacific population of the Great-winged Petrel differs from others in having a grey face, so that it is often called the Grey-faced Petrel in eastern Australia and New Zealand. It is similarly coloured to the dark shearwaters, but is characterised by thin, angular wings and a somewhat erratic flight. I found two specimens on Newcastle Bight in April 1968.

Glenn Holmes is a sixth form student at Newcastle Boys' High.

His interest in Natural History field studies is shown by the above article, which appeared in the quarterly journal of the Newcastle Flora and Fauna Protection Society.

He intends to study biological sciences at university.

The storm-petrels are among the smallest pelagic bird species, having an erratic flight very close to the surface, often patting the water with their feet, and bounding along with a series of leaps. The White-faced Storm-Petrel breeds locally at Bird Island off Budgewoi, in rat-like burrows; I have found three beach-washed in summer and one in July. Prions are slightly larger than storm-petrels, being grey above and white below, with black-tipped tails. The six species are determined by the length and width of their bills, and the ratio of these measurements: the commonest species here, the Fairy Prion, has the widest tail-band; many are beachwashed in winter, but are soon destroyed by Ravens. They breed in Bass Strait and on a few subantarctic islands. The Dove Prion breeds on subantarctic islands and is the next commonest species here; one was found in December 1968.

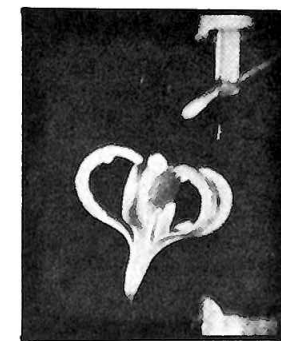
The albatrosses are the largest of seabirds, the local species breeding on subantarctic islands. The Wandering Albatross has a wingspan of over twelve feet; its flight is remarkable and graceful, there being no apparent movement of the wings as it glides and circles effortlessly. The Black-browed Albatross is smaller, with the black of the upperwings extending across the back; it and the Wandering Albatross are present mostly from May to November, the Black-browed the commoner, and often gathering around trawlers. The Wandering I have found beachwashed three times, in spring and late summer, the Black-browed once in winter. The rare Sooty Albatross was seen off Nobbys breakwater in November 1967. The Giant Petrel, similarly coloured but with a yellowish-horn bill, is a moderately common winter visitor; it is distinguished from the dark albatrosses by its stouter form, shorter wings and stiffly stroking flight. It feeds on all manner of food, including refuse, thereby earning itself the sailors' names Nelly, Stinker and Glutton. The White-chinned Petrel, slightly larger than a dark shearwater, and common enough in southern oceans, had been found beachwashed but twice

previously in Australia, when I found the third on Stockton Beach in December 1968. At the same time I found a Cape Petrel; white below and mottled black-and-white above, it is well known in southern oceans, but is only occasionally seen and rarely found beachwashed at this latitude.

Australia has four gannet species; three are northern species, and the other, the Australian Gannet, a large white bird with black primaries, breeds in Bass Strait, Tasmania and New Zealand and is common around our southern coasts. It flies with stiff, powerful beats, its head bent downward, intently searching for the fish for which it dives from heights of 100 feet or more. Fishermen have reported them at depths of 90 feet underwater.

The Sooty Tern, related to the gulls but with more graceful form and a forked tail, is one of the few pelagic terns. It is rarely seen or found in south-eastern Australia; a beachwashed specimen found in December, 1968, probably originated from Lord Howe Island. Also related to the gulls are the piratical skuas; two, the Pomarine and Arctic Skuas, breed in the high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere and spend the southern summer here, harrying gulls and terns to make them disgorge their catches, which the skuas promptly devour. Both species are dimorphic, having a light phase (brown, and yellow-tinged white) and a dark phase. The Great Skua is a dark-plumaged winter visitor from the south, identified by a light wing patch; its habits are similar to those of the other skuas.

Observers in previous years have discovered other pelagic species in local waters; these are either stragglers, such as the Buller Shearwater, Lesser Frigatebird and Brown Gannet, or species normally only recorded from boats, such as the Wilson Storm-Petrel and White-capped Albatross. Most of those that I have recorded are either regularly observed from shore, or beachwashed along the miles of the Newcastle coastline.



**QUICK
QUIZ 1**

This picture was taken at a shutter speed of one 26,000th of a second.

Any guesses?

See page 49 for the answer.

2001 aspaceodyssey

reviewed by Ian McPhee

TO many people who visited the theatre to see a film sensationalized by all advertising media, 2001 was a mystery. Most, if not all those who viewed the film which was in fact a cinematic masterpiece, both in vision and sound, have tried in vain to fathom out the weird and obscure meaning behind it.

The screenplay, a joint effort between science-fiction, author Arthur C. Clarke and director Stanley Kubrick, based in part on Clarke's short story "The Sentinel" was later re-written by him in novel form supposedly to explain the disjointed run of events within the film. But of course, even the most naive critic will immediately retaliate. If one has to read a book or an article to explain the meaning behind a film, someone has failed, especially after spending five million dollars. The greater part of it was spent on elaborate sets. The aircraft firm of Vickers Armstrong, for example, were paid for constructing the huge spaceship interior set. It cost \$750,000.

Kubrick was pinned down to explaining the meaning of the film as follows (quoted from *Film Weekly*, June, 1968).

"There is a very simple, literal explanation on the lowest possible plot level. An artifact is left on earth by extraterrestrial explorers 3 million years ago. Another artifact is left on the moon so that it may signal man's first baby step into the universe. Another is placed in orbit around Jupiter, as a relay. When he goes to Jupiter the astronaut is placed in the equivalent of a human zoo so that he can be studied. His life passes in this room and to him it seems like moments. He may either be spending his entire natural life there or it may be compressed into minutes. He dies and is re-born in some enhanced way. He comes back to Earth as an angel or as a superman or in some other way trans-figured. On the simplest level that's what happens . . . On other levels it means anything anybody is feeling about it."

So now we know . . . !

HAIR

reviewed by Bruce Burke

HAIR . . . the greatest breakthrough in the stage this century? . . . a glorified pop concert . . . or a fad, the in-thing, soon to be replaced by something different?

Whatever else it may be, "Hair" is certainly different. At what other stage play would you be suffocated by incense, showered with confetti and invited on the stage to dance with the cast?

The lighting is kaleidoscopic, the stage being surrounded by scaffolding supporting an intricate array of lights. Even the stage floor changes colour during the performance.

Film and Theatre

The music is fantastic. Fully supported by four additional musicians including John Sangster, the Tully create enough excitement to be complete entertainment by themselves.

The cast, its presentation now polished, are a motley crew of long-hair, who put unbelievable effort into each performance.

What is "Hair"? The director Jim Sharman says: "Hair is total theatre, heavily based on tribal ritual. The concept shuns naturalism to explode in a kaleidoscope of attitudes, states of mind and activities of a generation . . .", and on and on. It is just as well you do not have to understand it to enjoy it.

The climax is the final song, "Let the Sunshine In" which is GREAT. The Tully go wild and the audience is treated to ten minutes of the greatest jam session of all time.

What "Hair" means to you you must decide for yourself, but for me it was entertainment plus.

NEWCASTLE BOYS' HIGH FILM CLUB

presents
the one-hour documentary

THE WAR GAME

the prize-winning film which the B.B.C. commissioned from PETER WATKINS (who made "Culloden").

BUT BOTH THE B.B.C. AND THE A.B.C. DIDN'T DARE TO SHOW IT ON TELEVISION!

The terrifying aftermath of a NUCLEAR ATTACK, brilliantly dramatised.

Open to senior students with a serious interest in film. Donation 20 cents.

IN N.B.H.S. HALL, Turton Road, Waratah, on Tuesday, 9th December, 1969, at 7.30 p.m.

Supporting programme



ANTHONY HOYSTED



SF ASIMOV AND OTHERS

Is there a serious purpose behind the type of writing known as Science Fiction? The writer of this article thinks there is.

Modern fiction has revealed an increasing concern of authors over the effects of our rapidly advancing technology. Never before has science had such bearing on life.

The logical outcome of this situation, for the writer at least, is science-fiction. Far from the pulps of the forties, and their reputation for poor literature, science-fiction is now regarded as a useful vehicle to convey a social message. That is not to say, of course, that all or even most science-fiction contains a message. However, the majority of science-fiction is concerned with human reactions, and subsequent changes in social structure, to aspects of science projected into the future or to events which may happen, or may have happened, at any time.

For instance, in Alfred Bester's novel, *The Demolished Man* (published 1953), a society where telepathy is common is explored. Seemingly irrelevant details such as the discovery of a latent "Esper" are necessary to complete the picture of a world different from our own. Yet the characters are basically human in their reactions and are not subordinated to the setting.

Tony Hoysted is a fourth former at Newcastle Boys' High.

His wide reading in the field of Science Fiction makes him a well-qualified person to argue the case for more critical attention to an interesting kind of writing.

He is a member of the Australian Science Fiction Association.

Two essentials, reality of setting (including development of scientific data) and "meaning" (covering all ranges of social comment or message) must be present if a novel is to achieve any measure of greatness. This can be illustrated by the works of Isaac Asimov. In his novels the science is plausible, and the writing style quite readable, but by placing his novels on a galactic scale he loses contact with the "reality" of his world and the reader is forced to relate the setting to past empires.

Page sponsored by Dr. G. Kerridge.

However, the setting of the majority of his short stories is Earth, and accordingly there are few "reality" problems. Relieved of the problem of setting, he writes stories with "meaning", and it is those for which he is known.

There can be many ranges of meaning. If one predicts accurately how humans will react to certain fairly likely future events such as Mars or Moon colonizations (the layman's idea, if not the science fiction writer's idea of science-fiction) then that can be classed as having meaning as it has direct relevance to life. Writers such as Arthur Clarke and Robert Heinlein cover not the possible but the probable, and of necessity their work must have the artist's touch to develop the "reality" already half formed in the reader's mind. This is science-fiction's closest approach to the descriptive essay.

The ultimate in science fiction is achieved when reality and meaning are fused. Take George Orwell's 1984, for example. There is definitely a "reality" in 1984, a terrifying reality developed superbly by Orwell. "Meaning" is also evident in the form of a biting criticism of state control of the individual. Orwell has used the science-fiction premise of "what might happen if . . . ?" perfectly.

Is this fusion of reality and meaning still occurring? It is. Annually, the Hugo award is given at the World Science-Fiction convention for the best science-fiction novel. As well as having superbly developed reality of setting, Hugo winning novels have "meaning".

James Blish's novel *A Case of Conscience* discusses the heretical implications of a perfect race (by human standards) who have no knowledge of God, while Philip K. Dick's *The Man in the High Castle* mirrors our East-West struggle in a world where the Axis powers won the second world war, the struggle now being between Japan and Germany.

Novels such as these are being chosen by the readers and writers of science-fiction as they recognise the need to promote science-fiction as a legitimate vehicle for social comment as well as a satisfying art form. By doing so it is hoped that it will be generally recognised that science-fiction has successfully evolved from its one-time pulp form.

21 FLIGHT AIR TRAINING CORPS

At the end of last year, the Air Training Corps was given the uphill task to re-attain full flight strength with many senior cadets leaving at the Passing-out Parade. However, full strength was reached early this year with a large enrolment of keen boys.

Sergeants B. Gill and B. Patrick attended the Cadet Under Officer Promotion Course at RAAF Fairbairn in January, obtaining credit passes, and were promoted Cadet Under Officers. LACs Shield, Walshe, Dumsa, Blackford, Neilson, Burnley and Rendle successfully completed Junior NCO Courses held at RAAF Richmond.

Already this year, two rifle shoots have been held at RAAF Williamtown range and two at Stockton Military Range. Two more shoots are planned before the end of the year. Our Flight competes with 16 Flight Blacksmiths, at these shoots for a challenge trophy donated in 1968.

In April, a Field Day was held at Glenrock Lagoon, this being highly successful. A weekend bivouac is scheduled at Gan Gan for November, to be attended by memberse of both ATC Flights from Newcastle.

During the August-September vacation, the Flight attended RAAF Wagga for the General ATC Camp. Cadets were flown to camp by RAAF C130A Hercules transport aircraft of Number 36 Squadron. The flight took a little over one hour and is much more pleasant than the fourteen hour rail journey. While at camp, interflight competitions were held and two cadets, Corporals Blackford and Dumsa, successfully completed the Senior NCO Course.

The Annual Passing-out Parade was held in June this year, some five months earlier than usual, allowing Form Six students in the units to leave and concentrate on their studies.

In July this year, Pilot Officer Van der Veen was promoted to Flying Officer and we offer him our congratulations.

The Flight is functioning very smoothly under the Command of Flying Officer Burges, assisted by Flg. Off. Van der Veen, Flt. Sgt. Schofield and AC Busted.

Cadet Under-Officer BRUCE PATRICK

See page 56 for A.T.C. photograph

"A" GRADE GOLF

We played seven matches during the season, the other schools represented being Tech. High and Broadmeadow. Our "A" team finished equal premiers with the Tech. "A" team. Unfortunately, our captain Warren Millward, who is our lowest handicap player, was unable to play in the last two matches because of exams.

It was an enjoyable season, and our thanks go to Mr. O'Donoghue for all his help.

D. MARR

Back row: D. Marr, G. Sweeney, W. Millward, S. Burgess, G. Morgan.

Front row: D. Crook, R. Purcell, D. Kearns.



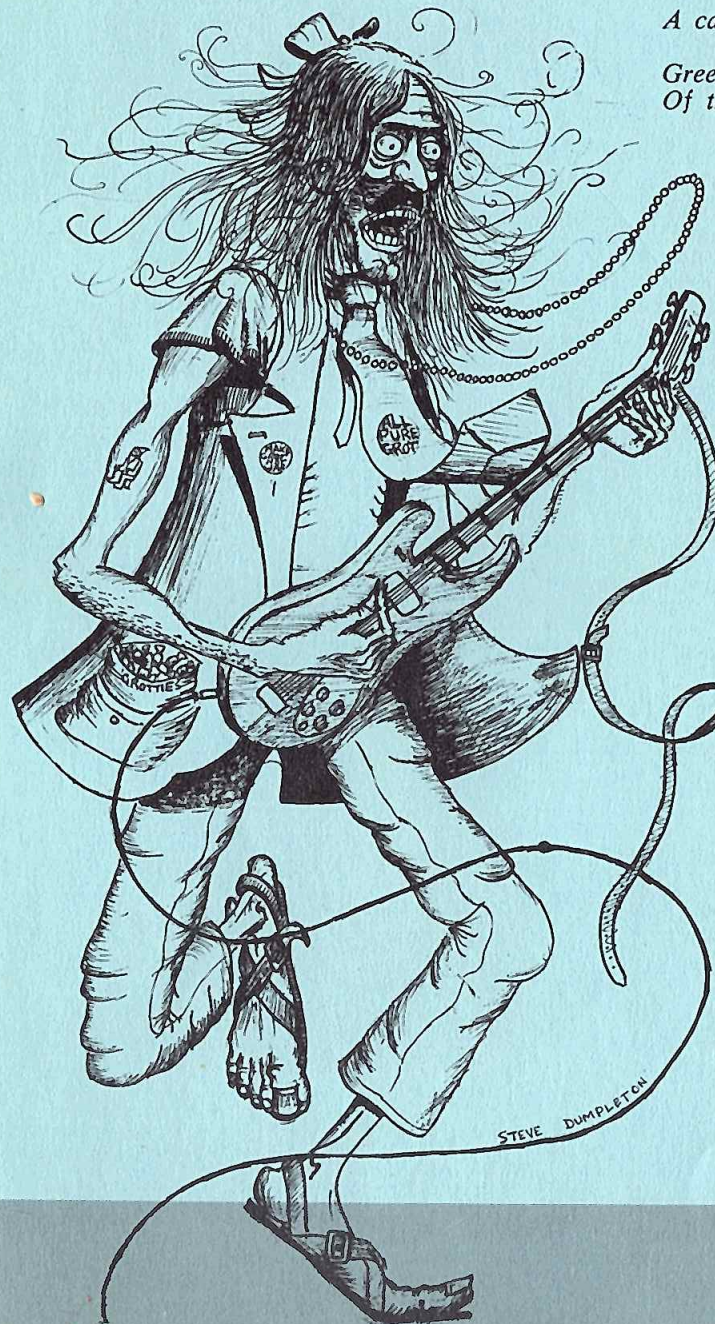
The English Level One School at Morpeth, 1969. Jeff Hogg and David Cocking with students from other Hunter Valley high schools.



JUNK

Sardines swim in the filthy odour;
Tomatoes turn a ghastly colour.
Tins rust, forming
Skulls of the dead;
A cat has rotted —
All that's left is his head.
Green slime creeps through the debris
Of this, the twentieth century.

wray means/first





F.O.T.F.

In June of 1969 a new organisation was founded by a group of enterprising young men. This group formed the society to promote fun, laughter, merriment and friendship. The resulting society was known as F.O.T.F., the Friends Of The Friendless.

F.O.T.F. gathered a large following with the majority coming from N.B.H.S. and N.G.H.S. After the first F.O.T.F. rally, membership grew until a total of 48 members was reached.

This society I feel is a major step to the promotion of friendship and was designed to act as a basis for the promotion of goodwill.

Thanks must go to the Reverend Bill Adams, who supported the society, and to all who have given encouragement.

G. NORRIS.



CHESS

During the year from May 26th to July 14th the Interscholar Team Chess Competition was held at the Civic Wintergardens after school. Although the number of schools entering was small, competition was of a high standard.

In the A Grade Competition the N.B.H.S. team of C. Dibley (capt.), S. Neader (vice-capt.), S. Burgess, G. Wright, G. Williams, W. Keats (reserve) recaptured the trophy from Whitebridge High.

In the B Grade Competition the N.B.H.S. team of B. Craig (capt.), T. O'Brien (vice-capt.), D. Alcock, D. Griffiths, S. Chopra. B. Thurlow (reserve) fought back hard after a first round loss to retain the trophy.

On September 20th several boys from this school were among those competing in a 22 game simultaneous exhibition against Australian Chess Master F. Flatow. Results were: W. Keats, loss; G. Williams, loss; G. Wright, draw; C. Dibley, win. In a lightning tournament with over 20 people in it held later that day, S. Chopra, W. Keats and C. Dibley performed creditably.

CHRIS DIBLEY.



QUICK QUIZ

Who is this writer? He was interviewed for the B.B.C. by Malcolm Muggeridge, seen recently on A.B.C. television. See page 49 for the answer.

Page sponsored by A. F. Toll Transport Ltd.

OPPOSITE :

F.O.T.F. COMMITTEE

Back Row: N. Mierendorff, J. Henderson, B. Fraser, P. Geary.
Front Row: J. Beach, G. Norris, C. Campbell, L. Fraser.

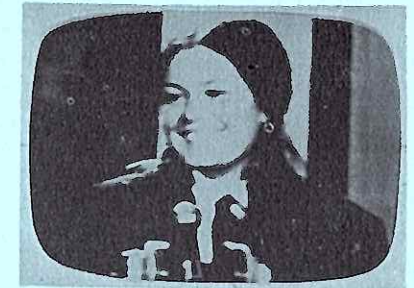
CHESS TEAM

Back Row: C. Dibley, S. Neader, S. Burgess, W. Keats, G. Williams, G. Wright.
Front Row: B. Craig, D. Alcock, D. Griffiths, S. Chopra, B. Thurlow.

In the 1969 BHP HIGH SCHOOL QUIZ Newcastle Boys' High fifth former PHILIP HOOD was runner-up, losing by one point in the grand final to Christine Walker of Newcastle Girls' High, who won an all-Australia trip for two.

THE SMALL SCREEN

Right: Christine Walker, winner of this year's BHP High School Quiz.



Below: Philip Hood, runner-up.



Photos: W. Menary

The Newcastle television station, NBN Channel Three, and BHP, do a great service to the high schools of the Hunter Valley by this annual competition.

Since N.B.H.S. students have won the quiz for the past two years (Russell Rigby in 1967 and Russell Cheek in 1968) the School would have had a real problem if Philip had won — what to do with a third set of encyclopaedias!

GREG MANNING began on 17th April, 1969, as one of the two announcers on the weekly Channel Three JUNIOR NEWS & SPORT programme, each Friday. The original time for the programme was 4.15 p.m., but since 6th September the time has been 4.45, so the two young announcers don't have to rush from school quite as violently as before!

Greg's colleague is Vicki Lever from Newcastle Girls' High, and together they must go over the script a couple of times and synchronise it with the film items before the live telecast.

The programme is scripted by Neville Roberts and directed by Reg Davis (who also directed BHP High School Quiz).

Greg enjoys his part-time job and would like to do more television work.

Photo by courtesy of NBN Channel 3



This page is sponsored by The Rural Bank.

MARTIN WESTBROOKE



A SCIENCE TEACHER LOOKS AT THE SYSTEM

This is the script of a radio talk given on 2NX on 12th August, 1969, during Education Week.

SCIENCE teaching in New South Wales has special problems which are becoming more acute. As the frontiers of all fields of science expand rapidly, schools must give a good grounding in science, both for those going on to tertiary education—so that the colleges and universities can develop the various disciplines to train the specialists so urgently needed—and for others, so that they have some understanding of the scientific phenomena that affect people in all walks of life. With its rapidly expanding technology, Australia must not continue to rely on scientists from abroad but make full use of, and develop, the talent that exists here.

Unfortunately, students are not getting a good grounding in science and the fault starts with the four-year School Certificate course. The syllabus for this course is far too crowded to give students a real understanding of the basic principles, and allows little time for practical work which would greatly increase their understanding, and aid learning. Students study a crowded four-year syllabus, which covers a wide range of subject matter in a very superficial manner. For example, the complaint of University Chemistry lecturers is that first-year students are unable to write chemical equations. This can be traced to the early years when there is insufficient time to fully develop the basic concepts of atomic structure and valency essential to a full understanding of the topic.

To remedy this, the School Certificate course must be drastically cut, so that a narrowed range of topics is treated far more intensely. The class sizes, which are at present too large to allow safe and useful practical work, must also be reduced. At present, running a practical class with a group of between thirty and forty students in a laboratory of limited size, is a hazard that many teachers are not willing to face.

For the Higher School Certificate, fifth and sixth-form students follow an even more crowded syllabus, which includes many advanced ideas, for example details of the Genetic Code in Biology and Nuclear Reactions in Physics. Furthermore, they must study three fundamentally different disciplines, in a course of only nine periods per week. (That is, three subjects from Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Geology). The syllabus for this course has attempted to introduce many advanced concepts which students, due to their weak grounding in the subjects, find difficult to cope with. They finally sit for a two-and-a-half hour examination which is not a realistic test of two

years' work, and encourages teaching methods which aim at passing the Higher School Certificate, rather than promoting an understanding of the subject.

An urgent essential is the provision of four separate science subjects, each with an allocation of six periods per week, as is the position at present for languages. Under this arrangement, revised and extended syllabuses could be developed in which topics could be treated in a far more thorough fashion, and meaningful practical work carried out.

A course in general science should also be offered for those students specialising in the Arts subjects but wishing to increase their knowledge of science.

For this plan to be implemented, there must be a rapid increase in the number of fully qualified science teachers who are specialists in one or more of the science disciplines. To meet this requirement, the Education Department must offer additional incentives to Science Graduates to attract them into the teaching profession.

Martin Westbrook graduated B.Sc. at London University in 1966 and took his graduate certificate of education at Leicester University.

With his wife he spent three months travelling overland to Singapore, and arrived in N.S.W. in January last year. Since then he has taught Science, as a Biology specialist, at Newcastle Boys' High.

Eventually, the Westbrookes will sail for South America, and go from there to the U.S.A. and Canada, on the next leg of their round-the-world working tour.

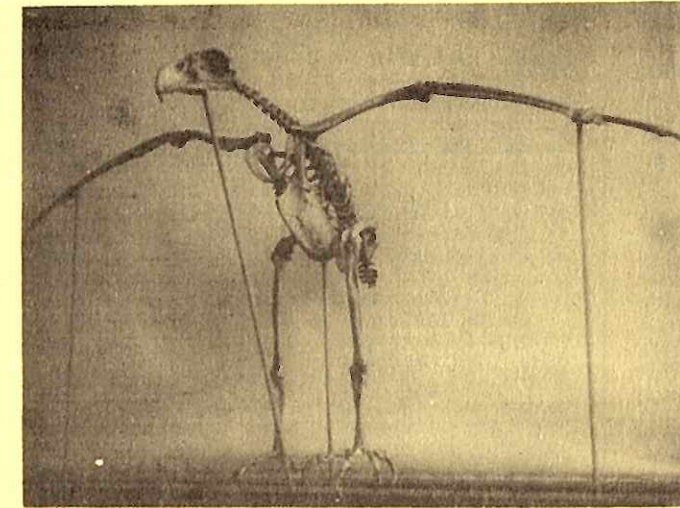
Also more money must be made available for the equipment and materials necessary for teaching these subjects satisfactorily to an advanced level. All schools must be provided with qualified laboratory assistants, to look after these materials and assist in the preparation for practical classes. At present only four schools in the Newcastle area have laboratory assistants.

Students should be able to study at least three science subjects in their fifth and sixth years if they wish, as this may be necessary for some careers, such as medicine, agricultural science and geology.

At present the first-year science courses at University are unrelated to the Higher School Certificate courses, resulting in a high failure rate. With much sounder courses suggested here, the Universities would be able to correlate their

programme to facilitate the progression from sixth form to University. The present disjointed Higher School Certificate courses make it difficult for first-year University courses to follow smoothly.

At present science teaching in New South Wales is not as rewarding as it should be, and if the present problems remain, more of our best qualified science teachers will leave the service to go to industry or teach abroad.



ABOVE:

One of many skeletons mounted this year in the biology lab. from specimens collected by students. A Wedge-Tailed Eagle found near Stroud by Mark Smith and Wes Hardman.

SHORT SHORT STORY

THE PROFESSIONAL

Towards the exotic staircase he walks, with a steady, practised pace. He stops to admire the priceless paintings, one by one, with a critical eye. As he reaches the second floor adorned with famous works of art he pauses to brush his dark suit.

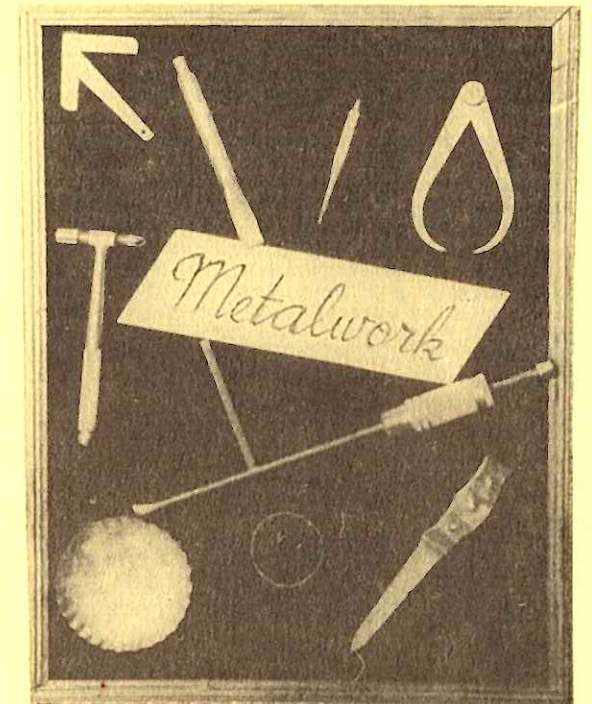
As he has done with countless others, he examines a statuette, a family heirloom. He understands such work. He works around them, and it is they that have made him the success that he is. He takes note of any defects, for his job has made it essential to recognise even the smallest and most trifling flaws. And so he goes on, our profound, elegant, professional burglar.

neil dunstan/first.

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BELOW:

Metalwork display board mounted by Mr. Pratt showing work done by students.



CHRIS BROWN

STUDENT UNDERGROUND



A lot of people have hazy ideas about the so-called "student underground". It is not any single movement. It is the sum total of expressed student opinion, usually by students' own newspapers.

THE past eighteen months have seen many historical, political, social and scientific changes around the world.

Also within this brief space of time many political groups have been formed in Australia. Many people are starting to question the morality professed by our own country, and other countries around the world, concerning such things as the Vietnam War in particular. One of these groups in Australia is directly and mainly run by Secondary Students. It is called High School Students Against War in Vietnam (H.S.S.A.W.V.).

The group had its origin when a small number of High School Students, with the help of some University Students from the radical youth organisation "RESISTANCE", staged a High School "teach-in" on Vietnam. This teach-in, which took place on the 14th July '68, proved to be a great success, and attracted an estimated 500 students. After this apparent show of interest plans were laid for a newsheet to be produced under the name of student underground.

The first edition of this newsheet appeared in September '68 with a big splash of publicity and was sold in around ninety Sydney High Schools. The movement grew rapidly and the second edition of Student Underground was produced. Closely following the production of this edition was the teachers' strike. Peter Voysey the president of "RESISTANCE" and one of the organisers of H.S.A.W.V. told me, "For the teachers' strike H.S.S.A.W.V. mounted quite a campaign and managed to get a good contingent together which marched to the teachers' strike meeting and then massed with teachers outside Parliament House." Especially for the occasion a new edition of Student Underground was produced. It was at this

Chris Brown is a student in fifth form at Newcastle Boys' High. He came to the School three years ago from Casino.

At present the Brown family are hosts to four aboriginal students who are studying in Newcastle under scholarships.

time that another student body called Secondary Students Educational Union was formed. It produced a number of newsheets such as "REFORM not REVOLT". This group "as is to be expected, is now largely history," Peter Voysey has said.

During the 1968-69 Christmas holidays H.S.S.A.W.V. held an education seminar at Sydney University which was successful and produced a poster, "Is your school revolting?"

In the first term of 1969 the group produced Student Underground number six and found that many High Schools were willing to produce their own newsheets. Many schools in Sydney began having their own papers produced. There is an important difference between school newsheets and the papers which come from H.S.S.A.W.V. headquarters. Although most schools get their sheets printed at H.S.S.A.W.V. headquarters, they are written by the students to arouse discussions and to provide an outlet for criticisms, of any nature, within the school. They do, from time to time include articles on world events and social wrongs.

In the middle of first term, 1969, Student Underground No. 7 came out and then at the end of first term No. 8 appeared, marking a new phase in the movement. The new phase caters for a much wider High School audience.

All along H.S.S.A.W.V. seems to have been closely connected to the "RESISTANCE" movement although recently it has become much more independent. Nevertheless the two movements share the same premises at their building in Goulburn Street, Sydney. Peter Voysey explains "The reality is that High School students, as a group, don't really have enough time to be at school and run a big political group. If they are to remain in active existence, they must have contact with some outside radical organisation". (Which is, in the case of H.S.S.A.W.V., RESISTANCE).

I have sketched the history of the H.S.S.A.W.V. movement in Sydney, but it must be understood that there are other high school student movements about Australia. For instance in Melbourne there is an organisation known as Socialist Secondary Students S.S.D. This organisation is extremely militant. Their newsheets are comprised of very radical material. This organisation is seldom heard of in New South Wales Secondary Schools.

H.S.S.A.W.V., as yet, has no branch in Newcastle but a considerable amount of work is being done by members of the Revolutionary Socialist Alliance towards these ends. They produce a student sheet on a weekly or fortnightly basis caters for a few Newcastle High Schools.

The newsheets belonging to the different schools are usually more concerned with educational conditions and the conditions of their schools than with Vietnam or World Affairs, they come under a great flood of names such as **Bleah, Circus, The Spark**, but all belong to the Student Underground Movement.

Circus, which is printed by the students of "Chatswood High Student Underground Movement", said in its first edition:

"Circus is a newsheet which will attempt to encourage active student interest in affairs which concern themselves and others. We feel that before important reforms in the education system can be achieved the support of the student is necessary."

Of course, many Sydney schools have much to complain about, such as bad facilities, dilapidated buildings and in particular over-censored school papers. We can see this in a newsheet from East Hills Girls' High called, "OPINION", when it says:

"Student Newsheets in Secondary Schools are giving students the opportunity to express their views without fear of censorship."

Therefore, there are two basic themes on which the movement stands, the first and most important one is the war in Vietnam, the second deals with our administration and educational system.

Vietnam, being the number one talking point, is dealt with very frequently in "Student Underground" and in the school sheets. "Student Underground" has presented a short history of Vietnam which comes in a few sections dealing with Vietnam's history from the period of Chinese domination to the present time. Its purpose was to give readers the background history of Vietnam necessary to understand the Vietnamese people's fight for freedom.

Sang Froid written by the student underground at Marsden High said in its first edition, sounding like a hard-core socialist journal:

"The N.L.F., who are the peasants, are fighting a war of national liberation, not a war for communism. They are the majority in South Vietnam and are fighting to become a country free of U.S. Imperialism, free of fascists like Ky and Thieu and free to develop in its own manner, instead of becoming another South Korea."

Statements such as these are not to be passed off as mere sweeping generalisations by immature school students. U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations stated in 1967. "The Vietnamese are fighting a war of national independence, not a war of communist aggression. The war cannot be brought to an end until the United States and her allies recognise this fact." It seems that many people would support the views of H.S.S.A.W.V.

concerning Vietnam. It also seems that the Government is hiding certain facts about the war that the people of Australia have a right to know: U.S. Official figures show that in 1966 the average number of combatant deaths per week was 1,000 and according to a U.S. Congressional report published in 1966, there are an estimated two civilian deaths at least for each combatant death. This is mainly resulting from aid and ground attacks by the allies on villages.

"If the present trend continues I am afraid that a direct confrontation, first of all between Washington and Peking, is inevitable. I hope I am wrong. I am afraid we are witnessing today the initial phase of World War III," said U. Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations, in 1967.

"The education system is a part of the whole capitalist structure, and as such, is designed to condition those who pass through it to support the basic principles on which it rests." The school sheets have quite a lot to say about this question, but only a few can be quoted here. Also in the same edition of **Out of Apathy**:

"Beginning in primary school, the capitalist state molds the minds of its subjects until it becomes extremely difficult for him to conceive even of objections to the capitalist system."

This may or may not be real to life but this is one view of the student sheets.

In another edition of **Out of Apathy** the authors put forward a platform of the "basic human freedoms" they expect, which are denied them:

1. Freedom of speech and discussion.
2. Freedom to form groups of any kind.
3. Sport should not be compulsory.
4. Relative freedom in dress.

These demands may seem rather ridiculous to students in many schools, including our own, as these are basic rights that are taken for granted, but in many schools these so called "basic rights or freedoms" are actually denied. These are many reasons for and against newsheets being produced by students for their particular schools, and it must be ascertained whether one is really needed or not. In the case of our own school, if a sheet were produced it would most likely be produced for the purpose of printing articles more along the lines of world affairs and national politics. But whether you agree or disagree with student movements they have now become part of the world-wide movement towards non-conformity and revolt against political and social wrongs.

Come and see

THE WAR GAME

at Boys' High

9th Dec., 1969, 7.30 p.m.

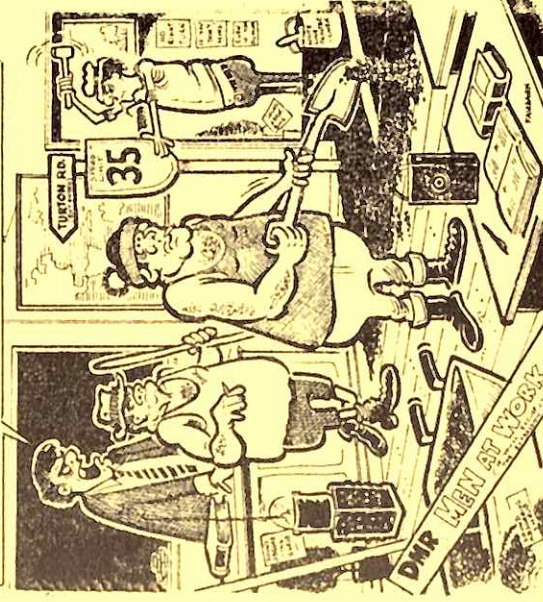
Standing: D. Frankham, P. Masters, D. Flaherty,
P. Lane, F. Sullivan, B. Isherwood.
Seated: L. Frost, D. Collins, S. Brown, D. Bay, P.
Rolfe, B. Gill.

4 YEARS OF OTIS

A cover from last year shows an OTIS angle on the Turton Road controversy.

OTIS vol. 3 no. 4 July 1968

Photo: R. Chisholm



OTIS began its career four years ago under the guidance of Mr. N. Barnwell, who was ably assisted by a student committee chaired by David Morris. The original broadsheet of one page has since been increased to a minimum of four sheets providing sixteen pages of material. Under the Committee chaired by Ken Fenwick OTIS once reached thirty-two pages.

With the School's purchase of an electronic stencil-cutting machine the committee of 1968 was able to explore new ideas in front covers for OTIS.

Robert Pryde and John Kelly this year have provided some interesting surveys and interviews. The interview with Milton Morris, Minister of Transport, was a gem. Bryan Hunter's artistic touches were also appreciated. The 1969 committee is following the general pattern and standard set by past committees, although new ideas, especially the art work of David Collins, are constantly being developed.

Hardest workers in this year's team are David Collins, Steven Brown, John Crockett, Dennis Flaherty, Lawrence Frost, David Bay and Frank Sullivan. Sometimes they have chafed under the watchword "discretion" (it still causes traumatic convulsions to David Cole) but generally they have measured up well to this task, and for this I thank them.

OTIS takes this opportunity to thank students for past patronage and to thank Mr. Richardson for his constant support and for his extension of the use of school facilities to the OTIS team.

JOHN QUINN

(Note: If we remember correctly, the origin of the name OTIS goes back to the initials of a one-time gossip column "On The In-side" — Editor).

Page sponsored by The Newcastle Morning Herald.



FILM CLUB COMMITTEE

G. Jopson, J. Finnie, D. Van Homrigh, D. Wasson.

Film projectionists: Greg Donnan, Rene Miles, and Stuart Ford.

FILM CLUB

Committee:
Chairman: D. J. Van Homrigh.
Secretary: Greg Jopson.
Treasurer: James Finnie.
5th Form Rep.: David Wasson.
4th Form Rep.: John Elworthy.

This year has been the most successful in the history of the Film Club. During the year, and with the support of Mr. Menary the use of much additional equipment was obtained. This included:

- (i) Adaptations to the projection box for mounting a second projector, plus monitor speaker, spotlights, and fluorescent lamp;
 - (ii) an eighteen-foot cinemascope screen;
 - (iii) two anamorphic lenses.
- Cinemascope added a new dimension to the films shown during the year. The films were: *Sons and Lovers*, 1984, 3.10 to Yuma, and *The Agony and the Ecstasy*.

There was a highly successful Film Study Evening arranged in conjunction with the Hunter Valley Branch of the English Teachers' Association.

D. J. VAN HOMRIGH.

Page sponsored by N. R. Valentine, Esq.

INTER-SCHOOL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Second term has seen a large number of radical changes in the format and presentation of I.S.C.F. meetings. Initially a number of guest speakers were invited to address the meetings, but it was realised that much more internal participation was needed to maintain a high standard of interest. These changes have come in the form of Bible readings and discussions, debates, brief talks, and other interesting items.

Throughout the year many boys have attended various meetings and generally enjoyed themselves. The number attending the meetings has steadily risen throughout the year and this is the result of prayer on the part of other members. The aim of I.S.C.F., not only in our school, is to promote and develop qualities of Christian leadership which will act as a foundation for activities in later life. However, the presentation is such as to be challenging to those who do not own the name of Christ.

Our sincere appreciation to Mr. R. Pratt and Mr. R. Wright for their assistance in running these meetings. We also thank Mr. Richardson, Mr. Mudford and staff for their unceasing co-operation in allowing us to use Room 22 and other equipment sometimes necessary for our meetings.

"To Know Christ and make Him Known."
JOHN BAILEY,
PHILLIP A. GRAHAM.

DEBATING TEAM

Standing: G. Jauncey, M. Smith, J. Bennett.
Seated: R. Giles, G. Williams.



DAVID WASSON



POLANSKI'S BABY

In this article the writer takes a look at one of today's most interesting film directors.

IN an age when the absurd is commonplace in literature and on the stage Roman Polanski has emerged as a striking creative talent with as yet only a handful of films behind him. Born in Paris of Polish parents on September 18th, 1933, he acted from 1947 onwards in several plays and films, including Wajda's A GENERATION, before enrolling for a five year course at the Lodz Film school. During this period, Polanski took small roles in friends' films, made some shorts of his own and assisted Andrzej Munk with BAD LUCK.

TWO MEN AND A WARDROBE, by far his most famous short, was made in 1958. This delightful fable presents the wanderings of two men who emerge from the sea carrying a wardrobe and who try to relieve their burden in a nearby town. Finally the two men have to leave the land and disappear into the sea once again. Polanski points out in this film society's callousness as well as the cruel and unsympathetic aspects of humanity. Polanski says of it, "I wanted to show a society that rejects the non-conformist or anyone who is in its eyes afflicted with a moral or physical burden."

In Polanski's first feature film, KNIFE IN THE WATER, he makes use of the same kind of friction between individuals as characterises his shorts. The plot consists simply of a middle-aged man and his wife who are compelled to take a young man for a Sunday cruise aboard their yacht. The two men compete in both sophistication and virility in front of the woman, indicating sadism in the older man and youthful rashness in the younger man, symbolised by his knife.

The Compton Group in London arranged with Polanski in 1965 to shoot two films. The first, REPULSION, was the less successful of the two. This may be attributed to the fact that Polanski had not as yet accustomed himself to the English language or to the locations he used. Polanski, although losing a lot of the mood and tension that characterised his previous films, makes assured use of his talent for hallucination. Images of cracking walls, turning to mud and figures beneath sheets are extremely effective, whereas the rest of the film is full of intentions which do not quite come off.

CUL-DE-SAC, made in 1966 for the Compton Group, shows Polanski making much more mature use of an English script and many of the hesitations that appeared in REPULSION are done away with. It has similarities with some of his earlier films, such as TWO MEN AND A WARDROBE and KNIFE IN THE WATER. He demonstrates the pain of solitude and people out of place in a landscape.

DANCE OF THE VAMPIRES, (or THE FEARLESS VAMPIRE KILLERS as it was called in America) was meant to be a send-up of the traditional vampire horror. In it Polanski not only directs, but acts and assists Gerard Brach in the

script. The film contains no actual horror and therefore no suspense, but it does contain a few reversed cliches. For example, two characters, Alfred and the hunchback are stranded in a snowscape when a hungry wolf appears. The hunchback disappears behind a snowdrift, there is a painful howl and hunchback returns, dripping blood from the mouth, quite pleased with himself. The film is supported by clever sets and brilliant photography but this is not enough to class this film with the rest of Polanski's works.

ROSEMARY'S BABY, Polanski's latest film, is a pronounced confirmation of his talent. His ability to evoke terror in everyday matters, such as cooking and telephoning, as well as in street locations and doctors' waiting rooms, is striking. Rosemary's gradual discovery of the plot against her is shared by the audience; we only have as much information as she has. Polanski exposes the possibility of urban witchcraft, and whether we have been convinced is not as important as fears on marriage and birth which are emphasised around Rosemary. The film is decidedly helped by the performances of Mia Farrow and Sidney Blackmer, along with the photography by William Fracker. Polanski in this film has created a serious work of art.

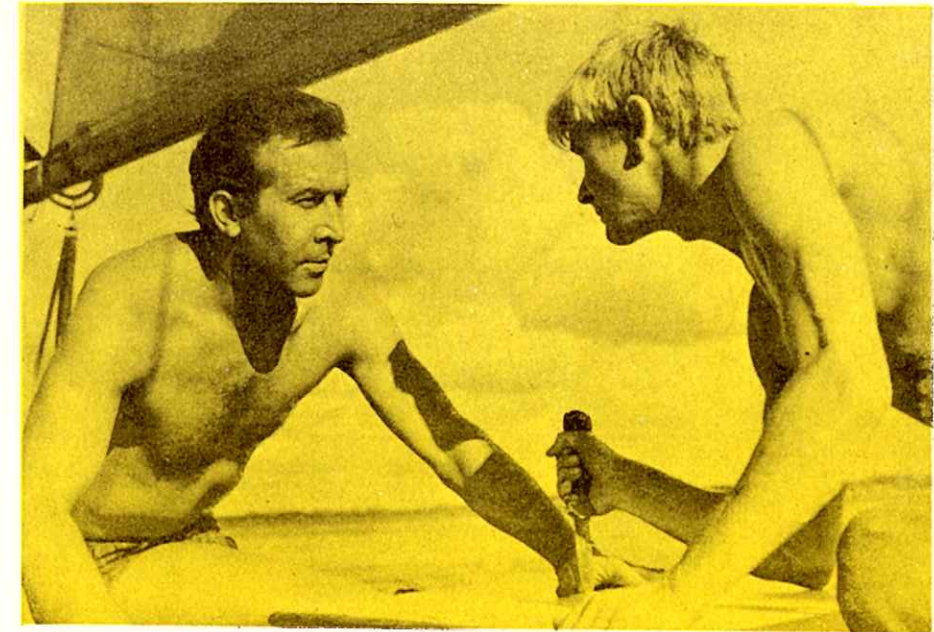
David Wasson is a fifth former whose interest in screen art is borne out by this article on the work of director of Rosemary's Baby, the startling film of modern horror and witchcraft, shown in Newcastle recently.

David lived for some years in Canberra, and his present home is in Charlestown.

He intends to study history at University.

Polanski makes use of human perversion, and he likes the normal to appear abnormal, and the strange to seem reasonable. It may even be argued that there is a strain of masochism running through the leading characters in some of his films. At the start of each film we see the leading characters waiting to be influenced by an intruder. This fact has been apparent in all of his films since KNIFE IN THE WATER, except DANCE OF THE VAMPIRES.

Polanski, with the instinctive sense of how people react — or how they might react in strange circumstances — has made his films up till now consistently original. His future material will be regarded with keen interest.



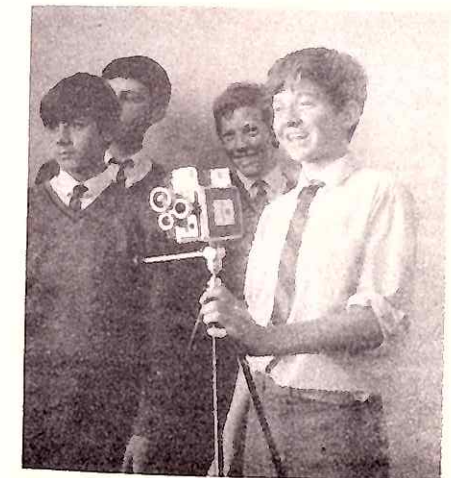
"A KNIFE IN THE WATER" A ROBERT ALPERTER PRODUCTION

Photo courtesy of Quality Films



Left: Graeme Wood and Eric Kiem work on a shooting script.

Below: Camera Team Two; Craig Cox, Laurie Lack, Tim Lawrie and David Campbell.



Class 3A are experimenting with film making this term. They are using simple 8mm equipment and Kodachrome II colour film, and hope to be editing the first results during the last two weeks of term.

Next year some of the boys may attempt a more ambitious project of producing an entry to an international Film Festival for schools.

The same class are studying film as part of normal school work, and have seen and discussed many films this year. One of the most recent was the film of the Apollo Eleven mission.

A special analysis has been made of the experimental animated films of the Canadian-Scott Norman McLaren. Several students have also had their essays of film criticism sent to the "Mass Media Review" which is published in Tasmania,

Page sponsored by Mrs. E. Cropper.