More understanding of ‘mainstream’ issues is aim of new video

Increasing community awareness of the issues related to integrating disabled students into mainstream schools is a major aim of a new Chisholm-produced video.

The 30 minute video highlights the work of the Nepean Special School which provides a comprehensive program geared to the special needs of its primary and secondary students whose disabilities include cerebral palsy, spina bifida, accident trauma, epilepsy and muscular dystrophy.

Focussing on five children in particular, the video provides a sympathetic yet unsentimental view of their special educational and physical requirements.

The project is the work of staff at the school and Mr Joe Dora, lecturer with the School of Education, in conjunction with the Educational Development Unit.

Mr Dora believes that there is widespread misunderstanding about the ability of disabled people to function in a ‘normal’ school environment, despite recent State Government legislation which for the first time gave parents the right to send their disabled children to mainstream schools.

Many such schools are still very apprehensive about developments in ‘mainstreaming’ - they are ill-prepared and unsure of how to go about catering for the needs of the disabled children already moving into their classrooms.

The video is an attempt to promote thoughtful consideration of the schooling potential of disabled children, Mr Dora says.

‘We wanted to hammer home the reality that these children are normal except for the specific effects of their disabilities.

‘It is vital that this is understood and accepted.

‘There still is widespread misunderstanding about the ability of disabled people to operate in a “normal” environment.

‘Much of that results from people focussing on the disability rather than the total person — and thus getting a very distorted view of the person and his or her abilities’, Mr Dora says.

Due for release in December, the video will be used by the Nepean Special School for its own purposes, and by Chisholm’s School of Education as a means of preparing its students for the reality of teaching disabled children.

Many third year students already work with disabled children at Nepean as part of their course, while others assist on a voluntary basis.

A preview of the video will be held for interested staff on 8 November at 1 pm in Lecture Theatre A2.4, Frankston campus. The public launch will take place at Nepean School on 5 December.

Amphitheatre for Frankston?

A proposal for an outdoor amphitheatre at Frankston campus has been put to Council’s Buildings and Property Committee.

Senior Lecturer with the School of Education, Dr Richard Trembath, says people have been talking about the idea for many years, but now is the time to act before scheduled building developments at the campus get underway.

Dr Trembath says the area east of the present Library Block has a natural amphitheatre shape.

Any necessary earthworks to enhance the site could be done when building works begin, he says.

Dr Trembath believes such a development would be of ‘immense value’ to the Institute and the community as a venue for plays, music, public speaking, and so on - an ideal ‘open air theatre in a parkland setting’.

He says construction of an amphitheatre would be inexpensive and could be done in stages as funding becomes available.

The steps in the development would be:

- Designating the area.
- Constructing a concrete stage with electric power.
- Installing stage lighting.
- Possibly lowering the gradient of the grass seating area.
- Paving in front of the stage for portable seating.

Dr Trembath has observed such simple amphitheatres in the USA and considers them ‘a marvellous venue for student and community activities.

Such a development would be an ideal project to commemorate the 150th Anniversary Amphitheatre (150 AA) or ‘Sesquicentenary Amphitheatre’ (SC A).

Dr Trembath’s proposal was tabled at the September Buildings and Property Committee meeting, and referred to the Resources Advisory Committee for a recommendation.
Nurse educators and librarians from both hospitals and colleges attended the seminar on 24 October.

**Engineering responds to changing scene**

More emphasis on industrial issues is evident in nature of engineering courses at Chisholm in response to changes in the workplace.

Head of the Division of Engineering and Industrial Technology, Dr Brian Jenney, says an elective subject in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, has been converted into a compulsory subject prior to pending changes in the area of workers' compensation and occupational health and safety.

And the new emphasis on industry safety standards and dangerous goods legislation will be included in the syllabus of the new common core Management III subject to commence in 1987.

"We believe that far greater awareness and exposure to aspects of industrial legislation, for example, workers' compensation, is essential in the education and training of today's 'engineer,'" says Dr Jenney.

He says the Division's moves towards the practical side of industrial legislation are a logical extension of the major course revision put into effect this year, in which, starting with the engineering degree in all disciplines have a strong computing focus.

In addition, the already significant collaboration and cooperation outside the Faculty of Technology itself will be enhanced by such changes.

"We look forward to closer ties with the School of Social and Behavioural Studies and David Syme Business School, as we make greater use of the Chisholm potential for a broad range of highly relevant studies."

Dr Jenney says the Division's sound responses to the changing scene that our students are facing on graduation is already being put into effect through compulsory Institute of Engineers Australia industrial employment, and practical industrial case work which now involves students from all areas of engineering on a one day per week basis.

**Canberra acquires O'Brien**

In 1982, Mr O'Brien spent the next two years concentrating on painting and preparing for exhibitions.

Mr O'Brien is pictured in the Fine Arts studio at Caulfield, along with a two man show in Sydney. He is planning for three exhibitions next year both here and interstate.

He has had several one-man shows in Melbourne and Brisbane, along with a two man show in Sydney and Mr Kevin McMahon of the Victorian Nursing Council who backgrounded the transfer and touched on questions of funding for training and capital works and equipment.

Nurse educators from both the Alfred Hospital and Phillip Institute of Technology, who spoke in the effects of the transfer on style and methods of nurse education.

Hospital and college librarians, who dealt with the implications for information services of the transfer, in addition to information networks to ensure the 'core collection'.

Ms Vicki Wallis from Armidale CAE who spoke on that college's experience in introducing nurse education and the approach it took.

The outcome of the seminar was the formation of a group comprising Ms Lilly, St Vincent Hospital Librarian, Ms Sandra Russell and the Head of the Department of Nursing at Ballarat CAE, Ms Margaret Stevens.

Ms Lilly says the group will look at target groups for lobbying on behalf of libraries, to ensure that the steering committee is made aware of the concerns of libraries, and establish ways of achieving their objectives.

The seminar agreed to a follow-up meeting in 12 months.

**Library concern on nurse transfer raised at seminar**

The implications for libraries of the transfer of hospital based nurse education to the tertiary sector was the focus of a recent seminar at Chisholm's Frankston campus.

Organiser, Ms Megan Lilly, who is the Academic Services Librarian at Caulfield, said a number of areas of concern were addressed, notably funding levels for libraries at both hospitals and colleges affected by the transfer.

There was general agreement at the seminar that the Victorian Post Secondary Education Commission (VPSEC) steering committee on nurse education and the Federal and State Governments had not paid sufficient attention to the issue of information needs in colleges and hospitals, Ms Lilly explained.

Other issues which were a focus for discussion included:

- The unclear role for hospital libraries when college nurse education students are there on practicums.
- The responsibility of libraries at both colleges and hospitals in providing information services for graduates, in terms of staff development material and day to day information needs.

About 50 nurse educators and librarians from both hospitals and colleges were addressed by a range of key speakers.

They included:

- Mr Mark Sealy of VPSEC

**Timber testing rig hits market spot**

A low cost timber grader developed by Chisholm's Timber Engineering Technology Centre is proving popular with small sawmills.

Inquiries have come from throughout Australia, with orders for six machines already placed with the Radiata Pine Research Institute (RPRI) for whom the Centre designed the original prototype.

Executive Director of the Centre, Dr Bob Milner, says the prototype itself was bought by a sawmill near Adelaide where the machine was sent for trials.

It was specifically designed with small sawmills in mind. Relatively cheap to buy, it accurately grades sawn timber for engineering purposes.

Sawmills can order the machine components (at a cost of around $1700) from RPRI and build their own, or Chisholm will build the machines complete for $3500.

Dr Milner says the components include deflection detector and analyser units which are currently being built by the Departments of Civil and Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and sold for a total of $700 per machine.

The first batch of 10 units manufactured at Chisholm are finished, and ready for sale through RPRI.

Dr Milner believes up to 40 sawmills throughout Australia could be interested in buying the machine, in addition to potential overseas customers.

The TETC has also been busy carrying out tests for a variety of organisations recently.

One project involves testing of blackwood handbasins for resistance to surface scratching and resistance to thermal shock for a Tasmanian company, Carter Industries.

The TETC has also carried out interpretation of test results on the use of vitreous clay sewerage pipes for a local company, VicTop.

Dr Milner says the company is hoping to supply vitreous clay pipes for an MMWB sewerage scheme in Caulfield. The tests were aimed at determining how much pressure the pipes could withstand in the normal 'jacking' process of installation.
Technology education should recognise social implications

As science and technology increasingly determine the way society is shaped, there is a need for a multi-disciplinary approach to its teaching and research. According to Mr Wellington, Mr Wearne, and Mr Chisholm staff which has been poiont. is aiming to playa more active role in community awareness of the workplace through the implementation of the new occupational health and safety legislation. • Identify the savings which can be achieved. According to Mr Wellington, the group agreed on four basic points:

• That there is a need for a more active role in community awareness of the workplace through the implementation of the new occupational health and safety legislation. • The legislation should 'not only can be achieved.

Dr Beam believes such a system would be invaluable for both staff and students at Chisholm, and that the library would be an ideal location.

Students could teach themselves computer packages was recognised by Mr Wellington, David Syme Business School's Technology Services department. DSBS staff had access to the Videodisc Interactive Learning Centre for a trial two weeks, and according to Technology Services Manager, NEC Director of Training Services Dr Dr Beam, the system was a great success. He says a big advantage of the system is that students can skip forward or backwards in a range of computer packages that have been developed. There is no need for students to be taught the subject matter at any time, pausing or repeating lessons as required. In his new role as Technology Liaison, Mr Wearne is responsible for the computer needs of staff and students of DSBS, including the School's microcomputers, and access to the PRIME system.

Legislation should give workers more say, says McPhee

Mrs McPhee says speakers will: • Assist managers identify problems which arise as occupational health and safety legislation. • Highlight the need for management action and the benefits which can result, especially in the area of rehabilitation.

The simple way to computer literacy

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Teaching tertiary teachers

Teaching tertiary teachers how to improve their teaching skills in the light of Hawthorn Institute of Education’s Graduate Diploma in Education (Tertiary)

Chisholm’s Educational Development Unit is running a week-long intensive course on Thursday, 7 November for any interested staff.

Course leader, Mr Peter Skillcock will be on hand to answer questions, along with other Chisholm staff. Enrolment is limited, so please contact Mr Sinan Adnan and Mr Keith McKey to reserve your place.

The course, says EDU is high relevance to advanced education practitioners, covering a range of tertiary teaching elements including curriculum development, educational psychology, course preparation and administration.

Any interested should contact the EDU secretary, ext. 2322 (Caulfield) or the Library seminar room (level 3).

BUILDINGS AND STAFFING

- BOB BURFORD

Two major projects have dominated the committee’s attention during the $13-million Technology Tower/Student Union block at Caulfield and the general teaching and nurse education development at Frankston.

Before agreeing to the Caulfield project, the staff associations sought and obtained assurances from Council that the ambitious project would not at stage draw down recurrent funds.

The Frankston project is in two parts, the general teaching building and the nurse education building. Finance for the latter is the problem since no written assurances for funding for this building have been given by Government. As a staff representative on the committee I am very conscious of the need to push this project so it is ready for 1987 at all possible.

As the year was launched, the committee dealt with a large list of minor works, many of them important to staff.

They included:

- Communications for emergency evacuations both campuses, implementation of the MFB report and refurbishment at Frankston, A and B buildings, George Jenkins theatre and Siruan roof.

COMMUNICATIONS

CLASSIFICATION

The Committee has considered a number of matters with a fair degree of consensus and cooperation.

The main items of business of the Legislation Committee in 1985 were:

- Revision of existing Regulations to bring them in to line with the changing needs/practices of the Institute.
- Review of election regulation. Amendment of Section 9 of Schedule 10.
- Consideration of guidelines/procedures for specific purposes.
- Conditions of use of Computer Centre computing facilities. Guidelines for staff on legal liability and insurance

Social calendar revamp plan

Chisholm is planning to revitalise its program of social and cultural activities for students and the public in 1986.

Executive Director of Chisholm, Mr Alan Hamstead, says although the successful Social calendar of 1985 was voluntary, the organisation of the activities was on a voluntary basis.

Lack of volunteers this year left the program in limbo. With prominent guest speakers, the Frankston project is in

ASAC

A letter to all staff members from the President of ASAC, Mr Bob Burford, and the Chairperson of VCSA-Chisholm, Mr Geoffrey Heard.

Dear Staff Member,

In the last issue of the ‘Gazette’, nominations were called for the position of staff representative on each of four committees of Council.

At present, these positions are split among members nominated by VCSA and ASAC.

The executives of ASAC and VCSA have decided to re-endorse their joint representatives on these four committees, and are asking for your support for them for their full terms can be contested.

Your endorsed representatives are:

- Mr Bob Burford (ASAC) - buildings and Property Committee.
- Mr Austin Chapman (VCSA) - Finance Committee.
- Ms Maruta Ayres (VCSA) - Legislation Committee.
- Mr Dick Whyte (ASAC) - Staffing Committee.

The Joint executives of ASAC and VCSA are re-endorse these representatives in the belief that they have done the task asked of them representing staff views and needs on the committees - and with the experience they have gained, will be all the more effective in doing so again during the coming year.

A brief report from each of the representatives is given below. Should you wish to contact them to discuss their work on their committees, please feel free to call them, they are in the book.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Burford
President, ASAC

Geoffrey Heard
Chairperson, VCSA-Chisholm

Mini law course for engineers

The potential legal liability of engineers, particularly those working in local government and the construction industry, has made on commission for the new State Bank building offices of Weigall & Crowther, a major firm of solicitors.

The information session will be held from 12 noon - 1 pm in the Library seminar room (level 3).

This is second year Cermaic Design student, Martin Gilmour, with one of the 12 giant ceramic planters he has made on commission for the new State Bank building offices of Weigall & Crowther, a major firm of solicitors.

High education enrolments up by 12,000 this year

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Executive Director of Chisholm, Mr Alan Hamstead, says although successful in past years, the Social calendar of 1985 was voluntary, the organisation of the activities was on a voluntary basis.

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