Yes, we have some bananas.

Creating Australia's biggest banana in the world. The task was hard work for Dr. Duncan Murray, University of New South Wales. Murray had been asked to build up an hour before serving began. But a good time was had by all. Requests for time syrup and cream of 'hot nuts on mine' got scant attention during the feeding of the multitude (2,000 all told).

Ms Jane Westbrook, Director of the University Union's Program Department, and organizers, says the fest will go on to the implementation of the next edition of the Guinness Book of Records.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr John Scullion
Dr Marc Gumbert
Mr Les Murray

All three of the new Ministerial appointments to the University Council have now been announced. They are:

Dr. Marc Gumbert, a Crown Prosecutor, is a legal anthropologist with a Doctorate of Law from the University of Paris-Sorbonne and an LLB from the University of Sydney. Dr. Gumbert, who was born in Paris in 1942, speaks four languages and has travelled widely, particularly in the third world. He has worked as a lawyer in Paris and Montreal and spent a year as Acting Cultural Attaché at the Australian Embassy in Paris. He is presently also a consultant on legal anthropology to the UNSW Government.

The author of numerous journal articles, Dr. Gumbert wrote a major legal and anthropological analysis of Aboriginal land rights which was published under the title Another Justice nor Science by Queensland University Press.

Dr. Gumbert is particularly interested in university matters and aspects of cross cultural disciplines and hopes, as a new member of Council, that he may contribute a perspective not usual to UNSW. "I have always found this to be a very progressive university," he says.

Post, Lee Murray, at present in Canada accepting the Australia-Canada Prize for Poetry, was Writer-in-Residence at UNSW in 1983. Mr. Murray, 47, grew up on the lower North Coast of NSW and attended the University of Sydney.

He has published poetry and articles in journals in Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom and has held several Senior Fellowships from the Literature Board of the Australia Council. He has conducted innumerable readings and tours in Australia, as well as major ones abroad. In 1980, with Mr. David Mailou and Mr. Vincent Buckley, he read at the Library of Congress and The Guggenheim Centre in the US.

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Dr. Robert Soliman with an example of his different methods for teaching children to read words. Using the word on its own makes children learn considerably more words, according to Dr. Soliman.

A Senior Lecturer in UNSW's School of Education, Dr. Robert Soliman, has released research findings that seem to give the final death knell to teachers' use of picture cards to help young readers learn words. Most infant teachers adopt this procedure as a matter of course, on the assumption that recognition of the picture will help the child to learn the word.

Dr. Soliman and two research students, Mr. Ross Lang and Ms. Robyn Saunders, in 1977 set about trying to discover whether pictures could really aid word learning. Initial studies in 1937, and again in 1967, had sought to assess the value of using pictures to teach words. Their results indicated that when recognition of the words was tested, those children who were taught words without pictures fared best, says Dr. Soliman.

The research was continued by a survey on the backgrounds of medical students entering first year at UNSW in 1985. Conducted by the Faculty of Medicine, it showed that medical students are predominantly middle class Anglo-Celts.

A survey on the backgrounds of medical students entering first year at UNSW in 1985, conducted by the Faculty of Medicine, dispels, in part, the notion that medical students are predominantly middle class Anglo-Celts.

Dr. Soliman as yet cannot answer why the use of pictures does not help the word-learning process but he suspects that a five-and-a-half year old child simply does not have the mental capacity to visualize the two.

"What teachers have to do," he says, "is to first show the pictures of the objects (for example a tree, house, dog and car) until the children can identify them, then put the pictures away and concentrate on teaching the corresponding words on their own."

A Senior Lecturer in UNSW's School of Education, Dr. Robert Soliman, has released research findings that seem to give the final death knell to teachers' use of picture cards to help young readers learn words. Most infant teachers adopt this procedure as a matter of course, on the assumption that recognition of the picture will help the child to learn the word.

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Meeting of 9 September 1985

From the Vice-Chancellor

ADMISSION OF OVERSEAS STUDENTS

Decisions on this item were reported in UNIKEN No. 14 of 13 September.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Resolved

(i) that the University introduces a one-week's study leave each year for academics engaged in the degree of Master of Science in the University College.

(ii) that the Academic Board be asked to consider the establishment of an Honours degree in Electrical Engineering in the School of Electrical Engineering.

(iii) that the Academic Board be asked to consider whether the University might take an interest in the establishment of a School of Law in the University, as proposed in the document presented.

(iv) that the Academic Board be asked to consider whether the University might take an interest in the establishment of a School of Management in the University, as proposed in the document presented.

(v) that the Academic Board be asked to consider whether the University might take an interest in the establishment of a School of Environmental Studies in the University, as proposed in the document presented.

(vi) that the Academic Board be asked to consider whether the University might take an interest in the establishment of a School of Information Technology in the University, as proposed in the document presented.

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Maps for all occasions - and in a hurry

Mr Tom Waugh, designer of innovative software that produces colour maps on a colour graphics terminal, is Visiting Fellow in the School of Geography.

The system is being synthesized on a computer and tested as part of a national research program on improving the interactions between universities, government research institutions and the private sector.

Geography is one of the foremost users of information technology, says Mr Waugh. "The system is used by local government, universities and utilities throughout the world. One of the most common applications is for statistical mapping of census and survey data. It is used for census data in the US, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Holland and the UK. Other uses include sociological, health and transport surveys and military and police applications," says Mr Waugh.

The Canadians have generated four attractive versions of the system. One of these, Mortality in Canada, Volume 7 - proved to be a best-seller. This showed that heart disease was the biggest killer on one side of the country, in Montreal, whereas the biggest killers in Vancouver, on the west coast, were homicide, cirrhosis of the liver and suicide," says Mr Waugh.

UNSW was the first university in Australia to install such a system, and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology also has it now. As Visiting Fellow, Mr Waugh is in the process of writing a book on how to use the software, as well as working on a new version of the system.

The system is relatively easy to use. As an exercise, UNSW students drew up a map showing the plantation of "Gums and Herbs in NSW used for Dairy Produce". In a two-hour session, one student produced a near-perfect map and others came very close to doing so. "Although the system is becoming very user-friendly, the problems with the number of options available, you can't give a command. There is a conflict between making things very easy and allowing the power and flexibility that people want to use," says Mr Waugh.

Credit unions financial trailblazers, says new book

The development of credit unions in Australia is a post-World War II phenomenon but in this short period of time they have been in the forefront of innovations within the Australian financial sector, according to a new book co-authored by a UNSW academic.

Australian credit union firsts include free bill payment facilities, free pay deduction facilities, cheque book cover services, life insurance cover on borrowings, Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs), Point of Sale (POS) terminals, computerized budgeting systems as an aid to consumer money management, overdraft arrangements and tailoring of banking services. They were also the first non-financial institution to join VISA International's worldwide ATM system.

Credit Unions for Australians, by Mr Michael Skully, Senior Lecturer in Finance at UNSW, and Mr Harvey Crapp, from the School of Finance and Administrative Studies at Kunsing C.A.E., tells you everything you need to know about credit unions, starting with the various types available and explaining the benefits that are offered. It gives an account of the origins of the development of credit unions in the United States, the Industrial Revolution and the development of credit unions in Australia - providing an up-to-date overview.

There are now approximately 550 credit unions in Australia with about two million members and a total asset base of about $3.700 million. In Chapter 4 the authors show how credit unions' share of the consumer lending market has continued to grow in importance and how credit unions have managed to weather recent changes in the Australian financial market, notably changes in the share market, over the ten years to June 1983, the credit union industry had an average growth in total assets of 26 per cent per year, whereas all other financial institutions combined increased at an annual rate of 25 per cent per year.

"The three major types of credit union are employee groups, community-based groups and sponsored groups (including trade unions, religious and ethnic groups)."

"In Chapter 5 the authors point out that 'every Australian can belong to a credit union' - all that is required is to be a member of a credit union with a suitable account of a balance. The three major types of credit union are employee groups, community-based groups and sponsored groups (including trade unions, religious and ethnic groups)."

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Australian visitor seeks clues from Australian food technology

Australian Theatre Studies Centre launched

Nigerian visitor seeks clues from Australian food technology

Professor Olorunda, with (left) Associate Professor Ron Wills of the School of Food Science and Technology and Dr Francis Screven of the School, examining avocados that have been treated with calcium to extend their storage life.

The success of the Congress, emphasized by the media, hides the serious condition of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. It seems as if nothing is being written of the Congress made no profit. Also, for the first time for some years, the Congress did not register participants and the number of participants dropped to 700 or so new members from each previous Congress. ANZAAS will gain almost none.

Peter Wildblood leaves

Mr Peter Wildblood, Deputy Register of the Administrative Services Branch of the Registrar's Department, is leaving UNSW on 30 September to join FAAC Consulting Services as a Senior Consultant.

The eight other prize winners were Gregory Solomons, Vida Villanusa (both Year IV), Tracey Baker, Peter Clark, William Grenall, David Peachey, Frances Tefany, Michael Tsirulnik and Elizabeth Volmin (all Year IV).

UNSW Med students win awards

UNSW medical students have won nine of twenty-one prizes in an Elective Bursaries competition conducted by the Medical Defence Union, including the first prize of $1,500 won by a fourth year student, Ms Robyn Gun. The other eight winners were Mr. Malcolm Stott and third year students, each received $750.

UNSW's new Australian Theatre Studies Centre was formally launched on 13 September with a reception for critics, academics and people in the theatre business. It was preceded by the Centre's first Board meeting. Nine of the twelve Board members and the Director were present (left to right) Mr Richard Yelland (childhood's theatre), Mr Neil Armstrong (director), Ms Katherine Brisbane (publisher), the Chairman, Mr David William (playwright), Dr Margaret Williams (School of Theatrical Studies), the Director, Dr Philip Parson (theatre Dr Williams), Professor John Mihell (Faculty of Arts), Ms Penny Cook (toaster) and Professor Rob Jordan (School of Theatre Studies).

Board members unable to attend were Ms Kasie Fitzpatrick, Mr John Gaden and Mr Richard Wherrett. (For full story about the Centre, see UNIKEN No. 13 of 30 August.)

RSI SEMINAR

A seminar on Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI) entitled "An experimental investigation of factors affecting forearm muscle fatigue in repetitive work" was held at the Bachelor of Health and Safety Seminars at 3.30 pm on Monday, 30th March, Room 301, School of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering. Mr Badia is a PhD student in the School.
UNSW has most students in 1985

In terms of total student numbers, UNSW has regained its former position at the head of 19 universities in Australia. This is revealed in some preliminary university statistics for 1985 released recently by the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission.

UNSW continues to attract students from all the states. Of the 30,466 students enrolled in 1985 (1984: 29,728), of whom 9,913 are males and 20,553 are females. Female numbers showed the greatest increase with an growth of 2,697, while male numbers grew by 536.

New Professor of Finance weighs up banks risks

Dr Ian Sharpe, newly-appointed Professor of Finance in UNSW's School of Accountancy, has had a long-term interest in the financial stability and risk of banks and other financial institutions.

Dr Sharpe has completed a study, in conjunction with Professor Warren Hough from the University of Queensland, on the inter-bank market and, in particular, the ability of banks to meet demands for loan agreements in times of financial stress. He has also been working on a study of the stock market to predict failure of financial institutions. The study found that the market accurately predicted failure in four out of the six cases in history, examined. 'Bodies such as the Reserve Bank had traditionally looked at balance sheets to monitor riskiness - our findings indicate that it would be of some benefit for them to also consider market information,' he says.

Prior to his appointment at UNSW, Professor Sharpe was Professor of Economics and Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce at the University of Newcastle. In 1978 he was visiting Economist with the Reserve Bank, and from 1972-1978 held Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in the Economics Department at the University of Sydney.

His original research interests were in econometric model-building within the financial sector, and monetary economics. These were essentially macro-economic in nature. Over the last week or two years I have turned to looking at institutions,' says Professor Sharpe.

The recent advent of new banks in Australia has led, in his school of competition, says Professor Sharpe, and this means that some will fail - so studies related to the risk-factor are very important. 'When the failure occurs, we generally say a "clump type" attitude, the competition means that the risk of stress is reduced,' he says.

Finance packaging will now have to be more geared to the consumer need. In the previous environment, banks were able to ration loans and pay unrestricted rates on deposits. They will now have to compete for deposits, he says.

'Banks will gain in relative importance compared with building societies, credit unions and other financial institutions, predicts Professor Sharpe.'There will be a re-arranging of the cake rather than an increase in the size of the cake. Banks have been freed from regulated interest rates and can now compete with these other institutions. Many of the new foreign banks were previously not allowed into competition and, so to speak, were cut out of the competition. They will now be able to compete across to the consumer sector, which will bring about the expected results,' he says.

In his new position at UNSW, Professor Sharpe will strive to develop strong links with financiers 'downstream' and with academics in the Schools of Economics, Law and the AGSM with an interest in financial markets regulation. He would also like to see the Department of Finance become more independent within the Faculty structure.