

HAWTHORN CAMPUS NOTES XII

FEBRUARY, 1988

CHANGING AGE STRUCTURE A PLUS ?

In a letter to the "Age" on November 7, last year, Katherine Betts, lecturer in Sociology at Swinburne Institute of Technology, offered a somewhat different analysis to the one we are all used to hearing on the dire effects of our ageing society. Here is that letter:

" It seems that the draft report of Federal Government's Economic Planning and Advisory Council ('The Age', 5/11) is based on a number of false assumptions about the effects of the "ageing of the population" on Australian society.

Along with most other developed countries Australia is experiencing a growing maturity in the age structure of her population as we move towards a new situation where births and deaths will be in balance.

When human societies experienced population stability in the past it was because relatively high birth rates were balanced by high death rates. This meant no growth and a youthful age structure because few people lived to grow old.

Continued . . .

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CHANGING AGE STRUCTURE A PLUS? (Continued)

Unless we wish to return to the past and achieve equilibrium through high death rates, stability will inevitably bring a more mature age structure with it.

All of the projections currently available for the year, 2021 show that around 64 to 66 per cent of the population, about the same as at present, will be of 'working age'. But what we will see is a shift in the nature of 'dependency'. Fewer 'dependants' will be children and more will be older people.

It is generally agreed that, while the sums are hard to do, the pension and health care costs of the elderly are probably higher than the education and welfare costs of the young. But this is a limited argument based on biased accounting procedures.

Most of the heavy costs of caring for children are private costs borne by the parents, the direct economic costs of food, clothing, housing and education, and the indirect costs of long years of unpaid labour and of lost opportunities in paid work and recreation.

In any full analysis the costs of children would be far higher than the costs of the elderly.

Who is more of a 'burden' to others? A two-year-old child or her 67-year-old grandmother? In all probability the grandmother is helping to care for the child, and for a number of other people as well.

Most of the elderly are fit and well. They are quite capable of taking care of their own needs and of making a contribution to the wider society if they are allowed to."

STUDENTS MAKE MUSIC

Ann Taylor, Hawthorn Campus' piano tutor reports:

" One beginner in 1985 has now passed Grade IV with a C+ - Hilda Bottomley. She has now moved to Merimbula but is continuing her Piano. Nan Rule is going for A.M.E.B. Grade III next May. There is no competition and one pupil is just getting 'hands together' with encouragement from us all.

We had a small 'Recital' last month with an audience of four; we were all nervous but also had a lot of fun!"

LETTERS TO MINISTER GET RESULT

Our thanks to all the U3A members who sent letters to the Ministry of Education in support of our work for older persons' education.

There has been some heartening response from two government departments and the situation is no longer so desperate. The level of operations which will be possible, in regard to the projects for less mobile and housebound people, remains to be seen. However, we will continue to pursue the situation as far as is possible and do appreciate the assistance you have already given by expressing your views to the Minister.

Judith Elsworth
Adult Education Officer

NANJING TEACHERS UNIVERSITY TO HOST VISIT

Places are still available on the U3A Sister-State Cultural Exchange visit to Jiangsu Province, China. Members of the tour will be guests of the Nanjing's Teachers University and will be accommodated at the University in 1st and 2nd floor twin share rooms.

A programme of cultural activities and involvement in the teaching activities of the University are special features of this visit, but people will be free to take part when or where they wish or just do their own thing completely - the emphasis will be on meeting and mixing with people

As well, arrangements have been made for visits to Huaian, Huaiyin, Pukou, Huaxi, Wuxi and Yixing. People wishing to visit other places are free to make their own arrangements.

The cost will not exceed \$3,000. This includes travel to and from Nanjing and all travel, accommodation and meals in China.

Travel dates: Melbourne to Hongkong - April 20

Hongkong to Nanjing - April 21

Return: Nanjing to Hongkong - May 12

Hongkong to Melbourne - May 14

Arrive Melbourne - May 15

Anyone interested in joining the group or wishing for more information should contact Jill FitzGibbon at the office (019 8824) immediately.

We offer sincere congratulations to Geoff Matenson who got his H.S.C. in JAPANESE last year - how's that!



SOCIAL GROUP

Many replies were received to the suggestions for outings and preferences were as follows:

1. Basket picnics
2. Dine-outs (incl. lunches)
3. Bus trips
4. Strolls to places of interest
5. Theatre (+ films)
6. Cards.

Some suggestions were given re places to visit on bus tours.

So that these can be organised, it is VITAL that you submit your name, address and telephone number on the attached slip, so we can convene a meeting to discuss plans.

Connie Anthony

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

CURRENT COURSES

ANTHROPOLOGY I Convener: Judy Lee

A course covering Chinese, Indian and Mexican peasant societies, and Australian Aborigines from settlement to the present time.

Friday morning, Wakefield Street, commencing 12th February.

ANTHROPOLOGY II Convener: Ted Dugdale

Thoughts and Ideas: a course in human relations; evolution as a positive sequence; growth, its nature and limitations; logical concepts and the nature of meaning; restructuring human attitudes; democracy; student participation; economics and administration; life force and the golden mean. Friday morning, Wakefield Street, commencing 12th February.

ART APPRECIATION Convener: Sue Van Dorssen

An on-going course embracing the major arts (architecture, painting and sculpture) of Western Europe. This year we will be covering the period from the Renaissance to the Baroque.

Monday afternoon, Wakefield Street, commencing 22nd February.

ARTS OF ASIA Convener: Ernestine Lobb

This course will concentrate on selected arts of China, Japan and India, such as porcelain, miniature paintings and netsuka.

Wednesday mornings, 4A Dalny Street, Malvern, commencing 9th March.

ART - PRACTICAL Convener: Margaret Drake

A self-help group doing painting and sketching.

Thursday afternoon, Hawthorn Artists' Society, commencing 11th February.

BIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY & THE PURPOSE OF LIFE Convener: Trevor Moffat

This is a basic course covering the general areas of each subject in everyday language. The sessions shall attempt to maintain a balance of structured and workshop approaches and, where possible, use videos or films to stimulate discussion. The course will centre on three

- fundamental questions:
1. How does it happen?
 2. Why does it happen?
 3. What is its purpose?

Monday morning, Wakefield Street, commencing 22nd February.

CAR MAINTENANCE Convener: Thalby Reidy-Crofts

A course to help you understand how your car works, how to carry out quick and easy maintenance procedures and how you can tell when things are not working as they should; run in conjunction with M.L.C.

Particulars available from the office at Wakefield Street.

CHINA TRAVEL Convener: Colin McCallum

This introductory course provides a background in Chinese History, Art and Culture for the intending traveller, concentrating particularly on Jiangsu Province (Victoria's sister state) where Colin McCallum spent a year teaching at Nanjing Teachers' University in 1983/4. He has since made many return visits. The course also complements the "Sister-State Cultural Exchange Visits" one of which leaves in April and another in September. Wednesday morning, Wakefield Street, comm. 24th February.

COMPUTERS - AN INTRODUCTION Convener: Vic Kennedy

A 5-week course to give you an insight into computers including the language used in this field and an opportunity for "hands-on" experience. Tuesday morning, 89 Power Street, Hawthorn, commencing 26th April.

CONTRACT BRIDGE Convener: Bill Zimmerman

An introduction to this fascinating game. It is necessary for there to be at least twelve students to make the course viable. Wednesday afternoon, William Tresise Centre.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - AUSTRALIA & THE WORLD Convener: Wolfe Flack

Current affairs around the world and how they may affect Australia. Class members determine the topics they wish to discuss and participate in collecting information.

Thursday morning, William Tresise Centre, commencing 11th February.

CURRENT AFFAIRS - SOUTH EAST ASIA Conveners: Gerald Noble &
Jean Aikenhead

This discussion group concentrates on the background to current happenings in lands to the north of Australia with some lectures on historical development and occasional guest speakers.

Tuesday morning, William Tresise Centre, commencing 16th February.

DETERMINISM Convener: Bill Zimmerman

A philosophical discussion group - Do we have free will? What does free will imply? If determinism is true, we are not responsible for our own actions for determinists argue "You can undoubtedly do 'what you want', but you cannot determine 'what you want'"

Thursday afternoon, Wakefield Street, commencing 10th March.

ECONOMICS Convener: George Charles

This discussion group is free from figures and in plain language that all can understand. Its aim is to seek a greater awareness of the world about us by looking at the history and the background of economic systems at home and abroad. Monday morning, Wakefield St., comm. 22nd February.

GENEALOGY Convener: Marjorie Stone

Are you interested in tracing your origins? If so, then this beginners workshop in genealogy would be a good place to start.

Tuesday afternoon, Hawthorn Recreation Centre, commencing 1st March.

GRANDPARENTING Convener: Alex Gale

Group discussion on various roles of Grandparenting, problems which may arise and possible strategies to be used to solve ways of enjoying being a grandparent. How has the role changed over our lifetime?

4 sessions, Tuesday, 11 - 12 noon, Wakefield Street, comm. 29th March.

HISTORY - AUSTRALIAN Convener: Gordon Wilson

A look at some aspects of the social and cultural history of Australia.

Topics treated will depend on students' interests and will be drawn from the Foundations pre-1850, Immigration, Education, the Legacy of Gold, "the Legend of the Nineties", the Federal Movement, Major Developments 1900-1940. Monday afternoon, Hawthorn Library, comm. 8th February.

HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY Conveners: Greta Burman, Frances McCallum
and Claire Pullin

Learning about the body, its properties and how it works is a fascinating study which can help us to keep functioning well. If difficulties arise, it will enable us to discuss them with understanding and prevent delay in seeking treatment.

Topics to be covered: The life of cells; the skeleton, joints and muscles; how food and oxygen are distributed and utilised; how wastes and toxins are eliminated; and the body's defences. Systems which control and co-ordinate body functions: the brain; nerves; hormones; reproduction; stress. What is health?

Tuesday afternoon, Wakefield Street, commencing 16th February.

LITERARY STUDIES - Levels I & II Convener: Connie Anthony

These courses explore our literary heritage of Australian authors and notable poets - then possibly take a glance at world literature. This will encompass the ancient Greeks, French and great English authors and poets. Following this, some of the outstanding contributions of modern American authors and playwrights will be examined.

Tuesday morning, Wakefield Street, commencing 9th February.

MUSIC - AS ONE LIKES IT Convener: Ven Houston

This course looks at the structure and history of music in opera, dance, chamber, vocal and choral music, and other areas.

Tuesday afternoon, Hawthorn Community House, comm. 16th February.

LANGUAGES

French (Beginners) Convener: Adele Chambers

Friday afternoon, Wakefield Street, commencing 4th March.

French (Intermediate) Convener: Bill Zimmerman

Tuesday afternoon, Wakefield Street, commencing 8th March.

French Conversation Convener: Nazli Wilhelm

Wednesday afternoon, Recreation Centre, commencing 6th April.

German (Beginners) Convener: Terese Von Schneeberg

Monday morning, Wakefield Street, commencing 29th February.

German(Continuing) Convener: Ursula Gottschalk

Thursday morning, Wm. Tresise Centre, commencing 18th February.

Italian (Beginners) Convener: Maurice Berah

Monday afternoon, Wakefield Street, commencing 15th February.

Italian (Continuing) Convener: Maurice Berah

Monday afternoon, Wakefield Street, commencing 15th February.

Japanese (Beginners) Convener: Joyce Berdy

Monday afternoon, Recreation Centre, commencing 15th February.

Japanese (1st & 2nd Year) Convener: Geoff Matenson

Monday afternoon, Recreation Centre, commencing 8th February.

Latin (Continuing) Convener: Helen Gordon

Wednesday morning, Wakefield Street, commencing 24th February.

There are still a limited number of vacancies in some of the language courses, so please apply to the office for further particulars.

NEW LIFE SCIENCES MADE EASY Convener: Elizabeth Turner

Six lectures covering the stuff of life, the body's defences, genetic engineering, reproduction techniques and public policies and the future.

Friday afternoon, Wakefield Street, commencing 20th May.

NEW PHYSICS & PHILOSOPHY Convener: Fred Rosedale

A workshop-type course in non-technical, plain language about the magic of modern physics. Understanding new physics is a foretaste of a completely new form of human intellectual endeavour.

Let us set aside old assumptions and look at problems freshly.

Let us try to seek more than just information; let us seek meaning.

Tuesday afternoon, Recreation Centre, commencing 23rd February

Wednesday afternoon, Wakefield Street, commencing 24th February.

NUTRITION & HEALTH Convener: Greta Burman

We are continuously subjected to enticing food advertisements and articles on miracle diets. This course will help us distinguish between fact and fiction. How can nutrients contribute to health or illness?

Digestion, energy, fibre, cholesterol, minerals and vitamins, cooking and food processing, fast foods, etc. will be discussed.

Tuesday morning, Wakefield Street, commencing 16th February.

PHILOSOPHY Convener: Joan Drake

This is a self-help group. Members will explore topics, present to the rest of the group, and initiate discussion.

Fortnightly, Tuesday afternoon, Augustine Centre, comm. 9th February.

PIANO STUDIES I & II Convener: Ann Taylor

For people who have never played the piano before, and may now have the time to explore and practice.

Wednesdays at 4/284 Barkers Road, Hawthorn

PSYCHOLOGY/SOCIOLOGY Convener: Alex Gale

This course has a philosophical, psychological approach, aimed at a greater understanding of our own reactions and behaviour. The book to be studied is "The Hanged Man" by Sheldon Kopp.

Fortnightly, Thursday, 1 p.m., Recreation Centre, commencing 3rd March.

SOCIAL ETHICS Convener: John Balfour

The emphasis will be on some of the contemporary bioethical problems of our time such as in vitro fertilisation, voluntary euthanasia and the allocation of scarce medical resources. We shall also discuss issues relating to ecological ethics. Whilst doing these, we shall examine how we make ethical decisions.

Wednesday morning, Wakefield Street, commencing 9th March.

SOCIAL ISSUES Convener: Herbert Liffman

Studies range from multi-culturalism through racism to children and the law, the Family Court and victims of crime, in considering the important social issues of our time. Bio-ethics, the problems of adoption (national and international), abortion and euthanasia also come under scrutiny.

Wednesday afternoon, Hawthorn Recreation Centre, comm. 17th February.

TRAVEL THE WORLD IN HOME COMFORT Convener: Harry Bonny

Each talk is illustrated with 200 colour slides.

Either a repeat visit to France and Italy or you have the choice of many countries Harry Bonny has visited.

Thursday afternoon, Wm. Tresise Centre, commencing 3rd March.

WORKING WITH DREAMS Convener: John Balfour

The Swiss Psychiatrist, C.J. Jung, wrote: "In each of us there is another. He speaks to us in dreams. In this series we shall try to understand the language of dreams and how that knowledge can enrich us.

Wednesday morning, Wakefield Street, commencing 13th April.

WRITING WORKSHOP Convener: Connie Anthony

Beginners who partake will be given every assistance with vocabulary, grammar and self-expression. They will be encouraged to write small exercises, then higher assignments, persisting to essays, non-fiction articles, newspaper work and short stories with the hope of publication.

Tuesday afternoon, Wakefield Street, commencing 9th February.

PROPOSED FUTURE COURSE

FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

With a referendum planned for this year on the Federal Constitution, it has been suggested that it would be a good subject to study if enough people are interested. Should you wish to join the class, please contact the office and register your name.

Enrolment forms are found at the end of the Campus Notes. It is essential that one form should be completed for each course you wish to take, and then returned to the office at 24 Wakefield Street, Hawthorn, 3122 without delay.