

Australian arts reach U.S. shores

By Carolyn Lamberson
Emerald Associate Editor

The University's Australian Studies Committee is working to promote Australian arts and literature to American students.

The country was once considered a well-kept secret — at least until the success of the "Mad Max" films and "Crocodile Dundee." Now, many Americans are beginning to discover the former penal colony as a "trendy" place to visit.

But Jack Bennett, chairman of the University's Australian Studies Committee, is trying to promote the side of Australia not shown in the popular films. Tonight, the committee is bringing two Australian writers and a literary magazine editor to the University for a literary evening.

The tour, sponsored by the Australian Literature Board, also is part of the upcoming Australian bicentennial celebration, Bennett said.

"In 1988 it's the Australian bicentennial. It'll be 200 years since the first fleet brought a load of convicts and guards into Botany Bay in Australia," he said.

Speakers include Helen Garner, an award-winning author whose works include "Monkey Grip" and "Postcards from Surfers"; Laurie Duggan, a poet from South Melbourne whose writing provides descriptions of different aspects of Australia; and Michael Heyward, the co-founder of "Scripsi," a literary magazine containing works of Australian and international writers.

The market for Australian writers has opened in recent years, Bennett said.

"I think Australian writers had a particularly hard time up until Patrick White, who won a Nobel Prize in 1972, and his books were generally reprinted and distributed," he said.

But now, the prestigious New York Times Book Review con-

sistently is featuring Australian writers. Two recent best-sellers, "The Fatal Shore" and "The Australians," are by Australians, Bennett said.

"Americans are very curious about Australia," he added. "I think in many ways, Americans see themselves at an earlier stage in the Australian experience. I think Americans would like to think of Australia as the last frontier."

Bennett noted the similar histories between Australia and America. Both share a British heritage and democratic traditions (although both evolved differently), a common theme of a frontier, and a common shame about the treatment of its indigenous population, he said.

Tonight's program begins at 7:30 in the Gerlinger Lounge. "I hope people come out Monday night, and I think they'll be entertained and should learn some things — another aspect of Australia other than 'Crocodile Dundee,'" he said.

Et al.

MEETINGS

The Student Senate will be meeting today at 5 p.m. in 337 EMU.

The University Arms Control Forum will hold an organizational meeting today at noon in Century Room D, EMU.

The University of Oregon/University of El Salvador Sister University Project will hold a meeting today at 4 p.m. in Century Room B, EMU.

Phi Eta Sigma/Alpha Lambda Delta will meet tonight at 7:30 in Century Room F, EMU.

LECTURES

Watergate to Hart-gate, a discussion of the national media's ethical behavior, will be held Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 3:30 in 313 Allen. Sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Roman Catholic Faith and Customs, a contemporary overview of Roman Catholic beliefs and practices, will be held tonight at 7:30 in the basement of Chelsea House, 1851 Onyx. This is the first session. For more information call 343-7021.

"Postmodern Feminism in the U.S." will be the topic of a lecture by Professor Toril Moi from the University of Bergen, Norway, today at 3:30 in 204 Condon. Professor Terry Eagleton from Oxford University will speak on "The Ideology of the Aesthetic" at 8 tonight, also in 204 Condon.

MISCELLANEOUS

Phi Eta Sigma/Alpha Lambda Delta members initiated spring

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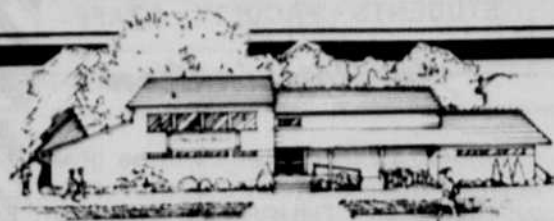
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