



# MONASH REPORTER

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## Inside this issue

### Sex

Good, we've got your attention. But it's more than a teaser, so to speak. This issue, **Reporter** delivers. On page 9 we look at sex — the apes and man. A Monash physiologist discusses whether early man was monogamous, polygynous or promiscuous — and gives a clue on why the whole thing is sometimes called 'monkey business'.

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## Care urged with teaching

A former Chancellor of Monash has urged academics to pay attention to their teaching.

"I recognise that research is a very important part of the work of the academic staff, but I am afraid that all too often teaching is regarded as a necessary evil," said Sir Richard Eggleston, delivering the occasional address at a Law and Science graduation ceremony last month at which he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

"This is a subject that has interested me for many years, indeed, ever since I myself suffered from one or two inaudible and disorganised lecturers as an undergraduate.

"It has always seemed anomalous that below tertiary levels of education some training in teaching methods is insisted on, but above that level even incompetence is tolerated."

Sir Richard continued: "Every disgruntled student who complains about poor teaching may mean several votes for a government that wishes to interfere in the internal affairs of universities. It behoves us to be always vigilant to see that grounds for complaint do not exist.

"I should, however, make it clear that I believe that Monash enjoys a deservedly high reputation, both for its teaching programs and its research and I have the utmost regard for the enthusiasm and dedication of all the staff with whom I have come in contact."

In his address, Sir Richard examined the quality of teaching that has been conducted at some of the "great" universities over time — and also some of the "freedoms" of universities in history.

"The charters of the ancient universities were not charters of freedom for the undergraduates and those associated with them, but charters of oppression," he concluded.

"The university had its own police force, its own prison, and apparently its own intelligence network. One can imagine how busy the Proctors would have been if they had been exercising their talents 120 years later on an Australian campus."

• An edited text of Sir Richard Eggleston's address appears on pages 6, 7. On the same pages, an interview with Monash's new Chancellor, Sir George Lush.

• Continued next page

# India's 'Untouchables': change comes slowly

Experts on development in third world countries have argued cause and effect between an increase in the level of education of women, along with improved standards of living, and a reduction in population growth.

But how much education is needed to achieve this effect?

It is one of the questions Monash economic historian, Dr Marika Vicziany, hopes to answer in a study on fertility and the family life of Untouchables — or to use Gandhi's term, Harijans — in India. It is a project with clear policy implications.

Dr Vicziany returned recently from India where she conducted an interviewing program among Harijans in a village in the State of Bihar. Her work is being supported by a Monash Special Research Grant.

### Not clear cut

She emphasises that her conclusions are tentative. They do point, however, towards a link between improved female literacy and reduced population growth that is not as clear cut and immediately achievable as might be first thought.

"It appears that the amount of education required to achieve the predicted effect is 'a lot' — much more than just a few years at school," she says. "We might have to accept rapid population growth in some areas for quite a long time."

The argument on female literacy, set in an Indian context, runs on these lines:

A newlywed couple traditionally moves in with the groom's parents whose attitudes prevail in the household on important matters such as child bearing. Education of the young woman gives her a new perception of reality, an independent base from which to make decisions. On some issues these are likely to differ from those of her parents-in-law, particularly in relation to family size. Education is also likely to elevate a woman's relationship with her husband to one where they will discuss such things as family planning. Education, then, should give the young

woman an improved status in her new family from which she should be able to "fight off" the authority of her parents-in-law if need be, and implement new ideas.

The argument can come unstuck, says Dr Vicziany, and indeed there are circumstances in which a little education can actually undermine the status of the young woman.

She cites a case from the village in Bihar:

A young woman, daughter of a schoolteacher and with some education herself (about three years' schooling), married a man who was completing a university degree. More significant in determining the couple's status in the family than their education, however, was the fact that they had no separate income. In simple terms, income counts more than a limited amount of education: no income, no opinion.



● Dr Marika Vicziany points out the location of the State of Bihar in India. On page 1, women members of a family group Dr Vicziany interviewed in a village near Central Patna.

there are sub-communities formed by family groups of the Chamar, Dusadh and Musahar castes. Among these families there is only limited contact. The Chamars are the most upwardly mobile with members who are being educated and taking advantage of government assistance; the Musahars the least so.

Dr Vicziany's first — and by no means easiest — task was to be "introduced" to and win the trust of the people she hoped to interview, on indeed quite personal matters.

In this she was assisted by a woman who acted as her interpreter (although Dr Vicziany does speak some Hindi) — a student of Patna University, independent press entrepreneur and feminist. This woman had previously had some contact with a family in the village.

Rather than enter the community armed with a questionnaire seeking "hard" data, Dr Vicziany adopted an

Ultimately she will use a formal questionnaire seeking hard data on such aspects as fertility and mortality in certain age groups.

Among the policy implications that Dr Vicziany says have emerged at this early stage are these:

- For education to have its predicted effect on fertility, schooling must extend over much more than just a few years.

- While female literacy has been nominated the critical variable, improvements here depend in the first instance on a rapid rise in male literacy. Of necessity, the education of women will lag behind that of men. Experiments to short-circuit the process have not only failed but disrupted family life to an extent which has interfered with other projects aimed at the socioeconomic uplift of Harijans.

- Nevertheless, illiteracy (which was 93% amongst Chamars in 1971) has not prevented Harijans developing a good understanding of the plurality of contemporary Indian medicine. Non-western medicine complements rather than competes with western practice — the use of conventional western medical know-how resting more on easy access to the facilities than on literacy. The argument that the illiterate are trapped by tradition and fatalism cannot be used to justify the development of a "second best" medical infrastructure in rural areas.

- The persistence of high mortality amongst Harijans seems to be largely caused by inadequate diet and appalling living conditions. Without doing something about these — through, for example, implementation of the minimum agricultural wages policy — the downward adjustment of fertility has little rationality. The solution to Bihar's population problem is more likely to be social and political, than medical.

**Footnote:** While Indian legislation has formally abolished the caste system it still exists. Untouchables — or, as they are variously described, Harijans, ex-Untouchables, and, in official terms, members of "scheduled castes" — are still largely poverty stricken, illiterate and perform the worst jobs. The Government has recognised the need for a program of positive discrimination and has enacted legislation reserving jobs for them in the public service.

## Life in the low caste

● From page 1.

The particular couple illustrates a second point on which Dr Vicziany has been reflecting: the connection between dowries and the status of the young woman in her parents'-in-law home — with the flow-on effect to family planning.

The dowry system is becoming more common among upwardly mobile Harijans and, on the surface, would appear to enhance the status of the young bride. Paradoxically it has the potential to work in the opposite direction, says Dr Vicziany.

"As a Harijan family acquires some wealth, attempts will be made to marry a daughter into a slightly better-off family in the same caste. The search for a groom will cover a wider area than in a more 'traditional' marriage.

"Thus a Harijan bride with a dowry may marry into a family at a considerable distance from her parental home — her isolation and insecurity are increased and she is more subject to the authority of the new household.

"This, together with the increased lifespan of her parents-in-law, makes her

quite dependent — a dependency which her insufficient education cannot overcome."

Dr Vicziany has chosen Bihar for her study as a State which various indices pinpoint as one of the most "backward" and poverty stricken. Unlike, for example, some of the south-western States of India which are in "demographic transition" with falling population growth rates, Bihar continues to experience a rising rate. It also suffers from severe problems of government co-ordination and control.

The village in which she carried out her initial research is located some seven kilometres from Central Patna, the State capital. It could be described as a "peri-urban" community: although the city is encroaching on its fields, it continues to derive its livelihood from agriculture. Later in the project Dr Vicziany hopes to conduct research in a second village more isolated from city influences.

The structure of the village represents the caste system in microcosm, she says. A central road divides Harijans from other villagers. And within the Harijan community

approach in this first contact espoused by Jack Caldwell among other demographers. That is, first gain some understanding of the people with whom you are working. Against this, statistical information can be interpreted.

She says: "I sat down with whichever women were available and conducted unstructured interviews, seeking descriptive 'biodata'. I wanted in this first instance to be accepted by the women, to immerse myself in their environment.

"In such a field study you often pick up information which may seem irrelevant at the time, but later proves useful in interpreting data.

"I was interested in discovering what is happening to the lives of these people and, just as important, what people think is happening. This last aspect is vital in terms of formulating government policies which will work. A family planning program may make sense from the urban, Western viewpoint but unless it has been designed with particular people in mind — unless it makes sense in their terms — the chances that it will be successful are diminished."

## China 'key': rural reforms first

**China has a better chance of successfully managing its urban planning problems than other developing countries, according to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.**

The key to China's success is the major rural reforms which took place first, Professor Logan believes.

Professor Logan was one of 10 foreign speakers invited to an international workshop on the problems of urban and regional development in Beijing last month.

The workshop was organised by the Academia Sinica (the Chinese Academy of Science) and the United Nations University.

Experts from the United Kingdom, Hungary, the USA, Nigeria, Japan, Australia, Colombia, and West Germany attended.

The foreigners presented papers on their own countries' experiences in urban and regional planning and then

heard discussion of the problems of managing growth in Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai, before touring Beijing and its rural hinterland.

Professor Logan, who is also professor of Geography at Monash, said China was now industrialising rapidly.

### Inequality

"The experience of other developing countries who follow that path — of industrialisation and modernisation — is that it leads to inequality of distribution of income, particularly rural versus urban.

"China has solved some of these problems by undertaking major rural reforms first, by the redistribution of land.

"There seemed to me, going around, a good deal of evidence of peasants being fairly affluent.

"Of all the developing countries I

have visited — in Asia, America and Africa — there's less evidence of poverty in China than anywhere else and less evidence of a gap between the rich and the poor.

"The Chinese cities are all growing rapidly but the Chinese family planning program seems to me to be working very well.

"China should be able to manage its redistribution well," he said.

Professor Logan said the Chinese were now aware that their problems — of transportation, controlling growth, the invasion of valuable rural land by urban development, the provision of housing and infrastructure, and the control of land uses inside a city — were identical to those of major cities everywhere.

He said he had been impressed by the integration of economic development and physical land use in China.

Planning is controlled by one body, the State Planning Commission.

"When they decide to build a factory, the transport, everything, is planned at the same time, unlike here where two or three government departments control different aspects," he said.

Professor Logan said Chinese planners who had visited Australia had been impressed by the planning of Canberra.

He said the standing of Australian universities was "very high indeed" in China. "They are certainly looking to Australia for close relations with the universities," he said.

### 53rd ANZAAS

The 53rd ANZAAS Congress will be held from May 16 to 20 at the Western Australian Institute of Technology, Perth.

About 3000 participants are expected at the Congress, the theme of which is "Resources and Responsibilities".

*It's caps  
off to  
first  
class  
degrees!*

**Mathematics not a female domain?**  
These graduates prove otherwise.

Last month (left to right) **Helen Pongracic, Caroline Finch and Julie Ann Noonan** received their Bachelor of Science degrees — all with first class honours in Mathematics. Julie won the L. J. Gleeson Prize in Applied Mathematics.

The girls have had a link for many years: Caroline went to school with Julie and has an association with Helen dating back to childhood.

The three are continuing with higher degrees — Helen and Julie at Monash and Caroline, daughter of **Professor Peter Finch**, at La Trobe.

Photo: Rick Crompton.



# Reform urged on nationality provisions for Federal MPs

**A Monash lawyer has urged reform of Constitutional provisions on nationality qualifications and disqualifications for members of Federal Parliament.**

**Dr Michael Pryles**, a Reader in Law, says in an article published recently in the *Monash University Law Review* that reforms in this area proposed by the Senate Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs do not go far enough.

Dr Pryles highlights some seemingly unjust, even absurd, situations that could occur under present law.

Take, for example, this hypothetical case:

A Member of Federal Parliament, Australian-born, whose parents were also born in this country, is a rabid anti-communist who conducts a vehement anti-Soviet campaign. A backdoor method of "neutralising" his voice in the House may be for the Soviet Union to confer on him Soviet citizenship.

Under disqualification provisions of the Constitution, prima facie it would seem that the member's seat would thereupon become vacant, even though he did not seek the citizenship of the foreign state and would certainly not bask in the glory of it.

(Under the rule of private international law, possession of a foreign nationality is determined in accordance with the law of the foreign country concerned.)

**A second area where qualification provisions could operate unjustly concerns prospective members with dual citizenship.**

Here, take the case of a person who is an Australian citizen by birth and a British subject under the Australian Citizenship Act.

His parents, however, were born in a southern European country and under the law of that country cannot divest themselves of that nationality. Further, their children also acquire their na-

tionality irrespective of the place of birth.

It would appear that Constitutional provisions would preclude that Australian-born person from standing for Federal Parliament.

Says Dr Pryles: "This would be unjust, especially if the person concerned had never attempted to rely on his foreign nationality, such as by applying for a foreign passport, and had always declared himself to be an Australian citizen."

## The requirements

**What does the Constitution stipulate on nationality for members of Federal Parliament?**

Section 34 says that, **until the Parliament otherwise provides**, a Member of the House of Representatives (and, under section 16, Senate qualifications are the same): "must be a subject of the Queen, either a natural born or for at least five years naturalised under a law of the UK, or of a Colony which has become or becomes a State, or of the Commonwealth or of a State".

The Parliament "has otherwise provided" in a number of instances. Section 69 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918, for example, established that the nationality qualification be that of "British subject status".

In 1981 the Senate Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs recommended that "Australian citizenship" be embodied in the Constitution as the nationality qualification for MPs. Recognising the difficulty of achieving Constitutional change, it recommended that the new qualifications be implemented immediately by an amendment

of the Commonwealth Electoral Act. This was done in section 34 of the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1981.

However, Dr Pryles points out that the freedom of the Federal Parliament to "otherwise provide" in relation to nationality qualifications for members is somewhat circumscribed by two sections of the Constitution.

Section 44 (i) provides that "any person who . . . is under the acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience, or adherence to a foreign power, or is a subject or a citizen or entitled to the rights or privileges of a subject or a citizen of a foreign power . . . shall be incapable of being chosen or of sitting as a Senator or a Member of the House of Representatives".

Says Dr Pryles: "The provision, then, applies at the initial stage of election to Parliament and prescribes certain disqualifications which preclude a person being elected. However, the requirements of the provision are given a continuing operation in relation to existing MPs by section 45 (i)."

This section provides: "If a Senator or Member of the House of Representatives . . . becomes subject to any of the disabilities mentioned in the last preceding section . . . his place shall thereupon become vacant."

## Voluntary

Dr Pryles comments: "The Commonwealth disqualification provisions are not dependent on any act taken or adopted by the person concerned. The disqualification simply operates if the existence of foreign nationality or citizenship is established."

He says that perhaps the easiest way of avoiding the undesirable results evident in the two earlier cases is to read into the disqualification provisions a

requirement that the foreign nationality be voluntary.

The Senate Committee, in considering section 44 (i), concluded that the safeguards that were worth preserving without disqualifying dual nationals could easily be embodied in a procedural provision.

It has recommended that a new provision be inserted in the Commonwealth Electoral Act along the following lines: *73A. (1) A person shall declare at the time of nomination whether, to his knowledge, he holds a non-Australian nationality.*

*(2) If the declaration made pursuant to sub-section (1) is in the affirmative, he shall further state:*

*(a) that he has taken every step reasonably open to him to divest himself of the non-Australian nationality; and*

*(b) that for the duration of any service in the Commonwealth Parliament, he will not accept, or take conscious advantage of, any rights, privileges or entitlements conferred by his possession of the unsought nationality.*

**This recommended provision, says Dr Pryles, is not adequate.**

"In the first place it does not deal with the situation of a person who is not formally a national or citizen of a foreign country but is under an acknowledgement of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power or is entitled to the rights and privileges of the foreign citizenship and voluntarily retains the allegiance or rights and privileges.

"Secondly, it does not deal with the situation contemplated by section 45 (i) of the Constitution, namely that of a person who at the time of his nomination is not a foreign citizen but who after his election acquired foreign nationality.

"At least where such acquisition is voluntary it should result in the disqualification of the member."

# Mercury monitor job for the humble yabby?

The humble yabby — a part of Australian folklore if less celebrated than the koala, kangaroo or Billy Tea — has shown some promise as a biological monitor of water quality.

A Monash study indicates that the common yabby, *Cherax destructor*, might be particularly useful in the detection of mercury contamination. However, it shows less promise as an indicator of lead contamination.

Evaluation of the yabby as a heavy metal indicator is part of a search that has been going on for some time for Australian animals useful in water quality management — research that has been promoted by bodies such as the Australian Water Resources Council of the Federal Department of Resources and Energy.

The Council has supported a three-year study on the yabby by Dr Sam Lake, senior lecturer in Zoology, in which he has been assisted by graduate researcher, Anthony Sokol.

Work elsewhere in Australia has been conducted on freshwater animals such as the Murray Cod, carp, trout and freshwater mussels. Overseas, freshwater mussels have proved useful in pollution monitoring; research here, however, has shown that Australian species are not reliable indicators of heavy metals.

Dr Lake recognised that *Cherax destructor* had potential as a biological monitor during an investigation of mercury contamination in the Blackwood area, north-west of Melbourne, conducted jointly with Dr Glen Deacon and Dr Bruce Collier of the Chemistry department.

## Wide distribution

He says that the species was an attractive candidate for further evaluation for several reasons. It is found over a wide area of mainland Australia, from Central Queensland through to South Australia, and in a range of water bodies, including lakes, reservoirs, farm dams, swamps, rivers and creeks. It is also a fairly robust animal which can tolerate a wide range of salinity, water temperature and dissolved oxygen.

As a first step in his study, Dr Lake conducted a literature search. He found that while the yabby has made a mark in popular literature (including its "own" book: *A Tribute to the Humble Yabby* by Peter Olszewski) there is a paucity of scientific literature on it. His first task, then, was to gain some appreciation of the yabby's biology — information on its breeding and feeding habits, growth rate, life span and the like.

He conducted this study on yabby populations — members of which were captured, marked and then recaptured at intervals — in dams at Trentham and Dookie Agricultural College, near Shepparton.

These dams were also used in the evaluation study as clean control sites, sediment analysis revealing they had low concentrations of both mercury and lead.

For comparison Dr Lake examined samples of the yabby populations at sites where sediment analysis revealed significant contamination.

Mercury contamination of Victorian waterways has been associated with gold-mining (mercury was used in the

amalgamation technique of extraction). Dr Lake chose a "contaminated" site at Steiglitz in the Brisbane Ranges, an old gold mining area.

Lead contamination can occur in water bodies in urban areas and has a number of sources, one of them motor vehicle exhaust. Several sites were chosen for study on this aspect — one at Merri Creek, another a farm dam alongside Mountain Highway, Wantirna.

Dr Lake says that the research has shown that the yabby takes up — bioconcentrates — mercury in its muscles, particularly its abdominal muscle, as opposed to say, the exoskeleton or the digestive gland.

He has found that the level of mercury accumulated by the animals is size related; that is, the larger the yabby the higher the concentration. Thus corrections need to be made for size. Once this has been done, the animal has "considerable promise" as a reliable biological monitor of mercury contamination, he concludes.

Lead, however, is a different story. This metal was found to accumulate in the exoskeleton which the yabby sheds when it moults.

Moulting in yabbies confers an advantage on them in comparison to humans and other vertebrates. In our bodies, lead behaves similarly to calcium, concentrating in the bones and teeth, only the latter of which can we afford to lose!

Another aspect of the research has been on the taxonomy of *Cherax destructor* and three very similar yabbies which, Dr Lake suspects, are all part of one species.

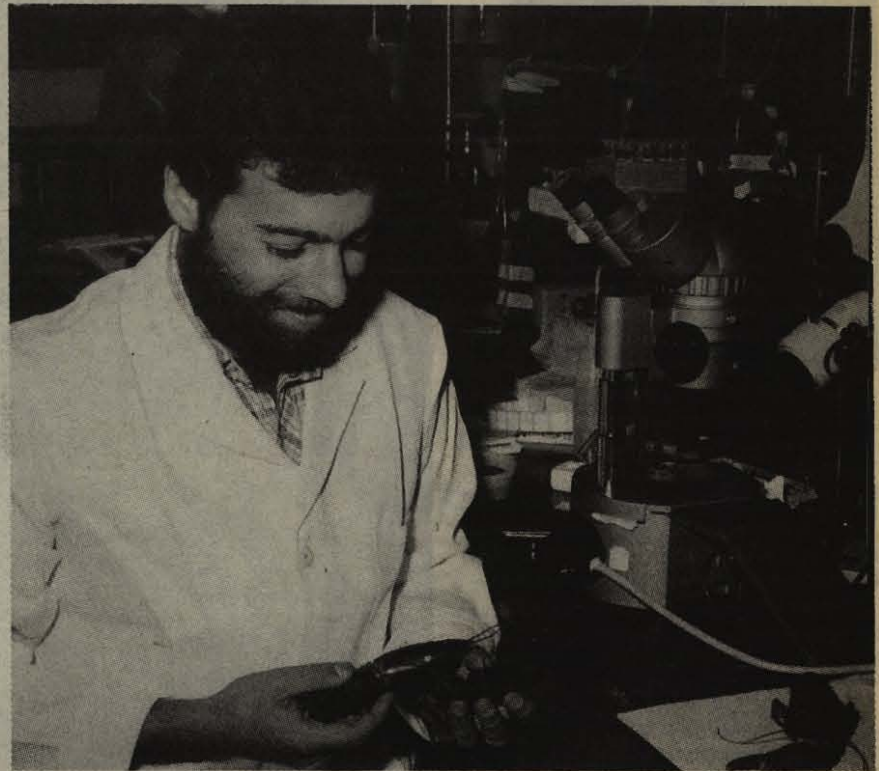
Resolution of the precise taxonomic structure of the species is essential if it is

Two Monash chemists will deliver papers at an important conference on mercury in the environment to be held on Tuesday, May 10.

The conference, to be held at Clunies Ross House, 191 Royal Parade, is being organised by the RACI (Victorian Branch) Analytical Group.

Senior lecturer in Chemistry, Dr Bruce Collier, will deliver two papers, one a "scene-setter" on sources of mercury in the environment.

Reader in Chemistry, Dr Glen Deacon,



● Dr Anthony Sokol examines specimens of the common yabby, *Cherax*. Tests show that it might be a useful biological monitor of mercury contamination.

to be used as a biological indicator, he adds.

What, then, has the study revealed on the ecology of an animal which has probably figured more prominently in the childhood of Australians (within reach of a body of fresh water) than more "glamorous" native fauna?

In its feeding, says Dr Lake, the yabby is extremely opportunistic. Its diet is detritus, that is the organic debris of decomposing plants and animals — carrion, manure, leaves and mud, for example.

The yabby, which has a life span of three or so years, also has a response to drought, boring down through the bed of a drying-up dam or creek, enclosing itself in a chamber of moisture to reemerge when the water body begins to form again.

The study has shown the *Cherax*

*destructor's* growth rates and breeding habits are flexible, varying between localities. The breeding season at Trentham is from October to January while at Dookie it extends into March.

The flexibility in growth rates, says Dr Lake, can be attributed to temperature and food supply differences. In general, females grow to about 50mm carapace length and males to 65mm or more, although the growth rate is very slow above 60mm.

Yabbies are active from late September-October through to April, says Dr Lake, "giving credence to the old belief that you can catch yabbies in months with an 'r' in them."

The yabby, indeed, has found a scientific "home" in Monash's Zoology department. Other work on it is being done by Professor Mike Cullen and Dr John Baldwin.

## Conference on contamination

will speak on some fundamental and environmental aspects of mercury chemistry and will summarise proceedings at the close.

Other speakers include Professor H. Bloom, of the University of Tasmania; Mr T. R. McKay, of the Department of Mines and Energy in the Northern Territory; Dr David Smith of Melbourne University; and Mr P. D. Sutherland and Mr T. Harding of the Environment Protection Authority of Victoria.

Dr Doris Airey, of the CSIRO, will speak on mercury in hair as an indicator of the uptake of the heavy metal from the environment; Mr J. D. Thomson, of the Tasmanian Fisheries Development Authority, will examine standards for mercury in food.

Speakers will also cover mercury contamination at specific sites — Raspberry and Morning Star Creeks, the Upper Goulburn River and in Port Phillip Bay.

## CCE plans seminar on cot death

About 4000 babies die in Australia in the first year of life, most of them within the first month.

In many cases, they die of hypoxia (lack of oxygen). In some cases a child suddenly stops breathing, or an apparently healthy infant is found dead in his cot with nothing to indicate the cause of death. This is usually referred to as "cot death".

The causes of hypoxia, sudden stoppage of breathing and "cot death" are unknown, as are many other causes of sudden death in infancy.

Some of the recent research findings will be discussed at a special seminar on Sudden Infant Death which the Centre for Continuing Education has organised for Wednesday, June 1, in collaboration with the Sudden Infant Death Research Foundation.

The seminar, which has been planned for health care professionals and others who may be involved, will also discuss the short and long term effect of sudden infant death on families. It will be held from 4 pm to 9 pm.

Key speakers will include Dr John Maloney, Director of the Centre for Early Human Development at the Queen Victoria Medical Centre; Janet Lord, a home visitor with the Sudden Infant Death Research Foundation; Ruzan Trivan, a counsellor with the Foundation, who will discuss the needs of grieving families; and Dr Rosemary Schwarz, a psychiatrist with the paediatric unit at the Royal Women's Hospital.

For further information contact Barbara Brewer on ext. 3718/3719.

# 1. In Engineering

Nick Batten, who finished his course in Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering in 1982, has won the IREE award for the best final year electrical engineering project in Victoria.

This is the third year running that a Monash student has won the prize. In 1981 the winner was Ian Butler; in 1982 Patrick Sim.

Nick's project is relevant to problems in digital communications.

Digital signals are used for transmitting data between computers via telephone lines and are beginning to be used for transmitting telephone conversations. These signals must be encoded to utilise the capacity of the transmission lines and also to ensure secure and error-free transmission.

To achieve the correct encoding, Nick was faced with the problem of working out the rules of transition from one state to another in a 'state transition diagram'. This task can be done manually but is extremely time consuming and prone to error.

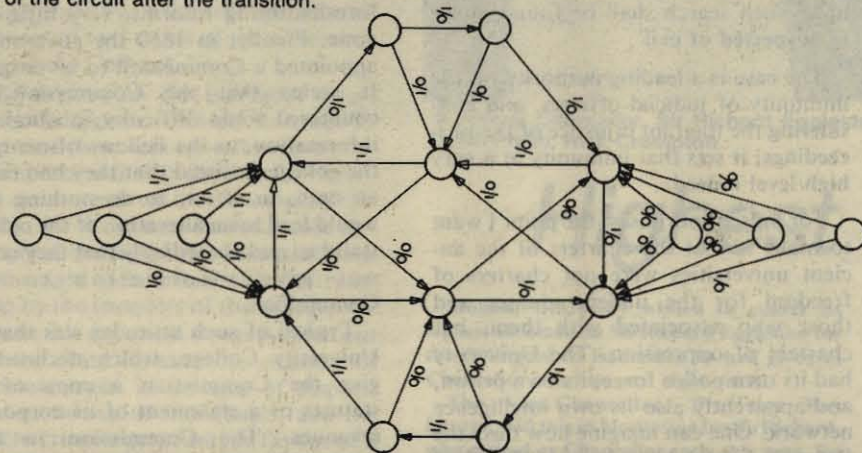
Nick's solution was to use an EPROM (Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory) to store the rules of transition from one state to another. The resulting equipment, called "Line Code Generator", will allow several rules of encoding to be called up at will for researching their properties and efficiency.

The project was supervised by Dr Don Keogh of the department of Electrical Engineering.



ABOVE: Nick Batten receives the IREE trophy from Dr Barry Harrison, chairman of the Melbourne division. The line code generator developed by Nick is in the background.

BELOW: A 'state diagram' which shows the rules of transition among different 'states' of a digital circuit for specified inputs. Such diagrams are tools in the design of logic circuits. The circles represent various states, i.e., combinations of 0's and 1's inside a digital circuit. The lines with arrows show the transition from one state to another. The two numbers separated by a slash beside the line show, respectively, the input causing the transition and the output of the circuit after the transition.



# 2. In French

Three students have won the Alliance Francaise and Lilliane Gay Prize for students of French at Monash. They are Andrew Pentecost, Lynne Baillieu and Anne Kerin — first year students in 1982.

Andrew and Anne are pictured receiving their awards from Dr Colin Nettelbeck, senior lecturer in French, and President of Alliance Francaise in Melbourne.

Also present at the ceremony was Professor J. C. Redonnet, Scientific and Cultural Consul of the French Embassy in Canberra.

The prize was offered for the first time in 1982.

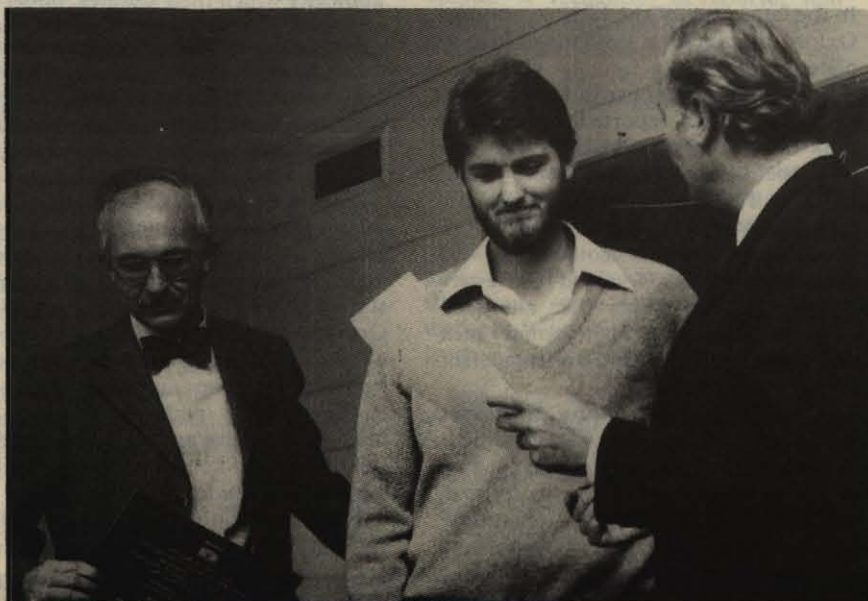
Photo: Tony Miller.

# 3. In German

The Goethe Prize, awarded by the Goethe Institute to the best first year student in German at Monash in 1982, has been won by Alistair Craig.

Alistair is seen receiving his prize from the Consul-General in Melbourne of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Karl-Heinz Scholtizek. Associate Professor Walter Veit is pictured left.

The presentation took place during a prize-giving ceremony held in the department of German last month.



Winners!

# Human problems — 'scientific' answers?

It was in the realm of "science" to explain and predict — and thereby prevent — social instability and breakdown.

Monash psychologist, Professor Ross Day said that such a quest was as legitimate a "scientific" challenge as understanding the origin and composition of stellar matter, the basis of uncontrolled cell proliferation, or the mechanisms of the human mind.

Professor Day was delivering the occasional address at a Monash Science graduation ceremony last month.

He said that "rigorously applied methods of scientific inquiry" would be critical to the solution of such problems as the control of population growth, reduction of nuclear arms proliferation, the elimination of racial conflict and economic recession.

Professor Day said that "science" was, fundamentally, "a way of organising experience".

This purpose tended to be obscured by the division of science into individual fields.

"Such categorisation tends to identify 'science' with its specialised techniques — with controlled experiments in chemistry, refined and careful observations in astronomy, with a view to accurate predictions of outcomes.

"But in other scientific endeavours, in, for example, sociology and history, experiment and even refined and reliable observation are difficult or impossible, and prediction of outcomes wild and inaccurate."

He continued: "A consequence of classifying the sciences in terms of their techniques of inquiry is not only to distinguish between the physical, biological and social, but to make the assumption — implied but seldom articulated — that there is a basic difference between physical and human social reality.

"This unwarranted assumption leads to another — that the data of human society, being essentially different from those of physics and chemistry, are not amenable to truly scientific treatment.

"Or, to put it bluntly, the social sciences are not really sciences at all.

"None of these assumptions enjoys the warranty of logic. Rather, they are prejudices that have emerged and taken on the guise of doctrine . . .

"The pursuit of physics, of chemistry, of physiology is, in principle, no more scientific than that of sociology, anthropology, history or social psychology. All represent attempts to organise experience, to deal with facts, facts that occur independently of the experiencing observer."

# UNIVERSITY FREEDOM

By Sir Richard Eggleston

I HAVE had a long and close connection with universities, and have given a good deal of thought to their position in the community. There are two aspects of the subject on which I think my views may be of interest, and this is probably the last opportunity I shall have to give voice to them.

I was not here during Monash's time of troubles, except just at the very end of the period, but during that time there was much effort expended by the students in trying to provoke the authorities to call the police to the campus, and as much effort by the authorities in trying to resolve the troubles without doing so. As far as I could make out, the student attitude seemed to be that universities ought to be immune from the actions of the civil authority represented by the police, and that this principle derived from a supposed golden age when universities were a kind of sanctuary where the writ of the State did not run.

## Student 'freedoms'

The reality of the situation seemed to me then, as it does still, to be very well illustrated by a case which I found one evening while browsing in the Law Reports.

In January, 1860, Emma Kemp, a respectable young woman who resided with her mother in Cambridge, England, was on her way to a party to be given by some students in celebration of the graduation of one of them, at a hostelry about 6½ km from Cambridge, when she and others were arrested by the proctors, the Rev. Thomas Wollaston and the Rev. Edward Blore. She was taken before the Vice-Chancellor, the Hon. and Rev. Latimer Neville.

Without being made aware of any evidence against her, indeed, without being told that any charge was being brought against her, she was questioned by the Vice-Chancellor and sentenced to 14 days imprisonment on the ground (it seems) that she was reasonably suspected of being in company with divers scholars of the university for idle, disorderly and immoral purposes.

She had asked during her 'trial' (if you can call it that) to be allowed to get in touch with certain ladies in Cambridge for whom she worked as a dress-maker, but this request was ignored. One can only guess at the evidence which had been given to the Vice-Chancellor, in her absence, before she was brought before him, but it was almost certainly hearsay. The nature of it is suggested by one of the questions asked of her, namely, was she aware that breakfast had been ordered at the hostelry for the next morning, to which she replied that she had been assured that she would be home by midnight.

In fact, she only served five days, in circumstances of some hardship, when representations made on her behalf (apparently by persons of some standing) led to her release. She then sued the Vice-Chancellor for assault and wrongful imprisonment, and received a favourable, though rather ambiguous verdict from the jury.

This was set aside on appeal, and she lost her case.

● This is an edited text of the occasional address delivered at a Monash graduation ceremony on April 20.

The ground on which the case was ultimately decided was that as the Vice-Chancellor was a judicial officer and as it was conceded that he had acted in good faith, he had absolute immunity from prosecution. His jurisdiction was conferred on him by the charter of the university, which authorised him, personally or by his deputies, 'to make scrutiny search and inquiry in the town of Cambridge and in the suburbs for all common women, vagabonds, and other persons suspected of evil' and empowered him to imprison persons 'who upon such search shall be found guilty or suspected of evil'.

The case is a leading authority on the immunity of judicial officers, and considering the flagrant injustice of the proceedings, it sets that immunity at a very high level indeed.

For present purposes, the point I want to make is that the charters of the ancient universities were not charters of freedom for the undergraduates and those who associated with them, but charters of oppression. The University had its own police force, its own prison, and apparently also its own intelligence network. One can imagine how busy the Proctors would have been if they had been exercising their talents 120 years later, on an Australian campus.

Oxford had a similar system of enforcing discipline, but in its case the judicial authority was normally exercised by an Assessor, who acted as the Vice-Chancellor's deputy. A Commission appointed in 1850 to investigate the state of affairs at Oxford reported that there had been complaints about injustices inflicted by the Assessor, but as he had declined to give evidence to the Commission, they were unable to report further on this subject.

## Academic freedoms

MENTION OF the Commission of 1850 brings me to my second topic. In contrast with the lack of freedom accorded to the student body and their friends, academic freedom in the universities was carried to extreme lengths in the early years of the 19th century.

Some improvements had been made. In the latter part of the 18th century the Oxford examination system was a complete farce.

John Scott, afterwards Lord Eldon, Lord Chancellor, reported that when he took his Bachelor's degree in 1770, he had been examined in Hebrew and History. The examiner asked "What is the Hebrew for the place of a skull?", to which he replied "Golgotha". He was then asked "Who founded University College?", to which he answered "Alfred the Great". The examiner then said "Very well, Sir, you are competent for your degree."

In the early 19th century, a stricter system of examinations was instituted, but there were still many abuses; in particular, the system of university lectures given by professors had practically fallen into abeyance, and the Fellows of

the Colleges were only rarely selected from an open field. Some were reserved for the relatives of the founder, some for scholars from a particular locality, others for scholars from a particular school. There were also serious deficiencies in the curriculum. All these considerations led to a demand for reform.

The same pressure seems not to have applied to Cambridge, where there was less resistance to change, but the dons of Oxford were stubborn, and although they disarmed their critics for a time by foreshadowing reforms, very little was done. Finally, in 1850 the government appointed a Commission to investigate. It seems that the Commission encountered some difficulty in obtaining information, as the Fellows of many of the colleges insisted that they had taken an oath, in effect, to do nothing that would lead to an alteration of the college statutes, and accordingly that they could not give information to the Commission.

Typical of such attitudes was that of University College, which declined to give the Commission a copy of its statutes or a statement of its corporate revenues. The Commission in fact reported that it was unable to procure a copy of the Statutes of University College from any other source. Incidentally, University College originated in a bequest from Durham in 1249, not in the time of Alfred the Great, so perhaps Lord Eldon should not have passed.

Another indication of the response the Commission received can be found in the reply of the Bishop of Exeter, Visitor of Exeter College, to a letter from the Bishop of Norwich, Chairman of the Commission. He referred to the inquiry as "an inquisition which no precedent could justify, and which . . . had obviously no parallel since the fatal attempt of King James II to subject them (the Colleges) to his unhallowed control". He went on to say that he would enjoin the Rector, Fellows and other Members of the College "under the sacred obligations of their oaths, to beware how they permit themselves to answer any enquiries, or to accept any directions or interference whatsoever, which may trench upon that visitatorial authority which their statutes, under the known law of the land, have entrusted solely to the Bishop of this See".

Nevertheless, some colleges co-operated, and of course there were many people outside them who were only too willing to help the Commission.

The Commission's report makes interesting reading, though much of it relates to matters that have little relevance for modern times. For example, should Fellows be required to take Holy Orders; and should celibacy be insisted on. In fact, the requirement of celibacy survived for some time. By insisting on it the Colleges perhaps promoted as much immorality amongst the teaching staff as the proctors managed to prevent amongst the students.

With regard to the University Professors, the Commission found exten-

sive neglect of their role as lecturers. I quote:

"The present Professors of Sanscrit and Modern History have also on the few occasions on which they have delivered public lectures been attended by numerous audiences. We cannot refrain from expressing our regret that those distinguished persons have not been encouraged by that success to renew the attempt."

## Judges, o 'listene

Sir George Lush, Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria, is Monash's fourth Chancellor.

He was elected to the position last year and took office from the March meeting of Council.

Two of Sir George's predecessors — Sir Douglas Menzies and Sir Richard Eggleston — were also judges, as is the Deputy Chancellor, Dr Joe Isaac.

The Chancellorship of universities, indeed, seems to be an occupation dominated by the judiciary.

Sir George remarks: "If you go down the east coast of Australia, you've got two Chancellors in Queensland who are judges, two in New South Wales and three in Victoria. That's seven before you've even reached Tasmania — or ventured west!"

Are there any special skills a judge is likely to possess which are well-suited to the task of Chancellor?

## Something to say

"The art of listening," replied Sir George. "As a judge you have some training in keeping your mouth shut until you've got something to say!"

Other reasons for the "domination" are not particularly profound, he adds. Judges have "a degree of standing" in the community, and they can generally organise their time to be available for university business.

Sir George is spending his first months in office gaining an appreciation "of how the whole show works".

"I have had a lot to do with universities at a faculty level and some experience as a member of the governing body," he says. (Sir George served on Monash Council from 1969 to 1974.) "Coming in as Chancellor, however, I am struck by Monash's size and complexity and there are many areas about which I am still learning."

As Chancellor, Sir George's specific tasks include presiding over the monthly meetings of Council and also graduation ceremonies.

On the role of a Chancellor he makes these comments:

"In a modern university, essential management rests with the Vice-Chancellor, under Council itself.

"The Chancellor should be available for consultation when outside views are required. Needless to say he's got to know what he's talking about."

# MS' DUBIOUS ORIGINS

The Commission nevertheless recognised the importance of research, pointing out that the professors should not be under such pressure to lecture that their opportunities for research would be unduly restricted; but it is obvious that what primarily concerned them was the failure of the university to provide adequate curricula and to give effective instruction to students.

The result of the Commission's report

## Chancellors rs' both

The "outside view" can be particularly helpful in a University such as Monash, says Sir George, where a degree of geographical isolation increases the possibility that the institution will become inward-looking.

To a large extent anyway, he adds, this "danger" is more apparent than real: "In every discipline, academics — senior ones particularly — have extensive knowledge of activities in other places."

Sir George finds Monash an exciting University with which to be associated. "One of its attractions to me is that it is a place which made a clean start. Faculties were able to map their own course for the future without being tied to traditional paths.

"A general atmosphere of freshness still prevails."

He acknowledges, however, that Monash, like other Australian universities, faces problems.

"A lot hinges on the major matter of money," he says. There is the need for adequate funding, for example, for new developments and opportunities for the employment and advancement of younger academics in the face of a "jam" at senior levels, a product of the rapid expansion of the 1950s and '60s.

Sir George believes that community appreciation of universities may have dipped slightly in recent years.

"Twenty years ago the community looked on the establishment of universities as the highest of educational goals," he says. "Now there is the realisation that the next level down — that of technical training — has its own value for the community."

On the other hand, he says, never has the participation rate of mature members of the community in university education been higher. Such students as well as graduates can play a valuable role in conveying the university message to a wider audience.

Sir George, a regular tennis player who also enjoys a game of cricket "on the rare occasions when the Bar invites me to play", is a graduate of the University of Melbourne. He was called to the Bar in 1935. Despite a busy practice, he maintained an interest in legal education, lecturing in mercantile law at Melbourne for many years.

He became Queen's Counsel in 1957 and was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1966.

was that Parliament passed an Act in 1854, which set up a new commission, with power to obtain documents, accounts and information, notwithstanding any oath that might be pleaded by the officers of the university or the colleges. It also contained a provision making it illegal to take any such oath. The colleges were required to bring forward plans for the reform of their statutes, and in particular, for requiring that emoluments be conferred on the basis of merit, and for diverting some of their revenues for the establishment of new chairs in the university.

If the Commission did not approve of the plans, or if no plans were produced, the commissioners could produce their own plans and put them into effect (though there was a limited right of veto by a vote of two-thirds of the governing body of the College).

The debates on the Bill make interesting reading also. It must be borne in mind that there was no question of the government claiming the right to intervene on the ground that it supplied the money, for it did not. Indeed, some opponents of the Bill claimed that the State had no right to interfere with the trusts set up by the founders of the colleges. In reply to this argument it was pointed out that the State forbade the creation of perpetual trusts in the case of dispositions in favour of individuals, and the right to create a perpetuity in favour of a charitable purpose could equally be withdrawn if it led to abuse.

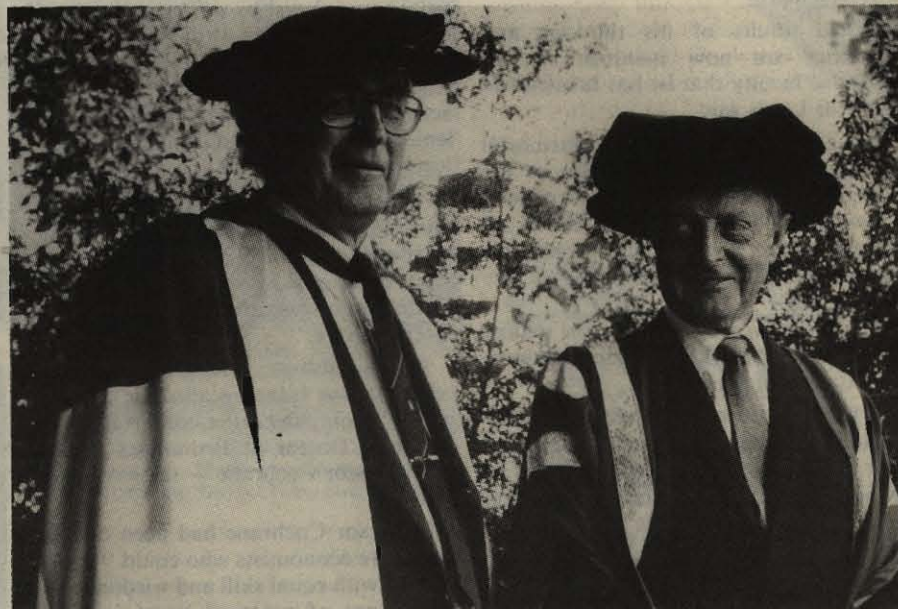
The Act did not go far enough for some. In particular, no provision was made for the admission of dissenters to the University, and they continued to be barred for some time afterwards. Indeed, my grandfather's cousin, William Moulton, was unable to go to Oxford or Cambridge because he would not subscribe to the 39 Articles; though his brother, John Fletcher Moulton, appears to have overcome the scruples engendered by his Methodist background, and became Senior Wrangler in the Cambridge Mathematical Tripos, and later a Lord of Appeal.

One Member of Parliament was dissatisfied with the limited provision made in the Bill for the abolition of oaths, and said that the Commission had recommended that all idle oaths should be forbidden. He said that the fellows of Merton took an oath to speak Latin at dinner, and those of All Souls an oath to be shaved by the college porter once a week. However, the provision for abolition of oaths remained, as I have said, limited to those which might impede the implementation of reforms.

Another member said of the University's governing body that it conducted its debates in Latin, "so that the little it did — which amounted in fact to hardly more than silencing parties who disagreed with it — scarcely became known."

**THIS HISTORY**, sketchy and imperfectly researched as it is, illustrates that accountability of universities is no new thing. Even independence of government subsidy will not protect a university from intervention by the State if it does not do the things it is created to do.

In particular, I believe that academics should always bear in mind that if there were no students there would be no



• Former Chancellor, Sir Richard Eggleston (left), with present Chancellor, Sir George Lush. Photo: Rick Crompton.

## Highest accolade

Monash University wished to confer its highest accolade on Sir Richard Eggleston for the distinguished leadership he had given as Chancellor over the past eight years.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, said this in his citation for Sir Richard, who retired as Chancellor early this year, for an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the Law and Science graduation ceremony on April 20.

Richard Moulton Eggleston was born in Melbourne in 1909 and educated at Wesley College and Queen's College in the University of Melbourne where, in 1930, he completed his Bachelor of Laws degree with the distinction of first class honours and the Supreme Court Prize.

He was admitted to the Victorian Bar in 1932 and developed a substantial practice interrupted by the War. He returned to the Bar after the War and specialised in industrial law, appearing in most of the well-known labour cases as counsel for trade unions, employer organisations and government.

In 1950 he was appointed a King's Counsel for Victoria and in the decade that followed appeared before the High Court of Australia and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in some of the important constitutional cases.

He served as Chairman of the Bar Council from 1956 to 1958.

universities in the popular sense, though there would no doubt be research institutes. I recognise, of course, that research is a very important part of the work of the academic staff, but I am afraid that all too often teaching is regarded as a necessary evil.

This is a subject that has interested me for many years, indeed, ever since I myself suffered from one or two inaudible and disorganised lecturers as an undergraduate. It has always seemed anomalous that below tertiary levels of education, some training in teaching methods is insisted on, but above that level even incompetence is tolerated.

Not long ago, the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission asked Professor Richard Johnson, of the Australian National University, to report on the various units set up in Australian universities to carry out research into teaching methods and to

In 1960, Sir Richard was made a judge of the Commonwealth Industrial Court and of the Supreme Court of the ACT. He was also appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island. In 1966 he was appointed the first President of the Commonwealth Trade Practices Tribunal.

He was knighted in 1971 and retired from the Bench three years later. Soon after he was appointed special lecturer in Law at Monash which cemented his family's links with the University. Daughter Elizabeth was the first person to undertake a Ph.D. in Law at Monash and, before her death in 1976, became a senior lecturer in that faculty and the second Director of the Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs.

Sir Richard has been closely involved in teaching in the Trade Practices course and established the subject Problems of Proof which deals with various themes in evidence.

His research on the connection between mathematical probabilities and legal proof led to the publication, in 1978, of his book "Evidence, Proof and Probability" which has won international praise.

In the same year Sir Richard's contribution to legal scholarship was recognised by his election to the Australian Academy of Social Sciences — the first Australian judge to be so honoured.

assist members of staff who desire to improve their teaching techniques. While acknowledging that many academics take advantage of the services offered, Professor Johnson reported that he found widespread antipathy to such units, even to the point where junior members of staff were discouraged in some cases from seeking the help of the unit.

We have on this campus the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit, which has an excellent reputation for the quality of its work, and Professor Johnson made appreciative reference to this and to two other units, in New South Wales and Queensland respectively. Yet, he added, "these three units face widespread and weighty opposition from within their own institutions. 'A prophet is not without honour save in his own country'".

• Continued page 10.

# Memorial service for Professor Cochrane

The late Professor Don Cochrane had been "the best man in the world" to establish Monash's faculty of Economics and Politics, the former Vice-Chancellor, Sir Louis Matheson, said recently.

"The results of his thinking and planning are now manifest in the splendid faculty that he has bequeathed us," Sir Louis said.

Sir Louis was speaking at a memorial service for Professor Cochrane at the Religious Centre on April 15. Professor Cochrane, 66, died on March 31 of cancer. The illness had forced his retirement from the University at the end of 1981.

He is survived by his wife, the pianist Margaret Schofield, his son, Andrew, and daughter, Fiona.

"He died too soon for, at only 66, he would surely have had much more to do; but he had given 20 productive years to Monash, had built a marvellous faculty, and he leaves behind the memory of a loyal, intelligent and compassionate colleague," Sir Louis said.

Sir Louis recalled the surprise he had felt that Professor Cochrane, the then Sidney Myer Professor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne and a man with an international reputation in the emerging field of econometrics begun during Ph.D. work at Cambridge, should have wanted to join his "fledgling university".

"Whatever the reason Don Cochrane was ready to leave an established chair in a great university and throw in his lot with a bunch of enthusiasts who wanted to build another great university. And what a splendid contribution he made to that task.

"I remember thinking that Don Cochrane might indeed be the best man in the world for our particular chair — and I believe he was."

Sir Louis said Professor Cochrane had argued that the faculty should be dedicated to Economics and Politics — not "Political Science" — and had been prepared to wait to obtain the best people to further his plan.

He had shown caution before agreeing to the subdivision of the single department of Economics into its present components. His view had been based mainly "on his concept of economics as a holistic discipline, not divisible into fragments that were bound to overlap".

Sir Louis said that the respect for

Professor Cochrane in government circles had been invaluable to the University during the late '60s and early '70s when opposition to the Vietnam war was at its height on campus.

"The university authorities could hardly win in this situation: if their response was too restrictive the whole student body — and not just a few activists — would react; if they were too lenient Ministers and public servants would lose confidence.

"Treasury Place might not have had much faith in the ability of a young and inexperienced university to navigate these dangerous waters but, with Don Cochrane on board, the ship would surely survive."

In his address, the Deputy Chancellor, Dr Joe Isaac, recalled the citation which accompanied the conferral of an honorary Doctor of Economics degree on Professor Cochrane — the first from Monash.

Professor Cochrane had been one of those rare economists who could "apply himself with equal skill and wisdom to a wide range of practical issues in such diverse fields as money and banking, taxation and public finance, transport economics, industrial economics, labour economics and labour relations, social accounting and statistics," Dr Isaac said.

Professor Cochrane had created a faculty "equal to the best in Australia".

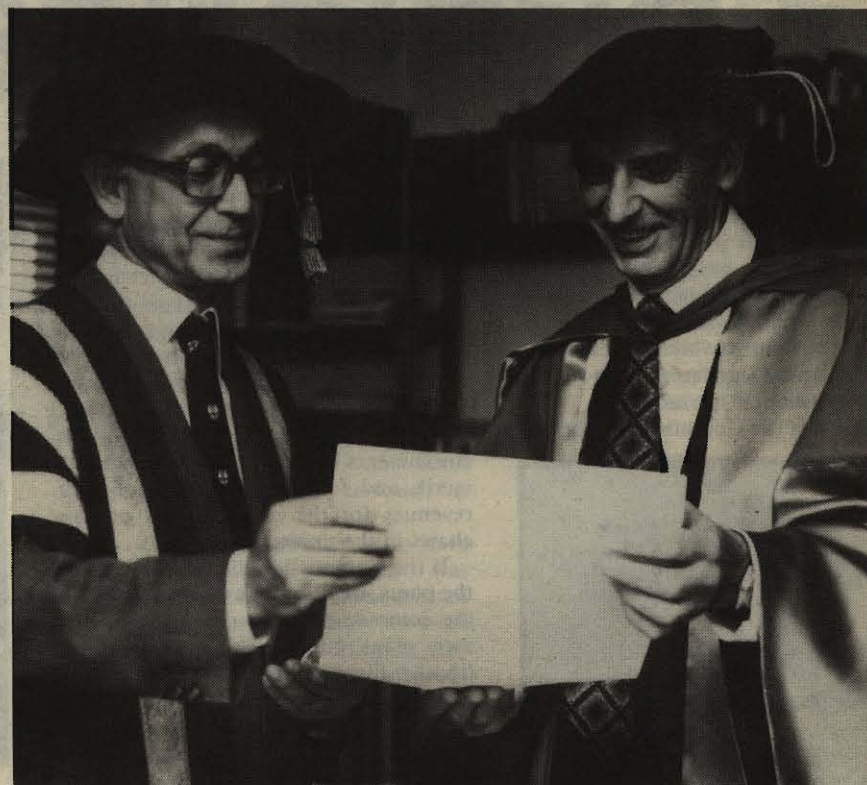
It quickly became internationally known and respected — in large part because of Professor Cochrane's judgment and academic standing.

His last major policy development before his retirement had been the Centre of Policy Studies. The Centre was soon after designated a "centre of excellence" by the Commonwealth Government — the only social science centre in Australia to receive this distinction.

Dr Isaac said Professor Cochrane had been a shy person who concealed his feelings. "His composed, matter-of-fact and some would even say cold exterior belied his capacity for great kindness, compassion, affection and tenderness."

Professor Cochrane also had a 22-year association with the State Bank of Victoria as a member of the board. He was chairman in 1961, 1971, and from 1974 until his death.

The Deputy Chairman of the Bank, Mr J. Arnold Hancock, said that Professor Cochrane's contribution had



● 1982 — Professor Don Cochrane (right) with Deputy Chancellor, Dr Joe Isaac, following the graduation ceremony at which he received an honorary Doctor of Economics degree.

not been only at board level.

He had been closely involved in the building and operation of the Bank's residential college at Baxter and in the building and decoration of its centre in the city.

"These buildings and the work which is being done in them are fitting memorials to his enthusiasm and

commitment to the development of the Bank. In particular the notable paintings and sculptures by contemporary Australian artists which decorate the city buildings bear witness that he was indeed a man for all seasons."

Mr Hancock said Australia had lost one of its finest citizens.

## Policy study reports Telecom Quangos

Telecom's legally guaranteed monopoly of communications cannot be supported on the grounds of efficiency.

This is one of the main conclusions of a new publication, *Telecommunications in Australia: Competition or Monopoly?*, by Chris Trengove, Research Fellow with the Centre of Policy Studies at Monash.

His work examines why the communications industry has been dominated by monopoly institutions and why these monopolies have been given legal protection.

Mr Trengove says Telecom's long-standing monopoly has probably been to the detriment of efficient resource allocation.

The purpose of the monopoly has been to redistribute income, he concludes.

Yet consumers are discouraged from seeking information on the amount of subsidy involved in providing un-economic services by the argument that "the tariffs serve the purpose of 'uniformity' and are therefore 'fair'."

Mr Trengove also says that technological changes will place great stress on existing institutions. New technologies, such as the communications satellite, are already tending to make the costs of communication independent of distance.

● *Telecommunications in Australia: Competition or Monopoly?*, C. D. Trengove, Monash University Centre of Policy Studies, \$7.

Another new publication from the Centre of Policy Studies aims to focus public attention on the shadowy world of the QUANGO.

In an introduction, Professor S. R. Davis, professor of Politics at Monash, points out that the QUANGO — Quasi-Autonomous-Non-Governmental Organisation — dates back to the middle of the 19th century.

But governmental use of the QUANGO has mushroomed since 1945. There are more than 9000 in Victoria.

QUANGOs perform governmental functions and spend public money but often do not follow departmental procedures and are not directly subject to Ministerial or parliamentary scrutiny.

Their immense growth has caused concern and hostility, Professor Davis says.

The book, based on papers delivered to a seminar at the Centre in July 1982, examines the types of accountability QUANGOs could have.

Contributors to *QUANGOs: The Problem of Accountability*, are Professor Davis, Dr John Halligan, Research Director at the Melbourne City Council, Dr Kevin Foley, then a visiting lecturer at Monash, Dr E. W. Russell, secretary of the Victorian Department of Minerals and Energy, Mr Richard Clarke, then a research fellow at the Centre for Policy Studies, and the Centre's director, Professor Michael Porter.

● *QUANGOs: The Problem of Accountability*, Centre of Policy Studies, \$6.

## Executive-in-residence

A former CRA top executive, Sir Frank Espie, was the University's first guest last month in a new Executive-in-Residence program.

Sir Frank, who was executive director and deputy chairman of CRA Ltd. until his retirement in 1979, was on campus from April 12 to 15.

He spent the time with staff and students in the department of Administrative Studies and the Centre of Policy Studies.

Sir Frank still retains seven directorships, including the boards of CRA and Bougainville Copper Ltd., and his main topic in question and answer sessions with students was "The Role of the Board of Directors".

Associate Professor W. A. Howard, of the department of Administrative Studies, said student response to the visit had been "overwhelmingly favourable".

The aim of the program, funded by Enterprise Australia, is to bring students and staff into contact with the practical business world.

The Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Politics, Professor W. A. Sinclair, said the visit had been an important further step in communication between students and business.

The success of the visit owed a great deal to Sir Frank's personality and engaging manner, he said.

Professor Sinclair said he hoped future visits might be for longer periods.

"The great value of in-residence visits is that the person is around the place. There is an opportunity to make fairly informal contact.

"But this is going to be a continuing problem because the type of person we want doesn't have a lot of time to spare," he said.



Was our earliest ancestor — hunter-gatherer man — monogamous, polygynous or promiscuous?

A Monash physiologist, Professor Roger Short, believes that clues to the answer to such questions about the "normal" pattern of human social and sexual behaviour rest with great apes in the wild.

He spoke recently on apes, man and sex at a forum at Murdoch University, Western Australia, sharing the platform with broadcaster and writer, Bettina Arndt.

Professor Short has also written a chapter on sexual selection in man and the great apes in the book **Reproductive Biology of the Great Apes**, and a chapter on the origins of human sexuality in **Human Sexuality**, book eight in the Cambridge University Press **Reproduction in Mammals** series.

The distinction between sexual and natural selection was made by Charles Darwin in 1871. Sexual selection, Darwin said, depends on the success of certain individuals over others of the same sex in relation to the propagation of the species; natural selection depends on the success of both sexes, at all ages, in relation to the general conditions of life.

Using early studies of the gorilla, Darwin illustrated how an animal's mating system could determine its anatomy through the forces of sexual selection.

He observed that in polygynous species, where the males mated with more than one female, the competition between males would be enhanced, leading to an exaggerated development of those secondary sexual characters used in inter-male aggressive encounters. Thus, males grow larger than the females.

Professor Short says that subsequent studies of orangutans, chimpanzees and gorillas have pointed up the interesting consequences of each species' mating system on its sexual development.

The difference in the mating behaviour of the three apes can be explained in terms of food supply and the female's access to it.

The female, it has been argued, holds the key to the evolution of social behaviour. It is the female who has the greatest energy investment in reproduction because of the increased nutritional demands of pregnancy and lactation. The female has evolved a reproductive strategy to take account of the fact that the male is a direct competitor with her for food: she maximises her own food availability at the expense of the male while permitting him access to her in a way that optimises her reproductive success.

### Application

Briefly, this is the application of the theory in three species:

The orangutan is an arboreal fruit-eater. Since the density of fruiting trees is not particularly high in the thick forest these animals inhabit, each female needs a large core area to support her nutritional needs. For the female, a permanent male consort sharing and defending her area would be a distinct disadvantage. Her optimal reproductive strategy has thus been to live in isolation, seeking the company of the male by proceptive behaviour only when she is in oestrus. For his part, the male must occupy a large core area in which females are present and from which he must try to exclude other adult males.

The chimpanzee, on the other hand, has an essentially promiscuous mating system, again explicable in terms of food supply and habitat. The animal is

# Ape clue on 'normal' human sex behaviour

an omnivore and is both terrestrial and arboreal, living in a much more open habitat than the orangutan. Food availability is relatively low so each female needs a large core area to support her needs. She cannot patrol this area nor afford to share it with a male who would defend it. Her optimal reproductive strategy, then, is to remain apart from the male except when she is in oestrus. The males have evolved a collaborative defence of a very large area, encompassing the core area of numerous females. A necessary condition for this social co-operation has been a sharing of sexual favours when any of the females comes into oestrus.

The gorilla's mating system is a typically polygynous one. It is a predominantly terrestrial animal which feeds on rather low-quality herbage which is usually plentiful. The female, then, does not have to be particularly concerned about competition for food. Her strategy has been to establish a permanent consortship with a male who will defend a moving territory around her. For his part, the male cannot afford to devote his entire attention to a single

female when he can maximise his reproductive success by defending a moving territory of about three or four females.

These are just a few of the ways in which function has shaped sexual form in these three apes:

- An increased body size of the male over the female is characteristic of polygynous primates where the male defends the female. The male orangutan is about twice the size of the female; the difference in the gorilla is at least this. On the other hand, the chimpanzee, in his co-operative set-up, exhibits the least difference in body size of all the great apes.

- The chimpanzee has by far the largest testes, both relative to body weight and in absolute terms, of all the great apes. This can be explained in terms of copulatory frequency: the size of the testes is directly related to sperm production. For the chimp, intercourse is almost a daily occurrence; in the gorilla it is at most an annual event. The chimp's promiscuous mating system makes any of about two dozen females in the community potentially available to all the males, whenever a female



● Professor Roger Short

comes into oestrus. Also, the chimp's pronounced advertisement and prolonged duration of oestrus further enhances the male's copulatory opportunities. Although the chimpanzee, like other great apes, has a long interbirth interval (nearly six years) as a result of lactational anoestrus, in a large community there are always likely to be some adolescent females coming into oestrus.

- The chimpanzee's open habitat has increased the importance of visual "cues" during the course of evolution in both the male and female. Thus the female shows pronounced vulval and perineal swelling at the time of oestrus; in contrast, female attractiveness is unimportant in the orangutan where the female is hidden from sight of the male by the forest canopy. In the male chimp, the erect penis is particularly conspicuous and seems important in his courtship display.

## Was serial monogamy our early way?

### What of early man?

Professor Short says that there is general agreement that man originally lived the life of a hunter-gatherer; the men hunted game while the women gathered fruit, nuts, roots and grain.

"As 99 per cent of our existence was devoted to this type of life we must look to hunter-gatherer man if we are to explain the selective forces that have made us what we are today," he says.

Hunting and gathering seems to have been an extremely subtle form of existence. It allowed the male and female to exploit two different food sources within a common habitat without competing with one another. At the same time it made men and women mutually reliant.

The most obvious clue on the sexual behaviour of our earliest ancestor, says Professor Short, comes from our body size. The fact that men are about 20 per cent heavier than women suggests that we were polygynous, or perhaps promiscuous, but certainly not monogamous.

An analysis of 185 contemporary human societies untouched by Western culture showed that 74 per cent were basically polygynous, although economic considerations and a shortage of women meant that in practice about half were forced to adopt a monogamous lifestyle.

Professor Short says there seems little doubt that, as a species, humans have indulged in strong male-female pair bonding and long-term consortships, reinforced by love, and a relatively high copulatory frequency consequent upon the suppression of cyclical oestrus in the female. This makes her constantly attractive to the male and potentially receptive to him at any time from puberty onwards.

How does this pair-bonded mono-

gamy square with the evidence that we are likely to have been polygynous?

Professor Short says: "One possible explanation is that we may have indulged in serial monogamy, and that because of the differences in the fertile life span of men and women this would have resulted in a degree of sexual selection comparable to that seen in more typical polygynous mating systems.

"The argument runs like this: Men almost always choose female partners younger than themselves. Female fertility ceases at menopause; male fertility persists throughout life. If males practised serial monogamy and always sought out younger, premenopausal wives for whom there would be considerable competition, it is obvious that a successful man would contribute a disproportionately large share of his genes to the succeeding generation and sexual selection would operate."

Professor Short makes these observations about sexual development in humans:

- In contrast to the cyclical sexual attractiveness of the chimpanzee perineum, a woman's breasts from puberty on are a permanent, attractive

feature but reveal nothing to the onlooker about when the woman is likely to ovulate. Breast development can be seen as a female stratagem for reinforcing the strength of the pair bond.

- It is unlikely that the human male's genitalia has been used in inter-male threat and aggression. The most plausible explanation for his large pendulous scrotum and conspicuous penis, then, is that they have evolved to attract the female. If sexual attraction has been the cement of the pair bond, the large human penis may have enhanced the enjoyment of intercourse, making a wide variety of copulatory positions anatomically possible and allowing women to experience orgasm which, itself, may be a uniquely human emotion.

- Man's testes are larger than that of the gorilla or orangutan and appear to be related to our much higher copulatory frequency. But while the human testis is well-suited to meet the spermatogenic demands put upon it, "it seems certain that a man's fertility would be seriously compromised if he attempted to emulate the high copulatory frequencies of a male chimpanzee".

## Visitors seek local homes

Away on an outside studies program in 1984 and interested in renting your home?

A mathematician from the Colorado School of Mines in the US will be visiting Melbourne for the calendar year of 1984 to work with the CSIRO, and is seeking a home for himself, his wife and three children.

If you can help, contact Associate Professor Frank Lawson in Chemical

Engineering, ext. 3426, in the first instance.

- And a second request on similar lines, from an Edmonton professor who will be visiting Monash's Education faculty from mid-September, 1983 to February, 1984 and who wishes to negotiate a "house-sitting" arrangement for this period.

If it all sounds suitable contact Dr Ann Shorten in Education on ext. 2835.

# CCE initiates novel management course

An intensive week-long course on management held at Normanby House last month marked a first for Monash's Centre for Continuing Education.

The project was a co-operative venture between CCE and the Local Government Engineers Association of Victoria and, says CCE Director, **Dr Jack McDonell**, is a model for future arrangements between the Centre and professional associations.

Last year, the LGEAV approached CCE with the request that it should plan and run a course on "Managing in the '80s" for its members.

Says Dr McDonell: "The LGEAV is not a large professional body and it felt that it did not have the necessary resources to set up such a major activity. The CCE provided a full service, funded from the course fee."

Advice on the course structure was given by a planning committee, set up jointly with LGEAV. The Centre recruited lecturers — from Monash and Melbourne universities, Chisholm Institute, the Australian Administrative Staff College and a number of professional fields.

Dr McDonell said the course was tailored to meet special needs, taking note of the complex structure of agencies in which the local government engineer works.

The State Minister for Local Govern-

ment, **Mr Frank Wilkes**, endorsed the course in these terms: "The ever-increasing importance of the local government sector makes it vital that local government engineers should be encouraged to develop their skills as professional managers."

Dr McDonell says that the course was intended as an introduction to a wide range of ideas about management — "a trigger to further learning in those areas which each participant sees as relevant to his own situation".

"We will know how successful it was when we see the extent to which members of this profession become engaged in further educational activities," he says. "We hope we've sparked off a demand for such programs and that we'll be involved in helping meet that demand."

Dr McDonell hopes that other professional bodies will follow the LGEAV lead.

"The design of professional refresher activities of high quality involves a lot more than knowledge of the required topic areas," he says.

"Their educational design and evaluation are greatly assisted by people who have expertise in adult learning — a field which has its own theories and practices which are not necessarily those of undergraduate teaching."



• **Mr Doug Axnick**, senior design engineer of the Shire of Pakenham (seated), **Dr Jack McDonell** and course co-ordinator **Mr James Crockart** taking part in a technology-in-management session.

## Honours graduates gain in job stakes

A survey on employment trends of Monash psychology graduates over a decade has shown that pass graduates are being increasingly squeezed out of the more desired, course-related jobs by honours graduates.

The survey was of all honours graduates and a randomly selected group of pass graduates who took their degrees between 1970 and 1980.

It was conducted by **Dr Dexter Irvine** and **Mr Malcolm Macmillan**, of the department of Psychology, and **Mr Nigel Lawler** and **Dr Leo West**, of the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit.

A preliminary report on the survey appeared recently in *Careers Weekly* published by Monash's Careers and Appointments Service.

In analysing trends from the data, the researchers divided the respondents into three groups — graduates of the early, mid and late '70s — because the numbers were too small for a year-by-year categorisation.

They say that the three eras are not just convenient "bins": the middle period corresponds with Labor government and the expansion of the public sector, including education, that was part of its philosophy; the late '70s saw a changed political philosophy in which the public sector was cut back and expansion in the private sector encouraged.

What the survey reveals, say the researchers, is a "displacement effect" between honours and pass graduates as new employment opportunities have expanded and contracted.

**This is the trend they have identified:** The education system has been the major employer of Monash psychology graduates.

In the early and mid '70s, it was the first destination of more than 60 per cent of graduates, although in the '70s there

had been a decline (even if all the late '70s graduates currently not in a job entered the education system, it would represent the first destination of only 43 per cent).

In the early '70s, honours graduates who entered the education sector — about half the total — did so at the tertiary level, on career paths to academic positions.

Pass graduates (about two-thirds) entered the secondary, and sometimes primary, system in what is termed "professional" (non-teaching) positions involving either psychology or research.

By the mid '70s, however, honours graduates were less likely to obtain careers in the tertiary system so they started to take the "professional" positions in the secondary system, displacing pass graduates who turned to teaching.

By the late '70s, few professional positions in the secondary system were available. Honours graduates thus took teaching jobs, squeezing out pass graduates who turned, reluctantly, to private sector employment (in the late '70s more than a third of pass graduates entered this sector).

The public sector (including semi-government authorities) has been the job destination of about one-quarter of the respondents, although it has fallen from a peak of 33 per cent of the mid '70s graduates to 20 per cent of the late '70s groups.

Of the honours graduates, two-thirds have been employed in training-related work (as psychologists, usually in mental health, or as researchers, often in road research).

In the early and mid '70s, pass graduates also found such positions (after taking a fourth year elsewhere). However, the late '70s pass graduates have entered clerical jobs, indicating that the "displacement effect" may have begun to work there too.

• from page 7

## University 'freedoms'

In the debate on the Bill of 1854, Mr Disraeli said:

"If I were asked, 'Would you have Oxford with its self-government, freedom and independence, but yet with its anomalies and imperfections, or would you have the University free of these anomalies and imperfections, and under the control of the Government?' I would say 'Give me Oxford, free and independent, with all its anomalies and imperfections.' But, Sir, the painful alternative is not placed before us."

### Self-management

I think Mr Disraeli was being less than candid — the Bill indicated clearly enough that if the university and the colleges did not come up with satisfactory proposals reforms would be imposed by the State — but the essential sentiment was sound, namely, that provided they manage themselves prudently and efficiently, universities should as far as possible be left to work out their own destinies.

But the history of Oxford is a reminder that the State has an interest in the education that universities provide, and we in this State have had many such reminders since.

The point I want to make is that every disgruntled student who complains about poor teaching may mean several votes for a government that wishes to interfere in the internal affairs of universities, and it behoves us to be always vigilant to see that grounds for complaint do not exist.

I should, however, make it clear that I believe that Monash enjoys a deservedly

high reputation, both for its teaching programmes and its research, and I have the utmost regard for the enthusiasm and dedication of all the staff with whom I have come in contact.

### Expert advice

But even enthusiastic and dedicated teachers may still benefit from expert advice, and advice need not come from people who know more than the lecturer about his chosen subject. After all, even Olympic athletes have their coaches, and it is safe to say that their coaches cannot run as fast, or jump as high or as far, as the persons to whom they give advice.

**FOR MY OWN** part, by the end of this year I shall have finished with teaching. I have found it absorbing to be involved in teaching in the Law School, and I have at times ventured across the campus into the territory of other faculties. I am deeply grateful to Monash for the opportunities I have been given during the past nine years.

Perhaps I can close with a quotation from Robert Louis Stevenson's **Weir of Hermiston**:

"To be wholly devoted to some intellectual exercise is to have succeeded in life; and perhaps only in law and the higher mathematics may this devotion be maintained, suffice to itself without reaction, and find continual reward without excitement."

I may not have achieved great heights in mathematics, but I have been fortunate enough to have enjoyed the pleasures of both disciplines during my sojourn at Monash.

# Study sheds light on theatre history

**THIS EXCELLENT** study traces the history of the staging of *The Winter's Tale* from performance at the Globe and at Whitehall in 1611 to the 1976 production at Stratford-upon-Avon.

It combines patient and probing scholarship with vivid imaginative reconstruction or, rather, re-creation of past performances. It aims not merely at documentation of the play's history in performance, though this is amply and economically achieved and in ways which continually shed light on theatre history and on changes in taste and in critical responses to Shakespeare's drama.

Dr Bartholomeusz's ardent purpose, based upon his conviction that a play "needs the art of dramatic performance to complete itself" is to discover and to impart to his reader the play's distinctive qualities of art and life, to glimpse the achievement of its "imagined form".

## Stage performances distorted

Given the fact that, as Dr Bartholomeusz shows, the play has been much mangled and distorted in stage performance, there might seem to be a certain recklessness in his use, as epigraph to his book of these words of Hugo von Hofmannsthal:

"the true readers of Shakespeare and also those in whom Shakespeare is truly alive are those who carry within them a stage".

In the 18th century the play, "lop'd, hack'd and dock'd . . . without Head or Tail" (the words of a lone dissenting voice) was transformed into a dramatic pastoral, perhaps confirming the view that the century lacked the tragic sense. In the 19th century more of Shakespeare's text was played and the historic opportunities afforded by the tragic part of the play were not missed by the stars of a theatre dominated by the "star system". But, played on the wrong kind of stage in unsuitable theatres, nearly swamped by

## In Review

**The Winter's Tale** in performance in England and America 1611-1976, by Dennis Bartholomeusz. Cambridge University Press 1982.

spectacle, the play was decidedly not the thing. The 19th century was a great age of theatre, not of drama.

Only in the present century does Dr Bartholomeusz find more than glimpses, and in **Granville-Barker's** 1912 production he sees something approaching a complete vision. Other productions — **Winthrop Ames's** pioneering Elizabethan-style one in New York in 1912, **Peter Brook's** memorable if 'traditional' (in its proscenium stage setting) one at the Phoenix in 1951, the Stratford productions — have been remarkable and illuminating. But if, in this century, the play has been rather more the thing it has not always been left free: insistence of interpretation has led to clarity of idea and symbol only at a cost.

## Incompleteness of vision

Faced with this record of theatrical performance more marked in the breach than the observance of complete trust in the imagination Dr Bartholomeusz is never tempted to close the doors of the theatre he carries within himself. He leaves them open to the ghosts from past performances however blemished to walk the boards there, but stirred again to life. **Ned Shuter's** 18th century *Autolycus*, **Macready's** intensity of response to the awakening statue, **Flora Robson's** superb *Paulina* piece out the incompleteness of our vision of the play and make us sense what a complete performance might be like.

The problem of evidence must challenge any historian. For the historian of stage performances the problem is acute. Any performance will give rise to diverse, conflicting, even inaccurate impressions. What trust should the theatre historian place in the partial evidence he discovers? Dr Bartholomeusz's instinct is to trust as completely as he can — as is consistent, that is, with an alert critical sense. And he is marvellously served, so much of the evidence he has searched out, especially from 19th century reviewers, being wonderfully perceptive.

It's a matter for regret that the publishers of this book with its mine of information and wealth of illustration should have priced it out of reach of most individual book-buyers, at \$71.

## Truer method of criticism

It is true of most critical discussions of the play that they impose upon it the critic's view. The student of Shakespeare's plays who turns to criticism is always in danger of coming away with a view — usually an overview — which overlays and partly hides the play. On the other hand, as Dr Bartholomeusz points out, performers may be, or may choose to be, "inarticulate before the miracle of their own art", which lives, from moment to moment, and in its detail.

Any student or reader of "The Winter's Tale" would do well to consult this book. Dr Bartholomeusz has his own deep sense of the play's wholeness but with the tact of a critic who possesses true negative capability he has no wish to force it upon the reader.

He is content to leave it in abeyance or, more accurately, out of reach, while concentrating, as we do in the theatre, on what is being acted and lived out, moment by moment, in performance. In doing so he points us the way to a fuller response to and a truer method of criticism of Shakespeare's plays.

**Richard Pannell**  
Department of English

# A glimpse of 19th century education

A tatty old sewing sampler, a blotted copy book, a dog-eared text book, drawings in coloured chalks . . .

. . . They might seem like worthless scraps, useful only for a private sentimental journey of time at school — at a safe distance of years!

They do, however, have a place in the history of education, giving an insight into what life at school was like for the pupils themselves. Such material provides a nice, bread-and-butter counterpoint to school records, official histories and the like.

An exhibition currently on show in the Main Library is offering a glimpse of life for the young pupil in the 19th century. **Educating Young Colonials: Our Australian Heritage** will be on show until May 30. It has been mounted by **Ms Marion Amies**, of the Education faculty, and **Mrs Susan Radvansky**, Rare Books Librarian.

Among the items on display are textbooks from a collection being built up at Monash and others which are in private hands, as well as photographs.

The exhibition covers various aspects of 19th century education in Victoria including government, private and home schooling.

For many youngsters last century, says Ms Amies, education was a rudimentary affair, possibly only of one or two years' duration. This was particularly the case for those whose families lived on the goldfields.

The first school established in the colony was, in fact, for Aboriginal children. It was set up by the Aboriginal Protectorate in 1836 at a site near the present Botanic Gardens.



• Marion Amies

The first school for white children was established under the auspices of the Church of England by one James Alexander Clark in the following year. Within a few years of the Port Phillip District being settled, the Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist churches had established schools also.

The first national schools were set up in the following decade, in response to requests from communities of the National School Board in Sydney. In July 1849, a Board Inspector, G. W. Rusden, journeyed south from Sydney, establishing schools in places such as Albury, Violet Town, Kilmore, the Port Phillip District and the Western District through to Warrnambool.

Ms Amies says that excellent records remain of these early schools. Material in the Victorian Public Record Office documents the names of teachers, pupils, their record of attendance, parents' names and occupations.

For those children geographically isolated or whose parents wished to reinforce home values, education (if any)

was conducted in the home. It was not until the Compulsory Act of 1872 that formal schooling became the thing, like it or not.

Ms Amies says that the Education faculty is pleased to give a home to textbooks or to examples of work, prospectuses, school badges, speech night programs, magazines, photographs and the like.

The Public Record Office, she says,

would gladly receive any collections of old school records, no matter how small — the sort of material that often falls victim to the tidy-minded administrator having "a good clean out".

And for those with more recent school memorabilia tucked away at home, Ms Amies urges: "Please ensure that it is given the care that it deserves so that future generations can share your school experience".

## MonUCS 21st birthday

**The Monash University Choral Society this year celebrates its 21st birthday — and has planned a dinner and gala concert.**

The Society shares with the Evangelical Union the distinction of being one of the oldest clubs on campus.

It currently has about 60 members under the baton of **Greg Hurworth**, formerly a tutor in the department of Music and now music master at Caulfield Grammar School.

These members along with those of the past have been invited to attend the celebration dinner to be held at Allison's Restaurant, Prahran, on Saturday, July 30.

Anyone interested in attending, or who can provide information on the history of MonUCS, should contact **Katie Purvis** on 531 7996 (ah) or drop a note in the Society's letterbox behind the Union Desk.

Past choristers and other members of the public have been invited too to a concert to be held in Robert Blackwood Hall on Friday, September 30. The Society and the Monash University Orchestra will present a program includ-

ing Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*, and a work being written especially for the occasion by **Jacqui Clark**.

Katie Purvis says that the Society always welcomes new members; tenors and sopranos are currently in great demand. Rehearsals for the September concert begin in second term and will be held on Tuesday evenings in the Music auditorium in the Humanities building.

Some distinguished figures on the Melbourne music scene have been associated with MonUCS in its history. Among them are **Professor Brimer**, now Dean of Music at Melbourne University, **John McCaughey**, **Douglas Lawrence**, **Bevan Leviston**, **Charles Edwards** and **Noel Ancell**.

The Society's normal performance schedule is one major concert a year plus two or three smaller ones, including an annual free Christmas concert in Robert Blackwood Hall.

MonUCS members have also participated since the early 1960s in the annual Interschool Choral Festival. The 1983 Festival is to be held this month in Melbourne.

# In praise of a demon barber

## Viewpoint

"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" opened on Broadway in March, 1979.

With Angela Lansbury and Len Cariou in the lead roles, the Stephen Sondheim - Hugh Wheeler - Harold Prince "musical thriller" was a critical and commercial success if not a long runner. A production was mounted later in London with Sheila Hancock and Dennis Quilley.

In Australia, the Broadway cast album has been available for a number of years and, if "showbiz" columnists are to be believed, companies such as the Sydney Theatre Company and even the Australian Opera have toyed with the idea of a homegrown production. Commercial entrepreneurs may find profit in revivals of "Oklahoma!" and "The Sound of Music"; they probably wouldn't in an "untried" musical by Stephen Sondheim (who indeed isn't even "instant box office" in New York where his latest effort "Merrily We Roll Along" closed after a few short weeks). A few Australian fingers were burnt with his "A Little Night Music" in the mid-'70s.

Against this background, last year the Australian premiere of "Sweeney" was unexpectedly announced for April, 1983. The venue: the Alexander Theatre, Monash. The company: The Cheltenham Light Opera Company.

A cause of some anxiety for more than one person acquainted with the Barber and the Pie-Maker on record.

There have been admirable amateur productions of Sondheim musicals in Melbourne before. But "Sweeney" is different.

It is Sondheim's most ambitious work, with the possible exception of "Pacific Overtures" which has an Asian cast, introduces Kabuki theatre into an American musical, tackles the subject of imperialism, and is distinctly more up-market than "Flower Drum Song"!

"Sweeney Todd" is an adventurous piece with challenging passages for solo voice or in three, four or six parts. It may not be particularly likeable, even, on first hearing, but the pure melody which breaks out of cacophony, and the dramatic exuberance are addictive.

The characters are complex too. This is not merely the gee-whiz mutilating monster of the penny dreadfuls and the music halls and their offspring, the theatre restaurants.

This Sweeney, as in the Christopher Bond play, is seen in his social environment: grasping, corrupt, dehumanised post-Industrial Revolution Britain. Sweeney is to some extent a product of the system, epitomised by Judge Turpin who has robbed him of his wife and his liberty.

'There's a hole in the world  
Like a great black pit  
And the vermin of the world  
Inhabit it  
And its morals aren't worth  
What a pig could spit  
And it goes by the name of London.'  
So to a rainy night last month, a seat in the Alexander Theatre — appreciative of being able to see Sweeney, Mrs Lovett and their victims "live" at last, but apprehensive.

Two and a half hours later: dazzled. Ten out of ten to CLOC (well perhaps nine out of ten, some allowances had to

be made because the production was amateur, but not many). Donald Cant, in particular, was impressive as Sweeney.

Full marks, too, for the lighting and sets which filled the Alexander Theatre's cinemascope stage to overflowing. And here the Alex's resident designer, Graham McGuffie can take his bows.

Mr McGuffie calls the project the most ambitious he has tackled.

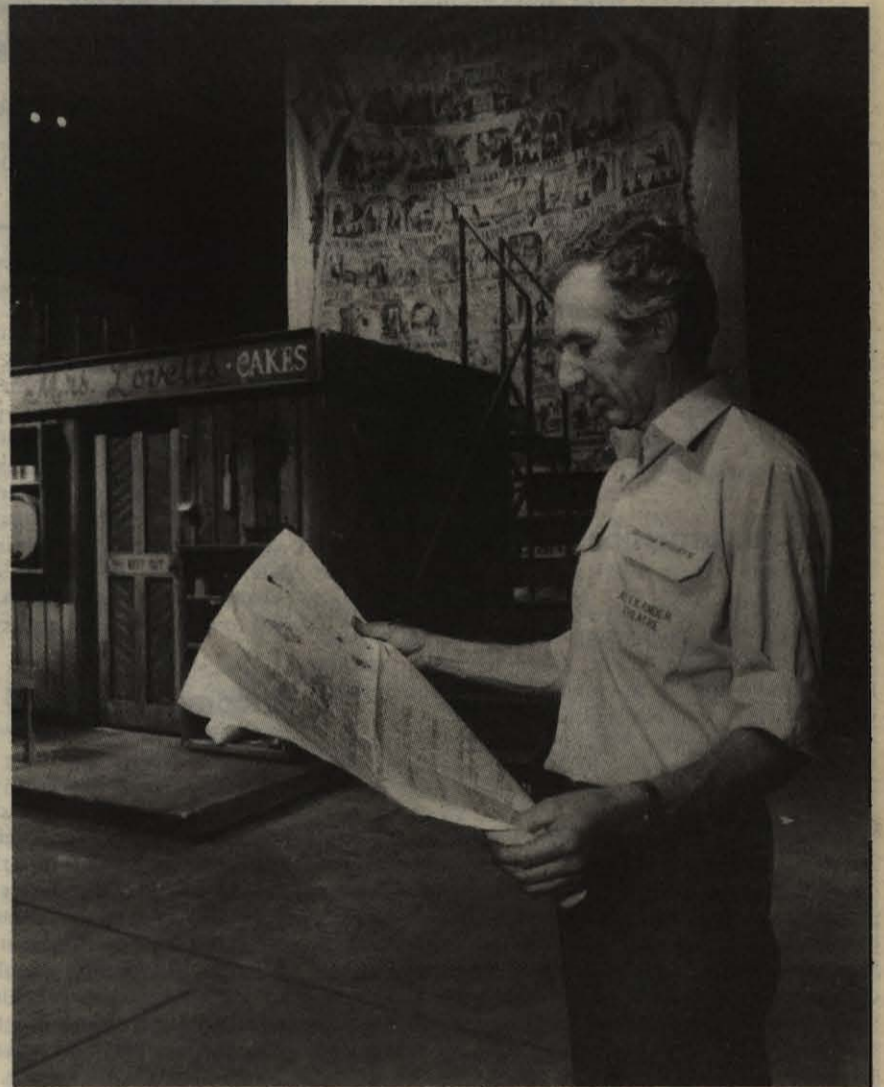
His set designs (constructed by CLOC's Grant Alley and others) were based on those of the New York production. He did not, however, have ready-made plans from which to work. Appropriately enough for a "thriller", he pieced together the set from clues: photographs in the original program, descriptions in the libretto sold with the album and the like.

The action on stage is engulfed by a superstructure — a representation of an oppressive iron foundry — and backed by a huge replica of The British Beehive, a 19th century cartoon by George Cruikshank depicting the "order" of British society from the Royal Family down to the working classes (Mr McGuffie meticulously copied this from a reproduction in the London program).

In a "set within a set", the focus for much of the time is on the Fleet Street address of Mrs Lovett: her pie shop on the ground floor with barber shop above, linked by a hatch through which the victims of Mr Todd's blades slide to a waiting mincer.

The season is over, the sets probably broken down. But this execution of the work was tingling and will remain in the memory of Sondheim enthusiasts.

G. E.



● From plans to reality... Graham McGuffie surveys Mrs Lovett's pie shop and The British Beehive backdrop.

## May diary

The events listed below are open to the public. 'RBH' throughout stands for Robert Blackwood Hall. There is a BASS ticketing outlet on campus at the Alexander Theatre.

5-30: **EXHIBITION** — "Educating Young Colonials: Our Australian Heritage", pres. by the Library and faculty of Education. Main Library. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2685.

5-6: **EXHIBITION** by Peter Cripps. Last in the series on "Masterpieces out of the Seventies", pres. by department of Visual Arts. Exhibition Gallery, Menzies Building. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2117.

5: **RED CROSS MOBILE BLOOD BANK** 9.45a.m.-3p.m. Arts Assembly Rooms SG01-4. Appointments must be made at the Union Desk. 6: 9.15a.m.-3p.m. Inquiries: ext. 3143.

**SCIENCE FACULTY LECTURE** — "Thinking and reasoning associated with the study of science at university," by Professor Arnold Arons, University of Washington 1.15p.m. R1.

**ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURES** — "Racism in Australia", by Mr Al Grassby. 12: "Racism — Aboriginal Experience". Both lectures at 1p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3335.

7: **BRAHMS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 1983 FINAL CONCERT** — Piano Trio Op. 8; Sonata Op. 120 No. 2; Clarinet Quintet Op. 115, pres. by Trio Victoria, Marco Van Pagine, Brian Chapman, Phillip Mielch, The Rowe Quartet. 8p.m. RBH. Admission free.

9: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — 'Cello Recital by Raphael Wallfisch. Works by J. S. Bach and Z. Kodaly. 1.15 p.m. RBH. Admission free.

9-21: **CHILDREN'S MUSICAL** — "The Adventures of Sport Billy", school holiday attraction presented by Quartet Productions. Daily at 10.30a.m. and 2p.m. Saturdays at 2p.m. Alex. Theatre Admission: adults \$7.90, children \$5.90.

11: **ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM** — "Environmental Planning and the

Planning Profession", by W. Chandler. Pres. by Graduate School of Environmental Science. 5p.m. GSES Seminar Room. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3840.

12: **CONCERT** — Victorian State Final of ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition 7.30p.m. RBH. Admission free. Entree cards available at Robert Blackwood Hall and ABC Booking Office.

19-31: **EXHIBITION** — "The Renaissance Gardens of Italy". Exhibition Gallery, Menzies Building. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2117.

20-28: **LIGHT OPERA** — "The Rose of Persia" by Arthur Sullivan. Presented by the Babirra Players. Nightly at 8p.m. Saturday matinee at 2p.m. Alex. Theatre Admission: adults \$7.50; students and pensioners \$4.50; children \$3. Inquiries and bookings: 878 5810.

● Monash's Courses and Careers Day will be held this year on Sunday, August 7 from 1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Its format will be similar to last year's, with the emphasis on academic counselling.

## Important dates

The Registrar advises the following important dates for students in May:

- 6: First term ends for Dip. Ed.
- 9: Second term begins for Medicine VI (Alfred Hospital). Study break begins for B.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., Dip.Ed.Psych. and M.Ed.St.
- 14: First term ends. Study break begins for LL.M. by coursework. First term ends for Medicine IV.
- 20: Graduation ceremony — Arts.
- 23: First half-year resumes for B.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., Dip.Ed.Psych. and M.Ed.St. Second term begins for Dip.Ed.
- 30: First half-year resumes for LL.M. by coursework. Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in the first half year in Dip.Ed.Psych., B.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., M.Ed. and M.Ed.St. for it to be classified as discontinued. If a subject or unit is not discontinued by this date, and the examination is not attempted or assignment work is not completed, it will be classified as failed. In exceptional circumstances the Dean may approve the classification of a subject or unit as discontinued between May 30 and the end of the appropriate teaching period.

**MONASH REPORTER**  
The next issue will be published in the first week of June, 1983.

Copy deadline is Friday, May 20. Early copy is much appreciated.

Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor (ext. 2003) c/- the information office, ground floor, University Offices.