



## Probe into police interviewing techniques

BY JOSIE GIBSON

Liar's are easy to spot. They give themselves away physically, can sound confused, change their story halfway through.

Or do they? According to Monash University linguist Ms Georgina Heydon, issues of guilt identification and lie detection are not quite so simple.

Her doctoral research into the 'myth of the linguistic lie detector' explores

the beliefs behind police interviewing techniques and how these are translated into the language of interrogation. The thesis title, 'Do you agree that she would have been frightened?', is typical of

'policeseak' in an interview situation, she says.

By analysing interviews between members of Victoria Police and alleged suspects, Ms Heydon hopes to identify undesirable patterns and flawed assumptions driving interviewers' techniques, as well as providing a detailed linguistic description of the interview structure.

"There's certainly a lot of rubbish perpetuated about lie detection and such issues - that you can tell when someone's lying," she said. "Criminologists are concerned that a lot of beliefs among police are absorbed ad hoc - from an older officer to a new recruit, for example - and may be quite erroneous."

The field of forensic linguistics - the analysis of language used in the criminal justice system - is relatively new in Australia. Linguistic experts are generally brought in when there are disputes about a problematic interview or court case. However, Ms Heydon contends the entire interview process needs closer examination because of the institution-wide assumptions behind it.



Fans of police television dramas would be familiar with the 'standard' police interview scenario. Detectives convinced of a suspect's guilt huddle outside the interview room discussing how to elicit the information they need for a conviction. While highly exaggerated, according to Ms Heydon, such shows do demonstrate a certain police mindset about the ability to spot lies and identify guilt, and how that drives the interview process.

That mindset is understandable. When a suspect enters the interview room, police are confronted by conflicting pressures: the community's search for truth, respect for civil liberties, and the demand that law and order be

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## Monash in quest for Olympic gold

Monash science student Ms Lauren Hewitt is caught mid-action during her 100-metre heat at the Sydney Olympics last month. Ms Hewitt, who reached the semifinals of the women's 200 metres and ran in the women's 4 x 100-metre relay team, was one of several Monash staff, students and alumni who competed in Sydney. Monash graduate Ms Anna Wilson (LLB(Hons)/BSc 1996) came fourth in the women's cycling road race and the women's in line race final; Ms Melanie Dennison (BCom 1999) competed in the women's sailing Europe fleet races; Ms Irena Olevsky (BBus 1997) competed in both the duet and team synchronised swimming events; and Mr Eddie Denis (BE (Hons) 1993, MEngSc 1996) was a member of the men's water polo team. Ms Anna Baylis, a fitness instructor from Monash's Caulfield campus, competed in the women's mountain bike cross-country event. Monash photographer Mr Greg Ford took photographs at the Games for the Australian Olympic Committee.

## New head of school for Malaysia

Strategic development consultant and academic Dr Ron Davison has been appointed the next head of the School of Business and Information Technology at Monash University's Malaysia campus.

Dr Davison will formally take up the position at the end of November. He will take over from Professor Robin Pollard, who has been head of school since Monash opened the Malaysia campus in July 1998.

Announcing the appointment, pro vice-chancellor of the Malaysia campus Professor Bob Bignall said he was delighted that Dr Davison had agreed to join Monash.

"He has a very strong commitment to education in Asia and extensive experience in projects throughout the region," he said.

Dr Davison was previously head of the Graduate School of Engineering at RMIT and project director for RMIT's proposed Vietnam campus development.

His work has included projects in Vietnam, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, China, India and Indonesia.

Dr Davison holds a PhD in management from Macquarie University, a master of engineering science in industrial engineering and management

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[www.monash.edu.au/news/](http://www.monash.edu.au/news/)

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# Research could alleviate those paper jammin' blues

BY STUART HEATHER

The next time paper gets stuck in the photocopier, spare a thought for Chris Garvey.

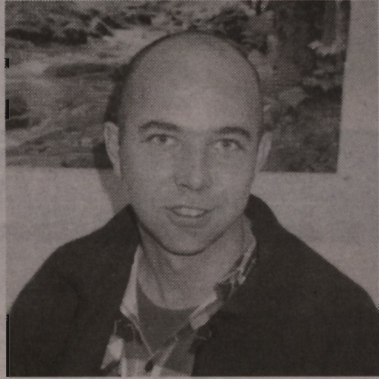
The Monash PhD student in chemical engineering is completing research on an issue the paper industry and possibly you too will find very interesting.

Paper may be getting jammed because of changes in its water content, altering its dimensions (either expanding or shrinking) and its mechanical properties (becoming stiffer or more flexible).

Understanding how paper behaves as it hydrates (absorbs water), or as it dries out, is important in a broad range of applications. In precision colour printing, for example, the paper's behaviour has a direct effect on the quality of the finished product.

Even ordinary paper is a complex mix of natural substances - cellulose and hemicellulose (two polymers of sugar molecules), and lignin (a polymer responsible for the brown colour in unbleached paper).

How water affects this polymer structure is still not fully understood. In his research, Mr Garvey is harnessing



Researcher Mr Chris Garvey.

sophisticated technologies to investigate what happens at a molecular level.

"Paper is not a homogenous mixture, it is a composite material with a complex structure," says Mr Garvey. "Although the structure has been described before, we are in new territory in combining data from a variety of research tools to describe the distribution of water across the matrix of polymers."

Mr Garvey has subjected paper to tests with Monash's dielectric relaxation spectroscopy, with solid state nuclear magnetic resonance at the University

of Queensland, and with small angle neutron scattering (SANS) at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility in Sydney.

SANS involves passing a beam of neutrons through a sample and noting how and where they are scattered. Mr Garvey's work at Lucas Heights enabled him to apply for access to an even more sophisticated SANS facility at the US Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology Center for Neutron Research, where he was granted 'beamtime' in April.

Potential applications of the research may also go beyond paper. "You can find similar problems in both nature and the man-made world, from the germination of a seed to the performance of industrial resins in humidity. The problem of hydration of glassy or semicrystalline polymers is a phenomenon of interest to many different scientific disciplines."

The research has been supported by an Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering grant, the Cooperative Research Centre for Hardwood Fibre and Paper Science, and the University of Queensland's Centre for Magnetic Resonance.

## BRIEFS

### Monash in super-computing alliance

Monash University has joined a new super-computing consortium that aims to improve the competitiveness of Victorian universities, research institutes and industry.

Monash will contribute more than \$1 million per year for the next three years to the Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing (VPAC), to provide and support advanced computing facilities and technologies.

As a VPAC partner, Monash will be linked to high-performance computing (HPC) facilities around Australia, and will help develop a centre of HPC expertise and an education centre.

VPAC, a consortium comprising Monash University, RMIT, La Trobe University, Swinburne University, the University of Melbourne and the University of Ballarat, was launched last month by Victorian Minister for State and Regional Development Mr John Brumby.

### Victorian governor is patron of Monash Prato

The Governor of Victoria, Sir James Gobbo, has been named the patron of Monash University in Prato.

Sir James, who was born in Melbourne of Italian parents, said he was honoured by the invitation to become patron of the Prato centre.

Centre director Professor Bill Kent said Sir James was approached because he was the most prominent Italo-Australian in Victoria.

"His patronage gives Monash Prato the highest profile in both government and Italo-Australian circles," he said.

### New ambulance centre at Peninsula

The Monash University Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies was opened at the Peninsula campus last month.

The new purpose-built centre, which is part of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, was established with \$3 million funding from the state government.

The establishment of the centre represents a fundamental shift for ambulance paramedics, who were previously trained at the Ambulance Officers Training Centre in Queens Road, Melbourne.

Graduates of the centre will receive the Diploma in Ambulance and Paramedic Studies, with further studies leading to a new Monash degree - the Bachelor of Paramedic Studies.

### Students selected for Olympics work

Eighteen Monash Multimedia students from the Berwick campus worked on the Sydney Olympics website last month.

The students were the only Australian university students to be selected for the task after SOCOG officials visited the campus earlier this year.

The students lent their design and technological skills to the website project, working around the clock alongside IT professionals from IBM and Silicon Valley.

### Bid to attract the world's brightest

Monash will seek to attract top international undergraduate and postgraduate students under a new scholarship scheme worth \$1.3 million.

Researchers will be a focus of the program, with 50 per cent of funds, or 20 new scholarships, to be awarded to postgraduate research students.

Approximately 35 per cent of the scholarships will be made available to undergraduate and postgraduate coursework students.

Director of the Monash Research Graduate School Professor Max King said he hoped the awards would help attract some of the world's finest postgraduate researchers to the university.

### Medal for university sports director

Monash Sports and Recreation Association director Mr John Campbell has been awarded the Australian Sports Medal for his contribution to university sport at a regional, national and international level.

He received one of five medals allocated for Australian University Sport in the category of Office Holders and Administrators.

Mr Campbell has been a member of the Australian University Sport Board of Directors since 1994 and has had six years' involvement with the World University Summer Games.

He has also held key planning and strategic roles with Australian University Sport and has overseen multimillion dollar sports facility development projects at both Monash and Melbourne universities.

### Correction - Monash Ethics Consultancy

Monash Ethics Consultancy can be contacted on (03) 9903 1990 or email david.muschamp@arts.monash.edu.au The telephone number which appeared in the September issue of *Monash News* was incorrect.

# In search of a better brew

BY PETER GOLDIE

There are times when you just cannot get to a good latte.

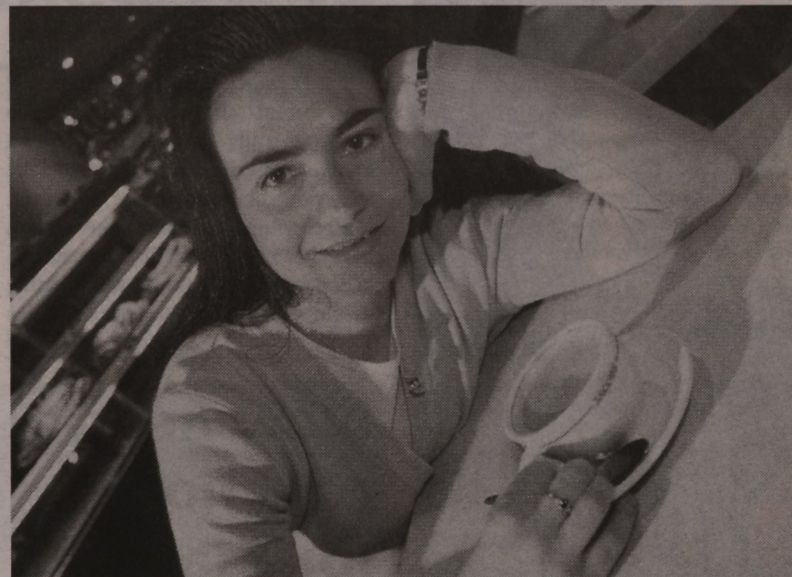
If you're desperate, there is always the instant coffee and instant milk fix, but even this can end with a bump when you get to the bottom of your cup; the sight and texture of a glutinous residue can be worrying.

It is a sight that has also been puzzling Australian exporters of powdered milk. Although harmless, the residue puts our product at a disadvantage, resulting in restricted seasonal production.

Enter Monash postgraduate Kim Jackson, whose PhD on 'the functionality of instant whole milk powder in hot coffee' has cracked the mystery and set Australian exporters on the trail for a recipe to restore the competitive edge.

Ms Jackson has looked deeply into the components of milk to find out what is causing the harmless but unattractive residue. "I found the precipitate to be proteins, fat and calcium, the amount varying depending on when in the season the milk is produced," she said.

"In peak season everything is fine, but at either end of that, there is more precipitate, which can be a problem with lots of dairy products. Obviously, producers would like to be able to



Ms Kim Jackson has developed chemical solutions to counter the seasonal increase in calcium in milk. Photo by Greg Ford.

make a top-quality product over more of the season than they can at present."

For her Department of Agriculture-backed chemical engineering thesis, Ms Jackson investigated the seasonal variation in the components of milk, including changes in five proteins called caseins and calcium. In addition, she studied the correlation between calcium and precipitate levels.

The caseins form units called micelles, but if these break down they produce the 'yuk' factor at the bottom of the cup. "Micelles do not like the acidity of coffee - it is a harsh environment at a high temperature."

Ms Jackson has developed chemical solutions to the problem, including the use of citrates to counter the seasonal increase in calcium.

# Probe into police interviewing techniques

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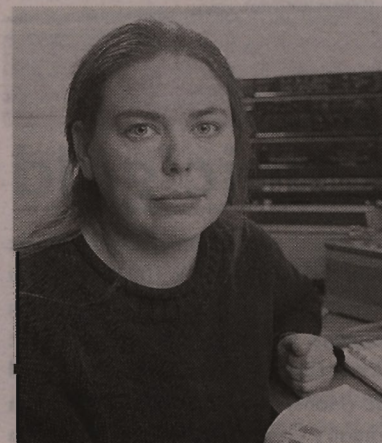
maintained. On a practical level, they must also produce certain evidentiary material for a future court case.

"There's a reason police might be attracted to the quick fix," Ms Heydon said. "They are under great pressure to meet society's demands."

If police are under great pressure, so too are the people they interview - witnesses as well as suspects. Interviewees are confronted by representatives of a powerful, entrenched institution. In the case of non-native English speakers, the interview process may be highly confusing or intimidating. A suspicious police officer might do little to defuse tension.

Ms Heydon was introduced to police interviewing techniques during her honours research project when, with police consent, she videotaped and analysed training interviews between seven police officers and seven children. Her exposure to the interview process, she said, convinced her of the need for better police training in this area.

"Police are very enthusiastic about people doing research on such areas, but they're working within a highly restricted framework," she said. "I hope my research might prompt the institution to have a closer look at the kinds of beliefs police officers take into the interviewing room."



Ms Georgina Heydon. Photo by Christopher Alexander.

## New head of school for Monash Malaysia

Continued from page 1

science from the University of New South Wales and a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and physics from Brigham Young University in Hawaii.

He is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and the Institution of Engineers Australia and a fellow of the World Academy of Productivity Science.

In addition to his work at RMIT, Dr Davison has held senior academic appointments at Nanyang Technological

University in Singapore and at the University of Western Sydney.

Speaking about the move to Monash, Dr Davison said he was looking forward to working at the Malaysia campus.

"Monash Malaysia has an opportunity to stimulate the quality and relevance of university education throughout Asia by providing a model of first-class courses appropriate to modern industry and business," he said.

"These programs, combined with research and development collaborations, can add real value to the region."

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# Structural changes challenge TAFE sector

BY STUART HEATHER

Victoria's TAFE sector is facing new challenges after substantial structural and operational changes during the 1990s, according to new research by a Monash academic.

"Teachers have been particularly affected," said senior research fellow in Monash's ACER Centre for the Economics of Education and Training Dr Chandra Shah.

"Ongoing and full-time employment has fallen, and the majority of positions at many TAFE institutes are non-tenured."

Dr Shah said this shift had divided the TAFE workforce between 'core' and 'periphery' staff, with unknown implications for teaching standards and professional development.

Australian TAFE teaching has been going through a process of deregulation since 1992. Change was intensified in Victoria through Kennett government reforms that amalgamated institutes and created a competitive market for vocational educational and training as government funding was reduced.

Competition appears to have had some measurable productivity improvements. TAFE institutes' delivery of student contact hours increased by 15 per cent between 1993 and 1998,



Dr Chandra Shah. Photo by Ken Chandler.

the period of Dr Shah's study, while per-unit cost of delivery fell.

"On the surface," Dr Shah said, "TAFEs have become more efficient, but we don't yet know what impact this is having on the quality of education being provided."

An influx of part-time and casual teachers pushed up staff numbers but in terms of full-time equivalent positions the situation remained about the same, despite increased student enrolments and more teaching hours provided.

As part of deregulation, entry qualifications for TAFE teachers were lowered; formal traditional teaching qualifications are no longer a prerequisite. Thirty-two TAFE institutes have been amalgamated into 19.

TAFEs have also had to respond to changing industry and community needs. The demand for training has shifted from declining manufacturing industries to information technology and service industries.

With this change the institutes have lost many full-time positions once held by men, replacing them with contract, part-time or sessional positions now more frequently held by women.

Females have been the majority in the TAFE workforce since 1995 and "the trend is likely to increase even further in the future," says Dr Shah.

The TAFE sector's response to more than five years of widespread change, however, has not been uniform. Not all institutes substituted sessional teachers for tenured staff when vacant positions were filled.

"Some have taken a different approach to the more generally adopted core/periphery model. Comparing the two approaches and their educational outcomes will be interesting topics for future research," Dr Shah said.



## Postgraduate Information Evening provides a recipe for career success

More than 400 people keen to further their qualifications and careers flocked to Monash's Postgraduate Information Evening held at the Hotel Sofitel recently. The annual event, organised by the University Marketing Office, presented both graduates and professionals with the opportunity to obtain information and advice about postgraduate research and professional programs through on-campus study, flexible learning and distance education. Eight of the university's 10 faculties were represented at the event, including Arts, Education, Law, Pharmacy, Business and Economics, Information Technology, Medicine and Science. Photo by Duyen Vo.

## Malaysian women in gentle push for Islamic reform: researcher



Malaysia's Muslim women activists believe that Islam has been distorted over time and used to deny them their rights.

BY SUE McALISTER

Malaysian women activists are proud of the rights they have won through Islamic reform – but this doesn't mean they will stop campaigning for more, according to Monash researcher Ms Rebecca Foley.

Ms Foley, a doctoral candidate in the School of Political and Social Inquiry, said Islamic reform is an important issue in Malaysia, where 60 per cent of the population is Muslim, and the Sharia, or Islamic law, exists alongside civil law.

Malaysia's Muslim women activists are drawn from the urban middle class, have received instruction in Islam and are wary of appearing radical or disrespectful towards their religion, said Ms Foley.

However, this doesn't weaken their determination, she said, with the activists arguing that Islam has been misunderstood and distorted over the

centuries to the point where it can be improperly used to deny their rights.

"They also argue that their successes – such as Malaysia's domestic violence laws, which are unique in Asia, and its amended rape and child custody laws – are evidence that Islam and women's rights need not be mutually exclusive."

Ms Foley has identified two main reformist groups, which she calls 'Islamic equity activists' and 'Islamic equality activists'.

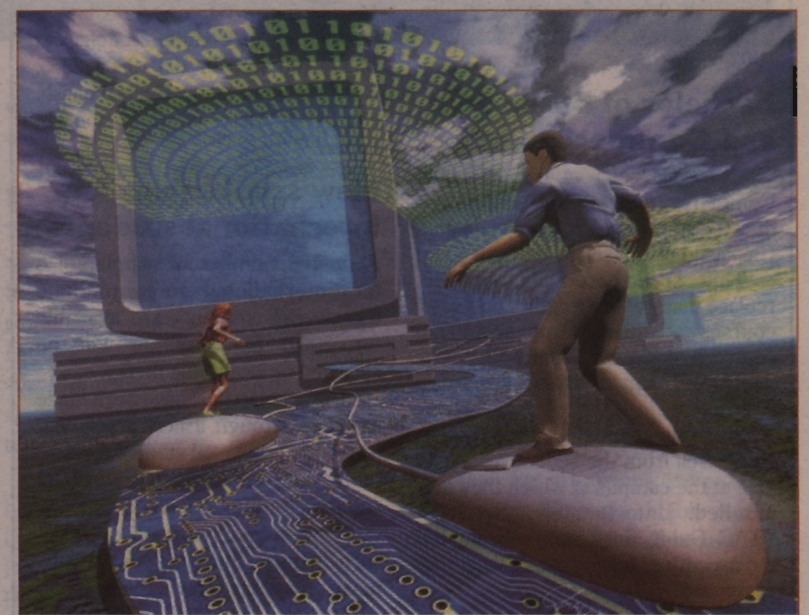
"Equity activists", she explained, "work very much within the system. They agree to wear the veil, and accept the traditional role of women as wives and mothers, or as workers in 'appropriate' female professions. However, they seek more rights for women in areas such as family law, including better maintenance provisions for divorced or deserted wives."

Ms Foley said equality activists "believe there should be no restrictions

on women's roles in society, and seek a modern reinterpretation of Islam which, they claim, is really an egalitarian religion. They're working, for example, towards ending polygamy, and increasing the jurisdiction of civil, as opposed to Islamic, courts."

Ms Foley said Malaysia's women activists were cautiously optimistic about further reform. "However, they're well aware that the ruling party, UMNO, is male-dominated, and reluctant to address contentious issues. The Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir, is not generally opposed to reform, but he is elderly, and there are concerns that increased religious conservatism could follow his demise."

Ms Foley said she became interested in women's rights in Malaysia while spending a year there after finishing school and encountering the plight of a female relative of her Muslim host family who was unhappily trapped in a polygamous marriage.



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## Schools



### Enhancement studies information evening

The Monash Enhancement Studies Program is the largest and most comprehensive extension studies program in Australia.

The program allows high-achieving secondary students to study a Monash subject as part of their Year 12 program.

The Enhancement Studies Information Evening will be held on Wednesday 11 October from 7.30 pm to 9 pm at the Clayton campus.

The evening will provide Year 11 students, parents and teachers with information on the subjects available, class locations, and costs and benefits of the program.

To register, contact Ms Philippa Brown in the Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 5859, or visit the website at [www.monash.edu.au/ps](http://www.monash.edu.au/ps)

### Camp Monash

Camp Monash is a residential program consisting of academic, social and sporting activities, which aims to introduce secondary students to life at university.

The program for Year 11 students runs from 27 to 29 November at the Clayton campus. The program for Year 10 students will be held between 27 and 30 November at the Gippsland campus.

For more information on the Clayton program, contact (03) 9905 4164. For more information on the Gippsland program, contact (03) 9902 6583.

### Bachelor of Business and Commerce

The new Bachelor of Business and Commerce degree is being introduced at the Berwick, Peninsula and Gippsland campuses in 2001.

This broad-based degree will replace many of the existing business courses at those campuses. The course is designed to introduce students at all campuses to six key areas of business.

Students then elect their major study area from the sequences available at the campus at which they are enrolled. Unfortunately, the 2001 VTAC Guide does not fully depict the breadth of majors available at the campuses.

The following majors will be available in 2001:

**Berwick:** accounting, economics, marketing, marketing communication, management, public relations, and tourism.

**Gippsland:** accounting, business law, economics, electronic commerce, management, and marketing.

**Peninsula:** accounting, international business, management.

These majors also apply to any double-degree combination.

### Correction of direct entry course titles

The following two courses were incorrectly named in the last issue of *Monash News*:

- Bachelor of Communication – Berwick campus was incorrectly printed as Bachelor of Communications – Berwick campus.
- Bachelor of Communication/Bachelor of Multimedia – Berwick campus was incorrectly printed as Bachelor of Communications/Bachelor of Multimedia Computing – Berwick campus.

For more information and applications forms, contact Ms Michelle Leighton in the Faculty of Arts on (03) 9905 2112.

### Communications and media studies at Monash

The 2001 VTAC Guide does not mention that communications and media studies can be undertaken at Monash as a major at both the Clayton and Caulfield campuses. The major was introduced at Clayton this year, and will begin at Caulfield in 2001.

For more information, contact Ms Leanne White, coordinator, Undergraduate Communications and Media Studies, on (03) 9905 2365, email [communications@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:communications@arts.monash.edu.au) or visit [www.arts.monash.edu.au](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au)

### New scholarships for international students

A limited number of scholarships for international undergraduate coursework students are available for 2001. Scholarships will be awarded on academic merit.

The scholarships have been made available through a new 3 per cent levy on international student fees.

For more information, email [scholars@adm.monash.edu.au](mailto:scholars@adm.monash.edu.au) or visit [www.adm.monash.edu.au/ssd/sarb/schols](http://www.adm.monash.edu.au/ssd/sarb/schols) Students may also make an application via the website.

# Corporations begin to change attitudes to human rights

By KAY ANSELL

Protesters outside the World Economic Forum in Melbourne recently were portraying an 'us-against-them' scenario – human rights activists versus multinational corporations – according to Monash academic Professor David Kinley.

And despite passions running high outside, the issue of human rights did not feature in the discussions inside the forum.

But while the WEF experience shows how much work lies ahead, there is some evidence that both sides are beginning to reach common ground, reflected in changes in laws and attitudes among corporations themselves.

Professor Kinley, director of Monash's newly created Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, said international human rights laws place no direct obligations on corporations – it is a matter of persuading corporations that it is in their interests to uphold standards.

Issues such as their public image with consumers become powerful motivators for corporations to improve their human rights performance.

The recent human rights compact signed between UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and 50 multinational corporations shows that global businesses



Academics from Monash's Castan Centre for Human Rights (from left): Ms Melissa Castan, Professor David Kinley, Ms Sarah Joseph, Ms Julie Debeljak and Ms Beth Gaze. Photo by Ken Chandler.

are aware of the pressure, Professor Kinley said.

Even at a domestic level, Australian laws never refer to human rights as such – they come under laws covering areas such as working conditions and product safety.

With notable exceptions, such as its treatment of indigenous people, Australia has a comparatively good human rights record, he said.

However, its laws holding corporations accountable have not developed

to the extent of those in the US and the UK, where corporations can appear in court over their activities overseas, as well as in their domestic dealings.

In operating overseas ventures, multinationals are so powerful they can choose whether or not to uphold human rights, and how, he said.

Unfortunately, legislation can offer scope for avoidance through the courts. "If you are big and powerful... all sorts of litigation games will allow you to beat your opponent into submission.

"If you really want to get the corporations to sort out the problems, you have to convince them that it's in their interests." This may mean long-term discussions at boardroom level between human rights organisations and corporations.

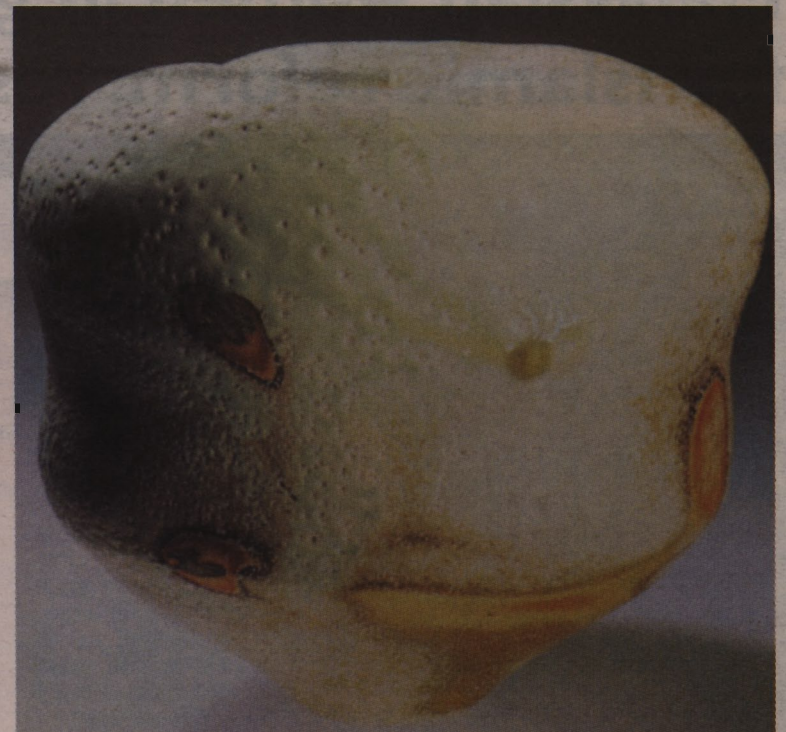
"The human rights community must reach out beyond the already converted to persuade the unconverted that human rights are relevant," he said.

As well as conducting traditional academic research, Castan Centre academics are proactively pursuing relations with NGOs, governments and corporations in the application of human rights law and the implications of international legal developments in the area, Professor Kinley said.

"It will be the smart companies, those who are thinking ahead, who will want to listen," he said.

## Soda and Ice comes to Gippsland

The unique soda-glazed ceramic work of Monash masters student and artist Ms Gail Nicols is on show at the Switchback Gallery at Monash's Gippsland Centre for Art and Design until 19 October. The exhibition's title, *Soda and Ice*, refers to the icy matt surfaces on the work, the result of an innovative approach to sodium vapour glazing. In this process, sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate are introduced to a gas-fired kiln at more than 1200 degrees celsius, creating a soda vapour that forms a glaze where it comes into contact with clay surfaces. A wide range of colours, from icy white and pale blue and green to yellow, red, mauve and grey, textures and patterns are later created during the firing process. For more information on the exhibition, contact the gallery on (03) 9902 6261.



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# Opening ceremony celebrates Australia's diversity in all its glory

The opening ceremony for the 2000 Sydney Olympics was a success because it celebrated the diversity of Australia, and avoided the clichés and stereotypes most Australians expected to see, says Monash communications lecturer Ms Leanne White.

## OPINION



The opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games – the Games of the XXVII Olympiad – was beamed to a global television audience of nearly four billion last month.

Unlike the negative public reaction to the inflatable kangaroos on bicycles at the Atlanta Olympic Games closing ceremony four years earlier, the prevailing assessment of the event has been positive.

Director of ceremonies Ric Birch appears to have successfully orchestrated a celebration of the Australian nation, minus the cultural cringe.

**Stadium Australia was symbolically cleansed with the burning of eucalyptus leaves. Some may have wondered whether white Australia's black history could be just as easily cleansed in the nation's collective consciousness.**

With the first Olympic Games of the new millennium, Birch may have felt pressure to present a new and fresh perspective on an ancient civilisation.

Leading the spectacular event was the impressive 'Welcome' sequence, where 120 stock men and women rode in formation to the stirring theme music of *The Man From Snowy River*.

The spectacle, reminiscent of Australia's light horsemen, culminated with a huge banner being unfurled from above.

The banner displayed the welcoming Aussie four letter word 'g'day' in the child-like writing style that artist Ken Done is famous for – and one that the tourist instantly recognises.

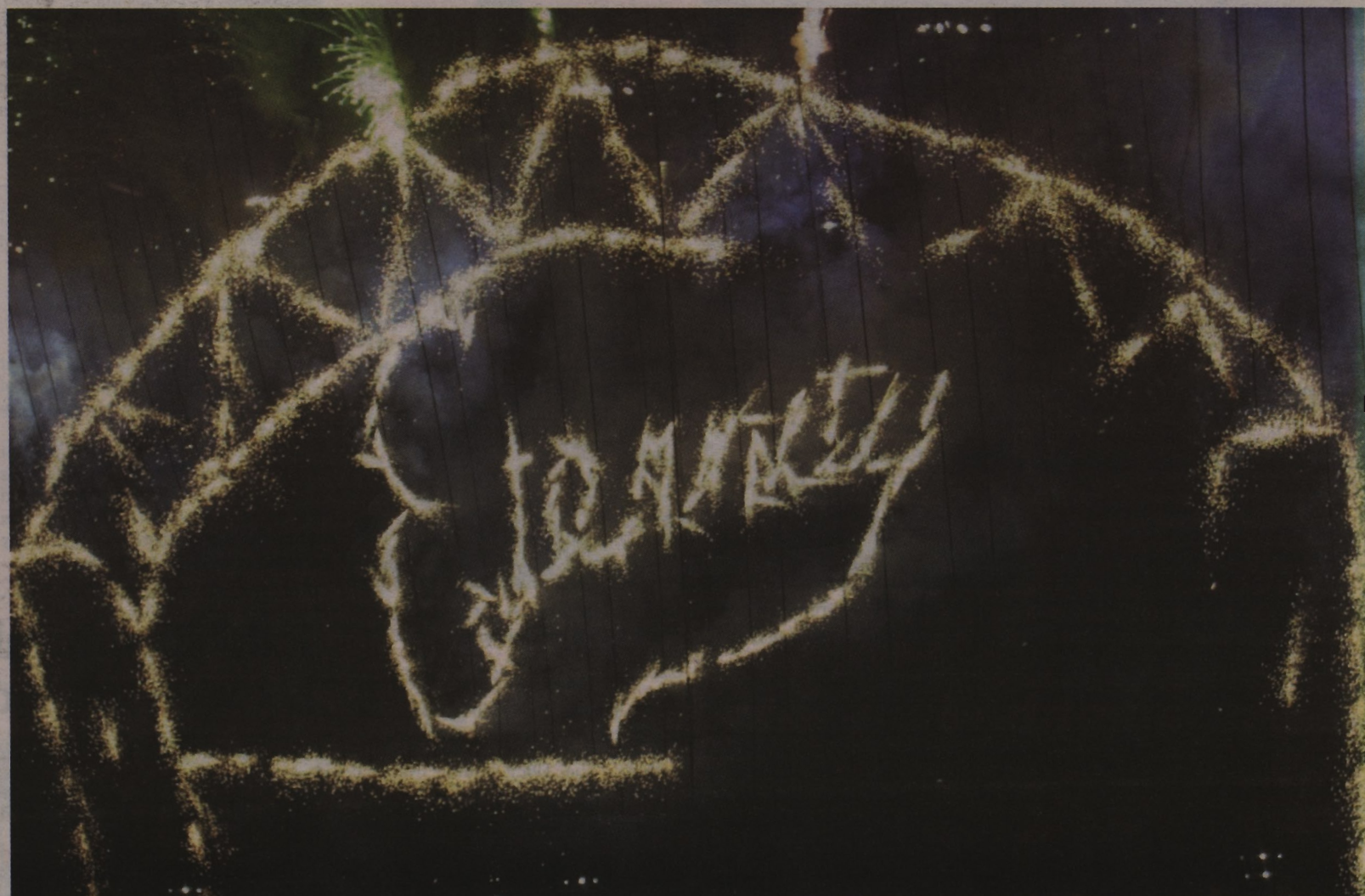


Photo by AAP.

Seven separate themes and individually choreographed segments were then unveiled – 'Deep Sea Dreaming', 'Awakening', 'Fire', 'Nature', 'Tin Symphony', 'Arrivals' and 'Eternity'.

In the style of Lewis Carroll's classic *Alice in Wonderland*, the 'Deep Sea Dreaming' sequence saw petite 13 year-old Nikki Webster spread out her huge beach towel, and Australia's colourful imagery, in front of the world.

She then slapped zinc cream on her nose, and dreamt of an ocean world full of sound, light and motion.

Such sights were familiar for the majority of Australians who live near the country's 36,735 kilometres of coastline, or for any tourist who has explored the Great Barrier Reef or stepped foot on Australia's famous Bondi Beach.

While Nikki Webster symbolised Australia's future, Aboriginal songman and elder Djakapurra Munyarryun – who led the youngster through her fascinating journey of discovery – represented Australia's proud indigenous past.

Despite Channel Seven commentator Ernie Dingo's opening words "G'day mob. 'Ow are ya?", the 'Awakening' sequence was particularly important in setting the tone of reconciliation for the rest of the evening's performance.

Stadium Australia was symbolically cleansed with the burning of eucalyptus leaves. Some may have wondered whether white Australia's black history could be just as easily cleansed in the nation's collective consciousness.

'Fire', the crucial element in any Olympics opening ceremony, culminating in the lighting of the cauldron, was the next arrangement.

The segment continued the cleansing theme, with the blossoming of spectacular wildflowers after the rains.

The 'Tin Symphony' sequence enabled those who had been brought up in the bush to remember some treasured rustic relics such as corrugated iron, windmills, shearing sheds, rainwater tanks and rusted farm machinery.

In this sequence, however, Birch couldn't resist a few quirky Australian images for the rest of the world to ponder, including Victa lawnmowers, corrugated iron outback dunnies, dancing Ned Kellys and those strange jumping cardboard boxes!

The penultimate 'Arrivals' sequence took on the atmosphere of a frenzied Mardi Gras of diasporic dimensions.

Immigrants from Africa, the Americas, Oceania, Europe and Asia were represented in the five colours of the Olympic rings.

The crowd was encouraged to wave their torches and glowing wrist bands to the hypnotic beat before joining young Nikki's emotional rendition of the all-encompassing multicultural anthem 'Under a Southern Sky'.

The final sequence, 'Eternity', was a tribute to the Australian working class, with a thousand tap dancers representing the energy and enthusiasm of our young country.

A bridge was built to symbolically connect the old Australia to the new. Appropriately, Djakapurra and Nikki came together on the bridge, which was lit up by the word 'Eternity'.

If we weren't sure what the imagery was supposed to symbolise, commentator Garry Wilkinson was there to

explain to us that it was "a reminder of our place in the scheme of things".

Juan Antonio Samaranch welcomed his audience with the words "G'day Syd-er-ney. G'day Australia", and the night was capped off with the image that would be emblazoned on the front pages of the newspapers as well as the national psyche – Cathy Freeman standing under the Olympic cauldron against a backdrop of nature's contrasting elements – fire and water.

Australia's female athletes were honoured as Betty Cuthbert (helped by Raelene Boyle) passed the torch to Dawn Fraser, Shirley Strickland de la Hunty, Shane Gould, Debbie Flintoff-King, then finally to 'our Cathy'.

**Whether we are prepared to admit it or not, we are a nation of knockers who are quick to criticise – even before an event.**

The important message of reconciliation was loud and clear for the world to hear. If Australians hadn't understood the message when thousands walked across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in May for Corroboree 2000, or caught the symbolism of Nelson Mandela holding a young boy from the Yorta Yorta tribe a week earlier, the imagery made it obvious to all on this occasion.

Why was the opening ceremony so well received? And more importantly, why had so many Australians feared that the night would simply turn out to be an embarrassing public display of hackneyed and clichéd Australian images?

Generally, most Australians were relieved that the ceremony was free of the clichés we have become so accustomed to seeing in television advertising and tourism brochures.

While the drizabones and akubras were out in force, the highly stereotyped images of Australia's favourite fauna were virtually non-existent.

Even Sydney Olympic mascots Syd, Millie and Olly were absent that night.

Many Australians were worried because they believed Birch had let them down before, with a giant Matilda at the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, and blow-up roos on bikes in Atlanta.

But while Birch was portrayed as a possible antagonist, Australians may have been their own worst enemy.

Whether we are prepared to admit it or not, we are a nation of knockers who are quick to criticise – even before an event.

Australians are still quick to mow down tall poppies. Even in this new millennium we are a highly self-conscious nation preoccupied with what the rest of the world thinks of us.

But we need not have worried – Birch showed the diversity of Australia in all its glory.

*Ms Leanne White is a lecturer in communications and media studies at Monash University.*



# Lecturer wins Australia's richest art competition

BY SUE McALISTER

A Monash fine art lecturer has won the country's richest art competition – the \$100,000 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize.

Ms Kristen Headlam, a painting lecturer in Monash's Department of Fine Arts, won the prize for her self-portrait 'In Bed with the Animals'.

She said she felt both excited and terrified on being awarded the prize. "I was surprised, as I really didn't think I had much of a chance. I thought the painting of me and my dog and two cats – who all like to get on the bed with me – would be considered too frivolous."

However, the competition's international judge, Dr Charles Saumarez Smith, director of London's National Portrait Gallery, said he decided the Moran Prize should be awarded to a portrait which was "at the opposite end of the pole of portraiture to the commissioned, public portrait".

"I felt that Kristin Headlam's self-portrait had a freshness to it – a spontaneity and verve, as well as a directness and an ability to escape the stereotypes of traditional portraiture, all of which was extremely attractive, conveying a strong sense of the personality of the artist, together with confidence and fluency in its handling of paint.

"I recognise – and applaud – the fact that the Moran Prize is not about public portraits of well-known and recognisable sitters, as is the Archibald Prize, but has a more democratic intent in exploring the character and individuality of ordinary Australians," he said.



Monash painting lecturer Ms Kristen Headlam said she felt her prize-winning entry, 'In Bed with the Animals', would be considered too frivolous.

Ms Headlam agreed: "The Moran Prize is unusually supportive of artists from right around Australia, including less well-known ones. It's certainly benefited Monash – my students are very pleased and many now see portrait painting and art competitions as more accessible than they'd previously thought, especially as the Moran Prize doesn't require that entries depict someone famous.

"Still, I suppose my dog and cats are quite famous now – and I think they know it!"

**What:** The Doug Moran National Portrait Prize

**Where:** Span Galleries, Flinders Lane

**When:** 23 April to 5 May 2001

**Who:** For more details, contact Span Galleries on (03) 9650 0589.

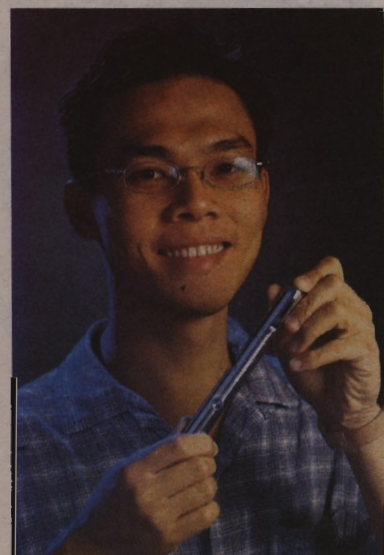
# Golf gadget wins international prize

BY SUE McALISTER

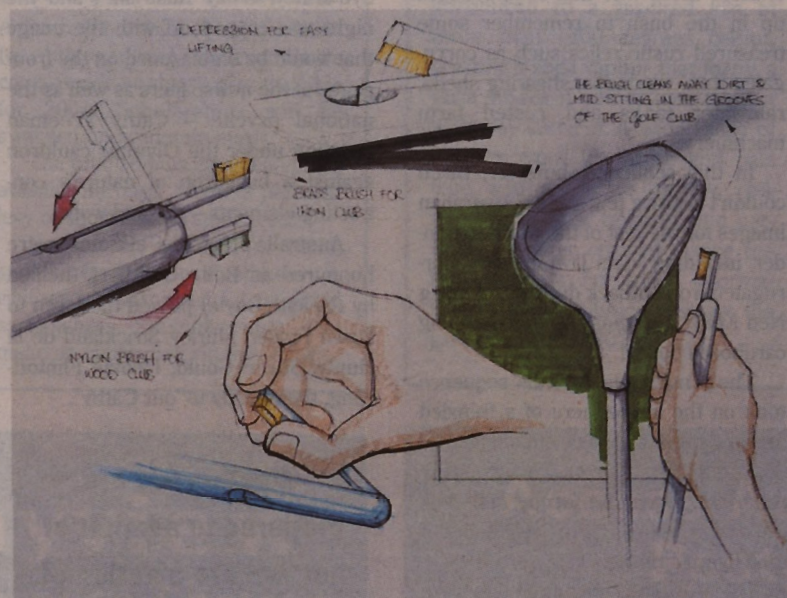
A multi-purpose gadget for golfing executives, designed by a third-year industrial design student at Monash, has won the inaugural Marksman Design Award.

Mr Yu Weng (Alvin) Sitoh's entry, titled 'Exo', beat 115 other entries from 31 countries to win him the prestigious annual international award and US\$10,000 in prize money.

"I was shocked," said Mr Sitoh, who is on an exchange program from Singapore. "Neither I nor the other design students had much confidence, but our lecturers here at Monash urged us to enter and were highly supportive. Now I'm very pleased I entered!"



Mr Alvin Sitoh.



Mr Alvin Sitoh's product 'Exo', which won the prestigious Marksman Design Award.

The Marksman Collection of luxury items is produced by Pollyflame International, the leading business gifts company in Europe, Asia and the US. The theme of its competition, aimed at stimulating student designers, was 'business travel'. An international panel of experts judged entries on originality, functionality, compatibility with the Marksman Collection, production feasibility and motivation.

It is well-known that many executives take to the golf course on their travels, with deals often clinched during a game or at the 19th hole. Mr Sitoh says this is what inspired him:

"I wanted to design something recreational that wasn't too serious. After all, business people do play!"

Marksman, which is putting Mr Sitoh's design into production, describes the Exo as "a compact, multi-functional tool kit to handle every eventuality on the golf course".

Exo includes a mechanical pencil to keep score, concealed brushes for cleaning clubs, a spike wrench for keeping golf shoes in order, and a divot tool for repairing dents on the green.

A bottle opener and screwdriver complete the package.

## ARTS SCENE

### Monash musicians tour Southeast Asia

Members of Monash's Chamber Ensemble recently completed a successful two-week tour of Singapore and Malaysia.

The octet, comprising five students and three staff from Monash's School of Music – Conservatorium, performed works by Mozart, Chopin, Weber, Stravinsky and Gershwin in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and Penang.

The three staff members on the tour also gave masterclasses and held auditions for budding musicians in Malaysia and Singapore, as well as presenting information sessions on studying music at Monash.

This year's tour followed the very successful 1999 New Monash Orchestra tour of Vietnam and Malaysia.

### Musical marathon for piano aficionados

The Performing Arts Precinct at Monash will be alive with the sounds of music during an all-day piano extravaganza early this month.

The Team of Pianists will present hourly classical music recitals, jazz improvisations, demonstrations and masterclasses for all ages at the Monash Music Marathon on Sunday 8 October from 10 am to 5 pm.

The Team of Pianists includes Professor Max Cooke, Mr Darryl Coote, Mr Robert Chamberlain, Mr Tom Samutt and Ms Natalia Baudoin.

For inquiries or to book, contact the Team of Pianists on (03) 9822 2959 or (03) 9905 1332.

### Making Music again in October

Popular Russian pianist Yuri Rozum, the New Monash Orchestra, the Monash Women's Choir and the Monash Wind Symphony will feature in concerts to be performed as part of the Making Music Series at Monash this month.

On Saturday 14 October, Mr Rozum will perform Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Shostakovich's *Song of the Forests* with a host of other performers, including the New Monash Orchestra, Viva Voce, the Monash Women's Choir and the Victorian Boys' Choir. He will also perform a solo recital on Monday 16 October, including works by Scriabin, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff.

The Monash Wind Symphony will present a program of mixed ensembles on Saturday 21 October, with a premier performance by the School of Music's Stage Band.

For inquiries and bookings, contact the Monash Box Office on (03) 9905 1111.

## Exhibition breaks down barriers between art and design



'Fluid Form' by Sophia Emmett and Elaine Miles.

BY SUE McALISTER

A groundbreaking exhibition that challenges the notion that art, craft and design have distinct boundaries is being held at Monash University's Caulfield campus.

Titled *Envoy*, the exhibition is the brainchild of senior lecturer in Monash's Department of Design Ms Jenny Allen. She coordinates a multi-disciplinary design course – unique in Australia – which provides graduates with the opportunity to work across conventional boundaries and explore diverse areas such as the disciplines of fine and applied arts and the design disciplines of industrial design, visual communication, interior architecture and multimedia design.

Ms Allen says *Envoy* "invites an exploration of the complex relationships and meanings which define art, craft and design".

"It focuses on young Melbourne-based designers who have become individual and independent 'envoys' of a less constrictive concept of design. Their ideas and objects, which cross the traditional barriers between design and other disciplines, counter the view that design and art are distinctly separate."

In Australia, the barriers between art, craft and design have only recently begun to be dismantled. Previously, designers tended to be pigeon-holed – confined to working within defined

parameters. Now, increasingly, they need to be multi-skilled, and are expected to work in teams of people from a variety of disciplines.

Ms Allen says exhibitors invited to participate in *Envoy* "have responded flexibly and creatively to the changing commercial and cultural context of design in Australia – though the works being exhibited don't necessarily have commercial applications".

Indeed, many exhibitors are so flexible that they are now creating and researching in areas of design different from what they originally intended, while others have created their own design niche. Reflecting this, the works on display are an eclectic mix of glass and metal vessels, wood objects, interactive multimedia, lighting, typography, visual communication and furniture.

Represented in *Envoy* are Monash staff members Troy Innocent and Sarah Stubbs; regular Monash guest lecturers Brett Jones, Andrew Trevillian and Marnie Rudd; and current Monash postgraduate students Sophia Emmett and Elaine Miles (of *Seem Designs*) and Stephen Vaughan.

**What:** *Envoy*

**When:** 11 October to 4 November

**Where:** The Faculty Gallery, Monash University's Caulfield campus

**Who:** For more details, contact gallery manager Mr Malcolm Bywaters on (03) 9903 2883 or Ms Jenny Allen on (03) 9903 2317.



# New book reveals challenges faced by modern universities

BY DEREK BROWN

From age-old traditions and scholarly pursuit to global markets and economic rationalism, to universities have experienced major cultural shifts during the past two decades and Australian universities more than most.

*The Enterprise University: Power Governance and Reinvention in Australia* is a new book that looks at how our universities are dealing with a changing world.

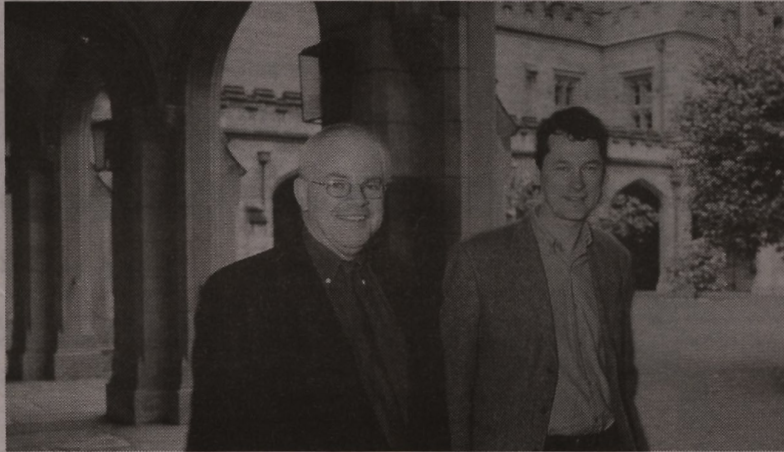
The book was produced by Professor Simon Marginson, from the Faculty of Education at Monash University, and Associate Professor Mark Considine, from the Department of Political Science at the University of Melbourne.

Using case studies from 17 Australian universities, the book reveals that since the mid-1980s, Australian universities have been forced to adopt a corporate model of management in order to survive.

This is due to a decreasing government commitment to the tertiary sector, Professor Marginson says.

"When John Dawkins, the Labor minister for employment, education and training from 1987 to 1992, expanded tertiary enrolments without a commensurate expansion of funding, institutions were forced to source funding from the private sector, and the 'enterprise university' was born."

According to Professor Marginson, in the 'enterprise university', innovation has centred on general staff, the business structure of the university



Authors of *The Enterprise University*, Professor Simon Marginson (left) and Associate Professor Mark Considine. Photo by Chris Alexander.

and streamlined decision-making processes at the expense of the development of curriculum and academic research cultures.

"While the new organisational structures have led to improved service, greater transparency and more economic accountability, the emphasis on corporate practices tends to strain the relationship between academic and non-academic staff," Professor Marginson said.

"Corporatised university structures invest a lot of hope, power and prestige in senior corporate staff such as vice-chancellors and deputy vice-chancellors, who end up carrying all the burden of innovation and directional strategy for the university. Under this

model, the creative capacity of the rest of the university, including academics, is underplayed."

While Professor Marginson does not advocate a return to collegial structures of governance, he believes there is a middle ground that needs to be reached.

"To improve the situation, academic staff need to accept that a performance culture is here to stay, and university leaders need to realise that it is necessary to invest in the academic disciplines and institutional diversity. For example, if a university is to succeed as a university it needs a sustainable research culture where academic creativity can flourish," he said.

# Production challenges attitudes to sex in the new millennium

BY SUE McALISTER

Its title alone should ensure the success of *Sex, Sin: The City (The Decameron Project II)*.

The latest production is by the Monash Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies. "It will be just as entertaining and, I'm sure, as popular as the 1998 first *Decameron Project*," says Ms Betty Hanner, who is helping organise it. The production is a course requirement for students completing Monash's Bachelor of Performing Arts degree.

As you'd imagine, *Sex, Sin: The City* offers the audience a stimulating experience.

It is intellectually confronting and theatrically unorthodox, with the drama, song and dance performed by students interspersed with appearances by two guest speakers each night, who express their perspective on various aspects of physical and emotional interaction between urban dwellers.

The students wrote all the theatrical pieces, which "feature often strikingly original music and movements," says Ms Hanner. "They're based on the text of *The Decameron*, the great collection of high-spirited and witty tales written by Giovanni Boccaccio in 14th century

Italy. Like Boccaccio's stories, the student performances are riotous yet thought-provoking. *Sex, Sin: The City* is about real opinions on personal and community attitudes to sex in the new millennium."

Among those expressing their opinions will be a startlingly diverse array of guests, including High Court Judge Justice Michael Kirby, IVF pioneer Dr Carl Wood, comedian Mr Dave Callan, Professor Marcia Neave of Monash's Law faculty, the Independent Church of Australia's Reverend Antoinette Schoenmaker, and Drag Queen Miss La Tease De Lush!

Eminent Monash academics who will speak during performances at the University Drama Theatre include Professor Stephen Parker and Professor Louis Waller from the Faculty of Law, and Dr Carol Williams of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Centre.

All guest speakers are participating gratis, says Ms Hanner, "because our first *Decameron Project* was such a hit".

"Student theatre is usually anarchic, irreverent and 'on the edge', and speakers are invited to give free rein to their views. Also, by appearing before very mixed audiences, everyone involved can amuse, inform and challenge a wide section of the community. Don't miss it!"

What: *Sex, Sin: The City*

Where and when: Week 1: 4 to 7 October, Chapel Off Chapel. To book, contact (03) 9658 9600.

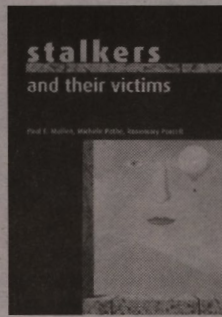
Week 2: 11 to 14 October, Monash University Drama Theatre. To book, contact (03) 9905 1111.

Who: For more details, contact Ms Betty Hanner on (03) 9578 4861 or fax (03) 9578 4892.



A scene from the provocative *Sex, Sin: The City (The Decameron Project II)*. Photo by Christine Mole.

## INPRINT



### Stalkers and Their Victims

By Paul Mullen, Michele Pathé and Rosemary Purcell

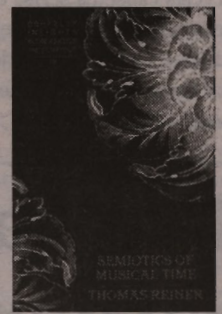
Published by Cambridge University Press

RRP: \$69.26

Once used only to describe hunters in search of game, the term 'stalker' has taken on new and disturbing overtones. Now considered a major social, clinical and legal issue, stalking is a crime that taps into society's most deep-seated fears.

In *Stalkers and Their Victims*, the authors draw on their extensive clinical experience working with both stalkers and their victims to delve into the nature, causes and management of stalking. From an exhaustive list of stalking classifications to a detailed investigation of anti-stalking laws, the text offers a definitive reference guide to this modern crime.

Professor Paul Mullen from forensic psychiatry in Monash University's Department of Psychological Medicine is also medical director of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health. Dr Michele Pathé is an honorary senior lecturer at Monash University and consultant forensic psychiatrist at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health. Ms Rosemary Purcell is based in the Department of Psychological Medicine at Monash University.



### Semiotics of Musical Time

By Thomas Reiner

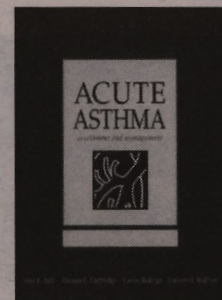
Published by Peter Lang

RRP: \$102

'Musical time' is a slippery term that defies exact definition. It can encompass accent, beat, metre, period, rhythm or tempo – the temporal aspects of time, the clock time that passes while music sounds, or the subjective experience of time while listening to music.

The wide variation in the concept of musical time is the subject of *Semiotics of Musical Time*, a new book that investigates the link between musical time and the world of signs and symbols. Looking at the way time is expressed using musical notation, author Thomas Reiner demonstrates that consciousness of musical time involves semiotic processes.

Dr Thomas Reiner is a lecturer in the School of Music – Conservatorium at Monash University. A composer, music producer, performer and writer, his music is widely performed and he has won many awards, including a prize in the International Witold Lutoslawski Composer's Competition.



### Acute Asthma: Assessment and Management

Edited by Jesse Hall, Thomas Corbridge, Carlos Rodrigo, Gustavo Rodrigo

Published by McGraw-Hill

RRP: \$109

For those who suffer from asthma, spring and summer can be traumatic. Researchers have been engaged in an ongoing battle against asthma, and today, using the best medical knowledge and technology available, they continue the battle in an attempt to discover how those with acute asthma can best manage asthma attacks and what the medical professions can do to help.

With international contributions from leading health professionals, *Acute Asthma: Assessment and Management* provides a comprehensive analysis of the condition, its treatment and the medical needs of its sufferers.

Contributors include Monash University academics Dr Michael Anderson, Associate Professor Carlos Scheinkestel and Associate Professor David Tuxen, who are based at Melbourne's Alfred Hospital, and whose chapter looks at the benefits and problems of mechanical ventilation in asthma treatment.

## POSTscript

Monash science graduate Dr John Long has just released his latest book *Mountains of Madness – A Journey through Antarctica* (Allen & Unwin), chronicling two expeditions to Antarctica searching for fossils. Dr Long is head of the Department of Earth and Planetary Science and curator of Vertebrate Paleontology at Perth's Western Australian Museum.

Associate Professor Bruce Steele, an honorary research associate in the Faculty of Arts at Monash, has joined forces with Richard Divall, principal resident conductor for Opera Australia, to edit *Songs by Henry Handel Richardson for Voice and Piano*, a collection of songs composed by one of Australia's best known writers.

If you are a member of the Monash community and have a forthcoming book, contact monashnews@adm.monash.edu.au

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# King Island fossil research may solve extinction mystery

By DAVID BRUCE

King Island is a windswept, isolated and rocky piece of land in the middle of Bass Strait, between Victoria and Tasmania. Not far beneath the surface of the island's yellow sand dunes are the fossilised bones of a group of unique animals. In these bones may lie the answer to the Australia-wide extinction of these animals over the last 40,000 years.

Monash palaeontologist Ms Sanja van Huet, who is completing a PhD on the topic, said it was a controversial topic.

"There are heated arguments going on about how all these animals became extinct, with many saying it was due to overkill of the fauna by the Aboriginal inhabitants over thousands of years. But from my research, I think the changes were more environmentally related than human-related."

After months of fieldwork among the sand dunes of King Island, with her year-old daughter and a group of volunteers for company, Ms van Huet found evidence of dramatic climatic changes over the past 40,000 years.



Researcher Ms Sanja van Huet.

Glaciation cycles caused a series of significant rises and falls in sea level, which affected land masses the world over but had particular implications for the fauna on small islands.

Ms van Huet's research, which she expects to complete early next year, is being supervised by Australia's most prominent dinosaur hunter and activist in science education, Monash's Professor Pat Vickers-Rich.

# El Nino linked to variations in Indonesian weather patterns

By PETER GOLDIE

Indonesia's diverse climatic and geographic regions produce what has been described as one of the most chaotic weather systems in the world.

Its geographic features have a large influence on global weather patterns,

partly because of the country's huge tropical rainforests.

Given the importance of weather changes locally and regionally, and the constant threat of drought for the archipelago and beyond, it would seem that a regional weather watch would have long been in place.

However, such a scheme has never been possible amidst the group of hundreds of islands fractured by distance, culture, language and a lack of resources. Until now, that is. Monash University has recently been involved in establishing a weather-predicting system for the country's 210 million people.

Indonesian meteorological expert Ms Dewi Kirono has been gathering and assessing the raw data on which predictive models can be developed to forewarn of such events. She is now completing her PhD research in Monash's Department of Geography and Environmental Science on the influence of El Nino on timing, spread and amount of rainfall for the region.

Ms Kirono, who comes from Surabaya in eastern Java, was an undergraduate hydrology student in Jogjakarta in the early 1990s, when the country was hit by a drought which forced it to import rice for the first time in two decades.

Her attention was drawn to what caused these events, and for her subsequent work she won the 'Best Paper on El Nino' at the El Nino Symposium of the Association of American Geographers last year in Honolulu.

"It is a very complex and difficult weather system, and scientists have never been able to work on the topic thoroughly because of a lack of basic data," said Ms Kirono. "I have found the weather variations in Indonesia to be closely associated with the El Nino-Southern Oscillation."

She undertook the mammoth task of sifting through weather results from more than 3000 reporting stations to focus on the records of just 85 stations from 1879 to 1999. It is the first time this information has been collated.

Although describing the data sifting as "very tedious for six months", Ms Kirono has developed a database which opens the way for further studies, the first of which gets under way next year when Ms Kirono returns to Indonesia.



Ms Dewi Kirono's research on the influence of El Nino on rainfall in Indonesia is aiding the establishment of a weather-predicting system for the country. Photo by Ken Chandler.

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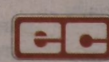
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fax (03) 9905 2097 or email

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