



# MONASH REPORTER

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## Asian studies — 600 visitors

Some 600 people with an interest in Asian studies are expected to attend a conference to be held at Monash from May 10 to 14.

It is the fourth biennial conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia which has a wide-ranging membership including academics, secondary teachers, librarians and journalists. The Association exists:

- To promote the study of Asian languages, societies, cultures and politics in Australia.
- To support teaching and research in Asian studies.
- To encourage the exchange of information through publications, conferences and seminars.
- To contribute towards an understanding of Asia in the community at large.

About 150 papers are to be delivered, encompassing a broad range of topics from Australia-Asia media relations to Japanese language and linguistics and post-1976 Marxism in China. A cultural program highlighting Asian arts has been organised as part of proceedings.

Specialist groups such as the Malaysia Society, the Australasian Association of Eastern Philosophy and the East Asian Librarians Group use the opportunity provided by the conference — which is being held at

Monash for the first time — for their annual meetings.

The President of ASAA is the Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University, Professor Tony Low, who will address the conference. The Dean of Arts at Monash, Professor John Legge, is chairman of the Asian Studies Committee and convener of the conference is Associate Professor Harold Bolitho, of the Japanese department. Dr Gale Dixon, senior lecturer in Geography, is the conference secretary.

Dr Dixon says that the conference's organisation, with its interregional and regional panels and curriculum forums, gives it the flexibility to meet the diverse, interdisciplinary interests of participants.

He describes it as the "one chance" for people interested in Asia to get together to discuss research and trends in the teaching of Asian subjects.

About 25 overseas visitors are expected to attend. For further information and registration forms contact Dr Dixon on ext. 2930.

- Chemical warfare claims 'weak', page 3.
- Also more conference highlights, page 2.

### High over 'the cradle' in '62 ...



This aerial shot of Monash, looking south, was taken in 1962. Turn to page 3 to see how we've grown in just 20 years.

Also inside

### New technology — ... And improved energy policies

Participation in the implementation of new technology by the people who will be affected by it seems a sensible approach. But it is rarely used.

A Monash lecturer in Accounting and Finance, Mr Doug Campbell, says that the participatory method of introducing a major systems change requires a willingness to spend money, time and effort. Hence the far more usual method of introduction is the fait accompli.

"Participation is a good idea but it takes a helluva lot longer," says Mr Campbell. In an article on page 5 he explains the advantages of taking that extra time.

Better government policies on energy conservation — that's the promise held out by two NERDDC-supported research projects involving Monash's Graduate School of Environmental Science.

One project is testing a model for predicting the effect of measures designed to stimulate energy conservation by households — no such forecasting technique is currently available.

The aim of the other project is preparation of a set of practical policy guidelines for efficient energy use by local government — an Australian first.

The details are in an article page 9.

In review on pp. 10 and 11

- Harold Love's *The Golden Age of Australian Opera* — Bruce Knox
- Peter Singer's *The Expanding Circle* — Max Charlesworth

## There's paternal pride in those smiles!

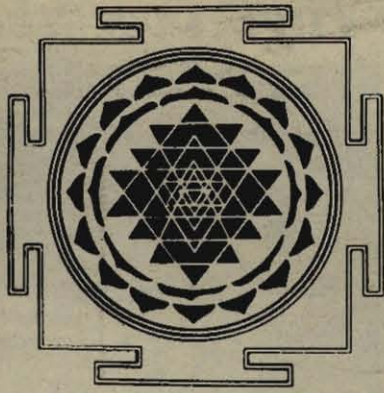


TWO Monash graduation ceremonies last month yielded two quite remarkable coincidences. At the Science graduation ceremony on April 14, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, presented his daughter, Lisa, with her science honours degree. At the same ceremony, La Trobe University Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Scott, saw his daughter, Catriona, graduate. In the photo left, Monash dad and daughter are pictured left and La Trobe right.



On April 21, it was the politicians' turn at the Law graduation ceremony. Victoria's new Premier, Mr John Cain, saw his son, John, graduate. Also in the audience was the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Lindsay Thompson, whose daughter-in-law, Theana, received her degree. Theana's husband, Murray, graduated in Law from Monash last year. The politicians and their family graduates are pictured right (Cains left, Thompsons right). More on recent graduations pp. 6,7. Photos: Rick Crompton, Tony Miller.

## Campus cultural highlights of ASAA



## Recital on the veena

Chitti Babu, described as the world's leading exponent of the Indian stringed instrument, the veena, will give a recital at Robert Blackwood Hall on Friday, May 14 at 8 p.m.

Chitti Babu is to the veena what Ravi Shankar is to the sitar, a better known instrument in the West.

The veena is an ancient Hindu instrument more commonly played in southern India. It is believed to be played by the Goddess of Knowledge, Sarasanthi.

In a second event at Monash, Mr Babu will speak about the instrument in a public lecture/demonstration to be held in the Music department auditorium on Monday, May 10 at 8 p.m. His visit to the University, organised by the Music department in association with the Australia India Society of Victoria, coincides with the fourth biennial conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia. He will be giving another recital of instrumental music at the Union Theatre, Melbourne University, on Saturday, May 15 at 3 p.m.

Chitti Babu — who holds no fewer than 11 notable titles in music — gave his first public performance at age 12. He is regularly featured in All India Radio broadcasts.

While this is his first visit to



● Chitti Babu with veena.

Australia, Chitti Babu has toured extensively throughout Asia, Europe and North America since 1968.

Accompanying him will be Ver-rabhara Rao, playing the mridangam, a double-headed drum, and Somaya-julu playing the ghatam, a large earthenware pot which, in the hands of a skilled artist, is capable of producing a great variety of rhythms and tone colours.

Tickets for the RBH concerts cost \$8 (\$6 concession) and are available from Bass outlets or at the door. For further information contact Mrs Reis Flora, lecturer in Music, on ext. 3234.

## Japanese art of the 17-1800s

An exhibition of Japanese art of the late Tokugawa period will be held in the Exhibition Gallery in the department of Visual Arts from May 12 to June 4.

It will be opened on Tuesday, May 11 at 1 p.m. by the Consul General of Japan, Mr Kazua Kaneko.

The exhibition has been arranged to coincide with the Asian Studies Association of Australia fourth biennial conference.

The exhibition centres on original Japanese prints of the 18th and 19th centuries, counterpointed by selected art pieces from various private collections in Melbourne.

The woodcuts will show the last flowering of the Ukiyo school of painting, sometimes referred to as the Ukiyo Decadence period, and will include work by such artists as Kunisada, Kuniyoshi, Sharaku, Eizan and Toyokuni. The art pieces include some exquisite Oriental lacquer work.

Gallery hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Philippine music

One of the world's most eminent musicologists, Professor Jose Maceda, from the Philippines, will give a public lecture in the Music department today (Thursday) at 11 a.m.

Professor Maceda, of the department of Music Research, College of Music, Queson City, will talk on "Concepts of Time and Music in the Philippines". He is at Monash for two weeks as part of a tour of Australian universities as a Myer Foundation Visiting Fellow in the Humanities.



● Careers counsellor, Janice Joosse, introduces final year Economics student, Hang Tuyet Nguyen, to Russell Sincok, recruiting partner for Parkhill, Lithgow and Gibson.

## The search begins — on campus — for employment

It may be only the end of first term but many final year students have begun efforts to secure employment on graduation.

And the Officer-in-Charge of the Careers and Appointments Service, Mr Lionel Parrott, says that there is a correlation between thinking early about employment and development of a satisfactory career.

One of the services offered by Careers and Appointments to help students gain employment is the campus interview program in which 130 to 150 employers are expected to participate this year.

From now until mid-September employers of graduates from all faculties — including Federal Government departments, statutory bodies such as Telecom, chartered accounting firms, manufacturers, international companies, and even the Singapore Public Service — will conduct some 5000 interviews at Monash.

In some cases, employers come on campus as a familiarisation exercise — to make themselves known to students and survey the field. In many cases, however, the interviews conducted are the first step in the organisation's recruitment program with job offers often being made after follow-up interviews of short-listed applicants in head office.

First cab off the rank, as in past years, has been the chartered accounting firms which began interviewing Monash students in April. Traditionally there is a concentration in the program of employers of engineering and computer science graduates in second term.

Mr Parrott encourages final year students from all faculties to take advantage of the campus interview program — and to approach the question of graduate employment with an open mind.

He says: "Even those students who think they have their careers mapped

out should discover what the options are and keep alternative strategies up their sleeves."

Interviews on campus give students the opportunity to survey employers — as much as is the reverse case — in a convenient location and in an unthreatening atmosphere. If nothing else, it gives them the opportunity to polish interview skills.

For the employer, the campus interviews are generally regarded as being the most efficient and economical first step in graduate recruitment. They see, in an orderly manner, the range of potential employees available — and the competition they face in attracting the best talent!

Contact with the C&A staff allows the employers to review their recruiting effectiveness and they have the opportunity also to meet with University staff teaching in their field.

Today's graduate recruit is perhaps more down-to-earth in the workplace than his counterpart of several years back.

At least that's the opinion of representatives of several of the "Big Eight" chartered accounting firms who were on campus recently for employer interviews in the Careers and Appointments Service.

But part of the explanation for the better adjusted recruit — the one who doesn't arrive in cap and gown armed with the knowledge to change the world — may lie in more straightforward information being provided by the employer to the graduate before he starts the job.

Out the window, so one of the employers claimed, has gone the "glossy" approach likely to yield false expectations. In its place is information that the graduate, in the beginning, will be performing much the same tasks the school leaver did a decade ago.

The accountants generally had no quarrels with the "product" turned out by universities — although, in their own case, they said they would like to see greater emphasis in accounting studies on the use of computers.

And what are they looking for when they're on the recruiting trail? Not necessarily the student with top marks, but one who balances a solid academic performance with personality traits likely to be helpful in the workplace . . .

. . . "And a lot of luck," remarked one of the hopefuls awaiting interview.

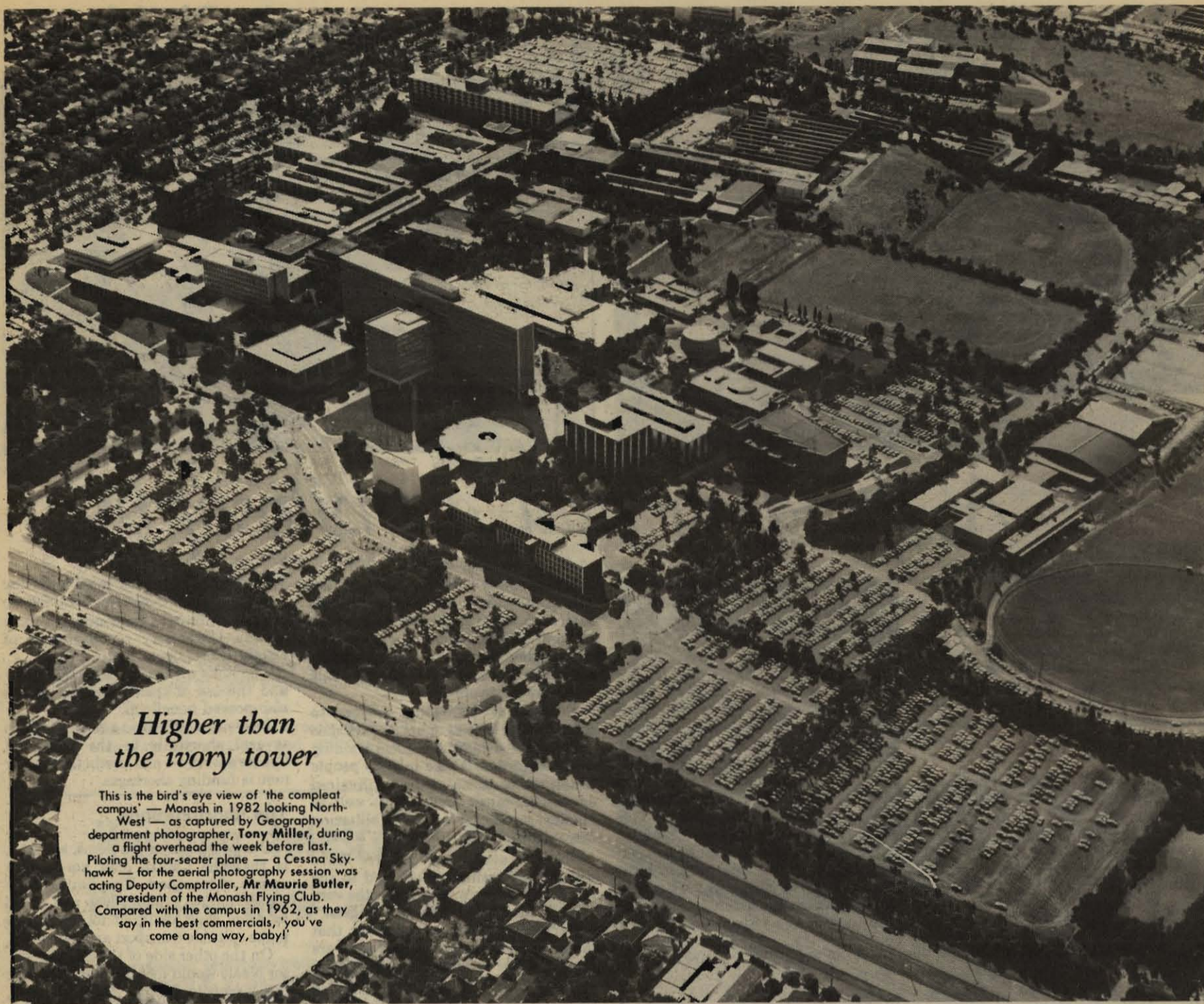
## Blood Bank visits in June

The Blood Bank will be making several visits to Monash next month and is hoping for the same high level of blood donations it has received from Monash students and staff in the past.

On Tuesday, June 1 and Thursday, June 3, the Blood Bank will be located in rooms SGO1-4 of The Humanities building from 9.45 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.

On Tuesday, June 8 and Wednesday, June 9, a mobile unit will be situated in the parking bay between the Religious Centre and the University Club and will be open for donations between 9.20 a.m. and 12 noon, then again from 1 p.m. to 3.20 p.m.

Appointments should be made by donors prior to the Blood Bank visits at the Union Desk.



*Higher than  
the ivory tower*

This is the bird's eye view of 'the compleat campus' — Monash in 1982 looking North-West — as captured by Geography department photographer, Tony Miller, during a flight overhead the week before last. Piloting the four-seater plane — a Cessna Skyhawk — for the aerial photography session was acting Deputy Comptroller, Mr Maurie Butler, president of the Monash Flying Club. Compared with the campus in 1962, as they say in the best commercials, 'you've come a long way, baby!'

# Refugee evidence on chemicals 'weak'

A Melbourne sociologist has described as "very, very weak" the body of evidence from refugees used to support claims that the Lao Government has been deploying Soviet-supplied chemical weapons against suspected rebels in the country.

Mr Grant Evans, a tutor at La Trobe University, returned recently from Laos and Thailand. He visited the refugee camps from where the "Yellow Rain" stories have emanated and parts of Laos where the chemical attacks are alleged to have taken place.

Addressing a seminar at Monash last month organised by the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, Mr Evans said that no one had critically examined the refugee evidence before. His opinion was that, like a lot of the scientific evidence that had been presented to support the claims, "it just doesn't add up".

Mr Evans claimed that the poison gas stories were being used by elements of the US military establishment to spearhead a counter attack for the resumption of chemical weapon production after a halt of more than a decade.

The refugee evidence was first collected late in 1979 and published by

the US the following year. This report, which has been updated, has been cited by US military and political figures in the argument for chemical weapon deployment.

Mr Evans said that the onus rested heavily on those using refugee evidence in any study to treat it carefully. This had not been done despite the opportunity given for systematic analysis. There has been continuous access to and a diplomatic presence in Laos and UN operations extend over the country, unlike Kampuchea for example.

### Background

As a basic weakness in the evidence, Mr Evans said that no research had been done on the background of the refugees telling stories of gassing. This had been neglected by gatherers of the evidence and journalists and others who had given it wide circulation.

He said that most of the stories had originated from the Ban Vinai refugee camp, peopled by members of the Hmong tribal group. The Hmong, Mr Evans said, were not just "simple country yokels." They had been soldiers for decades, he claimed, most recently forming the backbone of a CIA-financed "Secret Army".

He said that Ban Vinai was "ruled"

by officer corps of the old CIA Army who strictly controlled access by outsiders to the refugees.

Mr Evans claimed that there was a high probability that at least two-thirds of the 110 people who had given evidence of gassing were former CIA soldiers.

He said that it appeared that the camp's leadership had "packaged" a story which was presented to a steady flow of Western news teams (including an Australian 'Sixty Minutes' team).

Mr Evans said that, as a second weakness, little cross referencing had been done of the refugees' stories. Efforts he had made in this regard showed that the "details just don't check out".

Mr Evans described refugee camps as having a "pressure cooker atmosphere" — the ideal environment for rumours to gain currency and for stories to be adopted by individuals as their own.

It appeared possible that "gassing" had become a ready explanation for common complaints among what was an extremely sick population. He said that medical authorities had agreed that there were alternative, plausible explanations for all the complaints that had been blamed on chemical warfare — skin disease, fever,

coughing of blood, and diarrhoea.

Mr Evans said that the Lao Government — "not surprisingly" — denied that it used chemical weapons. But he said he was permitted to speak to villagers and discussed the issue, too, with Western aid staff. He found no solid evidence of gassing or the claims of genocide. At several places the locals were aware of the claims of chemical attacks. Further conversation revealed that mostly they had heard them on Voice of America reports or from people returning to the country from the Thai refugee camps.

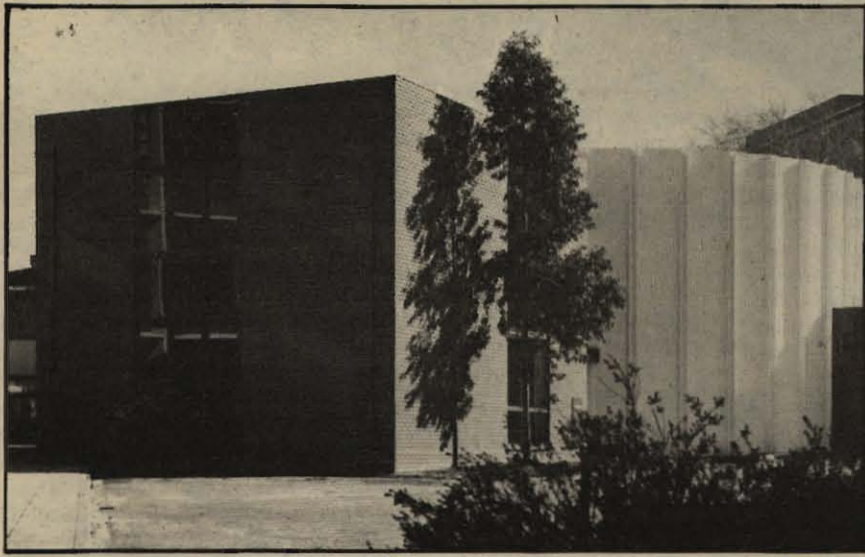
## Pool date: July

Early July is the new completion date for the swimming pool currently under construction adjacent to the Sports and Recreation Centre.

The main structure is complete, pools have been excavated and surrounding concrete floor laid with tiling about to proceed. The sauna rooms have been fitted and the changing areas are being finished.

Over the road, work is proceeding satisfactorily on an extension to Robert Blackwood Hall which will give additional storage space. Anticipated completion date is in May.

# The Krongold Centre for Exceptional Children



## — A building and a philosophy

It is six years now since the Krongold Centre for Exceptional Children — which provides services for both the disadvantaged and the gifted — opened at Monash.

In that short period "Krongold Centre" has come to be identified with more than a building — but also an approach that emphasises caring and a personal interest.

The Centre's "soul", in reality, resides in a tiny band of people — teachers, psychologists, therapists and parents — who serve more than 150 children every week.

Heading that team is Professor Marie Neale, who recently took the position of Research Professor (Studies of Exceptional Children), an appointment described by the Vice-Chancellor as recognising Professor Neale's leadership in the field of exceptional children.

Professor Neale talked to **Monash Reporter** last month before leaving on an eight week overseas trip during which she will be a visiting professor at the University of Wurzburg, West Germany, and consultant to the OECD in Paris.

She says that the Krongold Centre's work has demonstrated, above anything else, the breadth of the remedial process in education. Rather than following conventional notions of "remedial education" consisting of a repetitive routine pursued by one teacher with one pupil, the Krongold Centre approach is based on team work. This involves a multi-disciplinary team in which a musician, artist or poet finds a place as comfortably as a psychologist, in ameliorating



● Professor Marie Neale

the effects of adverse circumstances in the lives of young people.

Central to their work, Professor Neale says, is the appreciation of individual variability, and the belief that there is an ingenuity inherent in everybody which can be elicited and acted on as an agent in self-fulfilment.

She says: "The team's aim is to effect changes in the functioning of children, so that with new skills they can operate more effectively in their own school, their home and in the community generally.

"We set up experimental situations in which there is a range of models for 'coping' and then attempt to create the conditions under which young people will feel confident to enact a role which suits them."

Professor Neale believes that the Krongold Centre acts as an important

bridge between the University and the community (local, national and even international). She sees a recent change in its status to that of an independent Centre of the University as strengthening the service-based role with other agencies.

As well as providing services to children, the Centre offers its expertise and resources for the clinical training of professionals. These include people involved in special and physical education, music therapy, as well as medical personnel and rehabilitation therapists.

Schools and other centres have become increasingly interested in the Krongold Centre programs for the very "able" child and for the child "at risk" for school learning, recognising that many of the treatment strategies are applicable in the regular classroom.

Professor Neale says that the University environment is an ideal one for enriching the lives of young people, whether they have handicapping conditions or specific talents.

"University students are wonderfully accepting of their more disadvantaged peers and help create a setting in which people with physical or intellectual disabilities can operate comfortably," she says. "It is also

something of a status symbol for young persons whose lives are confined to workshops or activity centres to come to the University for a period of electives as 'honorary students'."

The links with other departments — and the use of their resources — has also proved beneficial.

Professor Neale acknowledges several shortfalls in the Krongold Centre's work — and predictably their root is funding shortages.

### The shortcomings

One of the major problems, she says, is that the Centre does not have a means of transport. This limits use of its services to families who can afford to drive their children to campus or make suitable transport arrangements.

On the other side of the coin, Professor Neale would like the means to take the Krongold Centre "on the road", mounting workshops in local settings.

Donations from individuals to the Centre — to supplement assistance from the University and the Department of Social Security — are welcome at all times. "A quite small donation, added to another sum of money, may create new hope and fresh avenues for children with special needs," Professor Neale says.

## Supply Group's aim is 'value for money'

Victorian universities and CAEs have been saving considerable amounts of public money through the operations of the Victorian Tertiary Supply Group (VTSG), according to its chairman, Mr J. M. Smith, of La Trobe University.

But they were still being prevented from making further savings because of Federal Government policies on import duty.

Institutions have to pay excessive prices for vehicles, or buy inappropriate types because the Government would not allow duty exemptions.

In the Group's annual report, Mr Smith comments: "When all our institutions are hard pressed for funds, the VTSG has an important role in maximising the value obtained for

large amounts of public money."

The VTSG operates through commodity committees, each of which aims at reducing the purchase cost of a particular commodity for institutions.

During 1981 the Vehicle Committee negotiated a contract which is likely to save \$500 to \$1000 on average changeover costs; the Typewriter Committee was offered a bulk order which resulted in a saving of \$272 on each machine changeover; and the General Stationery Committee, which operates through Government contracts and direct negotiation, reduced the purchase price of at least one item by up to 50 per cent.

Several new commodity committees are likely to be set up this year, including Travel Service, Advertising and Cleaning Supplies.

### Monash fliers' Anzac tribute

Tocumwal (NSW) returned servicemen experienced a new dimension to their Anzac Day observance this year: a ceremonial flyover by members of the Monash Flying Club.

Thirty members of the Club were spending the weekend of April 24-25 gliding with local enthusiasts at the old RAAF aerodrome two miles out of Tocumwal.

On the Sunday morning, three of the Monash crews — flying Cherokee six-seaters — accepted an invitation from Bill Riley, proprietor of the Sportavia complex which now operates the aerodrome, to join the Anzac observance.

As a result, six aircraft — three flown by local aviators, and three by Monash fliers — swept in arrowhead formation over Tocumwal, following the main street and coinciding with the service being conducted at the local RSL headquarters.

The Monash aircraft were piloted by Maurie Butler (acting deputy Comptroller and president of the Monash Flying Club), Peter Gordon and Don McDonald.

At the conclusion of the Anzac ceremony, the RSL sent a despatch rider (on mini bike) to the aerodrome to convey the ex-servicemen's thanks for the Monash contribution.

# Technology and participation

Mr Doug Campbell, lecturer in Accounting and Finance, spent most of last year on an outside studies program working with Professor Enid Mumford, an industrial sociologist, at the Manchester Business School. For many years Professor Mumford has been advocating and assisting the implementation of "participation in systems design". Here, Mr Campbell writes on the philosophy of this approach, the advantages to be gained by it — and the reasons why it is not more universally adopted:

The implementation of change in any organisation needs to be planned and managed with great care. Some resistance to the change is to be expected. How that resistance is overcome will determine the extent to which the benefits expected to flow from the change will be achieved.

That the people whose work will be affected by a proposed change should be "involved" in the implementation of it is not a new idea. That those same people should actively participate in the development of the ideas leading up to the proposal to make a change is less generally accepted.

In the context of data processing systems, the people involved in the design and implementation of new systems can be identified as:

- Top management, who control the availability of resources.
- User management, who will use the computer system to assist them to meet their administrative responsibilities.
- User personnel who will work directly with the system, recording transactions and utilising the output.

● Data processing specialists, including systems analysts and designers, and programmers.

Traditionally, top management has said (perhaps after some prompting) "go ahead" and the data processing specialists have designed a new system after some brief discussion with user management.

That (often) worked reasonably well.

Why should an organisation consider asking all the people involved to participate in the systems design and development operation?

## Three reasons

There are three reasons: responsibility; expertise; and acceptance.

User management is administratively responsible for the information processing activities which involve computer use. They, rather than data processing specialists, can identify what the computer should be asked to do in order that their own information needs can be met.

User personnel, the people who actually run the "present" system, have an intimate knowledge both of how that system works and what information demands are made upon it. They, rather than data processing specialists or even their own managers, are in a position to ensure that any new system is complete, and has capacity to meet all its obligations.

People who have been deeply involved in planning and designing a new system know that it has been properly designed and will do their utmost to overcome any problems which do arise during implementation. Their resistance to the change will be minimal.

This all seems pretty obvious. Surely all

organisations would involve staff in this way? But they don't! Why not?

Time. Cost. Fear.

The more people who are involved in the design and development of a system, the longer the system will take to come into use. The resulting system may well be "better" than one designed almost wholly by data processing specialists, but the extra delay in achieving benefits may be unpalatable to top management.

Systems design and development must occur while the organisation continues to function. Taking staff away from their normal duties to participate in the systems design process must involve either overtime payments or the employment of other staff to do participants' normal work.

Unless the people who are participating in the design and development of a system are allowed to take decisions, their participation is somewhat devalued.

However, decision-making outside the normal authority structure of the organisation may be seen as threatening by some managers, and letting non-experts take decisions about systems design may appear threatening to some data processing specialists. People who perceive developments as "threatening" are unlikely to promote those developments.

The "quality" of a system has two major dimensions:

- Efficiency and effectiveness, leading to smooth and profitable operations by the organisation.
- Job satisfaction for the user managers and personnel.

Participation seeks to enhance the status of the second dimension and, indirectly, to help achieve the first.

## Hartung telescope gives Physics new eye on sky

A 308 mm reflector telescope built by the late Professor E. J. Hartung, formerly Professor of Chemistry at Melbourne University, and donated to Monash University by his family, was unveiled on the roof of the Physics Department last month.

It will be used in the teaching of astronomy, a second year subject in the Science faculty.

Professor Hartung, a keen astronomer, died in 1980. He was author of the classic handbook "Astronomy of the Southern Skies."

At a brief inauguration ceremony, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kevin Westfold described Professor

Hartung as "a very significant figure in observational astronomy in the southern hemisphere."

Present at the ceremony were Mrs Valerie Judges, daughter of the late Professor Hartung, and two of her children, Jennifer and Jemima.

Mrs Judges said later: "Father was above all a teacher. He would have been happy to know that it was students who were using the instrument on which he had spent so much time both building and observing."

As well as the telescope, many books from Professor Hartung's library were donated to Monash.



● Mrs Valerie Judges affixes a memorial plaque to the Hartung telescope, built by her father. Daughters Jemima (left) and Jennifer look on. Photo: Rick Crompton.



## Monash Council, 1984?

Is this (to mix the literary allusions) the Monash Council of the brave, new world with machine replacing man at the highest level of University decision-making?

A preview of what the Council chamber might look like, should such a state of affairs ever come about, was given when the room was set up recently for a seminar conducted by Monash staff for staff of other universities on our newly developed Integrated Staff Information System (ISIS).

Discussion at the seminar centred on the problems of the old system which prompted the system re-design and concepts used in building the new system — then it was over to the computer to prove its worth.

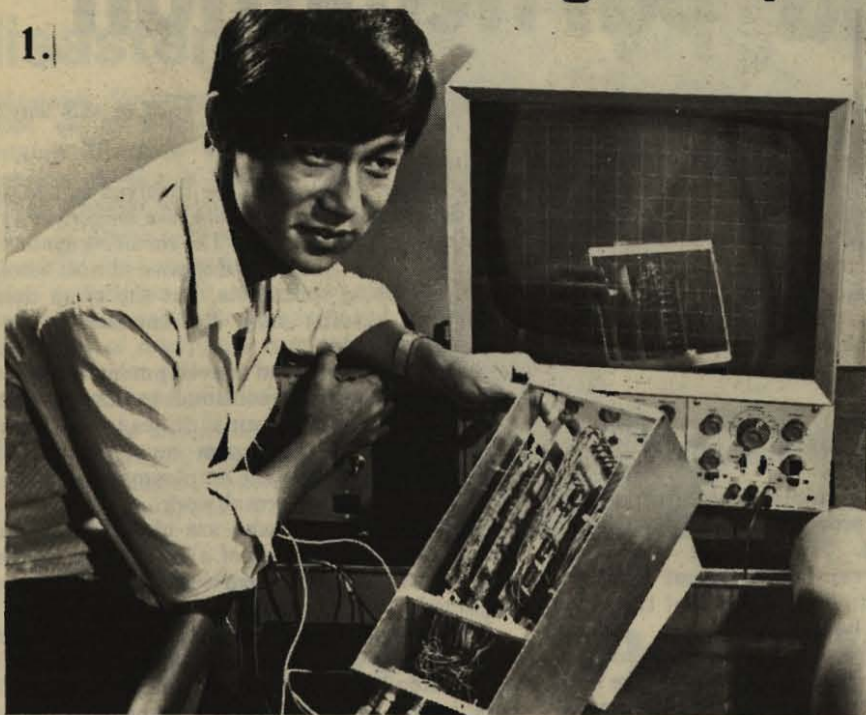
Among ISIS's objectives are the payment of salaries and wages, fulfilment of obligations in relation to income and other taxes, preparation of salaries budgets, and staffing statistics, general personnel administration, and the administration of superannuation schemes and leave requests.

There were actually PEOPLE at the seminar: the photo was taken by Bob Lee of Finance, during a break.

**Next issue: Monash at ANZAAS**

## Rewards for ingenuity

1.



The IREE award for the best final year electrical engineering project in Victoria has gone to a Monash student for the second year in succession.

In 1981, the prize, which is awarded annually by the Institution of Radio and Electronics Engineers, Australia, was won by Monash student Ian Butler for his solar energy meter project.

This year's prize went to Patrick Sim, a 1st class honours graduate in Electrical Engineering.

Patrick's project was to design and build a digital filter, a special purpose computer with applications in telecommunications, radar, sonar and audio. Such filters will have increasing use in satellite communications systems which use digital signals.

Dr K. K. Pang and Dr D. B. Keogh, of the Electrical Engineering department, supervised the project as a natural extension of their long standing interest in analog filters and digital communications systems.

The filters are very versatile and easily adapted to widely differing applications by simply changing the memory chips (EPROM's). Patrick is now doing research on these filters for a higher degree.

2.



A Monash staff member has won two awards at a top-flight technology fair in the US for his invention of a new type of valve which holds the promise of a dripless, light touch tap.

At TECHEX '82 — the 10th Annual International Technology Exchange Fair — John MacLeod, senior technical officer in Electrical Engineering, won the Best of TECHEX Award and first prize in the individual inventor category. The fair, held at the World Congress Centre in Atlanta, Georgia, attracted some 2000 pieces of technology from 50 countries. The Australian contribution was arranged by the Federal Department of Trade and Resources. The acting Minister for Trade and Resources, Mr Ian Sinclair, has congratulated Mr

MacLeod and offered the practical help of the Department in promoting his invention.

The "rolling diaphragm" valve — which has no sliding parts, thus reducing to a minimum friction and parts that can wear out — was invented by Mr MacLeod in connection with his work in Electrical Engineering, specifically for use in equipment used in the operating theatre.

The valve can be made in many sizes and for a variety of pressures. It is already being used in medical applications and a number of domestic tap manufacturers in Australia and overseas have expressed an interest.

Australian inventors were prominent at TECHEX '82. They won a total of six prizes, including Mr MacLeod's two.

## Wage demands —

By John O'Shea

Australians had developed a "cargo cult" mentality as evidenced by their obsession with "outrageous" money wage increases, the former Dean of the Economics and Politics faculty, Emeritus Professor Don Cochrane said at Monash recently.

Delivering the occasional address at a graduation ceremony at which he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Economics degree, Professor Cochrane said:

"Too many people believe they are entitled to receive, 'as a right', large increases in money wages, substantial welfare handouts and, at the same time, have their taxation reduced.

"The application of this thinking, encouraged by trade unions and many politicians, has produced both inflation and unemployment.

"Who can believe that the increase

of around 25 per cent in hourly wages obtained by the metal trade workers last December was in any way reasonable? I can only presume that in reaching this agreement, 'cargo cult' thinking is not limited to workers but has spread to many employers, the latter assuming that through price increases, tariff protection and exchange rate devaluation their problems will be resolved. In other words, a benevolent government can always come to our aid!"

Professor Cochrane said that under present economic and political conditions it appeared that full employment and high rates of wage increases were not compatible.

Some of the best minds in a number of countries had tried to find a solution, "so far with a singular lack of success", he said.

But Professor Cochrane added that it was not difficult to provide a



After the Law graduation, Victoria's new Premier, John Cain, had afternoon tea at the University. He is pictured above talking to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kevin Westfold, and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan.

## At the gr

## Call for industry rese

A leading Australian research chemist has proposed establishment by the Government of a national institution to provide assistance for industry in research and problem-solving in technological and other fields.

Emeritus Professor Arthur J. Birch, delivering the occasional address at a Monash Science graduation in April, said that such an organisation would probably be "the most effective way (for Government) to disburse its innovation-research funding for development in industry and its related employment".

Professor Birch continued: "New institutions of this kind would provide ways of using effectively some of those graduates, not only in science, who are at present not used properly, or at all, for the national benefit.

"I hope also that staff of tertiary institutions and the CSIRO would be systematically involved through this mechanism as consultants. It has always seemed to me a great waste to compartmentalise some of the best brains in the country."

He proposed that such an industrial support organisation be initially built,

equipped and partly staffed by the Government with strong support and advice from the industries concerned.

The government contribution to running costs would decrease rapidly over time, with income being generated by contracts (although some of these would come from government for work concerned with responsibilities such as mining, fisheries, pollution control, defence and the like).

### Job prospects

On employment prospects for science graduates, Professor Birch said that outlets in technical science and invention were limited, "always have been and always will be".

He suggested that graduates should be willing — and not in the spirit of second best — to rethink attitudes on what was "suitable" employment.

He said: "Science and invention involve the formulation and solution of problems. The viewpoint and abilities engendered apply beyond academic science, beyond even technical affairs, to aspects of organisation and policy."

# 'cargo cult' thinking

"general prescription" for the economic malaise.

"It might simply be stated that our rate of wage increase has to be reduced, and this could be done by co-operation and communication between unions, employers and government," he said. "But how to achieve a sincerity and commonness of purpose that will achieve this co-operation has proved elusive to our economic policy-makers and politicians. No-one has so far been able to find a formula agreeable to all parties."

Professor Cochrane suggested, however, that some of the impact of high wage increases could be absorbed through increased economic efficiency.

He said that, in the case of the economy as a whole, improved economic efficiency could be achieved through tariff reorganisation, taxation restructuring and the removal of un-

necessary government intervention in the marketplace.

In the case of individual organisations, a large number of measures could be taken to improve productivity and reduce costs of production.

Professor Cochrane said that improved efficiency could sometimes mean using more capital intensive methods of production.

He said: "Contrary to some views, this will not necessarily lead to more unemployment in the longer run. To the extent that efficiency is raised, by whatever means, the rate of growth of the economy will be increased. In these circumstances the level of economic activity and employment will expand.

"Without growth it is not possible to remedy our many deficiencies such as environmental factors, redistribution of income to the really disadvantaged and, at the same time, make any impact on the level of unemployment."

## Interest impact less now

People have become "mesmerised" by nominal rates of interest for housing loans and ignore the fact that their impact — in real terms — is not as great as it has been in the past, according to Professor Don Cochrane. He presented these figures to support his claim:

In 1961, when Monash opened, the bank interest rate for housing was 6¼% while the CPI rose by less than 1% — a real rate of interest of over 5%. During the 1960s the real rate of interest for housing varied mainly between 4% and 5%.

Today that nominal rate of interest for

bank housing lending is 12½%, about to rise to 13½%. The CPI is over 11%, so that the real rate of bank lending for housing is 1½% at present rising to 2½% at the new rate. Building society rates of interest are around 4% real.

He said: "It might be added that the control of bank housing interest rates over the past eight years has meant that interest rates have lagged behind price rises and, as a result, real bank housing rates have been negative. This has been very nice for the borrowers but not sustainable for the lending banks."

## Graduations Research body

Professor Birch said that today's scientists had a responsibility to try hard to influence the development and use of their discoveries and inventions.

"This has been left on the whole to people who think politically, which is often the antithesis of scientifically," he said.

"Decisions about usage are of course not for scientists and technologists alone and must be based on moral, aesthetic and political views which cannot be scientific.

"However, science as the pursuit of truth wherever it leads has a kind of moral basis and scientists have a lot to say because of their ability to understand the facts."

Professor Birch continued: "The exercise of rational scientifically-related thinking has applications over many areas of organisation and policy quite outside the scientific field. Problem formulation and solving are the essence of practical affairs and that is what science and invention are about.

"Scientists should never assume that they know less than the 'experts' and should apply their methods of reasoning to alien fields."

## Hon. D. Sc. for Arthur Birch



A distinguished academic whose name is now part of the descriptive terminology of organic chemistry last month was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Monash.

He is Professor Arthur J. Birch, described by the Dean of Science, Professor John Swan in the citation, as "a very great chemist".

Professor Birch was appointed founding Dean of the Research School of Chemistry at ANU, a position from which he retired in 1980. His career spans study and work at Sydney, Oxford, Cambridge and Manchester universities as well as ANU.

He discovered and exploited a remarkable chemical reaction — the conversion of a normally very stable assemblage of carbon and hydrogen atoms (the so-called benzenoid ring system) into a reactive dihydro form by treatment with metallic sodium in liquid ammonia as solvent. This process is now known as the "Birch reduction". One application of the method makes possible the technical synthesis of oral contraceptive hormones from cheaply-available plant steroids.



● Professor Bob Baxt, Dean of Law (left), with honorary graduate, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Sawyer.

## '30s were 'far worse'

The outlook for the young when he graduated in 1932 was far worse than it is now, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Sawyer told a recent graduation ceremony at Monash.

Professor Sawyer, former Dean of the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University, was giving the occasional address after receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

In 1932, he said, unemployment stood at nearly 30 per cent of the work force, compared with around seven per cent today. World war seemed certain.

The legal profession, in general, didn't begin to recover from the great slump until 1939, the eve of the war.

"The outlook today seems to me a good deal better," he said. "No major power today publicly proclaims that only in war can mankind achieve its highest values.

"It is my belief that we will have no world scale war for the rest of this century."

Professor Sawyer said he hesitated to make any such "oracular statements" about the economic and sociological aspects of our current problems.

"However," he said, "you may be interested in the views I heard expressed by a gentleman named Silver at a Melbourne University Labor Club conference at Olinda in the early '30s.

"He was the social democratic father of a communist fellow member of the Labor Club. He said that in his view the happiest sort of society we were likely to achieve was a liberal capitalist economy with parliamentary democracy and a strong welfare state component and with an annual inflation rate of three per cent.

"Maybe we shall have to learn to live with a much higher inflation rate, in the same way as we have to live with the bomb. At worst, the current state of the economy is hopeless but not desperate."



● The wives enjoy a 'cuppa' after the graduation ceremony: from left, the Opposition Leader's wife, Mrs Joan Thompson; her daughter-in-law, Theana, the Premier's wife, Mrs Nancy Cain; and the Vice-Chancellor's wife, Mrs Rena Martin.



Above: The Vice-Chancellor and the graduate — Professor Ray Martin confers on daughter Lisa her Science honours degree.

Below: Julie Allan, who was awarded the Supreme Court Prize as best student in the final year of the Bachelor of Jurisprudence course, met Mr Cain after the graduation ceremony.



## Countering disasters: 1

Monash University has been called on to help the Australian Counter Disaster College at Mt Macedon develop a national directory of disaster research workers.

The directory will contain a brief account of disaster research which is being undertaken or completed in Australia and seeks to highlight the wide range of disciplines involved in counter disaster research such as the social, natural and physical sciences.

All enquiries should be directed to Mr Ian McDermott, Research Officer, Australian Counter Disaster College, Macedon, Victoria, 3440. Phone: (054) 26 1205.



## Countering disasters: 2

Monash's own little counter disaster team works behind the inquiry desk in the Union. Well at least they do their best to help solve life's little problems — like change for the photocopiers and directions around campus — for University members and visitors.

Joining Cathy Celona (seated) on the team this year are three friendly new faces: Robyn Campbell, Karen Hall and (appropriately enough) Barbara Helper (left to right).

One of the girls' favourite questions? "Is this the inquiry desk?" It's rather like living life in a goldfish bowl, one remarks.

# IVF and the media

The IVF procedure made a compelling media story with its focus on mothers and babies, on Australian scientific expertise, the radical nature of the operation and its implications.

But the story lent itself to misrepresentation because of the delicate nature of the issues involved and because of the media's attempt to translate scientific terms into a layman's language, according to Mr John O'Hara, lecturer in Media Studies at Swinburne Institute of Technology.

In his paper, Mr O'Hara reviewed coverage of IVF in the Australian media from early 1980.

He said that while the coverage had been particularly thorough along certain lines the shortcoming was that

These reports are based on papers delivered to a conference on 'IVF: Problems and Possibilities' organised by the Centre for Human Bioethics.

it could not allow for the real dimensions of the story, "for that middle ground between relief to infertile couples and the horrors of science fiction."

He said: "There has been no account of the medical world within which this technology has developed. We need to know much more about the ethics and politics of medical science in terms that would, finally, owe little to a coverage of IVF as a domestic issue."

Mr O'Hara said that the media coverage of IVF began with euphoria in 1980. Not until nearly 18 months later were problematic issues about the procedure and its implications seriously raised.

He said that the early coverage was favorable, "partly no doubt because babies make good copy; the procedure was seen as an Australian first; there was respect for the scientific expertise involved; and the story fitted so well into the image of happy families that popular journalism likes to promote and exploit, especially when media organisations buy up rights and the families become media property."

The issue was seen in purely domestic terms with the focus firmly on the personalities involved.

"The Women's Weekly was well on the way to turning the parents of the IVF babies into the Sullivans," Mr O'Hara commented.

## IVF: The issues Part Two

The media use of IVF babies reinforced a sense that no moral issues were involved, he argued.

"Extensive photographs and television footage of the babies, where it was possible, suggest an innocence, a transparency that is transferred from the image of the baby to the process by which it was conceived."

Mr O'Hara said that the coverage involved a set of paradoxes. These centred on:

- Definition of the event as a "miracle" while insisting on the "normalcy" of the process.
- Description of parents as a minority group, but using this group to represent all parents.
- Representation of the doctor as a medical authority and as a missing father figure.

Mr O'Hara said that the major break with favorable IVF coverage was the disclosure that embryos were being frozen and, in some cases, used for scientific research.

"This break came as the news value of IVF births had diminished. The disclosure was dealt with in the media as a new story but in terms that carried over from the initial coverage. The most important of these terms was the domestic context of the story. The word 'freezer' which was freely used was taken in its household sense."

Mr O'Hara said that this contrast between the early enthusiasm and later questioning was not simply a sequential development but arose, in part, because of the terms in which the initial coverage was developed; in particular the use of short-hand images such as "test-tube-baby", "miracle", and "freezer", and the personalising of issues.

He continued: "The images and stereotypes involve certain unresolved paradoxes and provide no middle ground between a narrow description of the process and a speculative account of the implications of the new technology."

"They provide a conservative return to the old order of happy families and the attitudes that are seen to support such families. The new technology is seen to safeguard this order."

"This approach finds it difficult to accommodate the broader criticisms of the technology and its possible role in subverting precisely that social order so nicely represented by happy families."

## The recipe for funding success

The question has been raised as to what priority IVF programs should have in the allocation of scarce medical resources.

But, back to basics, just how are health care resources allocated and what is the recipe for any new project securing its place in the sun?

An experienced hospital administrator, Dr Ian Brand — executive director of the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital — addressed these questions in a paper delivered at the conference.

"Allocation of health care resources is a fairly simple subject," Dr Brand concluded. "In my experience there has been very little scientific endeavour in the allocation of resources at any level. Every level tends to do what it can get away with."

In the first instance, he said, the allocation of resources was a Federal political decision. It was thus subject to competing claims on the public purse and the desire of the Government to put a brake on public expenditure.

At the State level, the dividing up of the Commonwealth block grant was very largely the function of public servants employed by the Health Commission under general political guidelines provided by the Minister of Health and the Government.

Dr Brand said: "Far and away the overriding principle in this division of resources is historical cost, that is, the allocation to individual hospitals and programs is done on the basis of how much they spent in the preceding year."

At the next stage down, chief executive officers allocated resources within their own hospitals on the same lines: they "simply base the budgets they submit to the Commission on historical expenditure."

Nevertheless, he added, it was possible for most managers to "find" some money for projects dear to their hearts or which they believed to be important.

Within such a system there was scope for significant favouritism which advantaged some at the expense of others, he said.

The problem facing new projects was acute because, in a period of zero budget growth, any "new" funding must be found by redistribution from existing services. The personality and influence of the project leader and the prestige of the project could be crucial.

Dr Brand said: "All management is people management and those persons most skilful in interpersonal influence will ultimately command the greatest resource allocation. If such a person has a worthwhile project of considerable publicity value and this can be demonstrated to a chief executive officer or a committee of management, then the project cannot fail, providing the resources required are not too dramatically expensive."

In 1978-79 Dr Brand was seconded to the Queen Victoria Medical Centre and played a role in directing hospital funds toward the IVF program.

"It seems to me that any project which may attract favourable publicity, especially within the medical and scientific community (and let us be quite certain that the program at Queen Vic. has done this throughout the world), should be encouraged and supported as far as is possible," he said.

Support for the IVF program also came from Professor Priscilla Kincaid-Smith, Director of Nephrology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Professor Kincaid-Smith drew a parallel between IVF's bid for a slice of the cake now with that of her own field — the treatment of end stage renal failure — two decades ago.

"We can't stem the tide of scientific advances," she said. "IVF must proceed and costs taken up one way or another."

She said that funding authorities had to be persuaded that there must be an expansion of health care facilities. But professionals in the field also had a responsibility to keep costs as low as possible. In her own area this meant increasing the number of kidney transplants over dialysis and stepping up efforts to prevent kidney failure by, for example, early detection of kidney disease and treatment.



# Research could aid energy policies

Monash's Graduate School of Environmental Science is involved in two projects which could have a significant impact on government policies on the effective use of energy sources.

Both projects are being supported by the National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Council (NERDDC) and have as a principal investigator Mr David Crossley, senior research fellow in Environmental Science.

One of the projects holds promise of giving policy makers better information on the likely result of introducing measures designed to stimulate energy conservation by households. The lack of a reliable quantitative technique for forecasting effects has, of necessity, led to an ad hoc approach to policy formulation. The method being tested in the two year project is based on a theoretical model proposed by Dr Bill McKenzie, of the CSIRO Division of Building Research.

The aim of the second project is to produce a set of practical policy guidelines which can be used by municipal councils seeking to encourage energy conservation in areas which they control.

The work is being carried out in association with the Municipal Association of Victoria, with the close co-operation of a number of councils. Ms Annie Austin, an environmental

studies graduate from Griffith University and former officer with the Melbourne City Council, has been appointed to work with Mr Crossley on the guidelines.

Mr Crossley says that the role of local government in energy conservation can be far reaching. Importance of action in this area was recognised in the Report of the Board of Review of the Role, Structure and Administration of Local Government in Victoria (the Bains Report).

In the US and UK, local governments have been active in promoting energy conservation in areas they control. While many Australian municipalities have adopted specific energy-conserving practices, none has implemented a comprehensive program.

Mr Crossley says that the guidelines will cover the major aspects of Council activities with expected benefits ranging from the short to long term.

Immediate savings may flow, he believes, from energy audits of council "in house" operations, such as use of buildings, other facilities and vehicle fleet.

But perhaps more important is the ability of councils to encourage energy conservation by others. This could be done, for example, through the provision of information services for residents.

And, in the longer term, councils may be able to effect energy savings



● Environmental studies graduate from Griffith University, Ms Annie Austin and Mr David Crossley, senior research fellow in Environmental Science.

through planning objectives on land use, transportation, traffic management, and in building regulations.

The first stage of the project has involved an analysis of energy-related responsibilities and operations of councils. A set of draft proposals regarding policies and procedures is now being drawn up with the help of expert working groups. A survey will be conducted of councillors and officers

on the feasibility of introducing such proposals before the final guidelines are prepared by the end of the year.

The aim of the second project will be to test the applicability of a theoretical model which has been constructed to explain the factors which control energy use by households. From this it is hoped to develop a method for predicting the likely outcomes of implementing policy measures designed to stimulate energy conservation.

"Policy outcomes are defined to include both changes in energy-using behaviour by household and positive or negative impacts on households resulting from the implementation of policy," Mr Crossley says.

The model proposed by Dr McKenzie attempts to explain the results of a large number of studies of household energy-using behaviour which have been conducted, mainly in the US and UK, with a few in Australia. In general, these studies have rarely pointed to substantial correlations between factors affecting human behaviour and actual energy use in the home. The new model, however, incorporates a number of variables to give a more complete explanation.

Testing of its applicability will be by in-depth interviews with representatives of some 400 households.

A research fellow, Mr Neil Taylor, has been appointed and the team is currently developing an interview schedule and selecting a sample for a pilot survey. The definitive survey will start in July next year and the final report on the project should be written by March, 1984.

Mr Crossley used a trip to UK and Europe late last year to gather material to assist both studies.

From contacts made, the possibility is being explored of linking the Monash-CSIRO project with a multinational study on consumer energy conservation policies being funded by the Directorate of Environmental and Consumer Protection of the Commission of the European Communities. The invitation to the Monash-CSIRO team has been the only one extended to researchers in Australia.

## Students face 'reality shock'

Many social welfare students making the transition from study to full-time professional work were confronted by "reality shock", Dr Norm Smith, of the department of Social Work, told a recent seminar at Monash.

The graduate students had to deal with the disparity between personal expectations and reality, he said. And instead of receiving support and guidance through supervision, they undertook full duties immediately. They were classified as "full professionals" instead of "beginning professionals."

Mechanisms for dealing with these pressures led to personal doubt and guilt, increased application, and eventually "cynicism".

The crucial point came about two years after graduation, by which time long-term attitudes were determined.

Dr Smith was speaking at a seminar on "Professional Burnout", organised by the Centre for Continuing Education. The seminar, which had a capacity attendance, will be repeated on September 21 at 4 p.m.

Dr Smith cited a study he was conducting over five years of one year's total graduate output of social workers in Australia (nearly 500).

"Disillusionment, frustration and feelings of inadequacy are reported by a substantial number just six months after graduation," he said. "Even allowing for the usual adjustment to real life after studenthood there is enough evidence to give concern for them as individuals as well as professionals."

The type of job, cynical attitudes of

colleagues and conditions of work were not the only cause of the frustration and stress, he said. A cause also was the "lack of realistic preparation by tertiary institutions for real life."

Also disturbing, he said, was the negative attitude towards their professional organisation. There was evidence that more than 80 per cent of respondents had either not joined, or maintained they had no intention of joining, their Association.

Another source of stress for human service workers, he said, was the difficulty of acknowledging that personal likes and dislikes might influence their work. This acknowledgement was stressful because it appeared to go against the professional ethic of emotional detachment or "love thy neighbour" and their own expectations of themselves.

Dr Smith said the academic needs of the educational institution were founded on the study of small specialised areas in depth. But the utilisation of that knowledge in professional life required a problem solving approach which cut across academic disciplines.

The problem, he said, raised fundamental questions about the place of professional education.

Should it be separated from universities or tertiary institutions, should professional schools be set up within the community? Alternatively, what of pre-professional academic training followed by professional training undertaken by the professional association itself?

"The area of adult learning is as yet unresearched and within the education program we should be looking to the special learning needs of professionals," he said.

"How can we translate traditional disciplinary teaching into problem solving models and strategies for the helping professional?"

Dr Smith said the majority of graduate students in his study found that the most helpful teaching was that connected with skills and practice experience. Therefore, the timing and sequencing of teaching was as important as the content, he said.

"Whilst we deal a fair amount with the problems of other people in our professional course, do we consider the mental hygiene of our students?" he asked.

There is need for more attention to their preparation for work in general and ways of coping with professional stress, he said.

He said professional associations must look to their present and future role in the rapidly advancing information society. They need to be seen as a realistic force, not as "a presence of self-interest or outdated practices or mystiques."

Dr Smith's paper and those of other contributors to the seminar will be published, together with a seminar report, by the department of Social Work and the Centre for Continuing Education. For further information about the seminar repeat and other sessions in the Welcare '82 program contact Barbara Brewer on ext. 3719.

# Probing the origins of ethical behaviour

Although it is concerned with the abstruse question of the origins of ethical behaviour, Peter Singer's latest book is addressed to the ordinary intelligent person in the street.

Written in a lively and marvellously clear style, *The Expanding Circle* introduces the reader to the main theses of the contemporary movement of sociobiology which claims that our ethical behaviour derives directly from the biological make-up of the human animal. Singer then demonstrates the difficulties and inadequacies of the position of Wilson (*Sociobiology: The New Synthesis*), Dawkins (*The Selfish Gene*), Barash (*Sociobiology and Behaviour*) and others of the sociobiological ilk. As he shows very convincingly, biology is not, and cannot be, destiny and one can never derive an ethical theory about how human beings ought to behave from a scientific theory about the evolutionary history and biological constitution of the human animal.

## Compromise

However, Singer argues, while the pure and extreme sociobiological position must be rejected, there is nevertheless some gold in them that sociobiological hills in that human biology provides the 'basis' or the 'grounds' for those altruistic tendencies without which ethics is impossible. He then puts forward a compromise which shows how the insights of the sociobiologists may be allied with quasi-traditional ethical theory based on reason. This marriage (some may see it as of the shot-gun variety) between a modified sociobiology — which enables us to recognise the origins of ethical behaviour in biological evolution — and reason — which allows us to adopt the attitude of impartiality which is of the essence of ethical stance — leads to 'a new understanding of ethics.'

As a general introduction to sociobiology, and to the thorny problems that surround the origin of ethics, *The Expanding Circle* has a great deal to

Peter Singer, *The Expanding Circle: Ethics and Sociobiology*, Oxford University Press, 1981. Australian Recommended Price, \$15.95.

commend it. Lucid and sprightly in style, and admirably non-dogmatic in tone, it is a book that invites the reader to argue with it. From this point of view it would be an excellent introduction to ethics for any general reader.

As I have remarked, Singer demolishes the sociobiological claim that our capacity for ethical behaviour, involving as it does the ability to recognise impartially the interests of others, derives directly from our biological make-up. There is, he argues, an unbridgeable gulf between biological fact — the way our genes are — and ethical value — what is good for us and the way we ought to behave. No matter how limiting and constraining my biological constitution might be, it can never dictate what I should hold to be good and what I ought to do. One cannot make ethical values out of biological facts any more than one can make silk purses out of sows' ears.

After this decisive refutation of the ethical pretensions of sociobiology one might think that Singer would forthwith consign Wilson and his satraps to the decent obscurity they deserve. Curiously, however, the rest of his book is largely taken up with an attempt to rescue the sociobiologists and, in a sense, to attempt to bridge the unbridgeable gap between biology and ethics by claiming that human biology provides the basis for the altruistic, other-regarding, attitudes and dispositions which are the *sine qua non* of ethics.

Singer seems to assume that the only way of accounting for the altruistic basis of ethics is in terms of biological evolution, so that if we do not accept such an account we are left with a 'mystery'. However, the only argument he gives for this is that human beings are animals, with biologically based instincts, drives, feelings etc., and must have evolved in the same way as other animals. Certainly,

it might be replied, unless we had an animal constitution of a certain kind we could not act ethically, but this does not prove that our animal nature is the basis or origin of our ethics, at least in the sense Singer intends. If statements about our animal make-up are logically distinct from ethical principles about how we ought to act, then the former cannot be 'basis' of the latter.

Singer's argument is, in fact, rather like the argument that since thinking depends upon the brain, the neurophysiological structures of the brain provide the 'basis' for thinking and other mental activities. Certainly, once again, without a brain of a certain physical constitution one cannot think, but there is a logical gap between statements about thinking and other mental activities on the one hand and statements about the physical processes of the brain on the other, so that it is difficult to understand in what sense the latter can be the 'basis' or 'ground' of the former.

## Irreducible phenomena?

I do not see why it should be thought that if we cannot show that ethics has its basis in human biology, or that thinking has its basis in human neurophysiology, we are then faced with an irrational 'mystery'. After all, it may be the case that ethics and mental behaviour are just irreducible and *sui generis* human phenomena.

As I have already noted, *The Expanding Circle* invites, even incites, one to argue with it. I see that as a virtue in a philosophical work and from this point of view Singer's book is full of virtue. It introduces readers to the most difficult questions about ethics and at the same time provokes them to think for themselves and to do some ethics.

Max Charlesworth  
Professor of Philosophy  
Deakin University

## 'Dissent essential to freedom' — Dunstan

Rebellion to secure the right to "freedom" must be pursued constantly throughout the world, Mr Don Dunstan, former South Australian Premier, said at Monash earlier this year.

Mr Dunstan was delivering the seventh Oscar Mendelsohn Lecture before a capacity audience in the Alexander Theatre.

Essential to "freedom", he said, was "dissent, challenge, diversity, innovation, the encouragement of the heterodox and the rejecting of an imposed orthodoxy."

Mr Dunstan rejected the argument that these ideas of liberal enlightenment, embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are inappropriate to some societies whose citizens, it is claimed, gain satisfaction in life from other modes of human relations and whose culture and outlook cannot encompass pluralism and dissent.

He said: "I cannot believe that the conditions of human freedom are anywhere different.

"If a man or woman be imprisoned without charge or fair trial, the effect on them is the same whether it be in Indonesia or Brazil, Chile or the US-SR. If they are tortured it is the same whether in Turkey or Paraguay. If their mouths are stopped it matters not whether it is in Pakistan or the Philippines. If they disappear without trace they are dead whether in Argentina or Uganda."

Mr Dunstan acknowledged, however, that a pre-condition for freedom as defined in classic Western terms is freedom from want.

"One has no liberty, no ability to act freely within one's social context if one does not have the means to life itself," he said.

"Freedom only becomes of relevance to human beings who have better than mere subsistence and there lies an inherent problem for freedom as when the oppressed are hungry (they) have little to lose and all to gain: but while daily bread is an essential to freedom one can have bread without freedom and it is on that point that demands to freedom so often falter and fail."

Pointing out the disparities in distribution of wealth between countries of the North and those of the South, Mr Dunstan said that there was every reason for the dispossessed of the world to rebel against European economic hegemony — "and demand the right to life and to live as human beings".

"And among the poorer countries for bread alone there is reason to rebel internally in many," he added. "For, while their GNP is not great, its distribution is so unequal as to be inhuman and iniquitous. In many cases the forces maintaining that maldistribution do so with the support or active involvement of the economically powerful in the capitalist countries of the North."

Mr Dunstan said that most violent

overthrows of existing order carried compromises to classical notions of freedom which continued long after the promise of "freedom from want" was fulfilled. He cited the Cuban and Libyan revolutions as examples.

"The destruction of vested interests in unjust societies does not affect merely a handful of the wealthy — its ramifications affect nearly every level of society," Mr Dunstan said.

"Given the need to defend the (Cuban) revolution against external peril, both military and economic (and in Cuba's case the threats were enormous), it was necessary to suspend the classic conditions of freedom. Because, for a period, the bread was even less. The new administrative modes inevitably have their own momentum and inertia.

"An externally threatened administration needs to compel revolutionary conformity.

"Today, Cuba, though not affluent, is in the upper group of third world developing countries, but while its people are no longer crippled for want of food, no one could say that Cuba is observing for its citizens the provisions of the Universal Declaration. Any examination of the refugees from Cuba shows that many do not fit the picture of fleeing bourgeoisie: many of them are from the very class of the poor the revolution was to liberate."

Mr Dunstan said that people desperate for the necessities of life will respond to the call for liberty but that



● Don Dunstan

this can stop short "if and when the provision of bread, the quest for security and the pressure to conform discourage further struggle."

He continued: "It is then likely that the further struggle will be a lonely one for the revolutionary elite demanding nothing short of freedom . . .

"There will be those who say of the fighters for freedom beyond bread that they are nothing but egg-heads pursuing an idea irrelevant to the masses. Che Guevarra was such an egg-head. So was Adlai Stevenson fighting in his own way against the reactionary policies which again prevail in his country.

"When accused of being such he never uttered a truer word in jest when he said: 'Egg-heads of the world unite. You have nothing to lose but your yolks.'"

# Assessing Lyster's contribution to a 'golden age'.

Harold Love: *The Golden Age of Australian Opera. W. S. Lyster and his Companies 1861-1880*. Currency Press, Sydney, 1982. 309 pp. with index and bibliography.

*THEY have a University here, a preparatory school, Public library and many admirable institutions but yet they appear very ignorant and dull. For so young a place they have a capital Museum which is usually well filled, but which they do not seem to understand... They have no idea of high art in anything and a third class opera singer they have here of the name of Escott they consider equal to any in Europe.*

Thus, very privately, Charles Kean to his daughter in 1864. He stayed only a couple of years and is judged (by Anthony Quayle) to have been afflicted by "chronic respectability aggravated by galloping pomposity". But Kean knew the theatre world — none better — and was an acute observer on several levels.

His words are worth quoting, for one could easily get a misleadingly different impression of Melbourne from Dr Love's book — the impression, in fact, that Melbourne was, already in the 1860s, practically an "international metropolis", and that the importance of the Lyster opera company lay in having brought this pretentious city well along its "march towards the status of *Weltstadt*". One can perhaps, keep too close an eye on the susceptibilities of potential readers.

It is, however, an aberration or unintentional extravagance in the book. Generally it tends rather to adopt and confirm the sensible view that, in a remarkably short space of time, "the highest refinements of urban European civilisation" imposed upon "raw and remote colonial cities" had made Melbourne decidedly impressive within these provincial limits. And there can be no doubt that William Saurin Lyster contributed a great deal to that process. His stamina and entrepreneurial talents are convincingly detailed in the book.

An Irish gentleman with no inheritance and insufficient influence,

he entered the theatrical world somewhat *faute de mieux*, but it was clearly where he belonged (rather than in the ranks of American filibusters in Central America). He came to Australia after failing to establish himself in North America, but, again, it was a happy accident for all concerned. At his death he left his widow secure and comfortable, while over 20 years he had provided Melbourne (and other centres less regularly) with competent performances of a staggering range of operas. And he mounted this most extravagant of art forms while charging remarkably low admission (quikily compared, at one point in the book, with what applied in Mauritius!).

Lyster brought with him a group of energetic and talented performers. Lucy Escott was (pace Kean) evidently the best dramatic soprano here compared with anything before or for many, many years after. The same may be said of Henry Squires, Lyster's tenor (whose nice control of falsetto might have rated an entry in the index).

The company went back to San Francisco before the decade's end, but Lyster returned to Melbourne by 1870 to organise no less than a real Italian company. Dr. Love remarks that the success of this company over five years has never been repeated by any "subsequent group of foreign singers"; and that, oddly enough, at this day, "when there are probably as many first and second generation Italian-Australians as there were human individuals in the Australia of Lyster's time, opera is still very firmly an Anglo-Saxon monopoly".

This leads us directly to a certain weakness in the book. The actual achievements of Lyster's companies are spelt out at great length. By dint of



chronicle, catalogue and expansive narrative, Dr Love overwhelms us with an impression of an unlikely operatic paradise in Melbourne until the late '70s. He notes then "a slow but perceptible decline as... the culture of the educated yielded increasingly... to a new popular culture." I cannot say that I find a satisfactory explanation of this phenomenon — though some interesting suggestions are made — nor much reward in the remark that "the change was inevitable and, as it led to the emergence of a vigorous national consciousness, is hardly to be regretted". These points are important in a work which concludes with an emphatic assertion that Lyster "had lit a flame of music in Australia which was not to die; and which still burns brightly today."

The book is rich in technical detail of stage craft, of theatre construction

and management, of all the minutiae of performance — and how startling to learn that, even for the first performance here of *Lohengrin*, the orchestration was arranged from a piano score — and of critical journalism. For professionals this must be invaluable, and is a tribute to Dr Love's love and knowledge of the medium of opera. General readers might find chapters 3, 4 and 8 a mite tedious. Even so, they can count on a fluent text enlivened by wit and whimsy, and a confident ability in the author to display his intimate acquaintance with all the multitudinous works he mentions: a *tour de force* in bringing past, unseen performances to present life. The social history of "marvellous Melbourne" is constantly illuminated, especially in chapter 5, "Audiences", with a delightful excursion into political topics in chapter 6.

The book is generally well produced — though I would suggest that one is well-advised to keep the dust cover for its design and for being superior to the cloth binding beneath. The type is not entirely to my taste, nor is what seems to have been the publisher's restrictive policy in the matter of footnotes (endnotes, I should say); but in the whole book I noticed (on p. 275) only one instance of, apparently, a misprint.

Factual accuracy is carefully attended to throughout, though (just to show that nothing is flawless) I must point out that Lady Bowen was not "Italian born": she was much more multi-cultural, being a Zantiote, and citizen of the United States of the Ionian Islands, with Venetian ancestry having Greek and Albanian connections.

Bruce Knox  
Senior lecturer,  
History

## Historic performances

Working with Dr Harold Love, of the English department, Dr John Spring has compiled a list of public performances in Melbourne over the 20 years from 1850 to 1869.

The listing, which will be available on computer at Monash, provides information about a wide range of performances offered to the public as entertainment during those early years of Melbourne's history.

### Events listed

Entertainments listed include dramatic, operatic, musical, vocal and terpsichorean performances, lectures and sermons advertised as amusements, circuses, feats and displays of strength, skill and agility, moving panoramas and dissolving views with musical or vocal accompaniment or with fireworks.

The information recorded includes the date of performance, the venue, title, name of star or solo performers or performing troupes, the genre, whether

the performance was a benefit for a member of the cast or the establishment's personnel, the author's name, and whether the piece performed was of local origin or had been localised.

The information is based on advertisements, press notices and other reports which appeared in the *Argus* newspaper at the time and indicated that a performance had been advertised and had taken place.

The research was supported by an ARGC grant.

## Law seminars

A seminar on the Victorian industrial relations system, organised by the Monash faculty of Law, will be held in Rotunda Theatre 3 on Wednesday, May 19.

The four-hour seminar begins at 2 p.m. Cost: \$55.

The Law faculty has also organised two twilight seminars this month on tax and legal problems.

Both seminars will be held at the

## Important dates

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

- 7: First term ends for Dip. Ed.
- 8: First term ends.  
Study break begins for LL.M. by coursework.
- 10: Second term begins for Medicine VI (Alfred Hospital).  
Study break begins for B.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., Dip.Ed.Psych. and M.Ed.St.
- 19: Graduation ceremony — Arts.
- 24: First half-year resumes for LL.M. by coursework.  
First half-year resumes for B.Ed..

Law Institute of Victoria, 470 Bourke Street.

One seminar, organised in conjunction with the Institute of Chartered Accountants (Victorian Division), will discuss changes in the legal restraints and tax implications of family planning structures. It will be held on May 26 at 4.30 p.m.

The second seminar, on Major New Tax Developments, 1982, will be held at the Law Institute on Monday, May 31 at 4.30 p.m.

The fee in both cases is \$78.

B.Sp.Ed., Dip.Ed.Psych. and M.Ed. St.

Second term begins for Dip.Ed.  
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 24 and the end of the appropriate teaching period.

31: Second term begins.  
Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in the first half-year for it to be classified as discontinued (excluding Dip.Ed., Dip.Ed.Psych., B.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., M.Ed. and M.Ed.St.). 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 31 and the end of the appropriate teaching period.

# Women rowers make their mark

Monash women cricketers aren't the only ones making their mark in sports usually thought of as being in the male domain.

In last Reporter we documented the spectacular success of the Monash Women's Cricket Club in the 1981-82 season.

That good news can be followed with more on the success of the Monash University Women's Rowing Club.

In the season just finishing, 34 Victorian regattas were held; MUWRC entered 84 crews at 28 of these (most of the other six being in the country). A total of 38 of the crews were placed, including 18 in first position, 10 in second and 10 in third. That's three more firsts than in the previous season.

The president of the MUWRC, Margaret Swan, says that while the Club has competed in every grade of rowing and in almost every class of boat (sculling being the chief exception over recent years), the performance in open eights "has consistently testified to the skill and commitment of our oarswomen."

In the last two seasons, MUWRC has been the only club to enter every open eight event — for two first places in the 1980-81 season and one first and three seconds this season.

Margaret says: "At the Victorian Universities' Ladies' Regatta, held in April each year, we have established a unique record of being the only club to

have entered two crews in the open eight event for three years running.

"Not many other clubs in Victoria can manage to put 16 women on the water at the same time!"

## Highlights

These are other highlights of the MUWRC story over recent years, as nominated by Margaret:

### International regattas.

Andrea Giles and Roslyn Barnard won the lightweight women's pairs at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in August, 1979.

### National championship regattas.

In the same year, Andrea and Roslyn won the lightweight coxless pair event at Westlakes, South Australia. In 1980, Andrea and Ruth Rycroft competed in the senior A coxless pair event at Lake Wendouree, Ballarat.

### Victorian State Squad selections.

Andrea was selected for the squad in 1979 and this year Jo Lincke was selected.

### Victorian championship events.

Hilary Dickson and Janice Weate took third place in the senior A coxless pair in 1981 and Jo (with Narelle Dwyer of Essendon Ladies Rowing Club) won the title this year.

In last year's Victorian Ladies Rowing Association Premiership the



● Members of the Monash University Women's Rowing Club (left to right): Angela Hill, registration secretary, and president, Margaret Swan.

MUWRC finished fourth, and in the Junior Premiership in second position by one point to the YWCA. This year's premierships are yet to be finalised.

### Interspersed competitions.

In Canberra, 1981, Monash crews entered and were placed in the lightweight and heavyweight fours and the open eight events. In Perth, 1982, Hilary and Janine Lippi won the challenge trophy for coxless pairs.

Monash members have had a close involvement through the years with

administrative bodies in Victorian rowing. Margaret, Florence Livery and Angela Hill hold executive positions on the VLRA which last year amalgamated with the Victorian Rowing Association.

## Organ festival

The focus of the 12th Melbourne International Festival of Organ and Harpsichord will be on Monash this Sunday (May 9).

At 3 p.m. in the Religious Centre, Kenneth Weir will present a program titled "Nine of the Eighteen," featuring chorales by J. S. Bach.

At 5.30 p.m., Swiss organist Philip Swanton will give a recital of 17th century north German organ music on the Ahrend organ in Robert Blackwood Hall.

Proceedings will shift back to the Religious Centre for an 8.30 p.m. concert titled "Polyphonica" in which Roger Heagney, Stephen McTaggart and Jacqueline Johnson will play works by Bach, Couperin, Bull, Vivaldi, Handel and Rameau for violin, violoncello and harpsichord.

The Monash concerts are part of 30 events planned for the Festival which starts this Friday and ends on Saturday, May 15 with a Haydn 250th anniversary concert. A variety of venues will host Festival events — from Ormond College to St Paul's Cathedral and St Mary Star-of-the-Sea Church, West Melbourne.

Admission prices are \$4 (afternoon concerts), \$5 (twilight) and \$7 (evening). Advance bookings can be made at Save Time Service, 238 Flinders Lane (63 7555).

## 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.

- 6: **ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURE** — "Racism in Australia", by Mr A. Grassby. 1 p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3335.
- 7-8: **MUSICAL** — "HMS Pinafore" & "Trial by Jury", pres. by Babirra Players. 8 p.m. Matinee May 8 at 2 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults \$6.50; students, pensioners \$4; children under 15 \$2.50. Bookings: 543 2828 or 241 7827. Performances also May 13, 14 and 15.
- 8: **CONCERT** — ABC Monash Series No. 1: Melbourne Symphony Orchestra cond. by Hiroyuki Iwaki, Roger Woodward — piano, and the Melbourne Chorale. Works by Stravinsky and Chopin. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults A. Res. \$10.60, B. Res. \$8.60, C. Res. \$6.60, students and pensioners A. Res. \$8.60, B. Res. \$6.60, C. Res. \$5.60.
- 9: **CONCERT** — 12th Melbourne International Festival of Organ and Harpsichord. Philip Swanton presents a program of 17th Century North German organ music. 5.30 p.m. RBH. Admission: \$5 (tickets at the door).
- 10-14: **4th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE** of the Asian Studies Association of Australia. Further information: Dr G. Dixon, ext. 2930.
- 10-22: **SCHOOL HOLIDAY ATTRACTION** — "The Magical Tail of Puff the Magic Dragon", pres. by Alexander Theatre/Rainbow Management. 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Alex. Theatre. Admission: adults

\$6.50, children \$4.50. Bookings also at BASS outlets.

- 12-31: **EXHIBITION** — "Glimpses of Ukiyo-E" — Japanese art of the late Tokugawa Period, pres. by department of Visual Arts. Monday to Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesdays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Exhibition Gallery, Menzies Building. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2117.
- 13: **CONCERT** — Victorian State Final ABC Instrumental and Vocal Competition. Finalists: Ian Munroe — piano, Lawrence Dobell — clarinet, Geoffrey Paine — trumpet, Helen Adams — soprano, Lawrence Allen — tenor. 7.30 p.m. RBH. Admission free. Entree cards available at ABC or Robert Blackwood Hall.
- 14: **CONCERT** — The Australia-India Society of Victoria and the department of Music present a Veena Recital by Chitti Babu. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$8; children, students, pensioners, Society members \$6. Tickets available at BASS outlets.
- 15: **CONCERT** — The final concert of the May Music Camp, presented by the National Music Camp Association. Conductors of the senior orchestras will be George Logie-Smith and Gwyn Roberts. Program will include Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 and other works. 7.45 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$4, children \$2.
- 19: **SEMINAR** — "Victorian Industrial Relations System", pres. by Monash faculty of Law. 2-6 p.m. Lecture Theatre R3. Fee: \$55 (incl. refreshments, papers). Further information: ext. 3307.
- 25: **BUSINESS TRAINING SERIES** — "Time Management", pres. by Centre for Continuing Education and Melbourne Chamber of Commerce. 2-4.30 p.m. Fee: \$29. Inquiries: Update Business Program: exts. 3717/8, 3707, A.H 541 3718.
- 26-31: **MUSICAL** — "The Mikado", pres. by Melbourne Music Theatre. 8.15 p.m. Matinees May 29 & 30 at 2.15 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults \$12.50; pensioners, students under 25 \$10.50; children \$8.50. Performances also June 1-6, matinee June 6 at 2.15 p.m.
- 26: **TWILIGHT SEMINAR** — "Structuring your family arrangements: tax and legal problems", pres. by Institute of Chartered Accountants (Vic. Division) and faculty of Law. 4.30 p.m. Law Institute of Victoria. Fee: \$78 (incl. refreshments, dinner, papers). Further information: 67 5401.
- ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR** — "What are improvements to environment? — applying human values to science", by Professor Kenneth Boulding, University of Colorado. 5 p.m. Environmental Science Seminar Room. Admission free. Inquiries: exts. 3841, 3840.
- 28-29: **SYMPOSIUM** on Peptic Ulcer, pres. by department of Surgery, Monash Medical School, Alfred Hospital. Fee: \$65 (incl. dinner), \$45. Further information: 520 2612.
- 29: **1982 REGIONAL CONFERENCE** of Australian Federation of University Women — Victorian Branch. Conference theme: "Genetic Research — Its Impact on Society". 11.45 a.m. Lecture Theatre H3. Fee: \$10. Inquiries: Mrs P. Minton, 568 1017.
- 31: **TWILIGHT SEMINAR** — "Major New Tax Developments — 1982", pres. by faculty of Law. 4.30 p.m. Law Institute of Victoria. Fee: \$78 (incl. refreshments, dinner, papers). Further information: ext. 3307.
- 31: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Organ Recital by John O'Donnell. Works by Bach, Handel, De Grigny and Cabanilles. 1.15 p.m. RBH. Admission free.

## MONASH REPORTER

The next will be published in first week of June, 1982.

Copy deadline is Friday, May 21.

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