

• A proposed Starlab launch: the Space Shuttle prepares to position the telescope on an orbiting platform.

## Eyes on 1990 for Starlab lift-off

So far so good in getting Starlab, the Australian-Canadian-US space telescope project, off the ground.

That was the feeling of the Starlab joint science working group when it met at the Goddard Space Flight Centre, Maryland, in late April, according to Professor Kevin Westfold, Monash Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Westfold is one of four Australian members of the working group.

Starlab, as proposed, is a one-metre orbiting telescope which would have unique capabilities essential for the pursuit of a wide variety of frontier astrophysical problems in the optical and ultraviolet spectral region.

Its important targets would include globular star clusters, nearby galaxies and distant clusters of galaxies; among the problems to which it could contribute understanding — the early evolution of the universe.

If Starlab does get into space — and 1990 is the date astronomers gaze at hopefully — it will mean that several balls of funding and timing have been juggled skilfully, given the tripartite participation.

At the moment, the relevant agencies — the Department of Science and Technology in Australia, the National Research Council of Canada, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the US — have signed a Letter of Intent on the project.

Given the green light, the next stage will be a Memorandum of Understanding which will take the countries to a firmer level of commitment and more detailed scientific planning.

The division of responsibility in the project is this:

- Australia has undertaken to design and build the instrument package, the chief items of which are an imager and spectroscope.

- Canada will provide the telescope and optical subsystems.

- The US will organise the first two launches.

In return, observation time will be divided equally.

Professor Westfold says that the Australian Government allocated \$3.37M in the last Budget for what is termed Phase B study on the project. This provides funding for the further design and testing of a photon-counting array, the basis of the imaging detector or camera, being developed by a team at Mount Stromlo.

He says that Australia's progress to phases C and D will be a decision for the 1984 Budget. In all, Australia's financial commitment would be about \$30M at current costs, he estimates.

NASA has set its sights on launching Starlab as payload on two Space Shuttle flights in 1990. The proposal is that two scientists will accompany it on these exploratory missions. (Already, says Professor Westfold with a smile, the scientific world has prepared a long list of eminently dispensable "volunteers".)

Ultimately scientists at NASA are looking towards locating Starlab on an orbiting space station, 500 km above the earth, for a series of missions each lasting about six months.

The telescope has a planned life of 20 years, although its complement could change as more sophisticated instruments are designed.

Professor Westfold says that Spacelab would complement ideally the 2.4 m Space Telescope which NASA hopes to launch in 1985.

Both are optical telescopes with Starlab operating down to shorter wavelengths in the ultraviolet. Starlab's imagery field, moreover, would be 100 times larger than the Space Telescope's. Working together, the former would free the latter from the inefficiency of acting as its own survey telescope.

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# MONASH REPORTER

A MAGAZINE FOR THE UNIVERSITY

Registered by Australia Post — publication No. VBG0435

NUMBER 4-83

JUNE 1, 1983

## Senator Ryan at Monash:



Photo: Julie Fraser

# Universities and the new Government

A higher participation rate in tertiary education, wider access to it and a greater capacity for university research and development.

Those were three educational objectives held by the new Federal Government, according to the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Senator Susan Ryan.

Senator Ryan visited Monash last month to speak at a forum organised by the Staff Association of Monash University. About 100 people attended.

The Government saw the role of universities, in both undergraduate and graduate areas, as an expanding one, she said. It would, however, be planned, rational expansion intended to achieve a permanent upgrading in the role of universities.

Among other points Senator Ryan made during her address and then a questions and answers session were these:

- At the end of June she would publish guidelines for the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission outlining the Government's educational objectives. She would expect these to be taken into account when the CTEC made its recommendations on the 1985-87 triennium.

- The Government was committed to university autonomy. At the same time it was anxious to see that resources going into education "should have positive consequences in terms of regeneration of the economy".

- The Government was considering reintroducing a body to promote educational research and development, to fill the gap left by abolition of the ERDC by the previous Government.

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### Fees

... And TEAS, and loans, and post-grad. assistance. A Committee of Review reports. P3.

### Futures

Markets in futures have expanded rapidly in recent years, not without controversy. Their functions. P4.

### Fertility

What are the ethical implications of donating the 'ingredients of life' to combat infertility? Pp 8, 9.

### Festivals

This month and next, Monash will be alive with theatre and associated events. P12.

# Universities and the Government

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● The Government was looking at the question of access to Australian tertiary institutions by overseas students.

● TAFE would continue to expand. This sector had the capacity to run short, specific, vocationally-oriented courses — the type “we hope the economy requires before long”. Growth in the CAE sector was unlikely, however.

## Back to peak

Senator Ryan said that the Government would move to restore the higher education participation rate to the peak it reached in the early '70s.

She said the Australian rate now was much lower than those of other OECD countries. It was one of the reasons for Australia's extensive structural unemployment, its slowness to develop new industries, and management which was not making the private sector truly efficient.

“We have an under-educated, under-trained workforce,” she said.

It was the Government's aim to improve the capacity of universities to attract and keep students by offering courses and education related to the broader needs of the economy and society.

There were twin aspects here — vocational training and general education — the importance of which the Government appreciated.

## Value of education

An interest in “training” and technology-related research would not be at the expense of “education” or social research.

She recognised that true education — bringing with it a heightened capacity to understand, judge and criticise — had great value in itself for individuals in a modern democratic society.

Senator Ryan said that the Government also aimed to improve access to higher education for groups traditionally excluded from it, including people from lower socio-economic groups, women and Aborigines.

Women in education presented a complicated picture, she said. In recent years there had been an increasing participation by women in higher education, but they still entered a narrower band of offerings than males.

She said that wider access to education did not go hand-in-hand with lower standards and that she was keen to see standards improve.

Senator Ryan said that implementation of programs to enhance access for disadvantaged groups “ought not to be beyond the capacity of universities”.

She said she would like to see universities move towards entrance requirements which emphasised aptitude and motivation. HSC was not the only indicator of a person's ability to undertake higher studies, nor necessarily the best. HSC, she said, was “a rough and ready yardstick” which had inbuilt biases.

Senator Ryan said that the Government was examining the issue of access by overseas students to Australian universities against overall objectives, including strategic, trade and foreign aid as well as educational ones.

It was a discussion that would involve Foreign Affairs Minister, **Bill Hayden**, Employment Minister, **Ralph Willis**, and Immigration Minister, **Stewart West**.

Resolving the issue of quotas was not as simple as saying that overseas students were now forcing able Australian students out of universities, therefore quotas should be imposed.

The new Government was keen to develop a closer relationship with our Asian neighbours and play a more constructive role in the region. This would have to be taken into account.

But to a questioner who suggested that sub-quotas within a faculty lowered standards, Senator Ryan said: “Lowering entrance scores is not the same as lowering standards.”

Also under consideration was how the Government might upgrade education research. The best way to do this, said Senator Ryan, might be to establish a special unit within the Department of Education or to develop one or more of the existing units working in this area.

## Amalgamations

Senator Ryan said that the most difficult issue she had dealt with since becoming Education Minister was the amalgamation of colleges of advanced education.

“Rationalisation was necessary,” she said, “and we accept amalgamations as sensible.” She added, however, that that approval did not embrace all the amalgamations which had been forced on colleges nor the manner in which they were effected.

She said that she did not expect to see a lot of growth in the CAE area.

Senator Ryan said that she would be publishing guidelines for the CTEC which embraced the Government's educational objectives.

The Government-CTEC relationship was not a master-servant one but she expected that those objectives would be taken into account in CTEC planning.



● Dr Alan Trounson, fresh from a press conference announcing the world's first pregnancy from a frozen embryo, met Professor Harry Gelber (right), UC member, and Mrs C. Searby, part-time member of the CTEC, when they visited Medicine. Photo: Terry Martin.

## Ceiling stays on Monash funds: UC

It is unlikely that Monash will get an increase in recurrent funds or enrol larger numbers of students in the coming triennium.

That was the message from the Universities Council when it visited Monash for two days early last month.

Members of the UC discussed with Monash administrators the University's submission for the 1985-87 triennium (see Reporter 1-83). They also toured faculties and held discussions with representatives of the two staff associations, Union Board and Monash Association of Students.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, told Monash Council last month that members of the UC were impressed with the enthusiasm shown by staff and the high quality of work being undertaken.

But, Professor Logan said, the UC considered that the Monash submission had not justified sufficiently a specific increase in recurrent funding.

UC members had detected, however,

an attitude in the University that progress could only be made if more funds were available.

Professor Logan said that the UC Chairman, Professor D. N. F. Dunbar, had indicated also that the ceiling on Monash student numbers was firm at 12,800 EFTS.

Professor Dunbar expressed satisfaction at the way in which the special research grant was being distributed at Monash — in particular the “seeding” money being made available to younger staff starting research. He also praised the University in achieving financial support for its research and gave an assurance that this success would not result in a recommended reduction of grants.

Professor Logan said that the problem of obsolete equipment had been discussed. It was noted, however, that in the past the Government had not provided funds to tackle this problem, despite support for such action from both the UC and the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission.

● A ‘round-table’ of members of the Universities Council and the Science faculty. From left, Professor Jim Warren (Zoology), Professor Ross Day (Psychology), Professor Noel Dunbar (UC Chairman), Professor John Swan (Dean), Mr Karl Huss (Faculty Secretary), Professor Dame Leonie Kramer (UC), Professor Ron Brown (Chemistry) and Mr Barry Rowland (UC). Photo: John Crossley.



# Computer speeds tutoring 'matches'

Monash's Student Employment Service has long boasted one of the largest and most comprehensive tutoring registers in an Australian tertiary institution.

And now it can boast the most efficient, thanks to a Monash graduate who gained private tutoring jobs through the Service during his student days here.

Chad Nash, who took his degree in Mathematics in 1981 and is now continuing with Ph.D. studies at Melbourne University, has computerised the register.

Now, within a matter of seconds, students can be "matched" with an inquirer's needs — say, for a person living in East Malvern to tutor in Mathematics and English at Form 5 level two hours a week. The computerised system is unique in Australia.

The Service makes available to the inquirer a list of several names and contact numbers. The procedure then is for the parent seeking a tutor to engage the services of a Monash student directly, observing recommended rates. These rates are well below those charged by private tutoring colleges and allow families who could not normally afford to employ a tutor to do so. The contact service is free to both students and "clients".

Student Employment Officer, Mrs Irmgard Good, says that there are some 1000 undergraduate and postgraduate students on the tutoring register.

Until this year the register consisted of two sets of cards, indexed by suburb and subjects taught. Many students are competent to tutor in several subjects and are prepared to travel across suburbs; most people on the register, then, warrant several entries.

Under the old hand-sorting method, matching student "qualifications" with client needs could often be a time-consuming business.

Now the Service is equipped with a terminal linked to a University VAX4 computer into which Irmgard or her off-sider Robyn Best can feed a client's request while they talk on the phone.

Within seconds the names and details of up to three students who could "fill the bill" — according to subjects and residential proximity — appear on the visual display unit. There is then the opportunity to search through the full list of students prepared to tutor in a particular subject or combination of subjects.

The computer automatically rotates names so that every student gets a "fair go" in competitive cases — say, tutoring English at HSC level in Mt. Waverley.

Not only does the new system improve access to the register, it also makes the annual updating job a simpler one.

Irmgard says that the idea for such a computerised service was "tossed around" at the beginning of last year.

"In a conversation with Chad, he mentioned the possibilities, pointed out the benefits and, in short, agreed to do it for us," she says.

He nipped out a computer program over several weeks around Easter last year.

The 1982 MAS Chairperson, Martin Foley, enthused with the project, approached the Vice-Chancellor who sought an assessment of the proposal. This feasibility study recommended in the project's favour, and Union Board made a special allocation for it to go ahead.

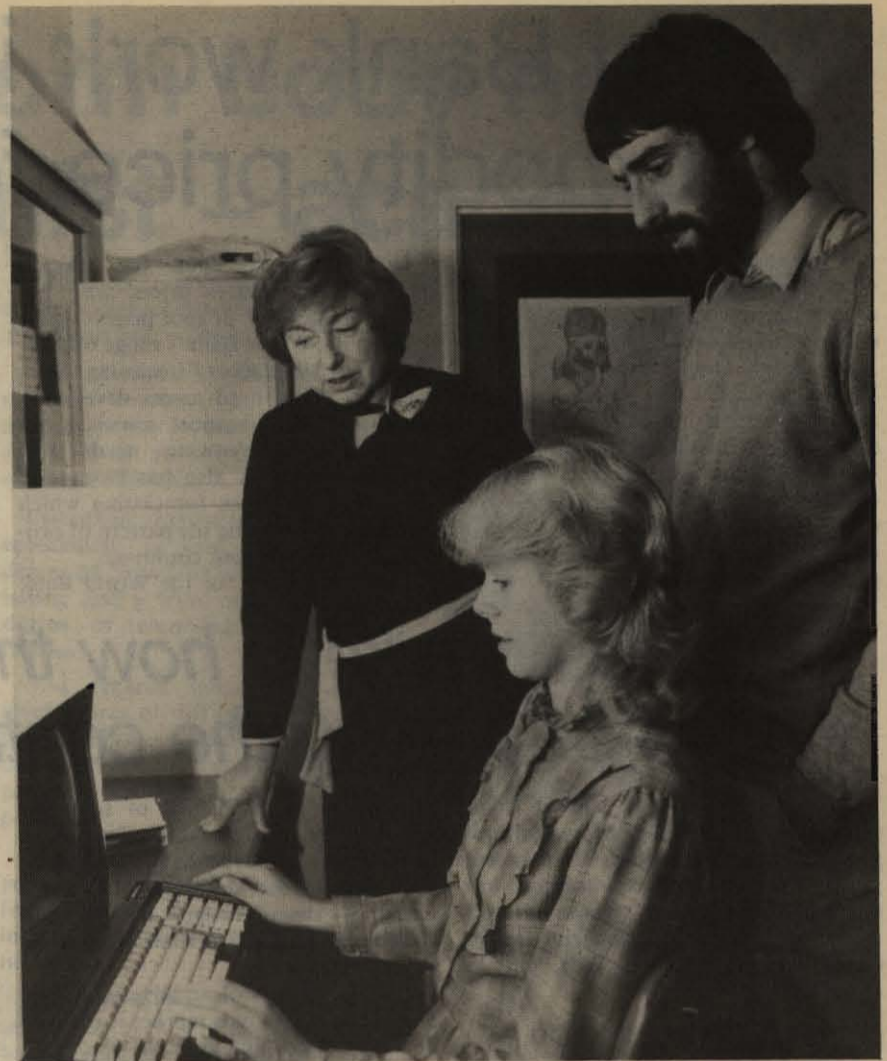
Irmgard says that some 750 successful tutoring contacts have been made through the Service to the end of April.

"This year we've been busy right from the beginning, and I expect that, as usual, demand will step up further from July/August," she says.

As students normally seek a tutoring "load" of about one or two pupils, there is always room on the register for more students seeking work. And for parents wishing to arrange a tutor, Irmgard or Robyn can be contacted on exts. 3097/3297. The Student Employment Service is located on the first floor of the Union.

The recommended hourly rates are: primary to form 3 level, \$6.50; form 4, \$7.50; form 5, \$8.00; HSC, \$8.50; undergraduate, \$10.00 to \$12.00; higher levels by negotiation.

● Who could ask for anything better? Monash's Student Employment Officer is Irmgard Good; her off-sider Robyn Best. Here Robyn operates the computerised register while Irmgard and Chad Nash look on.



## Report urges TEAS revamp

A review body set up by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee has urged a policy of financial assistance for students which will counteract the disincentives which are deterring many of Australia's ablest young people from taking up tertiary education.

The Committee of Review of Student Finances, which was chaired by Professor John Scott, Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe, says in its report that the present system is limited in its capacity to do this. It needs restructuring to rectify many deficiencies and anomalies.

The Committee makes 17 recommendations in its 62-page report which was released last month. They cover the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme, student loans, fees and postgraduate assistance.

One of the chief recommendations is that the funding available for TEAS should be of the same order, in real terms, as the total funding which was provided for student assistance in the mid-'70s when both TEAS and State Government teacher education scholarships were available.

The report says that a policy of student assistance which combines a realistic level of government funding with a reasonable contribution from the student and/or his family acknowledges that both the society and the individual student benefit from higher education.

It says that, for some, the educational hopes raised by the abolition of fees in 1974 and introduction of a means-tested allowance have not been met.

"In a climate of financial stringency, the conflicting demands upon the public purse have led to a situation where the funds allocated to support the student population are available to a decreasing number of students and at levels which are rapidly overtaken by inflation.

"At the same time, the availability of alternative sources of financial support, such as part-time and casual employment, have markedly decreased."

During the period in which these changes in means of assistance have occurred there has been a marked decline in the participation rate of young people in full-time higher education, the report says.

### TEAS

After an analysis of the deficiencies of TEAS these are the changes the Committee recommends:

● To help the lowest income families, the independent or maximum rate should be regarded as the basic TEAS allowance but its award should be subject to the limitations stated in other recommendations.

● Conditional on the acceptance of the preceding recommendation, the means test should cut in at a much lower level, but be phased out less sharply, thus giving a greater number a partial allowance.

● For those who have to live away from home because of time and distance or the requirements of their course, eligibility for a TEAS allowance should be established by making a standard deduction from living away from home costs and from adjusted family income.

● The allowance in the means test for other dependent children should be increased from \$450 to \$1100 a child.

● Independent status should be phased in according to age, not circumstances, with an increasing proportion of the basic allowance not subject to the means test on parental income. Students should be regarded as fully independent at age 21.

● Family allowances and deductions in the form of taxation rebates should

cease when the student gains partial independence.

### Student loans

The Committee says that a large-scale student loans scheme should not be introduced as a substitute for improvements in TEAS.

### Fees

The Committee recommends against the reintroduction of fees for tertiary study. A blanket reintroduction of fees, it says, "would impose substantially greater financial burdens on an already disadvantaged student population and would contribute nothing towards increased participation."

### Postgraduate Assistance

The chief recommendation here is that Commonwealth Postgraduate Awards should be maintained by indexation. The 1983 base level — \$6850 — is considered sufficient to maintain a student at a reasonable standard of living at present cost levels.

The Committee also recommends that, if Commonwealth Postgraduate Awards are taxable, all other allowances and awards should be included in returns for the purposes of taxation and be regarded as taxable income.

The thesis allowance should be increased to \$375 for a Masters and \$600 for a Ph.D. and the incidentals allowance built in to the basic award.

The Committee finds that the present number of Commonwealth Postgraduate Awards (900 in 1983) is adequate, but should be reviewed from time to time.

# World Bank work improves commodity price forecasts

A Monash economist has completed work for the World Bank on a method of forecasting cash prices for some commodities up to a year ahead.

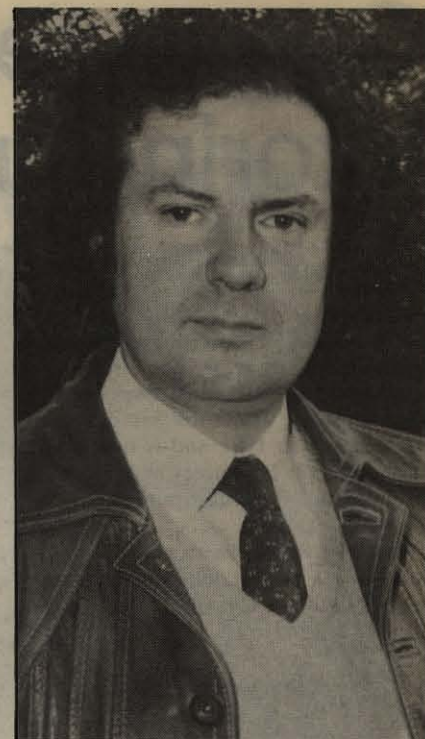
Dr Barry Goss, senior lecturer in Economics, spent two months last year as consultant to the commodities division of the World Bank in Washington. There he researched the ability of prices on "futures" markets to predict subsequent "spot" (cash) prices for a range of commodities including agricultural products and non-ferrous metals.

His finding — that, for selected commodities, futures prices are "unbiased predictors" of spot prices — fills a gap in the World Bank's range of techniques for short-term forecasting. Such forecasts allow it to assess developing countries' likely export earnings on which their borrowing needs will depend. The Bank also has its models for long-range price forecasting which can assist in planning the pattern of production in developing countries.

Dr Goss's work for the World Bank

builds on his research interest in futures markets. There has been a dramatic worldwide expansion of such markets in the last decade, not without controversy.

Earlier this year Dr Goss visited the European University Institute, Florence, and the University of Bologna where, supported in part by an Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs grant, he continued work on futures and cash prices in the silver, gold and non-ferrous metals markets.



• Dr Barry Goss

## Futures markets: how they function — and why the controversy

Futures markets have existed traditionally for a wide range of agricultural products and raw materials. In recent years, however, futures trading has developed also in such "commodities" as foreign currencies, financial instruments such as Treasury Bills, and in share indices.

In each of these organised exchanges the unit of trade is not the commodity itself but a highly standardised contract. The futures contract calls for the delivery of a specified quantity of a standard grade of a commodity at a particular delivery location at a stated future date.

The market quotes the price of such contracts usually up to 18 months ahead, sometimes two years.

In reality, futures contracts culminate in delivery in only about two per cent of cases. They are sometimes referred to as paper markets: it is possible to deal in futures without ever actually seeing or handling the physical commodity.

### Forward contracts

Futures contracts differ from forward contracts in that the latter are made between two private parties and the quantity, quality, delivery date and location are tailored to requirements, not standardised. Such contracts are not traded on exchanges as opposed to futures where a clearing house interposes itself between buyer and seller and guarantees all contracts.

The modern futures contract evolved from forward contracts. The first futures exchanges developed in the 19th century in Chicago, New Orleans, New York, Liverpool, London, Berlin and elsewhere.

Today Dr Goss places Sydney a probable fourth behind Chicago, New York and London in international ranking in futures trading. The "backbone" of futures trading in Sydney for the last 23 years has been greasy wool. In the late '70s trading developed in live cattle, gold and interest rates futures contracts. More recently an All Ordinaries Share Index contract was introduced, opening up futures trading in share contracts.

Dr Goss says that the chief function of futures markets is that they allow those producing, handling or processing a commodity to reduce their business risks by "hedging".

Hedging involves taking opposite transactions in the related actuals and futures markets. A trader who, say,

acquires an unsold stock of soybeans hedges it by selling soybean futures. A trader who sells soybeans for delivery at some future date, and does not have a stock of them, hedges his forward commitment in the actuals market by buying futures.

The risk of loss of an adverse change of price in the actuals market is reduced by routine hedging and an uncertain outcome is replaced by one less uncertain. It also means that the hedger foregoes the chance of gaining from a favourable price change in the actuals market.

In addition to routine hedging, there is also discretionary hedging which involves a trader backing his expectations, which thus combines hedging with speculative elements.

Dr Goss says that one of the critical elements in the efficient operation of a futures market is the presence of speculators — often a source of criticism about them.

"Speculation is essential as it provides liquidity to the futures market," he says. "The presence of speculators allows hedgers to enter and leave the market quickly — there is always a buyer or seller willing to take up the futures that others are selling or buying."

He nominates these other functions of the futures markets:

- They facilitate stockholding, because the forward premium (the difference between the futures and spot prices) acts as a guide to inventory control. A significant forward premium provides an incentive to expand the holding of hedged inventories.

- They become centres for the collection and dissemination of information. An improved flow of information about a commodity leads to reduced variability of spot prices which, Dr Goss says, is usually a good thing in that it enables better planning by processors and a more stable income for producers.

- They perform a forward pricing function because futures prices are used in decision-making about the future. The existence of information on futures prices allows traders who don't trade on the exchange to use those competitively determined prices in forward contracts. Futures markets, then, facilitate the allocation of economic resources between present and future uses.

Futures prices have a predictive quality: although technically they are not forecasts they may be unbiased anticipa-

tions of subsequent spot prices under certain conditions.

Dr Goss says that the unbiased prediction hypothesis has been investigated for a variety of commodities. It has found empirical support in the cases of some grains, coffee, Australian wool, non-ferrous metals on the London Metal Exchange, and some currencies such as the pound sterling and French franc against the US dollar.

In his work for the World Bank, Dr Goss showed that for copper, lead, tin and zinc, futures prices were unbiased predictors of subsequent cash prices three months ahead. In the case of corn and soybeans, futures anticipated spot prices up to 12 months ahead.

In his other studies on silver and gold, the unbiased prediction hypothesis was rejected.

(The studies on gold and Australian wool were conducted with Professor David Giles, of the department of Econometrics and Operations Research.)

Dr Goss and his co-author, Professor Yamey of the London School of

Economics, in a recent survey say that futures markets — and the "gambling" that takes place on them — have at times been made the scapegoat for particular commodity prices being "too low", "too high" or "too unstable". Official intervention in the markets is usually then proposed.

He says: "In many of these instances, easily available evidence would have shown up the emptiness of the charges levelled against futures trading: other commodities not traded in futures markets were undergoing broadly the same price experience as commodities for which there were futures contracts."

He says that, in recent decades, large increases in the prices of various commodities can be explained by general inflation, sometimes together with anticipation of further inflation, interest rate increases or the devaluation of certain currencies.

Dr Goss has also worked with Professor Giles on an ARGC-supported research project on modelling commodity markets by simultaneous equations systems.

## Gallery's botanical delights

The exhibition gallery in the Visual Arts department is a botanical delight this month and next.

The current show, until June 17, is on the Renaissance gardens of Italy.

Then, on June 22, an exhibition of Celia Rosser's Banksia watercolours opens. It is expected to include a full set of the originals for the first volume of 'The Banksias', as well as working

drawings and colour separations.

The volume, with text by Alex George, was published last year by Academic Press in association with Monash. It is one of three planned volumes in which all 70 or so species of Banksia will be illustrated and described.

Celia Rosser is Monash University Artist.

## 1990 Starlab launch?

• Continued from page 1.

Professor Westfold says that the ultraviolet-optical region in which Starlab would operate is possibly the richest of all spectral regions in terms of the density of astrophysical information. It holds the key to explaining many unexpected phenomena which have been revealed in other spectral regions.

Space, he says, offers tremendous advantages for optical astronomy, including a darker sky, freedom from atmospheric turbulence, and virtually unrestricted spectral range. Together with access to the ultraviolet, these

advantages are so important that the one-metre Starlab could outperform ground-based optical telescopes in the five to 15 m class in a wide range of high priority scientific problems.

Starlab is one of two major Australian astronomical projects to receive Federal support in the last year. The other is the Australia Telescope, a designated Bicentenary project towards which \$25M was committed in the last Budget. This radio telescope will link five new 22 m radio dishes in New South Wales country areas with the existing 64 m Parkes radio telescope.



### 53rd ANZAAS

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

About 3000 participants attended the Congress. The theme was "Resources and Responsibilities."

# Law reform body needs economist – academic

A Monash academic has urged the appointment of an economist — among other social scientists — to membership of the Australian Law Reform Commission.

Dr Allan Fels, senior lecturer in Economics, made this point in a wider call for a "careful scrutiny of the composition, philosophies, methods of inquiry, and allocation of resources to law reform bodies".

He was delivering a paper at ANZAAS on "Economics and Law Reform".

The ALRC, Dr Fels said, was a leader on the international scene. But, along with other law reform bodies, it was now dealing with issues far transcending those of "lawyer's law".

Many of the references made to the ALRC were in the business area; others raised issues in which economists specialised such as the efficient allocation of scarce resources.

"Moreover, economics is a very successful social science and is at its best in microeconomic analysis," said Dr Fels.

This statement conflicted with conventional wisdom that "there are as many opinions as economists and this makes their participation in policy-making of little use".

Systematic surveys of the opinions of economists, he said, showed a high degree of consensus on micro economic issues; and a lesser but not negligible degree of consensus on macroeconomics.

"As regards microeconomics, the chief source of difficulty for economic policymakers is not the lack of consensus among economists, but the gap between their views and those of politicians.

"Moreover, where there is divergence, it tends to be over straightforward political questions concerning income distribution rather than technical ones.

"On macroeconomics, there is a more serious divergence of opinions over the best ways of achieving agreed goals.

"The comparatively high degree of consensus over microeconomics is reassuring since the application of



• Dr Allan Fels

economics to law reform is a micro-economic matter."

Dr Fels said that the appointment of social scientists to law reform bodies should be at member — not consultant — level.

Consultants' views could too easily be ignored, he said, and their selection could depend on whether their views conformed with those of the commission.

## Changing views of child maltreatment

Changing views of what was meant by child maltreatment had important legal implications for children and their guardians.

Professor Peter Boss, of the department of Social Work, warned of this at an ANZAAS symposium on Child Maltreatment.

Professor Boss said definitions of child maltreatment had now been widened to include acts of omission as well as commission and dealt with difficult-to-define areas such as emotional neglect.

The number of professional groups involved in dealing with child maltreatment problems had correspondingly increased.

"The argument is that too wide a definition could lead to the increase of

circumstances in which a child can be removed from home.

"Enthusiasm and greater activity could lead to a call for more and more circumstances to be nominated as proper causes for judicial intervention."

The growing power of professionals to intervene and possibly deprive parents of the custody of their children carried the danger of professional dominance, he said.

Professor Boss said two sets of definitions of child maltreatment were likely to emerge — a broad definition used as an ideal by welfare and health professionals and a narrower one covering the judicial aspects of child protection.

Professor Boss said formal instruction in child-rearing, relationship-building and family management was largely ignored in our society.

## Token approach to sex equality

The commitment to equality for women and girls in educational areas was only superficial, Dr Shirley Sampson, lecturer in Education at Monash, told an ANZAAS symposium.

Dr Sampson gave the keynote address to a symposium on Women and Education Policy.

She said that, even in 1983, women's issues remained an afterthought.

"In our society there is a superficial commitment to 'equality' on every issue.

"This leads to the inclusion of 'girls' in lists of 'disadvantaged' educational groups but, in my view, this is often merely a formality to defuse criticism from a rather uncritical uninvolved majority of readers.

"I think the prolonged and repeated demands for reports about the problems faced by women and girls in areas of education is a similar ploy.

"Words are cheap and alone do not alter the status quo by one iota."

Dr Sampson said women were vastly under-represented on educational decision-making committees of all kinds.

This led to an "invisibility" of women's and girls' issues in education and meant that government directives on educational equality were ignored at the lower levels where the funds were dispersed.

This had happened with government policies designed to improve girls' poorer employment prospects.

Dr Sampson said the "invisibility" of women in education was hard to counter.

The few "visible" women, who worked on committees, became stereotyped as biased because of their reiteration of women's and girls' issues.

Dr Sampson suggested that women should put greatest emphasis on ensuring adequate representation on educational decision-making bodies.

This would give greater long-term control over the conditions of girls' and women's study and employment, she said.

## Regulating land use

A senior lecturer in Economics at Monash, Dr Ian Wills, has suggested a balanced system of incentives and controls to regulate Australian rural land use.

Dr Wills was speaking at an ANZAAS symposium, "Leaving and Loving the Countryside". He compared rural land use controls in Australia and the US.

Dr Wills said that under the present system of uncompensated rezoning, opponents in land use arguments stood to "win big" or "lose big".

This meant that both sides resorted to emotion and distortion of the facts to win as much as possible.

The information which was necessary to make a decision in the true public interest was often lost in the argument, he said.

Dr Wills said this would be less likely to happen in a system with both incen-

tives and controls which left no one much worse off.

Non-landowners would have to weigh up the benefits of stricter controls against the levies they would have to pay to fund the incentives such as property tax concessions or compensation payments, and landowners would have to weigh up the costs of the stricter controls against concessions payments they received.

### Mandatory minimum standards

Dr Wills said land use regulations which set mandatory minimum standards were not likely to work as well in rural areas as positive incentives.

"A minimum standards approach provides no incentive for above-minimum standards of land manage-

ment, which may have a high payoff in terms of maintaining or increasing the supply of solitude, scenery, native flora and fauna.

"If society needs rural landowners to act as 'park managers', it seems more realistic to think of a system of rewards for demonstrated positive performance, than of penalties for inaction."

Dr Wills also said that for many rural land use problems such as stream pollution, marauding domestic animals and removal of native flora, it could be very difficult to identify the guilty party.

He said that whilst there was no conclusive case against rural zoning as practised in Australia, Australian governments and planners could benefit from studying recent US moves in rural land use, particularly those which combined incentives with controls.

# Graduates endorse M. Admin. success

Monash's Master of Administration course has received a ringing endorsement from its graduates.

A preliminary report on a survey conducted among 1970-81 M. Admin. graduates says that, from their perspective, the course appears to be highly successful.

The survey was carried out by Monash's Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit at the request of the department of Administrative Studies. The findings are published in a recent issue of *Careers Weekly*, produced by the Careers and Appointments Service.

The survey drew a 40 per cent response — some 120 graduates.

The report says that the success of a course can be inferred both from what graduates say about its value to them, and from what has happened to them since graduation.

To gauge changes in this second area, the questionnaire sought information on such aspects as nature of work, seniority and responsibility.

The report notes "significant job advancement" in the years following graduation according to all criteria surveyed.

The survey found among respondents:

- A substantial move from specialist occupations (engineering, accountancy and the like) into management.
- Marked advances in seniority level — 45% increased their level while 52% remained constant.
- Considerable increases in responsibility — both direct (as expressed by the number of people for whom the graduate is directly responsible) and

ultimate (a qualitatively judged category).

Questions used to elicit judgements on the perceived value of the M. Admin. to respondents were in three areas: self-development and understanding; development of management-related skills and abilities (for example, critical analysis and presentation of ideas); job and career (progress, remuneration, security and the like). A seven-point scale ranging from "no value" to "extremely valuable" was used.

Says the report: "Graduates rate the course of very high value for the development of management-related skills and abilities and of high value for the understanding of groups and organisation.

"In the area of job and career, graduates consider the M. Admin. makes them particularly valuable to their employers, and is valuable in influencing their own job progress, job status and financial remuneration."

And a profile of the typical M. Admin. graduate?

He is 39 years old and earning \$36,000 p.a. (nearly a third of respondents earn more than \$40,000 p.a.).

Some 56% of respondents are employed in the private sector, 26% in the public sector and the rest have jobs in institutions (mainly universities and CAEs). The three main areas of tasks they perform can be categorised as "general management", "operations" and "other management services".

## Support expressed for aid programs

Programs of assistance offered by the Australian Universities' International Development Program have received enthusiastic support from university people involved with them.

The participants, meeting last month at AUIDP's second general conference, enthusiastically endorsed the belief that the programs should continue to be a high priority of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and of Australia's official development assistance effort.

AUIDP is a program of assistance to universities in developing countries administered by the AV-VC on behalf of the Australian Development Assistance Bureau. The emphasis in its work is on academic staff development in universities in the five ASEAN countries and the Pacific region.

The purpose of the conference was to bring together participants in the programs, consultants and the AUIDP standing committee to review current programs and assist in planning.

Monash participants at the conference, which was held at the University of New England, were Professor Bill Rachinger, Physics; Associate Professor Arthur Williams, Mechanical Engineering; Professor John Crossley, Mathematics; Dr Tim Ealey, Graduate School of Environmental Science; and Dr Terry Hore, Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit.

Professor Rachinger, as well as a

project consultant, is a member of the AUIDP standing committee.

Among topics discussed were the current extent of activities, including recent developments at universities in the Philippines and South Pacific where rapid expansion is expected in the future, and a new fellowships scheme to start in 1984.

The conference also considered issues of policy such as the role of consultants, the participation of colleges of advanced education, and prospects for the funding of AUIDP activities under the new Federal Government.

## Ethics and technology

A leading biologist will give a public lecture on "Management of Technology in Japan and its Ethical Implications" at Monash this month.

He is Dr Atuhiro Sibatani who is senior principal research assistant with the CSIRO Molecular and Cellular Biology Unit in Sydney.

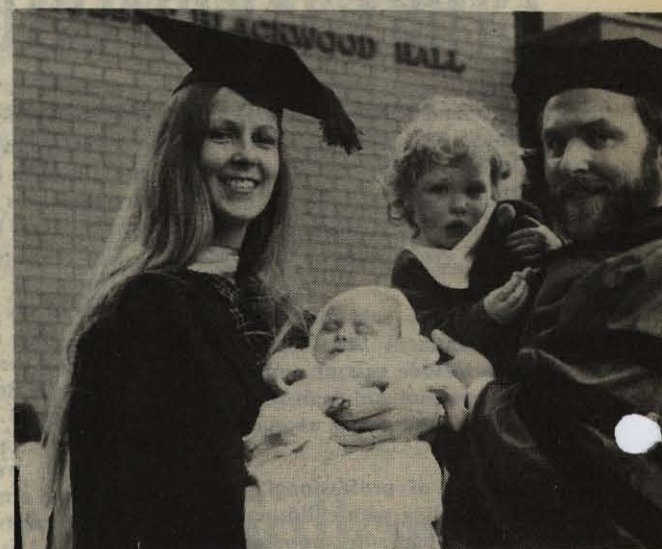
Dr Sibatani will speak in R3 on Wednesday, June 8 at 7.30p.m. He will cover ethical issues in new medical and biological technology.

The lecture is being sponsored by the Centre for Human Bioethics and the Japanese Studies Centre.

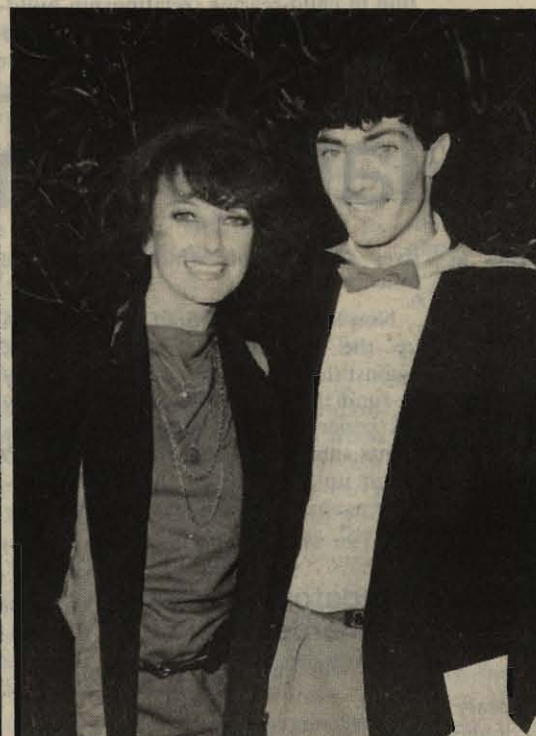
## At recent graduations



Mrs Mary Syme's first brush with tertiary education was in 1941 when she did an officer's course at the University of Melbourne, and subsequently became one of the youngest commissioned officers in the WAAF in World War II. Now, at 61, with two graduates (both from Monash) and one undergraduate in the family (as well as three grandchildren), she has scored her own degree — a Bachelor of Arts at the May conferring. Here, she's being congratulated by daughter Jenny, 17, who is doing Science at Melbourne.



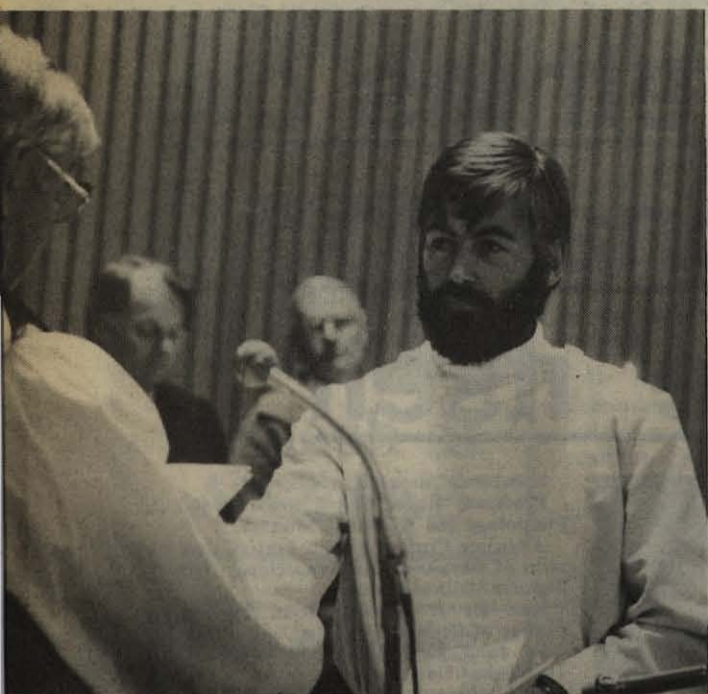
It was a family affair, too, when Trish Shaw, wife of Dr Robin Shaw, lecturer in marketing, graduated Bachelor of Special Education recently. The Shaws' children, Adam, 20 months, and Sarah, two months, were in the audience. Trish works at Dandenong Special School.



First to congratulate Nic Gold on gaining his BA degree was his mother — formerly well-known Melbourne model, Georgia Gold.



Recognise that face below? It's Gowing, whose son, Christopher, recently. Christopher is now a cadet the *Toorak Times*.



David Shand, Bishop Coadjutor of the Melbourne Diocese, recently  
 rev. Fr. Philip Huggins (right) as Anglican Chaplain to Monash  
 ceremony took place in the Religious Centre.



*You're in  
 safe  
 hands ...*

Monash Central Services' drivers have an excellent accident-free record as the National Safety Council of Australia testified recently with its drivers' awards. The Comptroller, Mr Len Candy, presents Ian Newbold with his certificate signifying 11 years' safe service. The other drivers at the ceremony were, from left, Fred Weston (8 years), Jim McDonald (8), Nick Ntais (4), Rex Bowes (8), Bill Turner (6), Russell Hall (11) and Stan Kilner (7).

Below, the team shows you how it's prepared for any emergency. New faces in this photo are Kevin Perry (18 years' service), Ian Troughton (4), and Anthony Powell (1).

## No worries (?)



*Just to  
 put you  
 in the  
 picture!*

...k Cr...pton,  
 ...y Miller,  
 ...le O'Neill.

...n Dennis  
 ...ed a B.A.  
 ...malist on



## 1983 Dodds winner

The latest winner of the J. W. Dodds Memorial Prize in Mechanical Engineering is **Geoffrey Smith**, who gained first class honours in his four year degree course.

The prize — a bronze medallion and cash award — is presented on the basis of (a) scholastic achievement, (b) potential as a practitioner, and (c) insights and understanding of mechanical engineering in Australia.

The Dodds Prize is given in memory of the late **Mr Jim Dodds**, founder of a small engineering enterprise which grew into the present firm of **Clyde-Riley Dodds Pty. Ltd.**

General manager of the firm, **Mr Gordon Page**, is pictured presenting Geoff with the medal.

"Mother" and "father": until relatively recently they have been well-defined words.

But they are now blurred by developments in the treatment of human infertility involving the use of donor sperm, eggs and embryos.

Last month some 160 people attended a conference organised by the Monash Centre for Human Bioethics on the ethical implications in the use of such donated material.

Chairman of the Centre's steering committee, **Professor John Swan**, outlined the developments:

"For some time now, married women unable to have children because of infertility of the husband, have been able to obtain spermatozoa from an anonymous but genetically matched third party. This is so-called AID or artificial insemination by donor.

"With the success and availability of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and embryo transfer (ET), two new possibilities arise for treating female infertility—transplantation of an ovum from a third party into the uterus of an infertile woman shortly before or after normal sexual intercourse; or transference of an ovum from a third party into a Petri dish where it can be fertilised by appropriate male sperm either from the woman's husband or another person, and the fertilised ovum then transferred, perhaps after storage in liquid nitrogen for some indefinite period, into the uterus of the mother-to-be."

The conference, held in the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, builds on one organised by the Centre for Human Bioethics last year on the ethical, legal and social implications of IVF and ET.

Professor Swan described the Centre's role in organising such events:

"It does not wish to take sides or to espouse a cause. Our role, in accordance with the scholarly tradition of universities, is to provide a forum, to make known the facts, to encourage debate."

On these pages, *Monash Reporter* presents a round-up of some of the papers presented at the conference.

## Practice of donor payment is 'seedy'

A Monash reproductive biologist criticised the practice of paying for sperm or egg donations for use in fertilisation programs.

In his paper Professor Roger Short also introduced the concept of intra-uterine adoption. Adoption of an embryo, he said, was infinitely preferable for the recipient couple to the common alternative of adopting a child.

Professor Short called the buying or selling of sperm or eggs "seedy in the extreme".

He said that voluntary donation was preferable, as was the case with blood donation in the UK and Australia as opposed to the US. It led to a better type of donation.

At present, sperm donors in Melbourne are paid about \$20 a sample for a total of six samples.

Professor Short said that the production of excess embryos in IVF programs raised the possibility of embryo donation and intra-uterine adoption.

"It may not even be necessary to use IVF to obtain donor embryos. We already know how to flush unfertilised eggs from the human uterus with a catheter passed through the cervix, and this could make embryo donation a relatively simple procedure," he said.

### Voluntary

Professor Short said that the voluntary donation of an embryo was preferable to socially-enforced donation of a newborn baby. The recipient would have the gratifying, emotional experience of birth and early bonding with the child.

But, again, for such a technique to be ethically acceptable, the question of inducement to donate would have to be examined carefully.

On AID, Professor Short said concern had been expressed that the procedure opened up possibilities of incest.

It had been calculated that if the sperm of one donor was used in four pregnancies, this possibility was one in

60,000. Another way of viewing this was that there would be one consanguineous marriage every 50 to 100 years.

Professor Short pointed out that while incest was taboo in our society's prevailing ethic, in other societies it was acceptable if not the rule.

The real problems with AID, he said, had to do with secrecy and deception. The latter could be eliminated by a change in the law (see Justice Austin Asche story).

But Professor Short said that, in his view, the secrecy element would have to be retained. This accorded anyway with the pattern of human behaviour: intercourse was a private, secret event compared with birth which was open and joyous.

**The service of a counsellor should be available to assist couples contemplating AID.**

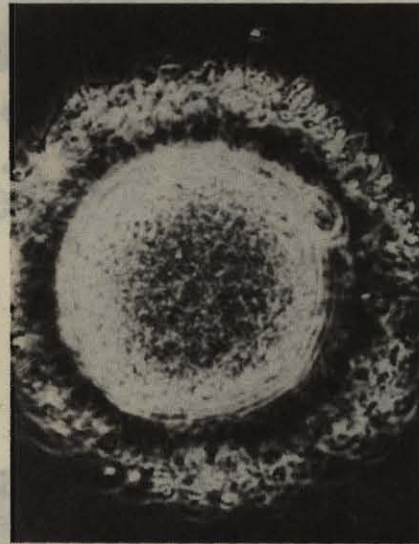
Counsellor in the infertility clinic of the Royal Women's Hospital, **Jennifer Hunt**, said: "The doctor and the counsellor have quite different services to offer, both of which are relevant, valuable and should be complementary in the context of making a decision about AID.

"I am convinced of the need to delegate counselling to a person whose professional focus centres on AID as a life-creating, family-building alternative to childlessness and to shift the emphasis away from medical treatment."

Ms Hunt said that a study of her 1981 case records indicated that 18 out of 50 couples recognised during the first interview that one or both partners was not ready to accept AID despite their having previously informed the doctor that they wished to proceed.

"The purpose of counselling is not to deter infertile couples from having children," she said, "but to ensure that appropriate planning goes into the decision to attempt AID."

# The ethics of donating 'life' itself



Speakers at the conference were: Professor Roger Short, departments of Physiology and Anatomy, Monash.

Associate Professor John Leeton, department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen Victoria Medical Centre.

Rev. Dr J. Henley, Dean, Melbourne College of Divinity.

Fr John Boyd-Boland, lecturer, Yarra Theological Union.

Dr M. Greenbaum, psychiatrist in private practice.

Mr J. Balfour.

Mrs Julienne Lauer.

Eva Learner, Director, Human Resources Centre, La Trobe University and Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences.

Jennifer Hunt, counsellor for the AID program and infertility clinic, Royal Women's Hospital.

Mrs Elizabeth Carlson, AID patient.

Mr Justice Austin Asche, senior judge of the Family Court.

Tapes of the proceedings are available from the Centre for Human Bioethics, ext. 3200.

## Adoption: is there a lesson?

More thought should be given to the possible effects of such procedures as AID on the children created, in the opinion of a woman involved in reunions between adoptees and their natural parents.

Former Vice-President of Jigsaw, Victoria, Mrs **Julienne Lauer**, looked at the implications of the adoption "model" for children conceived by donor programs.

Despite laws enforcing secrecy in adoption, Mrs Lauer said that more than 400 reunions of parties to adoptions had taken place since 1977 through the services of Jigsaw, Victoria

alone. Most were satisfying and very happy.

"Adoption workers have largely been persuaded that adoptees and relinquishing parents need to have some knowledge of each other, obtained through the release of non-identifying information, and that they should have the right to meet when the adoptee becomes adult," she said.

Mrs Lauer said that the secrecy surrounding AID recalled a time when prospective adoptive mothers were advised to pad themselves in order to appear pregnant and not to tell the child of his origin under any circumstances.

## The role of the counsellor

Ms Hunt said that the myth should be dispelled "that AID should remain shrouded in veils of secrecy."

"By far the majority of couples I see have already discussed their alternatives with close family members and friends and there is now a fairly equal distribution between those who do intend to inform the child and those who do not," she said.

This emergence of AID from the dark carried implications for service providers.

Ms Hunt said: "Couples are now needing counselling in relation to when and how to explain this type of conception to their children. We need to carry out research that will equip us to give couples the guidance that they are seeking."

She said that some studies also indicated that donors did not oppose more information about themselves being made available to AID families.

Ms Hunt said that it was generally agreed that a couple should have "adjusted to their infertility" before pro-

ceeding with AID. But such adjustment could be difficult to identify.

Repression or concealment of feelings such as guilt, inadequacy or sexual failure was common.

"It should not be assumed that a couple have come to terms with their infertility because they show no emotion about it," she said.

"We must remain alert to the fact that AID does not change the fertility status of the husband. It may disguise it if they choose to conceal the method of conception, but disguise is not analogous to adjustment.

"It may serve to quieten his guilt feelings in relation to his fertile and child-oriented wife. However, the process of inseminations may reawaken unresolved conflicts and the very presence of an AID child may act as a constant reminder of his biological failure."

Highlighting the need for adequate counselling, Ms Hunt said that a potentially dangerous situation could arise in which the longed-for child was conceived in an atmosphere of anger, confusion and poor communication between the husband and wife.



# It's time to decide on laws

The law was totally ill-equipped to deal with startling new developments in technology-aided reproduction, a senior judge of the Family Court told the conference.

Justice Austin Asche said that the community now faced a policy decision:

Should the law be left to develop in slow degrees, and from "a wilderness of single instances", working by painstaking analogy to the ultimate creation of a set of legal principles which cover the field?

Or should we move immediately to place on the statute books a comprehensive code regulating all presently known aspects of research, development and use of the new techniques?

Justice Asche said: "For the former solution it may be argued that we are still moving about in worlds not realised and may, by drastic legislation, fail to make provision for concepts yet unheralded or unborn; and that the machinery of gradual accretion of precedent allows the law to move backwards or forwards or sideways as knowledge grows.

"For the latter, it can be argued that time is on the wing and we cannot afford to wait; that already developments have occurred which drastically affect our community; that doctors, donors and parents require direction as to the way they are going and, most importantly, children are being born whose rights and status in the community are uncertain; that we must grasp the nettle even if we get a few stings in doing so."

Justice Asche suggested three moves, requiring relatively simple legislation, as a pragmatic solution to some immediate problems:

- Legislation to clarify the status of children born as a result of AID and IVF procedures along the lines of legislation in some American States.

- A form of licensing and direction of medical practitioners in the field, at least to the extent of prohibiting experimentation by unskilled persons.

- Amendment of the Registration of Births legislation to allow a child's birth to be registered without possible criminal offences being perpetrated.

## Donor the father

Justice Asche said that, under present law, the rights of children born as a result of AID were seriously affected. This also applied in IVF cases where donated ovum was used or, indeed, both donated ovum and sperm.

"Such a child is not the legitimate or even the illegitimate child of the party who has not provided the gamete," he said.

"In law, the donor of the gamete is the father or mother as the case may be of that child; and in law he or she carries the responsibilities of parenthood."

In the vast majority of AID cases, he said, it may be impossible to find the biological father. And the question of proof of paternity was made difficult by the

"presumption of legitimacy" — a presumption the law applies to children born in wedlock that they are legitimate unless and until the contrary is proved.

The fact remained, however, that the husband of an AID mother could never be entirely sure that his "paternity" would not be disputed; while the donor could never be entirely sure that his anonymity would be protected.

"The risk lies in simple human error or, if you like, in Murphy's law, which is that if anything can go wrong it will," he said.

Justice Asche said that the situation could be remedied by legislation which provided that where a husband consented to his wife having an AID procedure, the husband for all legal purposes was deemed to be the father of a child born as a result, and the donor deemed not to be. This would give the husband and the donor the same security as a legal adoption.

Justice Asche also suggested changes to the Victorian Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act (and similar legislation in other States).

At present, if the husband of an AID mother signs the register as father of the child he commits an offence and renders himself liable to the penalties of perjury. If the wife signs, naming the husband as father, she would be similarly liable. To leave the father's name blank may be repugnant to the couple.

Justice Asche also discussed legal inadequacies exposed by such procedures as the storage of embryos and surrogate motherhood.

## Open reporting, then judgement

Information about the new techniques in overcoming infertility must be made available to all levels of society before ethical judgements could be made on the programs.

Associate Professor John Leeton, a member of the Monash University-Queen Victoria Medical Centre-Epworth Hospital team which has recorded IVF successes over recent years, said: "This can only be achieved through honest medical reporting of all aspects of this work with broad interdisciplinary discussions that are accurately reported through responsible information channels."

Dr Leeton said that it was frustrating for the Monash team to be accused of proceeding with its work without public consultation.

Since the early '70s, attempts had been made to stimulate public discussion on the ethical implications of the work. Few people were interested.

"People don't take notice until something (like the birth of the first test-tube baby) happens," he said.

He pointed out that the team's work was subject to review by six ethics committees.

Among the techniques Dr Leeton covered in his paper were AID, IVF, the use of donor eggs and embryos, and deep-freezing of embryos.

The successful storage of embryos, he said, would "revolutionise" the present IVF program, improving pregnancy rates and cost-effectiveness significantly.

It would also simplify the donor egg-embryo program as strict synchronisation between the cycles of donor and recipient would no longer be required.

Dr Leeton said that AID was the main treatment today for male infertility which accounted for 30 to 35 per cent of infertility in couples.

Eleven AID centres had now been established in Australia and more than 2000 births reported.

He said that the average overall live-birth rate for AID was about 60 per cent — a relatively high rate which approached that of natural human pregnancy.

Dr Leeton said that development of a donor egg program, which was associated with IVF procedures, would be of benefit to an infertile woman who had either no eggs, inaccessible eggs or inappropriate eggs carrying a high genetic risk of foetal malformation.

He reported on the first case of a human pregnancy initiated by the transfer of a donated embryo fertilised in vitro. The pregnancy ended in spontaneous abortion at 10 weeks.

The case involved a 42-year-old woman who donated an excess egg collected during the treatment of infertility problems by IVF. The recipient was a 38-year-old woman whose husband was infertile. She herself had undergone an operation to improve her fertility and was fearful of further surgery.

The donated egg was fertilised with donated sperm matched to the recipient's husband.

Dr Leeton said: "One could be critical of donating an egg from a 42-year-old woman into a 38-year-old woman, because of the known increased risk of trisomy in women over 40, but these risks were small and were openly discussed with both the donor and recipient couple. Amniocentesis would be strongly advocated in this case, but not insisted on."

He said that ethical and legal considerations associated with the program certainly existed. But the research was under the surveillance of six ethics committees which set down general guidelines for its conduct.



Assoc. Prof. John Leeton

## Seminar on guardianship

Ethical and legal issues in guardianship of the intellectually handicapped will be the topic of a seminar to be held at Monash on Wednesday, June 15.

The seminar, which is free and open to the public, will be held in lecture theatre H3 of the Menzies building, starting at 2.15 p.m.

Among the speakers will be Dr Terry Carney, Monash faculty of Law; Dr Robert Young, Philosophy, La Trobe; Mr Alan Rassaby, Division of Mental Health, Health Commission of Victoria; Mr Mac Brazier, Kew Cottages and St Nicholas Parents' Association; Mr Graham Colling, editor "M.R. Connection"; and Mr Mark Dreyfus, National Research Institute for Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, Mount Royal Hospital.

## Procedures give doctors total control

The present operation of AID programs allowed doctors to wield almost total control over the lives of their patients.

Ms Eva Learner, director of the Human Resources Centre at La Trobe University and Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences, said that current practice was clouded in secrecy with information and records kept to a minimum. The sperm donor was remote from proceedings and discouraged from showing an interest in the results of his donation.

These elements were in direct contravention of the principles generally accepted in the community for healthy family and social development, Ms Learner said.

Such principles included:

- The rights of adults to make informed choices about life matters.

- Consistent and honest discussion between children and parents about family matters of major concern.

- Diffusion of the mysticism surrounding professional practice and the involvement of people in choices about professional matters.

Ms Learner said that it could be an important part of a child's development to know his or her origin.

AID children should have the maximum opportunity possible to gain information about their biological origins should they wish it as they grew older.

This would involve the keeping of detailed registers of sperm donors. Pilot studies had indicated that many donors would not be opposed to information being released about them — or, indeed, to one day meeting a child who had resulted from their donations.

# The making of a school principal

Two reports by a Monash educationist to be delivered to the Commonwealth Schools Commission next month promise interesting insights into what type of men and women become Australian school principals and how they are selected.

The reports will enable comparisons to be made between different school systems and between States.

They will represent the culmination of a hectic six months' work for lecturer in Education, **Dr Judith Chapman**.

Last December Dr Chapman was appointed project director for two of four studies commissioned by the Working Party for the Professional Development of Principals Project.

Her projects have been:

- To develop a descriptive profile of principals in both government and non-government schools throughout Australia.
- To identify the procedures which are currently followed in selecting and appointing principals and to identify

the assumptions underlying such procedures.

The other studies for the Working Party are on the role expectations of principals and the factors which impinge on their work; and on the courses available for the professional development of principals in Australia and overseas.

Dr Chapman took preliminary reports on her two projects to Canberra last month. In each she has worked to a remarkable timetable.

## Profile study

In the descriptive profile study, Dr Chapman surveyed by questionnaire one-fifth of Australian school principals — in government and non-government systems, at primary and secondary levels, and in all States and the Northern Territory.

The questionnaire, which had a 67 per cent response rate, sought information on each principal's personal background, formal education (including specific preparation in administration),

work experience and professional development activities.

It was designed in close consultation with the project steering committee, Education Departments and Catholic Education Offices in each State, and the Association of Independent Schools.

The information has been analysed to pinpoint differences among principals according to States and types of schools, systems nationally, primary and secondary levels, and according to age and sex.

In addition, for this first study, Dr Chapman selected from the survey sample a further sample of principals on which she has written intensive case studies.

In the study on the selection and appointment of principals, Dr Chapman conducted interviews with senior officers in the Education Departments and Catholic Education Offices in each State.

Also, the Association of Independent Schools was asked to identify the types

of independent schools in each State. Through the Association, Dr Chapman arranged interviews with governing bodies and principals of a sample of these.

She says: "It was important to understand the principals' perspectives on the procedures they had to follow — to compare selection criteria as the principals saw them with those actually used by the governing bodies."

## Other studies

The project, she points out, is not only concerned with the procedures for selection and appointment but also the assumptions underlying them.

In her research, Dr Chapman has been assisted by **Mr Brian Spicer**, **Dr John McArthur** and **Mrs Cath Henderson**, of the Education faculty.

Dr Chapman has had a long-time research interest in educational administration. Her doctorate was on the Victorian school principalship. She also conducted a study on the relationship between principals and school councils, supported by an ERDC grant.

## Graduation addresses Anti-education trend reversed . . .

Data for 1983 suggested that the trend for young people to turn away from further education had been reversed, the chairman of the Victorian Post-Secondary Education Commission, **Dr Graham Allen**, said at Monash last month.

Dr Allen was delivering the occasional address at an Arts graduation ceremony.

He said: "While it is too early to be confident, this apparent reversal is heartening to those of us involved in post-secondary education. As well as the personal benefits which can be gained from higher education, there are benefits to society in having its most

capable young people develop their abilities.

"This observation holds true whether it is framed in terms of economic development and maintaining a competitive edge, of coping with technological change, of finding solutions to the massive social problems facing our society, or of people who can examine our society critically and draw inequities and injustices to our attention."

Dr Allen said that one of the reasons scholastically able students turned away from higher education in recent years appeared to be that they were attractive to employers and therefore able to obtain jobs ahead of their less able peers.

## . . . combating the layman's fear of technology

Engineers faced an ever more tortuous future dealing with important issues outside their professional and technical competence.

Professor of Mechanism at Monash, **Professor Ken Hunt**, said this in delivering the occasional address at an Education/Engineering/Medicine graduation ceremony last month.

Professor Hunt said that the sources of those issues were manifold — environmental, emotional, legal, political or a combination of these.

Difficulties lay "in the realm of interactions between technologists on the one side and those on the other side who unthinkingly relish the benefits of technology every minute of the day and yet who fear it and fight it".

He said: "At bottom, the public at large, while accepting the many conveniences of technology, do not understand

technology, let alone the inescapable scientific 'truths' on which technology is based.

"Lack of understanding then leads vocal elements in the community to fear technology; fear engenders polarisation and confrontation, because the distrust is mutual — the technologists distrusting the protesters just as much as the protesters distrust the technologists.

"Politicians and governments may then enter the fray, and we can get further levels of confrontation which confuse and obscure the original technical issues.

"A crop of emotional pseudo-truths then grows up, fostered by both sides, and tangling everyone in knots.

"The proper issues will then not be properly understood by those who, in the end, have to make some kind of costly decision."



Budding scientists? These two youngsters — **Kriss and Jana Heimanis** — took enthusiastically to an equipment exhibition organised in association with the seventh national symposium of the Microscopical Society of Australia. Their father, **Peter Heimanis**, of Nepean CAE in NSW, was a participant at the symposium held at Monash last month.

## Concerts

Music for organ, harpsichord and instrumental ensembles will be featured in a series of Thursday lunchtime recitals in the Religious Centre during second term.

The first recital, starting at 1.15p.m., will be given by **Elizabeth Anderson** on the new Hubbard Harpsichord, donated by **Mrs Vera Moore**.

Other programs will be: **June 16**, organ recital by **Roderick Junor**; **June 23**, **Telemann Ensemble**; **June 30**, music for organ and harpsichord presented by **Elizabeth Anderson** and **Douglas Lawrence**; **July 7**, organ recital by **Milada Taka Mesikova**; **July 14**, harpsichord recital by **Glenys O'Donnell**; **July 21**, **Wednesday Concert** with songs and music by **Henry Purcell**; **July 28**, organ recital by **Bruce Steele**; **August 4**, harpsichord recital by **Harold Fabrikant**; **August 11**, organ recital by **Kenneth Weir**.

## Scholarships

The Registrar's department has been advised of the following scholarships. The Reporter presents a precis of the details. More information can be obtained from the Graduate Scholarships Office, ground floor, University Offices, extension 3055. **German academic exchange scholarships 1983/84.**

For advanced study in German: Scholarships: available to honours graduates who are Australian citizens; Value: about 830DM per month, plus other allowances.

Travel Grants: available to postgraduate scholarship holders; Value: return economy air fare.

Closing Date July 1.

**Philips International Institute — Post-graduate Scholarships 1984**

For graduates of electrical engineering, physics or related subjects. Tenable for one year in Holland. Applications close August 1. **NH&MRC Public Health Travelling Fellowship.**

Valued at up to \$11,300. Tenable for up to 12 months overseas. Applications close at Monash Friday, June 24.

# Brahms festival a success

Community response to the Brahms Chamber Music Festival held in Robert Blackwood Hall in April and May had been overwhelming.

More than 6000 people had attended the nine free concerts, the director of Blackwood Hall, Dr Ian Hiscock, said.

"The Festival was the biggest thing of its kind Monash has ever attempted and the response showed that there is a call for this type of offering in the community," he said.

The Festival was organised to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Brahms' birth and the 13 musicians who took part played 27 works, all of Brahms' chamber music.

Dr Hiscock said he was unaware of such a major project having been undertaken before.

The Festival had required an enormous amount of organisation co-ordinating the visiting Rowe Quartet from the United States; Trio Victoria (two of whose members play for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra; the third, Dr Brian Chapman, is a Monash physiologist who took a major part in organising the event); Ensemble I (some of whose members are based in Toowoomba, Queensland); and the solo clarinetist Phillip Miechel, also a MSO member.

All nine concerts went direct to air on the ABC's FM network, and were recorded for replay on AM stations.

The Festival received generous support from Mrs Vera Moore.

## Important dates

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

- 1: Graduation ceremony — Arts.
- 6: Second term begins. Second term for Medicine IV. 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.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 June 6 and the end of the appropriate teaching period.
- 13: Queen's Birthday holiday.
- 17: Applications for discontinuation of all studies in undergraduate courses in the faculty of Engineering with a request to resume studies in 1984 will not normally be considered after this date. First half-year ends for B.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., Dip.Ed.Psych. and M.Ed.St.
- 24: Lectures in subjects and units taught in the first half-year by the faculties of Arts and Economics and Politics end. First half-year topics in Mathematics end.
- 27: Applications open for entry to Bachelor of Social Work in 1984.

# An armchair with a history

Assistant to Warden of the Union, Caroline Piesse, is gradually piecing together the history of an intricately carved jarrah armchair which "lives" in her office.

The Art Gallery of Western Australia recently told her the chair is the work of William Howitt, a well-known Perth woodcarver who died in 1928.

Howitt was one of the first craftsmen to use the very hard jarrah. His work won gold, silver and bronze medals at international exhibitions.

He lived in Melbourne for eight years after World War I. Among his major works here were the pulpit and the Bishop's throne in St Paul's Cathedral.

The chair, which has a bust of Sir John Monash carved into the back, presumably dates from this period.

(Howitt once carved a settee with a bust of the Kaiser in the seat, apparently for patriotic bottoms during World War I.)

Caroline says the chair was delivered "anonymously by taxi-truck" to the Union in the mid-'60s.

She would like to hear from anyone with more information.



• Caroline Piesse, assistant to the Warden of the Union, displays the beautifully carved Monash armchair.

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.

1-11: **MUSICAL** — "The Gondoliers", presented by Melbourne Music Theatre. Nightly at 8.15. Sunday matinee on June 5 at 2.15 p.m., Saturday matinee on June 11 at 2.15 p.m. Alex. Theatre. Admission: adults \$14.90; pensioners, full-time students under 26 \$11.90; children \$8.90. Bookings at all BASS agencies.

1-17: **EXHIBITION** — "The Renaissance Gardens of Italy", a pictorial presentation. Pres. by department of Visual Arts. Exhibition Gallery, Menzies Building. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2117.

2: **PUBLIC MEETING** — "Geomorphology of the Martian Polar Ice Caps", by Dr. J. H. J. Leach, Geology Department, University of Melbourne. Films of Space Shuttle STS-2 and STS-3 will also be shown. 7 p.m. Lecture Theatre R5. Admission free. Inquiries: 547 6797.

6: **MIGRANT STUDIES SEMINAR** — "The policies and programs of the Ethnic Affairs Commission, and some implications for research", by Mr George Papadopoulos and Mr Des Storer (Ethnic Affairs Commission). 20: A panel discussion on the role and problems of the ethnic press. Speakers include editors from Neos Kosmos, Latvian News and Die Woche in Australien. Both seminars at 7.30 p.m. Lecture Theatre R3. Admission free. Inquiries: exts. 2925, 2825.

**LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Organ Recital by Albert Bolliger. Works by Francois Couperin, Georg Bohm and Johann Sebastian Bach. 1.15 p.m. RBH. Admission free.

8: **LECTURE** — "Management of Technology in Japan and its Ethical Implications" by Dr Atuhiko Sibatani. Pres. by Centre for Human Bioethics and the Japanese Studies Centre. 7.30 p.m. Lecture Theatre R3.

## June diary

- Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3200.
- 9: **ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURES** — "Historical Background of Aboriginal Organisations", by Mr Gordon Bryant. 16: "Need for Rise of Aboriginal Organisations run by Aborigines", by Ms Penny Bamblett. 23: "Victorian Aborigines Advancement League", by Mr Ron James. 30: "Role of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Commonwealth Regional Director", by Mr David Kidney. All lectures at 1 p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3335.
- LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Harpsichord recital by Elizabeth Anderson. 1.15 p.m. Religious Centre. Admission free.
- 15-JULY 29: **FESTIVAL OF THEATRE** — Readings, concerts and workshops in personal growth, acting skills, clowning and dance. Further information, program: ext. 3108. Also **EXHIBITION** of theatre posters of the last 10 years from the Performing Arts Museum. Alex. Theatre foyer. Admission free.
- 16-25: **MUSICAL** — "Irene", pres. by Monash University Musical Theatre Company for the Festival of Theatre. Nightly at 8 o'clock. Saturday matinee on June 25 at 2 p.m.; gala suppers on June 17 and 22. Alex. Theatre. Admission: \$6, \$3 concession.
- 16: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Organ Recital by Roderick Junor. 1.15 p.m. Religious Centre. Admission free.
- 18: **SATURDAY CLUB** (Red Series A & C) — "Story World" by Francisus Henri. Series A at 2.30 p.m., Series C at 11.30 a.m. Alex. Theatre. Admission: adults \$6, children \$4.75. (Red Series 'C' now available, beginning at 11.30

a.m. Series subscription: \$18.60).

**LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Piano Recital by Michael Houstoun. Works by Beethoven and Brahms. 1.15 p.m. RBH. Admission free.

**LUNCHTIME CONCERT** by the Telemann Ensemble. 1.15 p.m. Religious Centre.

**WILFRED FULLAGAR MEMORIAL LECTURE** — "Antitrust Law and Market Alternatives to Regulation", by Prof. Phillip Areeda, Harvard University. Pres. by Faculty of Law, 6.30 p.m. Alexander Theatre. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3300.

**LUNCHTIME SOLO** by Elizabeth Patterson, for the Festival of Theatre. 1 p.m. Exhibition Gallery, Menzies Building. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3108.

**COURSE** begins in "Computer Systems in Manufacturing Management", pres. by department of Econometrics and Operations Research (six Wednesdays concluding Aug. 3) 6-8 p.m. Course fee: \$245. Further information, registration: Dorothy Jones, ext. 2441.

29-JULY 9: **COMEDY** — "You Can't Take It With You", pres. by Monash Theatre Workshop for the Festival of Theatre. Nightly at 8 o'clock. Alex. Theatre. Admission: \$5, \$3 concession.

30: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Music for organ and harpsichord by Elizabeth Anderson and Douglas Lawrence. 1.15 p.m. Religious Centre. Admission free.

## MONASH REPORTER

The next issue will be published in the first week of July, 1983.

Copy deadline is Friday, June 24. Early copy is much appreciated.

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

# Stand by for some razzle-dazzle drama



● On display in the Alex. ... a poster of the show that started it all for the Pram Factory back in 1970.

## Whatismore

These performances/lectures/discussions to be held at lunchtime in the Exhibition Gallery of the Visual Arts department are also part of the Festival:

- On Wednesday, June 29, Elizabeth Patterson, complete with body mask, will explore the gallery space. Her "theatre" defies pigeon-holing.

- On Thursday, July 7, Peter Oyston, one-time Dean of Drama at the Victorian College of the Arts and now a director with Crawford Productions, will share some of his dramatic experiences.

- On Wednesday, July 13, Tracey Harvey — member of the Whittle Family, star of "Back to Bourke Street" at the Last Laugh, and actress in recent films and TV series including "The Clinic", "The Sullivans" and "Waterfront" — will bring to campus her character Theresa O'Reilly, singing lay nun "who has laid them in the aisles from Christchurch to the Whitsunday Passage". "Whether a Catholic or a sinner you'll love Sister O'Reilly," her promotion promises.



● Terry McDermott ... he'll direct 'You Can't Take It With You!'

● Elizabeth Patterson in mask.



There'll be a new zest in the performing arts at Monash this month and next when the 1983 Festival of Theatre gets underway.

The Festival, which is being sponsored by the Student Theatre Committee and the Alexander Theatre, builds on last year's Festival of Comedy and Dance.

It is on its way to becoming, says Student Theatre Co-ordinator Tony MacGregor, a true festival for the local community.

Between June 15 and July 29, says Tony, groups at Monash will be "letting people know that there's a lot to entertain and edify them on campus".

The Festival will have four showcase pieces — new productions of "Irene", "You Can't Take It With You", "Henry V" and "Equus".

But it will also extend beyond the confines of the Alexander and Union theatres. In an effort to get bums off seats, there will be a series of drama, dance and clowning workshops. Also on the program are performances/discussions featuring leading dancers, actors and directors.

And Tony says that there will be a host of other activities not specifically planned for the Festival but loosely linked with it in what he terms a "free for all".

Throughout the Festival, Melbourne theatre posters of the last 10 years, on loan from the Performing Arts Museum, will be on show in the foyer of the Alexander Theatre.

In a little more detail, these are the highlights:

- Irene, the stylish Roaring '20s musical, will be staged by the Monash University Musical Theatre Company which last year mounted a production of "Guys and Dolls". The musical, which shot Julie Anthony to fame in Australia and London, is being directed by Roslyn McKenzie. Its season at the Alex. runs from June 16 to 25.

- You Can't Take It With You is a comedy which won its authors George Kaufman and Moss Hart a Pulitzer Prize and, in the film version, an Oscar for Jimmy Stewart. Presented by the Monash Theatre Workshop, this production follows one at the Sydney Opera House last year and precedes a new one on Broadway this year. The director is Terry McDermott, stage and TV actor, who has previously directed "The Tavern" for MTW. The season in the Alex. runs from June 29 to July 9.

- Henry V, Shakespeare's drama of power and war, is being directed by Tim Scott who promises an innovative production which reflects the play's relevance to our times. It will run in the Alex. from July 15 to 23.

- Equus, a modern classic by Peter Shaffer who also wrote "Amadeus", will have a season in the Union Theatre from July 26 to 30. The production is being directed by Andrew Enstice.

Activities inviting audience participation include:

- A series of dance workshops to be given on July 26 and 27 by members of the Kinetic Energy Dance Company in association with the Monash Modern Dance Group.

- A series of four "introduction to drama" workshops starting on June 15.

- Clowning/improvisation workshops to be held in June/July.

Among associated Festival activities will be: new exhibitions in the Visual Arts' Exhibition Gallery; a performance by the Monash Orchestra (Union main dining room, July 1 at 8 p.m.); a recital by the University Choral Society (Wholefoods Restaurant, July 5 at 8 p.m.); an exhibition of Borneo arts (Arts & Crafts Centre from July 27 to 30); and a cultural "fare" (a food and music festival to be held in the upstairs foyer of the Union on July 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

## After 'fooling' around, Tony drops back in



● Tony MacGregor

There are certain ironies in Tony MacGregor's life.

These days, as Student Theatre Co-ordinator, he advises the enthusiasts to maintain a proper balance between their interest in the theatre and their studies.

Back in 1974, Student MacGregor, Western Australian-born, spent a "scant year" at ANU in which he became totally immersed in student theatre.

He dropped out of University into Fools' Gallery (a contradiction in terms?), a Canberra-based community theatre group which he co-founded. When the Gallery visited Melbourne with "Standard Operating Procedure", at the Anthill Theatre, Tony stayed.

For seven or so years he has been involved with the community arts movement which, he says, has taken root most strongly in Melbourne over the last decade making it the new "Athens of the South".

He says that the community arts movement has opened up possibilities for individuals and groups to use the creative arts in achieving specific aims — whether they be those of personal expression, the examination of community

problems or exploration of relationships in society.

The movement is, then, intrinsically political for it gives people a chance "to participate".

"It provides resources through which individuals can achieve creative living and working," he says.

Among the fruits of the community arts movement, Tony says, are the increasing popularity of community festivals, the establishment of community arts centres, the growth of drama and art as working resources in schools, and the boom in arts and crafts generally.

### Participation

The emphasis in such activities is on the participatory process, he says, rather than on abstract notions of quality.

A second irony: in his own work, Performer MacGregor pays strict regard to those abstract notions of quality and "professionalism".

What of the Monash student theatre Tony has observed since his appointment at the beginning of the year?

First, he points out that his job is that of "co-ordinator" and he is not in a position to tell students what they should be doing. He believes it is important, however, to bring before the student population a range of opportunities so they may "bite at some".

He would like to see students attempting more contemporary drama and original work.

At the moment, he says, there is a tendency for them to put their efforts into "big shows" which place demands on style of presentation not always compatible with the skills, resources or attitudes of students.

There is value, he believes, in extending workshop programs which give people a chance to learn.

Certain elements, he says, are working against truly robust student drama.

One is the general mood of the times. The threat of unemployment encourages a "heads down" attitude among students.

Another is continuous assessment, the cause celebre of a decade or so ago which has turned into a tyrant over students' time.