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• Dr Stephen Phillips . . . risk is in the withdrawal phase. Photo: Rick Crompton

Study notes how and when of alcohol brain damage

The work of a young Monash medical researcher has thrown new light on how alcohol-related brain damage occurs.

Dr Stephen Phillips' findings carry significant implications for the medical treatment of alcoholics, their care in detention centres, and the prevention of brain damage in babies newly born to alcoholic mothers.

Dr Phillips' research shows that brain damage in adults is not caused directly by alcohol during intake. "The belief that every glass of beer kills a few brain cells stands as a myth at this time," he says.

Rather, brain damage appears to occur during the phase of withdrawal of alcohol from an alcohol-dependent person. "Withdrawal" can be a lull in drinking of a matter of days or weeks.

Now a research fellow in the department of Anatomy, Dr Phillips completed his Ph.D. in 1981 in the department of Physiology under the supervision of Dr Brian Cragg, recently retired. His doctorate was completed in the remarkably short time of 27 months.

The research has caused international attention. Dr Phillips has been asked to contribute to an Oxford University Press book on alcohol and brain development and has been approached to speak at a major conference at the University of Florida in the US on alcohol and brain damage.

In their study, which was supported by a Monash Special Research Grant and an Australian Associated Brewers' Grant, Dr Phillips and Dr Cragg used an

experimental population of rats and mice.

The animals were fed a diet consisting of nine per cent alcohol for four months. Alcohol was then withdrawn from their intake.

Using light and electron microscopy, Dr Phillips sought to identify brain damage in the animals at various stages by looking at the loss of brain cells and the loss of synapses.

• Continued P.2

Monash plans change for 1985 ANZAAS

Next year, the Australian & New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) comes to Monash — and, on present indications, it will represent a significant departure from previous styles of Congress.

For a start, it will not be burdened with a general "theme" which most sections have trouble relating to. Instead, it will be known as a Festival of Science.

More importantly, an all-out effort will be made to engage the interest and attendance of the general public and, in particular, of the youth of the State. The organisers say they hope to achieve a "mix" of one-third scientists, one-third general public and one-third senior secondary students.

According to Congress Director, Professor John Swan, the planning groups are aiming for a more streamlined program, drawing the existing 36 sections together into seven broad areas of interest, and making it more accessible to more people at lower cost.

Members of the public, for instance, will be able to book for half-day or day sessions at minimal cost.

Professor Swan said there had been criticisms of recent congresses on the score of excessive registration fees, crowded programs and poor attendances (at this year's Congress many lectures attracted fewer than a dozen listeners).

In a progress report to the ANZAAS Council at the start of this year's Congress, the Monash planners said that public participation was particularly appropriate in 1985 as the Congress would be part of Victoria's 150th year celebrations.

And youth participation was equally appropriate because 1985 had been designated International Year of Youth.

In a national radio broadcast at the

end of the Canberra meeting, Professor Swan detailed some of the innovations it was hoped to introduce in 1985.

He said:

"Victoria wants to make a major feature of Youth ANZAAS and the Dallas Brooks Hall has been hired for the presentation of four mornings of 'science spectaculars'.

"About 1500 students, male and female, will be invited, representing every secondary high school and technical school in the state, with contingents also from other states, New Zealand and neighbouring countries. In the afternoons the students will be able to attend the main ANZAAS meeting on the Monash campus.

"For one day of the Congress we plan a family ANZAAS program which will include visits to many places of scientific and cultural interest in Melbourne, including art galleries and museums, the zoo, scientific research laboratories, hospitals, health care units, the law courts and the like, and also trade union organisations where the art, craft and science of various trade skills can be explained and demonstrated.

"In line with this desire to involve the public, and especially young people, and to strengthen links with New Zealand and neighbouring countries, ANZAAS has elected Sir Edmund Hilary as its next President, and he will give two Presidential addresses — one at Monash and the second to 2500 young people to the Melbourne Concert Hall during the Congress."

Professor Swan said that a talk will be held at 1.10 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13, in R7 to inform Monash staff and students of the Congress objectives, format and procedures.

Monash at ANZAAS '84—P.4

Open Day — the University goes on show

More than 20,000 people are expected to visit Monash on Open Day — Sunday, August 5 — between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

It is the University's first full-scale Open Day since 1981. In other years a courses and careers counselling day has been held.

According to Open Day Director, Professor John Crisp, the program has three aims. The first is to provide information and counselling about courses and career options available at Monash. Prospective students of all ages

will be encouraged to use this opportunity to discuss subject and career choices with experienced advisers.

The second aim is to present an exhibition of departmental and student activities, programs and achievements. Professor Crisp says that Open Day provides a chance for the University to demonstrate how its teaching and research contributes to industry, commerce, the professions and the community generally.

The third aim is to provide an opportunity for the general public to explore

both the intellectual and social diversity of campus life. Monash has always encouraged individuals and community groups to use its teaching facilities, performing arts theatres and recreational amenities.

Members of staff and students from all departments, along with the Faculty Information Centres, will be available to discuss specific problems or answer general inquiries.

Further information about Open Day may be obtained from Vicki Thomson on ext. 2002.

The Festival of Theatre starts in June — details back page

This McCubbin is on its way



Frederick McCubbin's *While the Billy Bolls* (1886) is one of 80 important works coming to Monash for the exhibition *The Artists' Camps: Plein Air Painting in Melbourne 1885-1898*. Further details are on P.8.

How brain damage occurs

• From front page

Synapses are contacts between nerve cells. When such contacts are broken, individual nerve cells of the brain cannot "talk" to each other and mental deficiencies result.

Dr Phillips observed that the animals suffered little loss of cells or synapses during their alcohol treatment but significant loss of both after withdrawal.

He found the same treatment response when he looked at a third factor of brain damage — the function of the blood brain barrier.

The blood brain barrier is a characteristic of blood vessels passing through the brain which serves to protect the brain from chemicals in the blood which may be inimical to it.

Dr Phillips found that while the animals were on a high alcohol diet their blood brain barrier was not damaged.

When alcohol was withdrawn, the blood brain barrier became weakened, more permeable and allowed chemicals to cross it.

Dr Phillips says that a loss of brain cells is permanent; a loss of synapses can be restored; and it is unknown if a damaged blood brain barrier can be repaired.

He says that his research has important implications for the treatment of alcoholics and the care of those placed on rehabilitation programs.

Indications are that a phased

Morey lecture

A leading Danish educationist will deliver the 1984 Elwyn Morey Memorial Lecture tomorrow (June 7) at 8 p.m.

He is Mr Jorgen Hansen, Chief Inspector of Education (Special Education Section) of the Danish Ministry of Education.

Mr Hansen's topic will be "Normalisation, Decentralisation and Integration of the Society: Contributions to persons suffering from functional difficulties — a northern European approach".

The lecture will be held in Rotunda Theatre 4.

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withdrawal of alcohol is likely to lessen, but not stop, brain damage.

Dr Phillips says that alcoholics "drying out" in hospital are sometimes given drugs of the benzodiazepines group to offset the delirium tremens (DTs) associated with withdrawal.

"The problem is that they can transfer a dependency from alcohol to the drugs," he says.

In his study he looked, too, at rats born to alcohol-treated mothers and noticed the same effects of withdrawal in the young.

"While in the womb, the young rat received alcohol through the placenta. Once born that supply was withdrawn and within five days brain damage had been noted.

"It is likely that children born to alcoholic mothers go through the same process. Indeed, babies born to alcoholic mothers exhibit tremors and even seizures within 24 hours of delivery."

Dr Phillips says that he would now like to extend his research into the area of brain damage prevention. The identification of groups most at risk and the identification of the first signs of

brain damage would be two worthwhile investigations.

He says it seems certain that the maintenance of a good nutritional diet is a factor in reducing risk.

Some clinicians have proposed fortifying Australian beer with thiamine because alcoholics are often found to be deficient in this vitamin.

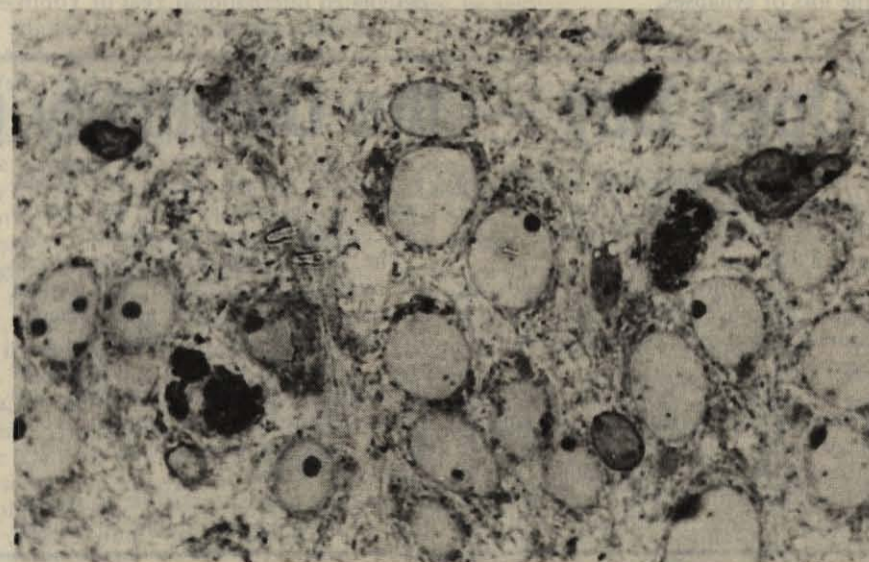
Dr Phillips says that one of the early signs that alcoholics may be damaging their brains is a condition known as sleep apnoea. In this condition, a person's breathing while asleep is less than normal and his brain becomes anoxic (deprived of oxygen).

"This may explain why an alcoholic when arrested, deprived of his alcohol and detained in a watch-house can die overnight," Dr Phillips says.

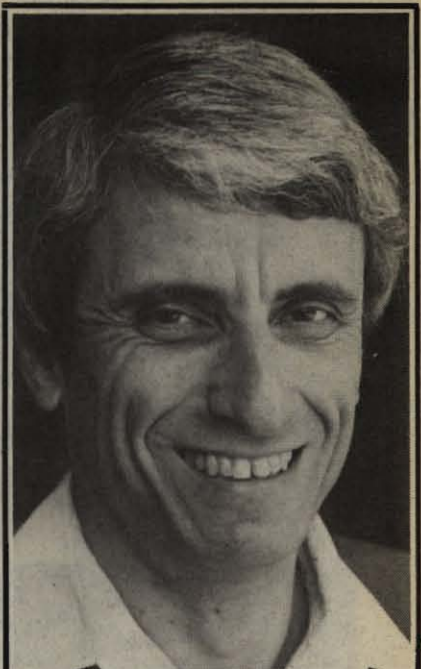
The incidence of alcoholism appears to be increasing in Australia — and at great cost to the community.

Some 13 per cent of psychiatric hospital beds are occupied by alcoholics. Their average period of hospitalisation is 20 months. Over the past five years, 80 per cent of those admitted for treatment for alcoholism have been new patients.

Through the light microscope:



• Magnified 1000 times, this is a section of a five-day-old rat's brain showing brain cells. The rat has been exposed to alcohol and then its supply withdrawn. Already brain damage has occurred: the dark cells are dead or dying.



• Bob Steiner (Terbot) at Monash.

Paranormal claims — a 'Terbot' jet of hot air!

ESP became "Extra Silly (or Slick) Paranormal" when self-confessed fake, Bob Steiner (alias Steve Terbot), addressed a Monash Psychology department symposium last month.

Mr Steiner is a professional magician and psychic debunker. During May he made a series of appearances on "Tonight with Bert Newton" as Terbot who performed numerous feats supposedly achieved through psychic powers.

Dick Smith put up \$100,000, Derryn Hinch \$10,000, Phillip Adams \$10,000 — all "Terbot's" if he could perform just one psychic feat that could be tested in scientific conditions.

It was a hoax, in which the TV program participated, intended to show a wide audience that certain claims should be taken cautiously — if not downright cynically.

Monash link

Mr Steiner, founder of the (San Francisco) Bay Area Skeptics, was brought to Australia by the Australian Skeptics whose president is a Monash graduate, Mark Plummer.

Mr Plummer arranged for Mr Steiner to appear at Monash in his Terbot guise, courtesy of the Monash Psychological Students' Society, and then to return uncloaked — or, rather, in magician's cloak.

Mr Steiner has taken great pride in demonstrating that a sleight of hand can get out of hand — with dangerous consequences in areas such as "psychic surgery" — before such groups as the California Medical Association and the US Air Force's medical branch.

Monash study begins on equal opportunity

A senior tutor in English at Monash in the early 1970s has returned to the University to take up the position of Research Fellow — Equal Opportunity.

She is Dr Gabrielle (Gay) Baldwin who will be investigating matters of equal opportunity in employment for the Vice-Chancellor. Her appointment is for 12 months.

Dr Baldwin says that her research will involve an investigation of the patterns of appointment and promotion of staff, both academic and general, in the University.

She says: "I'll be attempting to identify the exact nature of apparent discrepancies in the distribution of appointments and promotions and the reasons for those discrepancies."

Dr Baldwin intends to focus her research primarily on women as an apparently disadvantaged group.

"The call for such an investigation has come mainly from women at this University," she says.

"However, I will be happy to receive submissions from any groups or individuals who feel themselves to be disadvantaged in their employment prospects at Monash."

Dr Baldwin says that her first job will be to build up a picture of employment patterns at Monash. In this she will extend a preliminary study conducted by the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit.

She then plans to move on to case studies of representative employees.

"I think the most fruitful approach I can take is to explore particular people's experiences in some detail rather than attempt a broad survey," she says.

Finally, Dr Baldwin will be looking to make recommendations fostering equal opportunity in employment, based on her research.

Dr Baldwin has had a longstanding if, to date, informal interest in the issues she is now researching.

A graduate of the University of Melbourne, she studied for her doctorate at North-Western University, Illinois, from 1968 to '72. Her field was American literature.

Back in Australia, she worked as a senior tutor in the English department at Monash from 1972 to '76. She spent the next three years as a senior tutor in English at La Trobe University.

In 1981 Dr Baldwin lectured at the then Toorak State College and has had no academic job since.

During her years of study and teaching she has had two children and "acquired" two step-children.

"I am very aware of the pressures on women who try to combine careers with family commitments," Dr Baldwin says.

"I am familiar, too, with the problems women face, generally, in finding and keeping a place in the academic system.

"Having had a series of untenured jobs, I know how frustrating it can be to reach a certain point in one's career and get no further."

Dr Baldwin's study at Monash comes at a time when similar studies are being conducted at other universities and colleges around Australia. Some studies have been commissioned by the institutions themselves, such as at Monash; others have been carried out by interested groups.

A remarkably consistent picture emerges of women's opportunities in employment and study, says Dr Baldwin.

Women are shown to be under-represented other than in junior, untenured positions. Among students, females tend to be concentrated in certain disciplines and fewer go on to higher study.

Issues of equal opportunity have been pursued by the Federation of Australian University Staff Associations (FAUSA) and, at Monash, by the Staff Association (SAMU), also.

Dr Baldwin says that New South Wales leads other States in effective anti-discrimination legislation. Most NSW tertiary institutions now employ equal opportunity officers.

On the Federal scene, the Government's yet-to-be-published Green Paper on Affirmative Action is likely to see several pilot programs set up in NSW.

The notion of affirmative action, or positive discrimination in favor of disadvantaged groups, causes concern in some quarters, largely because of a lack of understanding of what it involves, Dr Baldwin says.

Affirmative action programs usually mean employers voluntarily setting themselves targets on participation rates by disadvantaged groups, to be achieved over time, she says.

Dr Baldwin is attached to HEARU during her study. She is located in room 322 of the Law Building and can be contacted on exts 3275 or 3270.

Disarmament Ambassador on campus

The Monash Peace Studies Network will bring a number of distinguished speakers to the campus for seminars in second term.

The next seminar, on Tuesday, June 26, will be given by Mr Richard Butler on "Australia and the Disarmament Process".

Mr Butler was appointed Australia's first Ambassador for Disarmament by the Federal Government in 1983. His role is to represent Australia at international disarmament forums.

The seminar will provide an opportunity for the discussion of disarmament and arms control issues such as a comprehensive test ban treaty, chemical and biological weaponry, prevention of an arms race in outer space, nuclear-free zones, and the role of the United Nations in relation to superpower rivalry.

On Tuesday, July 17, Professor Gene Sharp, of the Harvard Centre of International Affairs, will speak on "Alternative Defence Options for Australia: Philosophy and Practice".

Professor Sharp is the author of a three-volume study on the politics of non-violent action.

The seminars will be held from 4 pm to 6 pm in the Narthex of the Religious Centre.



• Dr Gabrielle Baldwin, EO Research Fellow.
Photo: Julie Fraser

Universities urged to muster graduate support

Graduates have been "phenomenally silent" about the difficulties faced by Australian universities in recent years, according to the permanent head of the Commonwealth Department of Education and Youth Affairs, Mr Richard Johnson.

Mr Johnson, formerly a professor of classics at the Australian National University, was addressing a conference of Australian university information officers at the University of Sydney in May.

Speaking of the various groups in the community who needed to be kept informed about the activities of universities, he said:

"There is one section of the general public on whom in particular it ought to be profitable to concentrate: that is your own graduates.

"I do not know how many hundreds of thousands of graduates there must be in Australia after the academic expansion of the last 20 years, but during this last decade of financial difficulty they have been phenomenally silent. Indeed a number of them have led the onslaught.

"I cannot help thinking that the relative protection which the universities of Oxford and Cambridge and the major American private universities have enjoyed when many other universities in those countries were suffering severely must be due to the obvious affection and respect which most of their graduates have for those particular institutions.

"If Australian graduates could be mustered to the support of their universities in significant numbers your position would be a great deal easier.

"The same goes for the present students. There are 350,000 students in higher education in Australia, and it would be a great help to you if that strength could be directed to extending and improving the educational enterprise as well as to winning increases in living allowances."

Mr Johnson said he doubted whether the Minister for Science and Technology or the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs needed to be persuaded of the importance and value of the work of universities.

But there were 27 people in the Federal Ministry — as well as ministers, MPs, civil servants at all levels and in a wide range of areas, state and federal — who needed to be kept constantly informed of the activities of universities.

Mr Johnson went on: "There are also the major national associations of commerce and industry, of the professions and of the trade unions.

"I suggest to you that it is part of your function to keep all these well informed, to keep the lines of communication open, to explain to them what you are on about, your purposes and your achievements, the contributions you have made and can make.

"I believe that a great deal of the difficulties in which universities at present find themselves comes from inadequate understanding of their work, their purpose and their possibilities.

"This understanding needs to be widespread to the sorts of key people I have mentioned, and of course to the general public through the media."



'Bioethics should be taught at school'—

educationist

Reports on several papers delivered by Monash speakers at the ANZAAS Congress held at the ANU in May.

The great majority of students were leaving school ignorant of human biology, of scientific developments which would re-shape their lives and of the implications of such technologies, a Monash educationist told ANZAAS.

Dr Margaret Brumby, lecturer in Education, said:

"They are also leaving school ignorant of the law as it affects their health care, of their rights and responsibilities as citizens and future parents, and of the important values and philosophies on which society is based."

Dr Brumby's paper was titled "Redefining the Boundaries of Health". She is currently researching students' perceptions of health, a project supported by the Menzies Foundation.

She said that issues in bioethics should be taught in schools.

Just as issues of the impact of technology on the natural environment emerged in the 1970s — and entered schools at HSC level in the subject Environmental Science — in the 1980s society was becoming aware of the impact of technology on the social environment.

Dr Brumby said: "We realise that the problems are not purely medical or scientific; they have social, legal and ethical implications."

She continued: "Unless and until we review our school curricula to include these areas, we are failing to educate the next generation or even to prepare them for the world in which they will live."

"Our generation has barely begun to formulate the questions in order to see where we are going as we approach the year 2000, let alone to decide whether we as a community want to go in that direction."

"The real challenge is not if, but how to encourage youthful minds to begin to critically think about these issues, without being too heavy-handed or gloomy."

Dr Brumby said that several preliminary steps were necessary:

● There was a need to break down the taboo on death and dying.

"Unless and until we take this step I

do not believe we can begin to rationally discuss the sanctity v. quality of life debate, the distinction between compassionate killing and letting die, or the selective use of scarce, high-technological medical resources," she said.

"Associated with this, we need to include the normal human response to great personal loss, which is grief."

● There was a need to identify core concepts and principles which should be included within health education, particularly identifying those that went beyond the physical dimension.

● There was a need to consider redefining the boundaries of health to include legal, social and ethical aspects which were designed to protect the health of the community.

Dr Brumby said that in Victorian schools at the moment Health did not exist as a senior subject but was most commonly included in Years 7-10 where there was no core curriculum.

Health was usually studied in a 10 week elective, "as an idiosyncratic smorgasbord of topics selected primarily according to the interests of the individual teacher".

The emphasis was on the health of the individual in such areas as nutrition, fitness and the use of drugs.

She said: "If we consider these topics in the light of the World Health Organisation's definition of health ('a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease ... and a fundamental human right') then there appears to be a bias to teaching about the physical dimensions of health."

Dr Brumby said that at HSC level a new five-week option in Biology — "Issues in Biology" — was the only opportunity presently available for discussion of bioethical issues.

Frequency of birth intervention questioned

A senior lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology has criticised the way in which birth "interventions" become accepted before clinical trials have established their effectiveness.

Dr Judith Lumley delivered a paper on "Intervention in the Birth Process" at ANZAAS.

Dr Lumley said that reporting on controlled trials made up only two per cent of publications in obstetric journals between 1966 and 1980 and only 1.2 per cent in paediatric journals in the same years.

"In the absence of such an assessment, our knowledge of the effectiveness (of birth intervention processes) is a matter of anecdote and clinical opinion, and knowledge of their hazards very uncertain," she said.

Intervention took place in an increasing number of births and was costing a lot of money, Dr Lumley said.

For example, in the last decade there had been a three-fold increase in the proportion of infants born by major abdominal surgery — an increase from three to 13 per cent of all births.

Yet only at this stage were randomised clinical trials conducted on the procedure. Five trials in three continents, including three in Australia, failed to show the expected benefits.

"What was perhaps even more important was that all agreed on one finding — the use of EFM doubled the caesarean section rate," Dr Lumley said.

The medical profession had, however, adopted a defensive attitude in the wake of these findings.

"Many medical innovations spend one or even more decades at this stage," she said.

"... The final stages in the career of an innovation — erosion of use and discrediting — have not yet been reached for EFM and, indeed, in this case the final stage may be a clarification of the few situations in which the benefits of this procedure outweigh the hazards."

Caesarean section

Induction of labour affected 20 to 30 per cent of all women giving birth (or the equivalent of all Victorian pregnant women) and caesarean section 10 to 17 per cent.

Dr Lumley said: "These last two sets of figures are presented as a range since there are marked differences between the States for some interventions."

"The differences between States, between teaching hospitals and between public and private patients in the same hospital, which is well-documented in Australia as it is in Europe and the USA, is a criticism in itself."

"How can one's 'need' for a caesarean section be twice as great in Adelaide as it is in Hobart?"

Dr Lumley traced the path of electronic foetal monitoring (EFM) — continuous monitoring of the foetal heart rate during labour — from its first uses to "established practice" status.

In the 1960s it was seen as a "promising" development. Its use was promoted by manufacturers of the monitoring equipment and a few enthusiastic specialists.

By the mid-1970s it had become standard procedure, used in up to 70 per cent of all labours in the US.

Embryo experimentation — the ethical issues

Experimentation with human embryos and their growth for the production of foetal tissue are now within scientific reach, raising important ethical questions.

Research Fellow in the Centre for Human Bioethics, Dr Helga Kuhse, examined some of those questions in an ANZAAS paper, "Ethical Issues in In Vitro Fertilisation and Related Technologies".

Dr Kuhse listed some of the benefits that might flow from research using human embryos:

● They could be used to examine many, unanswered questions on early human development, including the causes and prevention of various birth defects. For example, embryos could be used to test drugs with a view to preventing defects such as those caused by thalidomide.

● They could be used for the production of embryonic or foetal tissue. Scientists claim that immunological rejection is less with foetal tissue than adult tissue which would make it a valuable resource in alleviating disease

or disability. For example, it could be used to treat diabetes and it might even be possible to repair spinal injury.

Dr Kuhse said that, to date, embryonic or foetal tissue had been available only following abortion. In vitro fertilisation techniques now offered the possibility of growing embryos specifically for such purposes.

"When embryos are used in this way they are destroyed, that is, they lose their potential to grow into mature human beings. For many people the destruction of early human life, either in vitro or in the course of an abortion, is of the greatest moral significance. It is seen as the equivalent of murder," she said.

Dr Kuhse said that this was not her view.

She said: "I do not think that an early embryo has a 'right to life' and that killing it is parallel to killing, against her or his wishes, an adult person."

"My reasons for this are based on the view that a 'right to life' must be based on morally relevant characteristics: such as consciousness, autonomy, rationality, and so on — not on the mere presence of life."

"If it were, then every living thing, including the lettuce and the amoeba, would have a 'right to life' and it would be a most serious wrong to infringe that right."

But Dr Kuhse warned that while an early embryo or foetus might not have a right to life, it may have other rights — such as the right not to be subjected to painful experiments.

"When a foetus is approximately six weeks old, the central nervous system is beginning to form. With this comes sentience — the capacity to experience pleasure and pain."

"When this stage has been reached a foetus may still not have a 'right to life', but it would nonetheless be seriously wrong to disregard its capacity to feel pain," she said.

New bank hours

The Monash branches of both the Westpac and State banks will change their trading hours from Monday, June 25.

The banks are reverting to regular trading hours — Monday to Thursday, 9.30 am to 4 pm; Friday, 9.30 am to 5 pm.

Asian visitors



The Vice-President of Nanjing University in China, Dr Feng Zhi Guang, attended an Arts graduation ceremony as part of his visit to Monash in May.

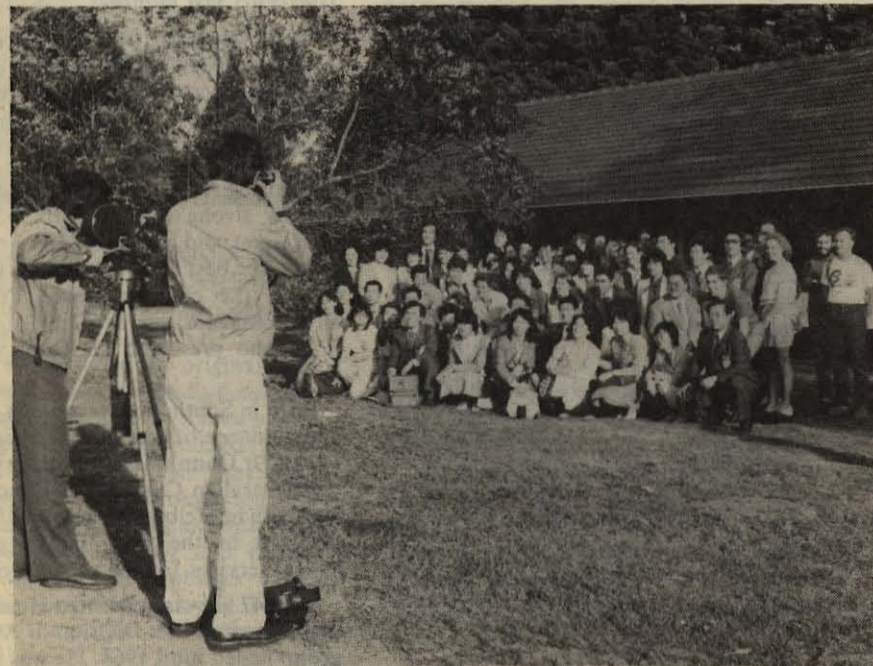
Dr Feng, who is pictured above after the ceremony with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, visited Monash and the three other Victorian universities for discussions on a proposed exchange scheme for students and staff.

At its May meeting, Monash Council approved, subject to Professorial Board ratification, the terms of the exchange

agreement between the four Victorian universities and Nanjing University.

The scheme aims at a reciprocity of exchanges calculated in terms of person-months which would enable staff and students from Nanjing to stay at a Victorian university for, say, a year, while Victorian academics or students might spend a shorter period — three to four months — in China.

For further information about the scheme contact Mrs Joan Dawson in the Registrar's office (ext. 3011).



Some 40 visitors from Toyama Prefecture in Japan spent a day at Monash last month as part of a tour of Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra and country Victoria and New South Wales. The group included members of Toyama young people's associations and officers and staff of the Prefectural Government.

The visitors toured the campus, including the newly-opened Japanese Studies Centre which is a co-operative venture of Melbourne tertiary institutions which conduct teaching and research in Japanese.

The group is photographed being photographed outside the Japanese Studies Centre.

Waste disposal course

Monash's Graduate School of Environmental Science and the School of Applied Geology at the University of New South Wales will run a short course on "Landfill Disposal of Wastes and Effects on Groundwater and Streams" from July 3 to 5.

The course is designed primarily for Government and private employees involved in waste disposal.

The course brochure says that wastes of many types are generated in country and urban areas with landfill methods

still the most common and economic form of disposal.

Regulations now demand that land-based disposal methods are safe and compatible with the environment.

The course will cover such issues. It will be led by Dr Michael Knight, senior lecturer in Engineering Geology at NSW University.

For further information contact Trevor Blake, lecturer in Environmental Science, on exts 3838/3840.

Monash questions VISE proposals

In April, the Victorian Institute of Secondary Education (VISE) circulated a discussion paper titled "Toward a revised policy on curriculum and assessment in the Victorian Year 12 HSC program."

Currently HSC subjects are categorised as Group One, Group Two and Approved Study Structures.

This year there are 56 Group One subjects consisting of core and optional units. Up to 70 per cent of the total assessment may be by external examination.

A 100 point A-F scale is used, and this allows different subjects to be compared with each other.

There are 58 Group Two subjects and these are totally school-assessed on either an A-F or pass/fail scale. Descriptive assessments from individual teachers may also form part of the assessment.

Seven Approved Study Structures are also being used. Designed by groups or individual schools, Approved Study Structures are completely school-assessed.

English, the only compulsory subject, may be taken as a Group One or Group Two subject. However, only when English is taken as a Group One subject is it acceptable for University entrance.

In order to qualify to matriculate at Monash, a student must obtain grade D or higher in four approved subjects. Because approved subjects must be at least 50 per cent externally assessed, all Group Two subjects and Approved Study Structures, along with a small number of Group One subjects, are unacceptable for matriculation.

The VISE proposals for future curriculum and assessment include suggestions that:

- There should be no division of subjects into Groups One and Two.
- All subjects should have at least 50 per cent school assessment.
- External exams should be an option only for those subjects which attract more than 10 per cent of the HSC enrolment.
- Assessment reporting should be on either a five point A-E or two point

pass/fail scale.

- There should be no standardisation for any subject.

- Statistical moderation should be available only to subjects using external exams.

- English should be a single subject allowing for a wide range of curriculum choices.

Monash University's Matriculation Committee is not in favor of many of the VISE proposals. In its submission to Professorial Board and Council, the Committee points to the statutory obligations VISE has to assist all Year 12 students in their transition from secondary schooling to employment or further study. It emphasises that the VISE certificate should provide valid and reliable information about student attainment.

The Committee says that many of the VISE proposals are inconsistent with these aims which, if introduced, would result in chaos in the tertiary selection process. Public confidence in VISE certification could ultimately be eroded.

If the VISE proposals were accepted, there would be only 14 subjects assessed by external exam. Included among these would be only one history — Australian — and no foreign languages.

Students wishing to matriculate would be limited in their choice of subjects to the 14 which would be externally assessed.

The Matriculation Committee believes that the five-point assessment scale suggested by VISE would pose enormous problems in selection of entrants. There would inevitably be a large number of students in the cut-off grade and an impossible situation would arise in seeking to discriminate between them.

The Committee suggests the introduction of a 25 point assessment scale to overcome problems at the cut-off point.

Council has approved the Matriculation Committee's recommendations, which are being considered by the Victorian Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

The Matriculation Committee says it wishes to avoid a situation where universities are forced to introduce their own selection testing procedures.

Science educators meet at Monash

Science educators from around Australia met at Monash last month for the 15th annual conference of the Australian Science Education Research Association.

For ASERA it was a case of "coming home" to Monash.

The Association began with a small meeting on this campus in 1970 organised by Professor Peter Fensham who became its first executive secretary. Professor Fensham is now Dean of Education at Monash.

The Education faculty then hosted the third conference in 1972 and the fifth in 1974.

Despite the Association's youth, it is the second oldest organisation in the world devoted to the fostering of research in science education.

One of the organisers of this year's conference, Dr Dick Gunstone, a senior lecturer in Education, says that a typically diverse range of science education issues was addressed in the papers.

"In addition, the program also reflected the growth of interest in the study of children's learning from the perspectives of the models and ideas students bring to the study of science. This thrust in the conference papers was highly appropriate for a meeting at Monash as our Education faculty has been at the forefront of the worldwide development of this relatively new area," he said.

The return to Monash this year follows the housing of the ASERA journal, *Research in Science Education*, on campus last year. RISE editor is Professor Dick Tisher.

ASERA is now an international group with a strong New Zealand participation. Last year's conference was held at the University of Waikato.

International guest at this year's conference was Pinchas Tamir, of the School of Education and Israel Science Teaching Centre, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

A Who's Who of recent graduations

University-community gap narrowing, says historian

The gap between universities and the community is narrowing, according to a Monash historian.

Delivering the occasional address at an Arts graduation ceremony in May, Professor Graeme Davison said that Monash University was aware of a responsibility to open its doors to students of diverse background.

And, he said, while graduates once "forsook the ivory tower for the practical world of business or the professions", more were now retaining a link with their universities by returning to do higher degrees or refresher courses.

"It is no longer possible, if ever it was, for the University to equip its students with a stock of knowledge that will serve them for a lifetime," Professor Davison said.

Programs such as the Special Admissions Scheme and the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines were diversifying the type of student enrolling at Monash, he said.

The University also had a proud record of hospitality to overseas students.

"We encourage diversity among our students not only as a public respon-

sibility, but as a means of enriching the experience of university life for everyone," he said.

"When a group of Arts graduates was asked a few years ago to say what they most valued in their University experience, the commonest answer was 'a tolerance and respect for the views of others'.

"... The University becomes more exciting as it also becomes more truly universal in its social and cultural composition."

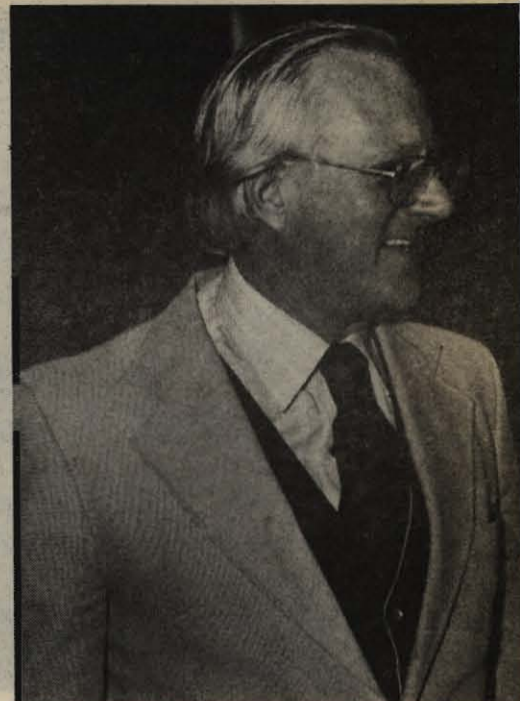
Professor Davison said that in his own discipline signs of a new movement had emerged recently to strengthen the links between academic history and the larger community.

In the United States it was referred to as "public history" and involved the academic historian in many public activities concerned with the study of the past — including in the conservation movement, the development of social history museums and local historical societies.

Professor Davison said: "It enables historians within the universities and the growing number of professional historians outside the universities to continue learning from each other."

He told the graduates that they would have acquired an education of enduring value "if you have learned how to gather information, how to evaluate it critically, and how to express your own conclusions about it, clearly and forcefully."

Monash honors top



● Current Education Dean, Professor Peter Fensham, after the conferring.

Former Dean

A man who has contributed significantly to Australian education — including at one time as Dean of Education at Monash — was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University last month.

He is Dr Syd Dunn, who was appointed to Monash in 1966 as the first professor of Education to be appointed after the foundation Dean. From 1971 to 1975 he was himself Dean.

"During this period he developed an already strong faculty until it became the largest and, in terms of its research effort, the best known and most productive in the country," said Professor Peter Fensham, current Dean of Education, who presented Dr Dunn for the award.

Born in South Australia and a teacher and guidance officer in that State in the 1930s, Dr Dunn was seconded in 1941 to the Australian Council for Educational Research in Melbourne where he became involved in the planning of psychological services for the war effort.

In 1947 he was appointed Head of the newly-created Test Division of ACER, a group he led until 1964. He was respon-

'65 student now '84 graduate



It was back in 1965 when Laurel Clark (then Fraser) enrolled in Arts at Monash.

Laurel, who is married to Dr Robert Clark, senior lecturer in Mathematics, didn't think much of University life then, so withdrew from the course.

Still sporting a '65 student card, she returned to Monash to begin again in 1975. Last month she graduated Bachelor of Arts.

In the 20 years since she first enrolled at Monash, Laurel has had two children, completed a Diploma of Librarianship at RMIT, and worked in the Monash Library.

Dr Clark has taught at Monash since 1974. He graduated originally from the University of Melbourne and then studied for his doctorate in the early '70s at Sheffield University.

At 75, Fritz is 'still learning

Monash's oldest graduate last month received his degree.

He is Fritz Josefi, 75, who graduated Bachelor of Arts with honours in German. Mr Josefi is now studying for his Master's degree and hopes eventually to complete a doctorate.

Mr Josefi's ambition along the line is to write a history of Vienna from the Roman days to the present. It is the city he left on November 11, 1938 — the day of the pogrom of Jews.

Mr Josefi, who is Jewish, and his wife, who was not, left Vienna by rail, travelling third class. The train was halted and passengers travelling first and second classes were detained.

In Australia, the Josefis settled near Emerald where they conducted a leather manufacturing business until 1974.



● Fritz Josefi ... oldest graduate.

researchers and awards first of two degrees



Fensham (left), congratulates former Dean, Dr Syd

Dean honored

sible for the large and controversial testing program for the Commonwealth Secondary Scholarships Scheme which, in turn, led on to the Tertiary Education Entrance Project and the Australian Scholastic Aptitude Test.

"He was never, however, simply a tester," said Professor Fensham.

"He was more interested in the educational contributions of testing than in the perfection of the instruments. They were means of improving education rather than the mode of its final assessment."

Dr Dunn went from Monash to the Education Research and Development Committee of which he was chairman from 1974 to '81.

These were his most original and creative years, said Professor Fensham.

"He actively searched for new and promising scholars. He pushed problems to the forefront which previously had been neglected. He brought scholars in the same field into contact with each other, and often he saw that people working on different problems might gain inspiration from each other. He ensured that they did," Professor Fensham said.

Learning

It was the death of Mr Josefi's wife in 1979 that led him to studies at Monash "as a way of preventing fretting and loneliness".

He has nothing but words of highest praise for the younger students with whom he attends classes.

"Naturally I was apprehensive about the attitude I would encounter and the remarks that may be made," he says.

"But the environment has been excellent. The behaviour of the younger students is exemplary. It has surpassed my expectations by far."

Mr Josefi has been a keen competitor — and done well — on various TV quiz programs including **Coles \$6000 Question and Mastermind**. His special interest is music and opera.

Geographer, engineer receive 'the firsts'

Monash has now awarded its first Doctor of Letters and Doctor of Engineering degrees.

In December last year, Dr Joe Powell, Reader in Geography, was awarded the first Doctor of Letters degree following an examination of his published work by a distinguished international, interdisciplinary panel.

In May, Dr Robert Brown, who was Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering from 1970 to 1976, was awarded the first Doctor of Engineering, again after an assessment of his published work.

Dr Brown, who since 1980 has been Chief of CSIRO's new Division of Manufacturing Technology, has done extensive research and investigations into the scientific understanding of the processes involved in the machining of metals and related processes.

Back in 1962, he published a paper on the engineering economics of machining of metals which defined the criteria for productivity in machining, and developed solutions which were taken up and applied in practice around the world.



• Dr Joe Powell

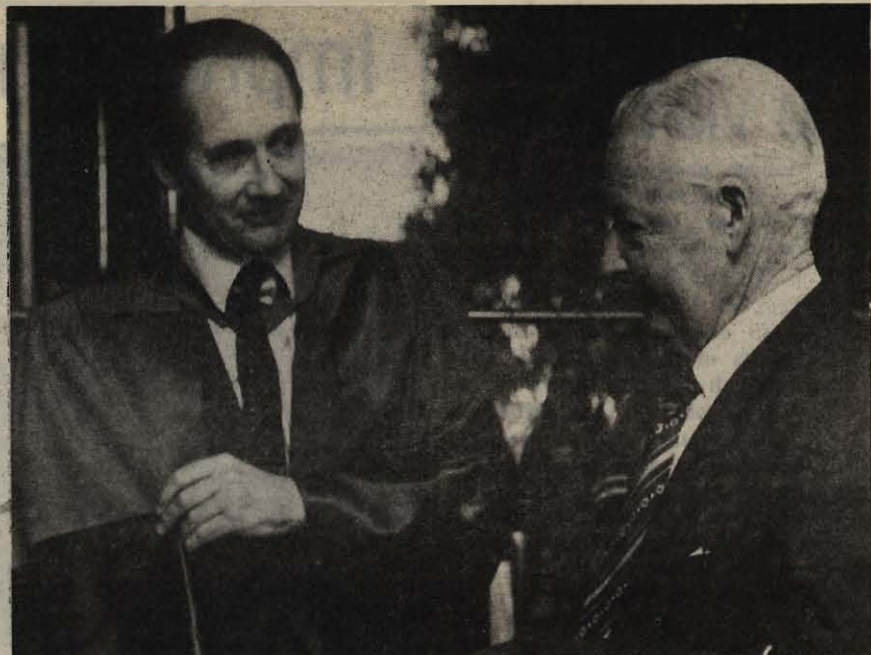
Ten years later he published a book with a former graduate student, E.J.A. Armarego, on the machining of metals. This provided a sound fundamental basis for practices which had previously been essentially empirical.

In recent years Dr Brown has done significant work on the new concept of flexible manufacturing systems.

Dr Powell's chief scholarly contribution has been in his historical-geographical interpretations of pioneer settlements and associated themes in conservation and environmental appraisal.

His examiners paid tribute to the work's "philosophical, methodological, practical and educational significance for the advancement of research and teaching in the humanities and social sciences".

Footnote: Monash University has awarded honorary Doctor of Engineering and Doctor of Letters degrees before.



• Doctors of Engineering both — Robert Brown, D.Eng. (left), meets Howard Wills, D.Eng. (honoris causa), after their graduation.

An award to 'father' of the safe flight

Today, travelling by air carries fewer risks than driving to the airport.

Forty years ago Australia led the world in air safety research, laying the foundation for today's reliable air travel industry — a fact that is little remembered.

Last month Monash paid tribute to the "father" of that research by awarding him an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree.

He is Howard Wills, former Head of the Structures and Materials Division of the Aeronautical Research Laboratories and one-time Chief Defence Scientist at the Department of Defence. In recent years Dr Wills has been an adviser to the department of Mechanical Engineering.

Dr Wills' Division began its study of airworthiness, reliability and estimation of the safe life of aircraft following a number of crashes in Australia — in which planes literally fell out of the sky — in the 1940s.

In the laboratory Dr Wills and his associates undertook fatigue testing of wings and from their work were able to proceed to the calculation of endurance and estimated life of aircraft structures.

In 1949 Dr Wills gave a paper at the Second International Aeronautical Conference, held in New York and London,

which provided a method for the analysis of the reliability of aircraft structures and the procedures required to ensure safe operation.

Professor Lance Endersbee, Dean of Engineering, in his citation of Dr Wills for the degree, said:

"One can say that this comprehensive and patient engineering study of all of the factors involved in aircraft fatigue had laid the foundation for aircraft design and inspection, which are in turn the basis of our modern, reliable air travel industry."

In 1951, further accidents prompted the team to research fatigue in high strength aluminium alloys. This work culminated in the clear definition of the need for airworthiness certification by fatigue testing.

As new high strength alloys were developed for aircraft and as planes grew larger, the problems of brittle fracture began to plague the industry. Dr Wills and his team again turned their attention to the experimental and theoretical application of crack propagation in these materials and again achieved international recognition.

Their studies in fatigue and fracture were complemented by those in aerelasticity (the dynamics of flight structures and vibration phenomena).

Regional flavor to Pam's degree

A member of Monash staff for 20 years who has been associated with the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies since its foundation, last month received her Arts degree.

She is Pam Sayers who selected Geography and Anthropology subjects focussing on Southeast Asia and the Third World in her course. Pam began studying part-time for the degree in 1978.

For her first five years at Monash Pam worked in the History department and then in 1969 transferred to CSEAS as secretary to its first Director, Dr Jamie Mackie. In recent years she has worked as secretary to the present Director, Dr David Chandler, and last year was appointed Assistant to the Centre.



• Pam Sayers
MONASH REPORTER

Mathematician to visit U.S.

A Monash postgraduate student in Mathematics has been invited to a colloquium in the US this month on mesoscale meteorology.

He is Michael Reeder who is in the third year of his doctoral study on modelling cold fronts. Michael's research fits in to the national cold fronts research program which has involved the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics group in the Mathematics department, the CSIRO, Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne University and other institutions.

He explains that mesoscale meteorology refers to middle-range weather features such as cold fronts and tropical cyclones. The colloquium will be held at Boulder, Colorado, and is being organised by the National Centre for Atmospheric Research.

Associated with the colloquium, also at Boulder, will be a short course on forecasting meteorological events, run by the American Meteorological Society.

Michael was invited to the US following a visit to Melbourne by Professor Kerry Emanuel, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in February this year to attend an international meteorology conference.

Michael plans to visit MIT and also NASA headquarters in Washington. He also hopes to use the computer of the National Centre for Atmospheric Research to do some work on tropical cyclones — a rekindled interest of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Group.

Impressionist exhibition at Monash



● One of the paintings in the exhibition: Dandenong Ranges from Eaglemont Camp by Charles Conder.

Helen Topliss, a former senior tutor in Visual Arts at Monash, is the guest curator of an exhibition of impressionist works by late 19th century Australian painters — including Roberts, McCubbin, Streeton, Conder and Withers — being held in the Exhibition Gallery until July 11.

Titled "The Artists Camps: Plein Air Painting in Melbourne 1885-1898", the exhibition features 80 original

works, which are accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue.

The Australian Plein Air painters, whose work was based on the French Impressionist school of the same name, had camps at Box Hill, Eaglemont, Brighton, Sandringham, Beaumaris and Mentone.

Acting Curator of the Gallery, Elaine Merkus, says: "This is an important exhibition because the paintings are

mainly from private collections and are rarely seen by the public.

"The exhibition is excellent for secondary school students because of its educational value," she says.

Elaine says the exhibition will move to Sydney's S.H. Ervin Gallery from Monash.

The Monash Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays. It is located in the Menzies building.

Engineering awards to top student . . .

Rick Alexander has been awarded the L.J. Clementson Memorial Prize for the best final year electrical engineering project by the Australian Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc.

Rick Alexander graduated in 1983 with a first class honours degree in Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering. His final year thesis project (1982) was on "The Efficient Implementation of Digital Filters". He designed and built several digital filters to compare their efficiency.

Rick is shown here receiving his certificate from Mr Brian Love (of IBM), chairman of the Melbourne Section of IEEE, at a ceremony on May 16.

With increasing use of digital signals for computer as well as other types of communications, a wide variety of digital filters is coming into use.

Despite the staggering speed of micro-

processors they are often still too slow to work as digital filters. The solution is to design and build special purpose digital circuits to act as filters.

These are, in effect, special purpose computers designed to operate at highest possible speed and accuracy.

Rick is now engaged in postgraduate research in digital processing of pictures for robot vision.

Dr K.K. Pang, who supervised Rick's project, is currently interested in the design of digital filters. He, Dr D.B. Keogh and several other members of the department of Electrical Engineering, in co-operation with staff of the Telecom Research Laboratories, have been running a special two-week course on 'Basic Digital Transmission System Theory' for Telecom and Overseas Telecommunications Commission engineers. It is now being conducted for the sixth time.



. . . and Monash academic

1984 is significant for electrical engineers not only for the Orwellian predictions but also because it is the 100th anniversary of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc. which is one of the largest international professional organisations with more than 213,000 members.

IEEE started life under another name in 1884 in the USA at the beginning of the large-scale electrification of North America and Europe. Famous names like Tesla, Westinghouse, Edison, Stein-

metz (in USA) and Siemens (in Germany) were at the forefront in the application of this new form of energy.

To celebrate its centenary, IEEE has awarded exactly 1984 Centennial Medals to "outstanding individuals in recognition of their exceptional service" to the profession.

Professor Douglas Lampard, of Monash's Electrical Engineering department, was one of eight Australian recipients of this medal and certificate

which were awarded at a ceremony in Sydney on May 18.

His award was made for "leadership in electrical engineering education and his contributions to noise theory and absolute capacitance measurement".

Professor Lampard, who is a Fellow of the IEEE, was the first Australian to serve on the IEEE Board of Directors for two years (1970-71).

For his contributions to the advancement of standards of capacitance which

were made before coming to Monash in 1962, he was awarded the Heaviside Premium of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, London, in 1957 and the Albert F. Sperry Medal of the Instrument Society of America in 1965.

For his distinguished research contributions in the field of computer controlled anaesthesia he was elected an honorary Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. He is also an honorary member of the Australian Society of Anaesthetists.

New tax journal launched at Monash

Forum for discussion on reform, says editor

The editor of a new quarterly journal published by Monash's faculty of Law and Centre of Policy Studies believes that it will provide an opportunity for wide discussion of tax policy issues prior to tax reform.

Mr Rick Krever, a lecturer in Law at Monash and Harvard Law School graduate, says that **Australian Tax Forum** will give professionals working in the tax area a chance to debate issues and make a contribution to the formulation of tax policy.

Mr Krever says that the three groups among which it will aim to promote discussion are lawyers, economists and accountants. This multi-disciplinary approach is reflected in the journal's co-editors. They are **Professor Robert Baxt**, Dean of Law; **Professor John Head**, of Economics; and **Professor Robert Officer**, of Accounting and Finance.

Mr Krever says that other Australian tax journals are of a technical rather than issue-oriented nature. Australian writers on matters of tax policy have generally had to publish overseas.

Publication of **Australian Tax Forum** comes at a time when all major Australian political parties are committed to review and probable fundamental reform of the tax system.

The journal has been welcomed by the Federal Treasurer, **Mr Paul Keating**, who says in an article in the first issue:

"It is a difficult and controversial task to make significant changes to the tax system. All too frequently, the sole criterion used for assessing proposals for change is the 'hip pocket test'.

"It is particularly for this reason that I welcome publication of **Australian Tax Forum** . . . I am confident (it) will contribute to improving the quality of public debate, particularly by contributing to public information on tax issues."

Evasion interest

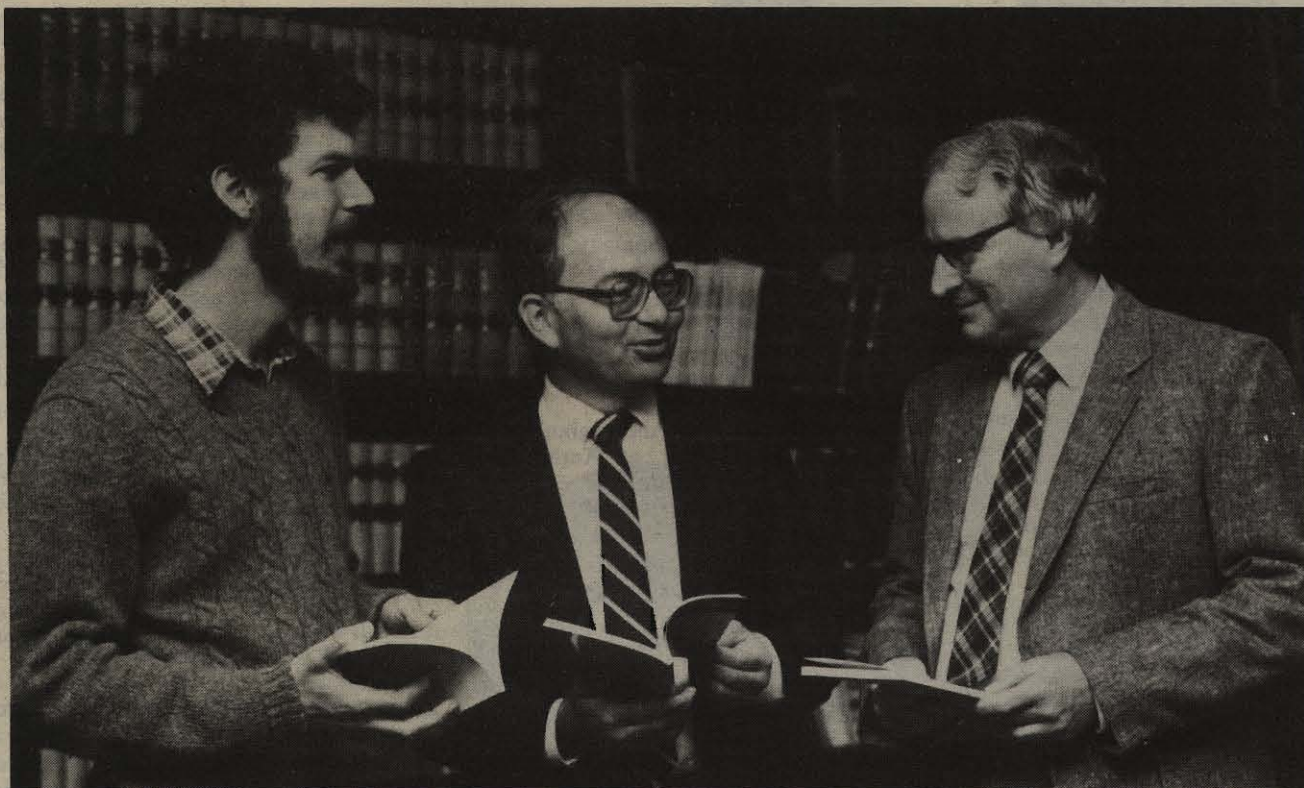
Mr Krever says that instances of tax evasion have heightened public interest in the whole issue of taxation in recent years.

He points out that evasion is symptomatic of fundamental problems within the tax system.

He says: "It is now generally realised that governments can no longer attack piecemeal the manifestations of a larger problem.

"Australia has suffered in the past precisely because there has been little communication between lawyers, economists and accountants in the taxation area.

"Government tax officials and lawyers have found themselves in adversarial roles. Instead, they should be sitting down together to devise a tax system which will have optimal results for all Australians."



● **Australian Tax Forum** editor, Mr Rick Krever (left), checks first copies of the journal with co-editors, Professor Robert Baxt and Professor John Head.

Decisions on major fundamental reform won't be made in a vacuum if **Australian Tax Forum** can "break down the barriers" and promote discussion, he adds.

That the need for such a journal exists is demonstrated by the overnight growth of subscriptions, says Mr Krever.

A brochure announcing its arrival was sent out on a mailing list composed largely of people who have attended seminars or short courses in the Law

faculty on tax-related issues in recent years.

Within days several hundred people and institutions had subscribed. Sales of the first issue stand at 500 copies — viability point — and Mr Krever is hoping to build subscriptions to about 750.

Subscription rates are \$24 a year for individual subscribers or \$40 for libraries in Australia; \$US25 and \$US45 overseas.

Articles in the first issue include one

by Mr Keating on the Government's taxation objectives, and one by the Shadow Treasurer, **Mr John Howard**, on taxation reform.

Issues two and three will contain papers delivered at a workshop on the taxation of capital gains organised earlier this year by **Australian Tax Forum** in association with the **Australian Tax Research Foundation**.

A similar workshop is being planned for later this year on flat rate taxation.

Tax: two political approaches

The different approaches of the **Federal Labor and Liberal parties to tax reform** emerge clearly in articles by the **Federal Treasurer, Mr Paul Keating**, and the **Shadow Treasurer, Mr John Howard**, in the first issue of "**Australian Tax Forum**".

The two politicians agree on several points (although while Mr Keating writes on behalf of the Government, Mr Howard makes clear that the views in his article are his own and that the Opposition is still reviewing its policy on taxation).

For a start, both say that there is a need for tax reform.

Both endorse the broad objectives for taxation as stated by the **Asprey Committee** and widely shared by other commentators — as far as possible, the tax system should be equitable, neutral in its impact on economic activity, and reasonably simple for both tax payers and collectors.

Both Mr Keating and Mr Howard indicate, too, that a broadening of the tax base is in order.

They disagree, however, on whether that broadening should be in the area of indirect taxation (general consumption taxes) or direct taxation (chiefly income taxes).

Mr Howard says that the "single, most important" reform that could be made is a broadening of the indirect tax base with a compensating reduction in income tax.

Mr Keating says: "I do not envisage that broadening the indirect tax base will

be a major focus for tax reform by this Government.

"Great care is needed in increasing indirect taxes given the present wage-fixation system, where the price impact of increases would be reflected in the **Consumer Price Index** and in the absence of understandings to the contrary, in the adjustment of wages and salaries."

Mr Keating says that broadening the direct tax base inevitably raises contentious issues such as the treatment of fringe benefits and capital gains "on which the Government has an open mind". The **Economic Planning Advisory Council** has been asked to consider whether there are any areas of the tax base requiring urgent attention.

Services included

Mr Keating says that any extension the Government makes to the indirect tax base might be in the taxation of services. At present, apart from limited exceptions, indirect taxes apply only to goods.

Mr Howard, too, nominates the taxation of services as a suitable area for tax base-broadening. He claims that such taxation would help to counter one of the arguments against indirect taxes — that they are regressive — because services are consumed in proportionately greater volume by higher income earners.

Mr Keating says that the Govern-

ment's taxation policies must be considered in conjunction with existing social welfare assistance.

"Many of the social objectives that might be pursued by use of the tax system are met through various social welfare provisions. It is important that these provisions are borne in mind when assessing the tax system," he says.

"The two systems are closely linked, so that change to one invariably requires careful consideration of its effects on the other."

Mr Howard says that there are "good grounds" for taking welfare payments and distributions out of the taxation system and putting them into the social security budget as direct welfare payments.

Mr Keating says that the Government's aim is to make the tax system fairer and more efficient.

He says: "The Government considers that the progressivity of the tax/transfer system should be enhanced but it will take some time to make an effective impact. It is not simply a question of adjusting the income tax rate schedule. Progression must be measured against the net redistributive effects of the whole of the tax/transfer system."

Mr Keating says that changes to the tax system will not be achieved overnight.

"Too often, proponents of tax reform present a vast menu of changes which would be politically and administratively too difficult to achieve," he says.

A scholar who did not fit the stereotype

PROFESSOR Michael Godfrey Swift, Professor of Anthropology and Sociology at Monash University, died in Malaysia on Saturday, May 5, aged 54. He had been ill for some time.

Michael was born and grew up in London and to a large extent remained a Londoner. War-torn London, post-war scarcity and national service all contributed to the radicalisation of his social thought.

His marginality, expressed in his unwillingness to embrace fully the dominant values of his own society and in particular to change class loyalties, as well as in his leaning towards societies other than his own, had its roots in the circumstances of his youth.

Michael studied economics and then anthropology at the London School of Economics. His teachers were among the intellectual elite of British anthropology and they always regarded him as one of the most gifted of their students. His links with the late **Maurice Freedman** and with **Sir Raymond Firth** remained particularly strong.

In 1954 Michael went to Malaya to carry out research for his doctorate. So began a long and intense relationship with the country, the culture and, most importantly, the people of Malaysia. He shared their joys and their sorrows first as an anthropologist and then as an academic at the University of Malaya from 1957 until 1960. Their suffering during times of political unrest and violence hurt him deeply, so much so that he could not lecture on these events without clearly showing his emotion.

In the classic anthropological tradition of field work he was the true participant-observer. He was one with the people he studied, fluent in their language and deeply immersed in their culture, yet he

could still stand back and interpret what he had learned. But he could not analyse their suffering without feeling pain.

From 1961 to 1967 Michael Swift taught in the department of Anthropology at the University of Sydney. With scholars such as **Chandra Jayawardena**, **Mervyn Meggitt** and **Michael Allen** and under the watchful eye of the doyen of Australian anthropology, **Ian Hogbin**, he helped to create an environment of intensely dynamic scholarship. Those of us who passed through Sydney's department of Anthropology at that time share a special bond, a bond which focuses in particular on Hogbin, Jayawardena and Swift.

At the beginning of 1968, Michael took up the Chair of Anthropology and Sociology here at Monash, the sole professor in the department until the arrival of **Professor Bill Scott** at the end of 1969. Here he quickly emerged as an individual who was not about to fit into any of the accepted stereotypes of the professor.

He treated the formalised rituals of academic life with scepticism and frequently with disdain. He found it hard to pretend, to participate in the joviality and formal politeness of board and committee without feeling the intensely political reality beneath the facade, an activity in which he did not revel for he was disturbed by open confrontation. He was therefore a poor diplomat for he found it difficult to hide his dislikes, his scepticism, his cynicism, or his tears. His alienation, apparent to many, was an alienation only from those aspects of his world which he felt to be insincere or inhuman.

A dedicated father and husband for whom his family took first priority, Michael Swift was a par-

ticularly sensitive human being, perhaps too sensitive.

Above all Michael Swift was a scholar. He read because he wanted to, not because he had to or because by doing so he would advance his career. His knowledge was broad and deep, ethnographically and theoretically.

He always stood back from the latest intellectual fad, providing younger and more impressionable colleagues with clear and reasoned criticism. Few of these sudden enthusiasms that came on colleagues and students caught him off-balance but rather demonstrated the breadth and subtlety of his theoretical knowledge.

He was an excellent supervisor and in a very important sense he expressed himself through his research students. His influence is particularly felt in Malaysia where he fathered anthropology and sociology. His students in Malaysia and the many Malaysians who passed through Monash have impressed people throughout the world with the high standard of their scholarship.

Here at Monash, not only in the department of Anthropology and Sociology but in the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies, to which he made a long and vital contribution, the forcefulness and creativity of his knowledge and critical scholarship was felt.

The Bushmen of the Kalahari say that when a being dies there is a hole in the universe. We are now particularly aware of the poignancy of their perceptivity.

Dr Don Miller,
Senior lecturer,
Anthropology.



ABOVE: The distinguished musician **Sir Charles Mackerras** signs the Vice-Chancellor's Visitors' Book while **Professor Ray Martin** looks on. Sir Charles was at Monash for rehearsals of Wagner's **Siegfried** in Robert Blackwood Hall. The opera — the third in the Ring Cycle — was performed by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Australian Opera in the Concert Hall this week. Sir Charles has been chief conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra for three years. He was formerly musical director of the English National Opera.

Magazine enters its second year

"Open Door", the magazine of the Monash Poetry Society, enters its second year with publication of issue four which is now available.

The issue features the work of four poets who have helped the magazine since its beginning — **Billy Marshall Stoneking**, **Karen Pridmore**, **Warrick Wynne** and **Phyllis Jaeger**.

It also includes two conversations with the poet **Deb Hall** and several of her poems.

"Open Door" is put together by people of diverse backgrounds. Among the team are **Ivan Cole**, a postgraduate Materials Engineering student; **Michael Brugman**, a final year Law student; **Karen Dacy**, a speech pathologist; and **Eileen Leeds**, a student at Monash since 1980.

The magazine costs \$2.50 an issue or \$6 for an annual subscription (three issues). For further information contact the Poetry Society, c/- Union building.

Monash pioneer— 'a true gentleman'

Mr Ian Tate, Deputy Comptroller, died on May 7 after a long illness. About 200 mourners attended his funeral service which was held in the Monash Religious Centre.

The Comptroller, Mr Len Candy, paid tribute to Ian Tate during the service. This is what he said:

Ian Tate was one of the earliest appointees to the staff of the University. He took up the position of Accountant on October 17, 1960. That was before there were any students at the University or indeed any buildings on the campus.

He was proud of his position and set about the not inconsiderable task of determining what would be the most suitable accounting systems for the University. He also made an important contribution to the formation of the financial policies to be adopted.

Ian applied himself wholeheartedly and unselfishly to his task and I know that he derived a great deal of satisfaction from the part he played in helping to establish the administrative functions of this University, of which he was so proud.

Testimony to his success was the large number of visitors who visited the campus in the late 1960s and early '70s to learn something of his methods.

Ian was a man of high integrity and principles and one of the true gentlemen of this world. He is one of the few people I have met whom I never heard speak ill of anyone. He was a very compassionate man and ever sought to offer help and ad-

vice, or a comforting word, when he thought any of these were likely to help someone. He encouraged social interaction between staff members and made many friends on campus. He loved sport and regularly participated in tennis and volleyball.

I need not dwell today on the aspect of his courage. He never wavered from doing what he saw as being right, or his duty, no matter how difficult that may have been at times. All of you here today know how he faced his last illness with great fortitude. He never once complained of his misfortune.

To his immediate family I can only say that you must carry forward very proud memories of a wonderful husband and father.

Chinese arts display

Displays of various Chinese arts will be staged at a Chong Hua Cultural Club evening in Robert Blackwood Hall on Friday, June 8 at 8 o'clock.

The program will include Chinese dancing and music, the first performance of the Chong Hua Lion Dance troupe, and a martial arts demonstration. Supper will be served.

Tickets are \$6 and \$4.50 (students). They are available from the Chong Hua table in the Union foyer lunchtimes this week.

Recitals

A "Mostly Baroque" series of recitals will be held in the Religious Centre Thursday lunchtimes during second term.

Tomorrow's concert will feature **Il Sole Barocco**, a chamber music group.

Other recitals will be:

June 14, **Linda Kent**, visiting American harpsichordist; June 21, **Muhlfeld Trio** (Philip Miechel — clarinet, Janis Laurs — 'cello, Brian Chapman — piano); June 28, **Roger Hicks** (lute) and **H. Michatz** (theorbo); July 5, **Merrowyn Deacon** and **Bruce Steele** (organ music for four hands); July 12, **Elizabeth Anderson** (harpsichord); July 19, **Terry Norman** (organ); July 26, **Telemann Ensemble** (chamber music group); August 2, **Douglas Lawrence** (organ); August 9, **Birubi String Quartet** (students from the Victorian College of the Arts).

All recitals start at 1.10 p.m.

Arts & crafts

Courses begin this week in the Arts and Crafts Centre's Winter program — and it's not too late to enrol.

A number of classes are being conducted in the following areas: crafts, dollmaking, jewellery, leadlight, massage, music, painting and drawing, photography, pottery, stress management, study skills and textiles.

As well, special one-day and weekend workshops will be run during June and July. They cover such diverse skills as creative fabric applique, handmade soapmaking, basketry and hexagonal trinket box-crafting.

The Winter brochure is available from the Arts and Crafts Centre or contact exts 3096, 3180.

Monash scholars publish ancient Czech grammar

A publishing effort by two Monash scholars is making accessible for the first time in 300 years a "missing link" in the development of the Czech language.

At the heart of the project is republication of a Latin-Czech grammar published in Prague in 1672 by **Wenceslaus Johannis (Vaclav Jan) Rosa**, a poet and minor town official of the time.

The first part of the venture, published recently by the University of Frankfurt, contains a photographic reproduction of the original text, along with a table of contents and an introduction by **Professor Jiri Marvan**, of the department of Slavic Studies.

The second part, to be published next year, will consist of an English translation of the old Latin text by **Associate Professor Gavin Betts**, of the Classical Studies department, and an index of Czech words — the first dictionary of 17th century Czech.

Professor Marvan obtained a copy of Rosa's Grammar while he was teaching at Pennsylvania State University in 1972. A gift from a Ukrainian friend, it had been bought in a Pennsylvanian village.

It is an undamaged copy. The only other perfect copy in the West which is publicly accessible is held at Harvard University.

Other perfect copies are believed to exist in Czechoslovakia but are not available for study.

Professor Marvan says that the value of Rosa's Grammar lies in it being a bridge between the classical age of the Czech language, which flourished from about 1500 to 1620, and modern Czech.



● The Chancellor, **Sir George Lush** (centre), on a tour of the Arts faculty last month discussed the Czech grammar project with **Professor Jiri Marvan** (left) and **Associate Professor Gavin Betts**. Sir George holds the original copy of Rosa's Grammar and Professors Marvan and Betts the reprint. The photographic reproductions for the volume were done in the Geography department.

Photo: Tony Miller

The classical age had been strongly associated with Protestantism. But in 1620 the Catholic forces of Maximilian I of Bavaria overthrew the Protestant monarch of Bohemia and delivered Bohemia and Moravia (now part of Czechoslovakia) to the Catholic claimant, Ferdinand II.

There followed a program of re-Catholicisation. With it, German replaced Czech as the sole official language and the language of Czech intellectuals. The national language continued in everyday use, however.

There was a revival of Czech nationalism in the 19th century which included a rekindled interest in the Czech language. But the revivalists looked back to the elegant and refined Czech of the 16th

century for their linguistic models and were contemptuous of forms that had evolved in the vernacular in the 17th and 18th centuries. Rosa's Grammar was regarded by these new intellectuals as embodying degenerate forms.

It is only in recent years, says Professor Marvan, that the Czech culture of the 17th and 18th centuries has been "rehabilitated". The purpose of the Monash project is to establish Rosa's importance as the link between the classical age of the Czech language and its modern form.

Professor Marvan has been invited to give a paper on Rosa's approach to Slavic languages at a conference on early Slavic grammars to be held in Warsaw in September.

June 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.

6-9: LIGHT OPERA — "HMS Pinafore" by Gilbert & Sullivan. Pres. by Melbourne Music Theatre. Nightly at 8.15 p.m. Matinee June 9 at 2.15 p.m. **Alex. Theatre**. Admission: adults \$14.50; students, pensioners \$11.50; children \$8.50 (no concession Friday & Saturday).

6-July 11: EXHIBITION — "The Artists Camps: Plein Air Painting in Melbourne 1885-1898". Works by Roberts, McCubbin, Streeton, Conder, Withers and other 'Impressionists'. 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**. Inquiries: ext. 2117.

7: ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURE — "The Rise of Aboriginal Organisations", by Ms Penny Bamblett. **14: "The Aboriginal Health Service"**. **21: "Aboriginal Child Care Agency"**, by Miss M. Thorpe. **28: "Land and Religion"**, by Mr Noel Wallace. All lectures at 1 p.m. **Lecture Theatre R6**. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3348.

RECITAL — "Il Sole Barocco", chamber music group — baroque lute and violin with harpsichord. 1.10 p.m. **Religious Centre**. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3160.

ELWYN MOREY MEMORIAL LECTURE — "Normalisation, decentralisation and integration of the society. Contributions to persons suffering from functional difficulties — A

Northern European approach", by Mr Jorgen Hansen, Danish Ministry of Education. 8 p.m. **Lecture Theatre R4**. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3011.

8: CONCERT/WORKSHOP — "Recording the Unrecorded History", with songwriter Ian Paulin. First in "Music, Politics & Society" project pres. by Monash Community Research Action Centre. Other events: Amnesty International Benefit Concert (June 17), "Perception of Music" with Jacqui Clark (June 19), "Effects of Society on Music" — workshop with Peter Roberts (June 28). Admission free. Further details: ext. 3141.

14: RECITAL by Linda Kent, visiting US harpsichordist. 1.10 p.m. **Religious Centre**. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3160.

15-23: MUSICAL — "Hello Dolly" presented by Monash University Musical Theatre Company for the Festival of Theatre. Nightly at 8 p.m. Matinee June 23 at 2 p.m. (No performances June 17 & 18). **Alex. Theatre**. Admission: adults \$7; students, pensioners \$4.

16: SATURDAY CLUB (Blue Series, 8-13 year-olds) — "The Galactic Show". 2.30 p.m. **Alex. Theatre**. Admission: adults \$6.75, children \$5.20. Blue Series subscriptions still available.

SEMINAR — "Practical Uses of Section 52 of the Trade Practices Act", pres. by faculty of Law. 9.30 a.m.-4.30 p.m. **Lecture Theatre L3**. Registration fee: \$85. Inquiries: ext. 3307.

18: LUNCHTIME CONCERT — Classical Gamelan music and dance from Surakarta and Yotyakarta performed by the

Music Department Gamelan Orchestra. 1.15 p.m. **RBH**. Admission free.

20: FESTIVAL OF THEATRE LUNCH-TIME PERFORMANCE — "Juliet and Romeo", a two person show on relationships, presented by Theatre Works. 1 p.m. **Union Foyer**. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3108.

SEMINAR — "Injectable Contraceptives: An Ethical Dilemma", by Prof. R. Short, Physiology. Pres. by Monash Centre for Human Bioethics. 1.10 p.m. **Lecture Theatre R6**. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3266.

21: FESTIVAL OF THEATRE LUNCH-TIME PERFORMANCE — Elizabeth Patterson, a unique Australian performer, plus "Wadda Ya Doin' Here Anyway?" — a play about racism. 1 p.m. **The Studio, 7th Floor, Menzies Building**. Inquiries: ext. 3108.

RECITAL — "Muhlfeld Trio". Philip Miechel — clarinet, Janis Laurs — 'cello, Brian Chapman — piano. 1.10 p.m. **Religious Centre**. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3160.

1984 SIR ROBERT MENZIES LECTURE by Sir Robert Muldoon, New Zealand Prime Minister. 8 p.m. **Mannix College**. Admission free.

21-22: RED CROSS MOBILE BLOOD BANK. 9.45 a.m.-3 p.m. **Arts Assembly Rooms SG01-4, Menzies Building**. Appointments must be made at the Union Desk. Inquiries: ext. 3143. The Blood Bank will also visit June 27-28.

26: SEMINAR — "Australia and the Disarmament Process" by Mr Richard Butler, Australia's Ambassador for Disarmament. Pres. by Peace Studies

Network. 4 p.m.-6 p.m. **Narthex, Religious Centre**. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3162.

28: RECITAL — Roger Hicks — lute, H. Michatz — theorbo. 1.10 p.m. **Religious Centre**. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3160.

29-30: COMEDY — Shakespeare's "As You Like It" pres. by Monash Shakespeare Society for the Festival of Theatre. 8 p.m. **Alex. Theatre**. Admission: adults \$5, students \$3.

Important dates

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

6: Graduation ceremony — Arts.

11: Queen's Birthday holiday.

15: First half year ends for B.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., Dip.Ed.Psych. and M.Ed.St.

22: Lectures in subjects taught in the first half-year by the faculty of Economics and Politics end.

25: Applications open for entry to Bachelor of Social Work course (year III level) in 1985.

29: Lectures in subjects taught in the first half-year by the faculty of Arts end. First half-year topics in Mathematics end.

30: First half-year ends for Medicine V and LL.M. by coursework.

From 'the fringe' to Broadway:

Theatre festival caters for all tastes

The 1984 Monash Festival of Theatre promises to make the campus come alive with drama of diverse sorts in June and July.

As well as seasons of popular plays in the Alexander and Union theatres, the Festival will feature guest performances, theatre workshops, poetry and play readings and numerous "fringe activities".

Here's a round-up of Festival events . . .

THE FESTIVAL opens with the **Punter to Punter Cabaret Night** to be held in the Wholefoods Restaurant on Thursday, June 14 at 8.30 p.m. as part of an MAS Union Night. Among artists performing at the cabaret will be **Con and Vince Marasco, Slim and Tammy Whittle, Blind Boy Billy Polkinghorn, the Teresa O'Reilly Explosion, Tony Ricks** and a **Midnight Oil Roadie**.

Fringe activities will be "happening" around campus during the six weeks of the Festival.

They include **Juliet and Romeo** — a two-person show on relationships presented by Theatre Works — which will be performed on Wednesday, June 20 at 1 p.m. in the Upstairs Union Foyer.

On Thursday, June 21, in the Studio, seventh floor of the Menzies building, **Elizabeth Patterson**, performance artist, will present her new show **The Haberdashers' Cart**. Also, **Stella Pulo** will present her show on racism, **Wadda Ya Doin' Here Anyway**.

Other events will include student theatre productions from Melbourne and La Trobe universities, a Playback Theatre show, performances by Mr PP the Clown, and poetry readings.

A series of workshops will also be offered on subjects such as scriptwriting, stage make-up and acrobatics.

★ ★ ★

INSTEP '84: CARNIVAL — that's the title of the Monash Modern Dance Club's show to be presented in the Union Theatre from June 14 to 16, lunchtimes and one evening.

The program will feature a variety of dance styles, reflecting the wide range of classes offered by the club. There will be everything, in fact, from classical ballet to primitive jazz and some dance-poetry.

Club members will also be performing in less formal venues such as the courtyard of the Arts and Crafts Centre and the foyer of Robert Blackwood Hall.

★ ★ ★

THE SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY is presenting a season of **As You Like It** in the Alexander Theatre from June 29 to July 7.

The director is **Steven Smithyman**, a graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts, who describes "As You Like It" as "a beautifully wrought play of pastoral and courtly themes drawn together and focused on the comedy of love in all forms — sexual, devotional, filial and romantic".

He says it is probably Shakespeare's most popular comedy because of its tight plot, the universal appeal of its humour which ranges from bawdy comedy to polished wit, and well-drawn characters.

Prices are \$5 and \$3 (concessions).

★ ★ ★

THE MONASH PLAYERS will present the black comedy **The Knacker's ABC** by French playwright Boris Vian in the Alexander Theatre from July 12 to 21.

"The Knacker's ABC" is described as a landmark in the history of post-war theatre, written in 1946 and billed as "paramilitary vaudeville".

The action takes place on June 6, 1944, with the Anglo-American forces about to crush the Germans occupying France. An event of far greater importance to the knacker of Arronanches, however, is his decision on whether to marry his daughter to the German who has been sharing her bed for four years.

The director is **Rod Charls** who has been associated with student theatre at Monash for a number of years.

Rod describes Boris Vian as a "most remarkable modern French writer". Vian trained as a civil engineer but worked instead as a songwriter, cabaret artist, film actor, jazz musician, novelist, dramatist and translator.

He died at age 38 while, uninvited, attending a preview of the film "I Shall Spit on Your Grave", based on the novel by Vernon Sullivan and translated into French by Vian.

★ ★ ★

ON THE WALLABY, a play about the life of the homeless during the 1930s Depression, will be performed in the Union Theatre from July 25 to 31 before moving to the Universal in Fitzroy.

Directed by **Peter Thompson**, the play has had successful seasons in Sydney, Canberra and Adelaide.

The satirical work looks at the plight of men, out of work and wishing to qualify for "sustenance", who wandered the country in search of employment. These "bagmen" were on the "Wallaby Track".

For more details about the Festival of Theatre contact the Student Theatre Office in the Union.

Sue's organising

The co-ordinator of this year's Monash Theatre Festival is **Sue McClements**.

Sue was involved with student theatre at La Trobe University from 1979 to '81. She helped organise the Festival of Australian Student Theatre held at La Trobe in 1981.

Since then she has been working in community theatre and teaching drama in schools at Pascoe Vale and Rosanna.

Welcome back, Dolly!



● Fiona Robertson . . . as Dolly Levi.

MUMCO (Monash University Musical Company) promises a sparkling revival of the Broadway musical **Hello Dolly** in the Alexander Theatre from June 15 to 23 (not June 17 or 18).

Based on Thornton Wilder's play "The Matchmaker", the musical follows Dolly Levi's attempts to marry herself off to the "well-known half-a-millionaire" Horace Vandergelder of Yonkers.

Third year Arts student **Fiona Robertson** plays Dolly — a role made famous by Carol Channing and Pearl Bailey, among others, on the New York stage, Barbra Streisand on film, and most recently Danny La Rue in a London revival.

Horace Vandergelder is played by **Michael Fitzgerald**, a Dip.Ed. student. Others in the cast include **Peter Opie**, a third year Science student; **Rozlyn Gaffney**, third year Arts; **Michael Reed**, second year Arts; and **Vanessa Pigrum**, first year Arts/Law.

The director is **Roslyn McKenzie**, who directed last year's MUMCO production of "Irene".

"Dolly" plays nightly at 8. Prices are \$7 and \$4 (concessions).



● In rehearsal for **Hello Dolly** . . . cast members (left to right) **Sue Webb, Rozlyn Gaffney, Angela Russell** and **Vanessa Pigrum** (seated). The musical's season at the Alex. is June 15 to 23. **Roslyn McKenzie** is directing and **Tim Smith** is choral director.

MONASH REPORTER

The next issue will be published in the first week of July, 1984.

Copy deadline is Friday, June 22. 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.

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