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Gun lobby's aim: "To intimidate government in the frontier society"

Australian shooters are travelling down a well-trodden American road, says noted gun control lobbyist, John Crook, in his Master of Arts thesis.

Like American shooters before them, they have become influential in the shaping of government legislation, and recent scenes of shooters demonstrating in Australian cities could be a sign of things to come.

"Australians will indeed have to watch out, because there are similarities between the Australian and the American experience. We were, and to some extent still are, a frontier society," said Mr Crook in an interview with *Monash Reporter*.

His thesis, *The Development and Influence of the Australian and American Gun Lobbies*, has been accepted, and he already has a working title for the Ph.D thesis he hopes to begin next year: *Shooting: The Twentieth Century Religion*.

"Australia is a melting pot, like America," he says. "We are both, in a sense, new cultures with a strong outdoor sporting section."

"And even though shooters are in the minority, as we saw in the recent gun lobby marches, they're prepared to intimidate state governments."

While the Victorian gun lobby might appear to be a political newcomer, it has been influencing successive governments since the late 1950s.

Former Victorian Premier, Sir Henry Bolte, a farmer and keen shotgun shooter, presided over the first post-war firearm Act in the state in 1958, Mr Crook said.

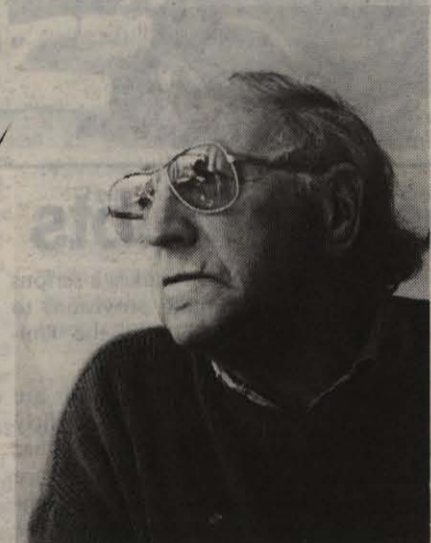
Under the Act, which placed some constraints on rifles, 90 per cent of a shooter's licence was put into a wildlife fund earmarked for 'research and development' of wildlife reserves — projects that included buying back swamps from local municipalities for the use of duck shooters.

However, this cosy arrangement which benefited the shooting fraternity was not considered unusual at the time.

"The traditional way of thinking was that the sporting shooter knew everything about ducks. Therefore he was the best one to go to about conservation issues because he was interested in the future of his sport."

"If you go back to those times, politicians didn't think that anybody but the police and the gun clubs should be consulted on gun laws."

Prior to the introduction of new laws at the end of 1972, the Sporting Shooters Association brought out from the UK a former Yorkshire policeman who had written a book which disputed the efficacy of gun control laws.



• John Crook

His timely appearance legitimised the stand of the association, says Mr Crook. When the new laws were introduced by Sir Rupert Hamer's government on 1 January 1973, the restrictions on high-powered rifles which had been in place since 1958, were removed.

"The thing that I discovered was that intelligent and sophisticated politicians became absolutely childish when faced with the gun lobby."

In 1978, Mr Crook founded Australia's first gun control organisation, the Council for Control of Gun Misuse. More recently, he helped form the Victorian Coalition for Gun Control in the wake of the Hoddle Street killings.

However, after eight months of being constantly frustrated by the coalition's lack of political will, Mr Crook established Gun Control Australia in early May and became its founding chairman.

The new lobby group maintains that it is essential that gun control is taken out of the political process and placed in the hands of an independent authority which would oversee the issuing of shooters' licences.

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Monash's Public Sector Management Institute gets a \$1.5m boost

The Federal Government has granted the university \$1.5 million over the next two and a half years towards expanding the recently-established Public Sector Management Institute within the Graduate School of Management.

The grant, announced by the Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr John Dawkins, represents the lion's share of \$1.8 million set aside in the last budget as the National Public Sector Management Study Fund.

According to its director, Professor Allan Fels, the primary thrust of the new institute will be research, but it will also involve itself in teaching non-degree courses, providing in-service training for public sector managers and carrying out contract research for Australian and foreign governments and private sector organisations.

In addition to the successful tender to the Commonwealth, the institute has also drawn support from the Victorian Government, which has agreed to contribute \$500,000 over five years to enable the appointment of a Professor of Public Sector Management.

"The fact that there was such strong state government support greatly assisted Monash's application to the Federal government. An earlier grant of \$60,000 a year for two years from the Vice-Chancellor's Academic Development Fund, and further support from the Dean of Economics and Politics also gave credibility to our plans," Professor Fels said.

He said that the institute eventually would comprise between 20 and 25 academics. This would mean the appointment of about 15 academics within the next six months.

The institute will focus on four main areas of study, each headed by a professor. Professor Henry Ergas has been appointed to develop studies of communications, especially telecommunications. Already, he has been active as a member of the government working party which recently reported on the future of the telecommunications industry to

the Minister for Transport and Communications, Senator Gareth Evans.

Professor Chris Selby-Smith will be responsible for health policy and management, and the chairman of the Economics department, Professor John Head, for tax and expenditure administration. He will co-operate in the area of tax law with Professor Yuri Grbich, a former Monash academic, now at the University of New South Wales Law School.

The position of Professor of Public Sector Management, concerned with effectiveness and efficiency in the public service, has been advertised. It is expected that an appointment will be made early in 1989.

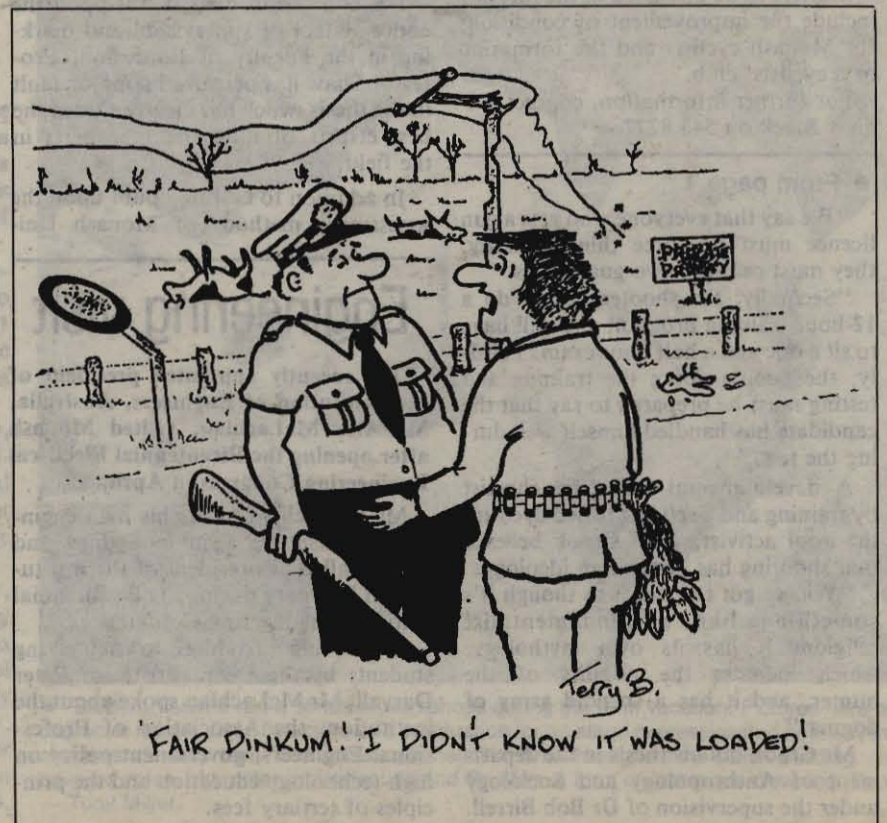
A large proportion of the money promised to the new institute will be used on a seeding basis. There is no government commitment necessarily to continue or renew funding.

Professor Fels said: "It is hoped that several parts of the institute's activities will be self-funding by the time the money runs out. There will be some areas, however, where the university will have to seek renewed funding."

"In the past, there has been a dearth of research into public sector management by universities. Schools of public administration and management have tended to downplay the part that efficient management practices can play in achieving government policies."

"In fact, various schools of management have emphasised the private sector at the expense of the public sector."

"A key feature of the Monash development is that the new institute will be linked with the Graduate School of Management, and not hived off into a separate school, cut off from mainstream developments in management research and funding."



In the legal limelight

The Springvale Legal Service was in the news last month with a controversial visit by the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, and an official opening by the Victorian Premier, Mr Cain.

Mr Hawke chose the service's new premises at 5 Osborne Avenue for the launching of the Federal Government's Social Justice report. He was greeted by demonstrators — mainly women and children — who drowned out the last of his speech and ensured television news coverage.

The opening of the building was a more congenial affair. Mr Cain described the Legal Service and its co-tenant, the Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau, as "state-of-the-art" models for the provision of community services.

He commended those who had started legal services in Victoria — at Springvale, Fitzroy and Heidelberg.

"They were not flavor-of-the-month in the early 1970s, but some of you saw the need and followed through," he said.

"Citizens' advice and legal services have grown in number and importance around Victoria.

"Such services give people more control over their lives — guiding them through a bureaucratic maze, helping them to rectify an injustice or discovering that they are entitled to some form of financial or other support."

Seventy per cent of the people using

the services came from a non-English speaking background, and with the help of translators they were able to make more sense of life in a new country, Mr Cain said.

★ ★ ★

The Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau was established in an old house at 5 Osborne Avenue in late 1970 and opened for business in July 1971.

Legal "referral" sessions, started in 1972 by Monash Law students, council and bureau staff, laid the foundations of the Springvale Legal Service.

Over the next 15 years, the bureau and the legal service grew rapidly and developed a wide range of community services with local, state and federal government funding. The two services complement each other and are widely acknowledged as leaders in their respective fields in Australia.

The Legal Service staff come from the Legal Aid Commission of Victoria and Monash University. About 60 law students work at the centre each year, helping to provide legal advice, referral and casework services to several thousand clients.

The services outgrew the old house and they now occupy a new building completed in December 1987 on the same site at a cost of \$803,000. The money was provided by Springvale Council, the Legal Aid Commission of Victoria, the R.E. Ross Trust, the William Buckland Foundation and Monash University.



● Above. Mr Hawke kept speaking above the uproar. Below. Legal service staff, from left, Susanne Liden, Susan Miller and (standing) co-ordinator, Adrian Evans, pictured in the new offices with Mr Julian Gardner, director of Legal Aid at the Legal Aid Commission of Victoria. Photos — Richard Crompton.



Anybody who pounds the pedals around campus is urged to attend a cyclists' "pow-wow" in the Balcony Room on 23 June at 1pm.

Matters to be discussed at the meeting include the improvement of conditions for Monash cyclists and the formation of a cyclists' club.

For further information, contact Andrew Black on 543 8227.

● From page 1

"We say that everyone who gets a gun licence must do three things. Firstly, they must produce two guarantors.

"Secondly, the shooter has to do a 12-hour training program and will have to sit a one and a half hour exam. Thirdly, the people doing the training and testing must be prepared to say that the candidate has handled himself well during the test."

A developmental industrial chemist by training and a self-confessed dyed-in-the-wool activist, John Crook believes that shooting has become an ideology.

"You've got to treat it as though it's something like a fundamentalist religion. It has its own mythology, which includes the nobility of the hunter, and it has a splendid array of dogma."

Mr Crook did his thesis in the department of Anthropology and Sociology under the supervision of Dr Bob Birrell.

Conclusion casts doubts

Professor A.G.L. Shaw is to be congratulated for his gallant attempt (*Monash Reporter*, 4 May) to master the methodology and conclusions of a thesis submitted to a department outside his area of expertise and which can only have been lodged in the Monash University Library for a month at the most.

His statement that Dr Allen's findings "can only be justified on assumptions" undoubtedly came from a close personal study of the data.

His conclusion casts doubt upon the entire system of supervision and marking in the Faculty of Education. Professor Shaw has perceived a major fault in the thesis which has clearly eluded the best efforts of independent experts in the field.

In addition to casting doubt upon the assessment methods of Monash Uni-

versity, Professor Shaw makes a serious accusation of inadequate provisions to safeguard confidentiality at the University of Melbourne.

In fact, the findings of the thesis are based on a statistical analysis of publicly available data. It is unfortunate that Professor Shaw stated that opinions are "quite unsampled". The sampling technique, as is usual in such theses, is plainly described.

Professor Shaw's concluding paragraph leaves him open to the conclusion that he has been caught in a circular argument. His statement "not good enough" is an assumption in itself.

The professor's discussion with male



candidates about their failure to achieve has led him to a conclusion which must be disregarded. His sample appears to have been biased, unlike that in the thesis. Nor has his belief been subject to statistical analysis. It can be regarded as a non-significant finding.

It is well established in sociology that committee members tend to appoint clones. Whether they are invariably the best candidates has yet to be proven.

John Cole
Occupational Health Unit
University of Melbourne

Engineering visit

The recently appointed president of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, Mr Alex McLachlan, visited Monash after opening the Bicentennial Electrical Engineering Congress in April.

Mr McLachlan heads his own engineering consulting firm in Sydney and was installed as president of the institution in February during the Bicentennial National Engineering Conference.

After being introduced to engineering students by the Dean, Professor Peter Darvall, Mr McLachlan spoke about the institution, the Association of Professional Engineers, government policy on high-technology education and the principles of tertiary fees.



● George Fairfax, general manager of the Victorian Arts Centre, last month launched Monash historian John Rickard's latest book, *Australia: A Cultural History*. Here he is shown (centre) talking after the event with the author, left, and Neil Ryan, general manager of Longman Cheshire, the book's publisher. ("As Australian as a Vegemite sandwich..." See page 11 for George Fairfax's review of the book.)

Strong arguments for broadly-based degree

A graduate with a broad education in the humanities could eventually contribute more to Australia's productivity than someone with a degree in a specialised or applied field, said Professor Graeme Davison of the Monash History department.

He was responding to the "unduly narrow and instrumental" approach of the Dawkins Green Paper on Higher Education, which sees increased technical training as the way to increase productivity.

"There could be strong arguments, on economic grounds alone, for preferring the broad, transferable skills and critical

Scholarship to Europe

A Monash student, whose special area of study is 15th century Florence, is one of three winners of postgraduate scholarships awarded last month by the European community in recognition of Australia's Bicentenary.

Father Peter Howard, an honors graduate in history, will take up his Australian Bicentennial Scholarship in September at the European University Institute at Badia Fiesolana, just outside Florence. The 12-month scholarship covers the basic cost of tuition, board and lodging.

The European University Institute, which opened in 1976, was created by the 12 Member States of the European Community to contribute to the intellectual life of the region through postgraduate research and teaching in history, economics, law, and political and social sciences.

Under the supervision of Daniel Roche and Franco Angiolini of the institute, Father Howard will study the culture of Renaissance Florence, in particular the teachings of St Antoninus, the patron saint of Florence.

Next year marks the 600th anniversary of the birth of the saint, and a series of conferences will be held in Florence to celebrate the occasion. These conferences will be of immense value to his research, said Father Howard.

At present Father Howard is lecturing in history at the Catholic Theological College in Clayton. At the completion of his year in Florence, he hopes to return to Australia to continue research and writing and resume his lecturing career.

In recent years, European studies at Monash, and Renaissance Studies in particular, have attracted worldwide attention. This has been largely due to the work of a Reader in History, Dr Bill Kent, and senior lecturer, Mr Louis Green.



• Father Howard

outlook acquired in, say, a history degree as a basis for the tertiary education of many young Australians.

"If you want a society where technical innovation is highly prized, you won't get it only by putting resources into particular areas, but by nurturing an environment which encourages people to be highly critical, highly inventive."

Professor Davison was responding to the Green Paper* on behalf of the Australian Historical Association, of which he is president.

He said the humanities, and history in particular, was a major avenue by which working class and lower middle class families could gain access to higher education.

"An initial enrolment in humanities or social science courses often provides the intellectual preparation and develops the self-confidence necessary for the graduate to advance into more specialised fields," he said.

He said while the paper spoke at length about the means of achieving national goals, it contained little about the contribution which humane learning — and history in particular — could make to the debate on national priorities.

"History graduates are well represented among the heads of government departments, and compete very successfully for entry into foreign affairs and other public services.

"We have evidence, too, that history graduates are sought by computer, management and other business organisations.

"They have the capacity to think clearly and logically, to make critical judgments and intelligent syntheses of a wide range of materials, to set problems in a wider context and to deliver their conclusions in clear and graceful prose.

"As Australia develops stronger trading links with Asia, it also has a particular need for businessmen, bureaucrats and citizens versed in the language,

La Trobe honors Ross Day

Professor Ross Day, chairman of the department of Psychology, has been awarded an honorary degree by La Trobe University in recognition of his services to the Lincoln Institute of Health Services.

He was deputy president of the Lincoln Institute's Council from 1973 to 1980, and president from 1981 until 1 January 1988, when the institute became the School of Health Sciences at La Trobe.

The degree, Doctor of the University, also recognises Professor Day's contribution "to the international intellectual community, as a psychologist of great distinction, working principally in the field of spatial perception".

Professor Day was born in Albany, and did his first degree at the University of Western Australia. He completed his doctorate at the University of Bristol and then spent 10 years at the University of Sydney, where he became a reader. He was appointed Foundation Professor of Psychology at Monash, and has been chairman of the department since 1965.

traditions and history of non-European countries.

"What Dawkins says publicly is that the country is in economic difficulties; we need to correct the trade balance, fit into the trading model. Money spent must be justified in good returns.



• Professor Davison

"But as the debate goes on it is increasingly clear that the trade balance can't simply be corrected by putting more into the technological side."

It would not be possible to increase the participation of under-represented groups in technical and scientific disciplines by simply changing the mix of tertiary offerings, Professor Davison said.

"The scores for entry to many scientific and technological courses are already fairly low and we doubt whether an increase in places in these fields alone will enhance the employability of graduates.

"It would be very unfortunate if we were to pour more and more money into narrow vocational training without a real demand from industry."

History, as a major component in social science and humanities courses, attracted large numbers of students from groups which were under-represented in higher education, Professor Davison said.

It was a discipline in which native intelligence and life experience could make up for some deficiencies in secondary schooling.

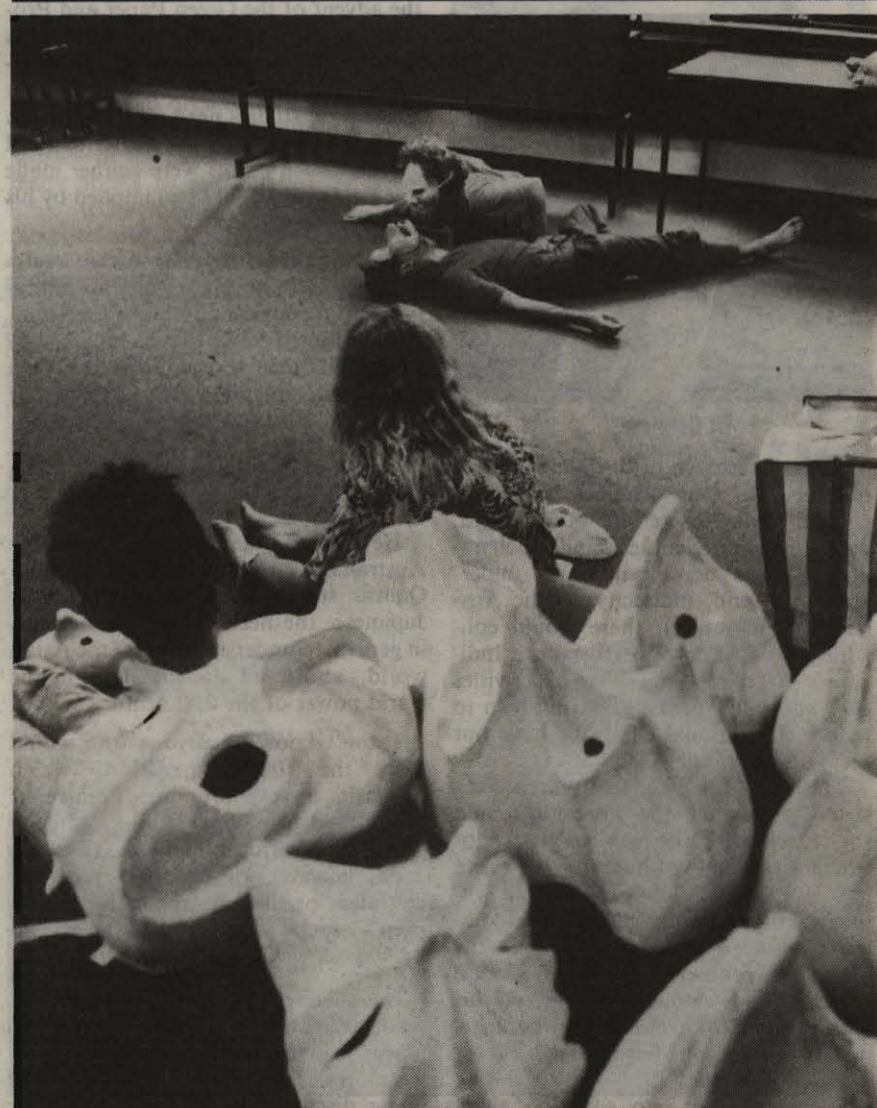
Selective

A survey of enrolments around Australia showed history was one of the few disciplines in which entrants from government schools equalled those from non-government schools, women outnumbered men and students from non-English-speaking families were highly represented.

"Science and technology courses favor the groups such as middle-class, privately-educated males, who already participate most in higher education," he said.

He believes the Green Paper has been very selective in its use of some aspects of the United States and Japanese models, while overlooking the fact that both nations encourage students to start their tertiary education with a broadly-based degree.

*The AHA's response, prepared by Professor Davison and titled *History and Higher Education*, was submitted to Mr Dawkins, Minister for Employment, Education and Training.



• Student Theatre ran a series of workshops during the term vacation. Pictured here are character masks, used by actors as a preparation for on-stage expression and as a way into character development. The workshops, held in rooms throughout the Union Building, also covered voice, character improvisation and Bouffon, a form of grotesque clowning. Photo — Tony Miller.

Arts gets a bagging at Brown Bag lunch

Dr Bill Kent, Reader in History, was a particular target for Professor Aitkin's barbs (see panel at right). This is his response.

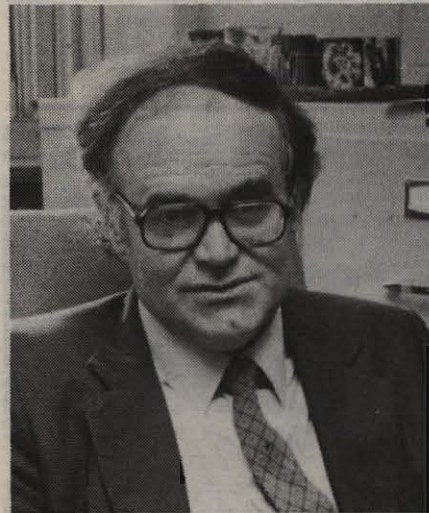
'We have our uses'

Members of the Arts Faculty present at the talk by Professor Don Aitkin, chairman designate of the new Australian Research Council, left the lecture-room confused by his vacillating position on how the humanities and social sciences would fare under the new funding arrangements, and dismayed by the antipathy he appeared to display to their fields of study.

I, for one, had come positively eager to be reassured by Professor Aitkin, himself a distinguished social scientist, and a good deal that he said during his exposition, and the first part of question time, was sensible and consoling.

We humanities people are not asking for a larger slice of the cake; only, in hard times, to keep our very modest share of it. It was therefore comforting to learn that while 20 per cent of the research budget would go to targeted projects in the national interest, "curiosity-led research" in all areas, including the humanities, would receive the rest.

I was particularly encouraged, at first, to hear Professor Aitkin's account of how the humanities might justify their existence in a world where, most of us would agree, some sort of "accountability" is necessary.



• Dr Bill Kent

"Pure" research of distinction which mattered to other scholars because it moved them to rethink their field, devoted and efficient teaching which imparted these new insights to undergraduates (and, indirectly, to the Australian community), these would constitute satisfactory "performance indicators" for scholars whose activities can, normally speaking, hardly help to reduce the national debt. We have our uses, however.

This is not the place to argue the very strong case that the humanities and social sciences, the subject-matter of which is the study of human society and its history, can and do provide an essential training for the leaders of a community, such as Australia, faced by the sorts of problem Professor Aitkin described so eloquently. Indeed this argument was not put to him because, during his talk, one felt that he took for granted its force.

Some minutes into question time, however, Professor Aitkin seemed to change tack. After a mild request from Walter Veit (German) for more precision about how Arts scholars might justify themselves to those demanding

more directly utilitarian research — and in response to an admittedly sharper but perfectly polite statement from Pauline Nestor (English) concerning the increasing difficulty we have with research application criteria which, with their emphasis on team-research for example, are designed more for the needs of the scientific and technical communities than for ours — Professor Aitkin lost his temper, saying among other things that in his opinion "there were more wankers in humanities faculties than others".

Although he at once apologised — and one takes the point that he is a busy man with a big job before him — this was still, to put it mildly, a distressing throwaway line for someone in his position to make in public.

Sparring

It was made all the more distressing by the evident approval with which it was greeted by at least a few of our scientific colleagues in the room. Further questioning — which to be sure was, for understandable reasons, by this time not always temperate — made matters worse.

One had the impression that Professor Aitkin was not so much engaging with people in the room as sparring with a larger-than-life adversary in another place, some critic who believed that with the advent of the Green Paper and Professor Aitkin himself "the barbarians and cretins were at the gates", some arrogant scholar who simply assumed that humanistic studies need no justification because they occupy the higher cultural ground. Such points were neither made nor (so far as I could see) implied by his Monash questioners.

By this time Professor Aitkin really did seem to be saying, or at least implying, that the humanities had a particular need to justify themselves in a tough world, that their research was too often navel-contemplating and should be "applied". (It is perhaps significant that Classics, History and English provided his examples here, not the newer social sciences.)

He pointed out the pressing need for Australians — diplomats, businessmen, Qantas stewards indeed — to know Japanese: the necessity for Australians in general to understand better the Asian world, above all Japan, the "major world power of the 21st century".

I don't know of anyone who would deny the first proposition, which Monash, a very prominent centre of Asian and Japanese studies, already takes very seriously indeed. (The second, however, might raise eyebrows: confident predictions about the future, even by social scientists, have an uncanny way of turning out to be wrong.)

But there the point might have been made to Professor Aitkin — in the event it was not — that the connection between research funding (the subject under discussion) and Australia's need to train select people in specific language skills, was not self-evident.

His specific mention of Italian Renaissance studies — in particular the study of Lorenzo de' Medici — as the

Legislation which will dramatically change the administration of Commonwealth university research funding is, at the time of writing, going through the Senate.

As part of the Government's restructuring of higher education, the bill sets up an Australian Research Council (ARC), a one-stop shop with a present budget of about \$70 million which subsumes all the Department of Employment, Education and Training's inherited research and scholarship schemes.

These include the Australian Research Grants Scheme, Marine Science and Technology grants, Queen Elizabeth the Second Fellowships, National Research Fellowships, Commonwealth Postgraduate Awards and the Anglo-Australian Telescope Board.

It does not include the CSIRO, the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Defence Science and Technology Organisation and Generic Industry Research and Development grants.

The council will have between nine and 11 members and will make recommendations directly to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training as to how research funds should be distributed. But in

sort of research area which required special justification in Australia was more problematical, for myself at least. This is my field of study, one which the ARC and its predecessor have indeed funded and are funding.

Since this is the case — and Professor Aitkin made the point himself — I wondered why pure research of this sort (presumably done at a competent level) should be singled out.

By his own criteria developed earlier in his talk, the study of Lorenzo the Magnificent, one of Europe's greatest historical figures, the ruler of Renaissance Florence, perhaps the most creative and politically inventive of early modern states, should legitimately form part of any humanities research and teaching program.

In fact Renaissance Italy and Florence is a field which some 800 VCE students in Victoria choose to study each year, one which is actively taught and researched throughout Australia, which has a growing international reputation in the area.

Ironically enough, the Japanese them-

matters of national research policy it will work through the minister's advisory board, the National Board for Employment, Education and Training.

The idea for establishing the ARC came from the Australian Science and Technology Council (ASTEC) an advisory body to the Prime Minister. It was approved by Cabinet before Mr Dawkins released his *Green Paper on Higher Education*, although it has been tailored to fit in with the restructuring envisaged in that document.

The chairman-designate is Professor Don Aitkin, erstwhile head of the Australian Research Grants Committee.

On Tuesday 3 May, 1988, as the third speaker in a series of "Brown Bag" lunchtime seminars organised by the Higher Education and Advisory Research Unit, Professor Aitkin visited Monash to talk about the advent of the ABC and its proposed operation.

Below are two reactions to his visit, one from a member of the Science Faculty and the other from a member of the Arts Faculty. *Monash Reporter* welcomes further debate on the issues raised and would like to publish a selection of comments.

selves, scholars and tourists alike, now feel the Italian Renaissance's perennial fascination, viz the stunning Japanese-funded cleaning of Michelangelo's Sistine chapel ceiling, and acknowledge that its history has something to teach and delight us all.

The same of course can and must be said for the humanities and social sciences at large. I only cite the example of Italian Renaissance studies because Professor Aitkin used it himself.

Perhaps, in the heat of the moment, things were said that were not meant, confusion was created where there was none. Perhaps, for example, the whole dispute was, as Professor Aitkin once implied, only about the 20 per cent of research funding which was targeted as in the national interest.

However at the very least one came away with feelings of genuine disquiet, with the sense that the man primarily responsible for allocating research funds in Australia took a dim, even condemnatory or derisory, view of some research work in the humanities if not in the social sciences.

A view from SAMU

Professor Don Aitkin visited Monash on Tuesday 3 May, and spoke at a lunchtime meeting organised by HEARU. Some of his remarks were controversial, and so I write with a synopsis of what took place at that meeting.

Aitkin is Professor of Political Science in the Research School of Social Sciences at ANU, adviser to the Minister of Employment, Education and Training (Mr John Dawkins), and chairman designate of the Australian Research Council.

He began by describing the functions of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training and its constituent bodies, notably ARC. He accompanied this part of the talk with some budgeting figures (\$70m for the ARC this year, subsuming ARGS and other granting schemes), and named Professors Clarke, Sturt, Neutze, and

Brennan as heads of the new ARC 'discipline' committees.

While arrangements for 1989 will probably be much like those of 1988, planning is proceeding for a number of changes in 1990:

- 20 per cent of funds to be available for grants for strategic/targeted research, with 80 per cent remaining available for curiosity-led research.
- About half of CPRAs to be tied to ARC grants, the other half free for open competition by students.
- Value of CPRAs to be increased to about \$14,000, with a further \$3000 allowance available for relocation expenses in an attempt to encourage movement from city to city (not just university to university in the one city).
- ARC grants will include a component for infrastructure expenses,

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• Professor Bellamy. Photo — John Clark.

Pom says our flora is worth preserving

Professor David Bellamy can still recall the last words he heard as he threw himself from a Tasmanian cliff during the heady days of the Franklin River blockade.

"Hell!" exclaimed the young policeman in pursuit of the well-known British conservationist. "The silly old bastard's killed himself!"

This painful recollection was used by Professor Bellamy to introduce his after-dinner speech on 'Why the Australian flora is worth preserving', delivered to participants in the *Weeds on Public Land* symposium held at Monash last month.

The two-day conference was presented by the Graduate School of Environmental Science and the Weed Science Society of Victoria.

"How can a Pom tell you how your flora is worth preserving?" Professor Bellamy asked the 300 diners in the university's Banquet Room.

"Well, once the Australian flora saved my life. I was being chased down a cliff at the Franklin River, but I didn't want to be arrested then.

"I wanted to be arrested three days later when the media would be there. So I chucked myself sideways off the cliff into a pile of scrub and soft moss."

Thanks to the resilient qualities of the Tasmanian undergrowth, the audience was able to hear Professor Bellamy declare that he had only to mention three Australian plants to answer his symposium brief.

They were *Eucalyptus regnans*, the world's tallest flowering plant which grows to a height of 100m in some areas of Victoria; *Hakea victoriae*, a hardy tree (resembling Queen Victoria, according to Professor Bellamy) which can thrive on ancient soils that have been impoverished by leaching; and *Austrobaileya scandens*, a living relic whose pollen grains resemble the oldest known fossil plant.

With current genetic engineering techniques and the possibility of growing trees faster, straighter and taller and making crops less susceptible to deficiencies and diseases, these three plants were key elements in the world bank of genetic information.

Professor Bellamy said that with this country's record of conservation, if it was unable to preserve its native flora, then no other nation on Earth could.

In 1879, Sydney's Royal National Park became the world's second national park. And in 1988, the Victorian government had moved this state into pole position in the world conservation race.

"The tide of informed public opinion is turning and politicians can't ignore the conservation issue any longer," said Professor Bellamy.

Drug centre adds status to Science Park

The Monash Science and Technology Park looks set to become an important Australian centre of biotechnology with the Victorian Government's announcement that an international drug testing facility will be built there.

The Drug and Chemical Safety Evaluation Centre is a joint venture between the Victorian Investment Corporation and the multinational contract research company, Applied Bioscience International Inc.

It will join another Victorian Investment Corporation venture in the park — the Biochemical Process Development Centre, an initiative which derives directly from research into purifying proteins by a group led by Professor Milton Hearn of Biochemistry.

The park, being developed across Blackburn Road from the Halls of Residence, also has attracted a biochemical manufacturing joint venture between the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories and a foreign biotechnology company. In addition, two other biotechnology organisations are considering locating there.

Dr Paul Hudson, managing director of Montech, the university's technology and consulting company which is developing and managing the park, said: "This is a highly significant technological opportunity for Monash University and could lead to the Monash Science and Technology Park becoming a national focus for biotechnology and pharmaceutical research and development."

The State Government previously announced that the investment corporation would commit up to \$6 million to the establishment of the evaluation centre and \$3 million to set up the process development centre.

The Minister for Industry, Technology and Resources, Mr Robert Fordham, said the building of the evaluation centre was an important part of the Vic-

torian Government's technology strategy.

"When this new centre is completed, a major hurdle to innovative research and development in Australia will have been overcome.

"Without a facility such as this, much of the practical results and leads which result from biotechnological research could not be followed through in Australia," he said.

He said the new centre would place strong emphasis on the development of tests which do not require animals, or use fewer animals.

The centre will have the capacity to carry out evaluations of a wide range of products, including chemicals; foods and feed additives; pesticides and herbicides; drugs, vaccines and diagnostic reagents for medical and veterinary use; antiseptic compounds; and other environmental testing elements.

Dr Hudson said that Montech and the Faculty of Medicine had been keen to see the drug evaluation centre built adjacent to the campus, because of the opportunities for collaboration, particularly with the departments of Pharmacology, Biochemistry, Anatomy, Physiology, Genetics and Chemistry.

He said he could foresee the possibility of joint research and development projects and honorary academic appointments. He also thought the centre would be a potential source of casual, part-time and permanent employment for Monash students and graduates.

Montech and the university would benefit from the improved opportunities for commercial exploitation of the uni-

versity's research, facilities and expertise.

Dr Hudson said the Applied Bioscience Group decided to locate in the Monash Science and Technology Park because of the expertise on campus, the ready access to the university's scientific, technological and recreational facilities and the attractiveness of the

Monash environment.

"The decision to build the evaluation centre here is a substantial vote of confidence in Monash University and Montech. It owes a great deal to entrepreneurial activities of the departments of Pharmacology and Biochemistry, especially Professors Alan Boura and Milton Hearn and Dr Jean Olley."



Some people were less than enthusiastic when Crawford Productions turned the foyer of the Menzies Building into a Myer's store on the last day of term. The company was filming an episode of a new television series, *All the Way*, and needed a 1960s setting with original lifts and escalators. Crawford's location manager, Neil McCart, said the company had permission to use part of the foyer but an over-enthusiastic arts department "went a bit berserk" and filled the area with props. He praised the efforts of Monash staff in Security and Central Services — especially Central Services manager, Bill Cunningham — in making the project work smoothly. And when can the foyer be seen on television? *All the Way* begins on Channel 9 later this month, and the foyer will appear in the eighth episode.

'Little Lon' dig yields clues to pioneers' diet

Lights, action and cameras filled the second-year Botany laboratory last month as a film crew began shooting a sequence for a documentary on the archaeology of Melbourne.

The subject of the afternoon's filming was a team of Botany students painstakingly sorting through material which had been excavated from a mid-19th century domestic cesspit in Little Lonsdale St.

The "Little Lon" dig, one of Australia's largest urban historical excavations, was completed early last month.

The Monash sequence will form part of *Digging Melbourne*, a project sponsored by the documentary division of Film Victoria.

The students, under the supervision of senior lecturer Dr Beth Gott, were filmed as they searched treated samples of the detritus for fruit seeds.

After the seeds are identified, archeologists are able to interpret the diet of the folk who used the pit in the 1850s.

Work already completed has demonstrated that grapes, raspberries and figs constitute the major part of the botanical evidence.

Dr Gott explained on camera that the absence of twigs and leaves suggested that the fruit had not been grown on the site. The household had more likely bought it fresh from the market, dried or as jam, she said.

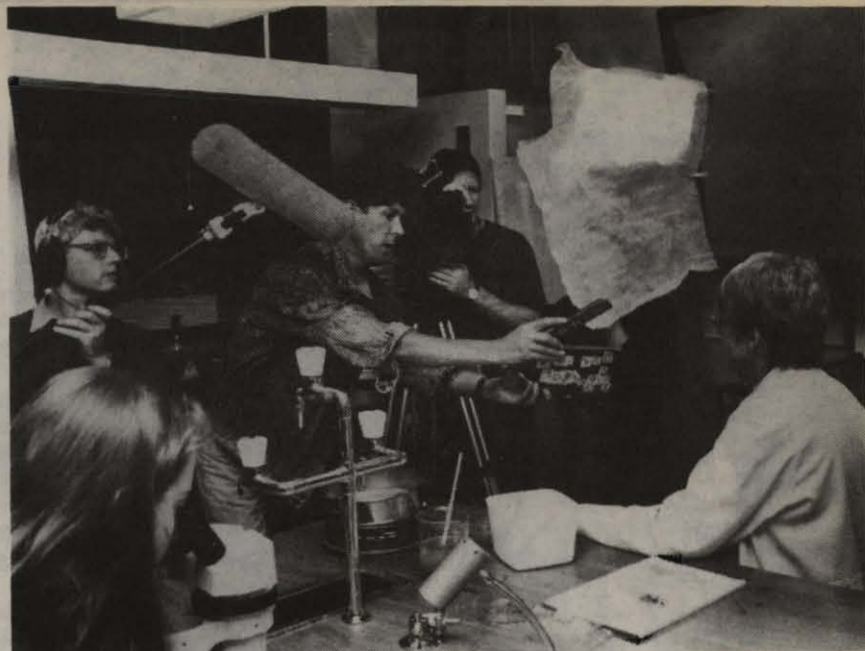
The seeds would have then reached

the pit in the family's table scraps or, because such fruit is usually eaten whole, via human waste.

Monash students sorting through material from a dig at the site of a house in Queen Street last year found that the seed evidence indicated its occupants had a better diet than the Little Lonsdale Street family.

Strawberry, plum, tomato and cherry seeds and stones were found in addition to grape, fig and raspberry seeds.

The house belonged to one J.T. Smith, seven times Lord Mayor of Melbourne in the middle of the last century.



Members of the crew from Warner Dalton Film and Television Productions prepare to record an interview with Dr Beth Gott. From left, Lloyd Carrick, John Hughes, and Jaems Grant. Photo — Richard Crompton.

Easing the way into Uni life

More than 300 careers counsellors, Year 12 co-ordinators and principals from 200 Victorian schools attended a seminar organised by the Monash Careers and Appointments Service last month.

The theme of this year's seminar was *Caring for Students*. Representatives from student support organisations at Monash, including the University Counselling Service, the Monash Orientation

Scheme for Aborigines and the Student Employment Office, outlined the services which help students make the transition to university life.

In keeping with the theme, the seminar was held in Deakin Hall to give country teaching staff an idea of the life of a student boarding at Monash.

The morning session of the seminar focused on new course developments at Monash, special admission arrange-

ments, and the new student selection procedures that have been mooted as a result of the revision of the Year 11 and 12 programs.

Among the speakers were Professor John Hay (Dean of Arts), Professor Peter Darvall (Dean of Engineering), Professor Louis Waller (Law), Professor Bill Muntz (Dean of Science) and Professor Nick Hastings (Information Systems).

Fresh focus on vision

With the recent signing of an affiliation agreement between Monash and the National Vision Research Institute, the future of visual science in this state has never looked clearer.

The Dean of Science, Professor Bill Muntz, who has been closely associated with members of the institute, says the affiliation will benefit students and scientists alike.

"The idea is to bring us into a formal association with another group who works entirely in vision.

"From their point of view, it gives them access to our research facilities. From our point of view, it gives us access to their expertise, their techniques and the supervision of PhD students."

The Carlton-based institute, which is privately-funded by opticians and clinicians, undertakes basic and applied research into vision and its disorders.

The main areas of collaboration

between Monash and the institute will be in the disciplines of psychology, anatomy, science and engineering. Members of the department of Psychology are interested in the neurones underlying various visual processes.

Anatomy is investigating its development of visual systems, Engineering is studying artificial vision, and Science, comparative vision.

The study of vision, in which Australia leads the rest of the world, has not only crept across the boundaries between disciplines, it has also become something of a scientific growth area.

"It's an interesting subject, because it's one which has really taken off," said Professor Muntz.

"It's completely changed and progressed by orders of magnitude during my scientific career. It's also particularly interesting in many ways because it does involve engineers as well as biologists."



Patients at the Monash Medical Centre are probably wondering why recent meals from the hospital kitchen have had an added piquancy.

Shane Stirling and apprentice Diane Gottwald in the herb garden. Photo — Tony Miller.

The answer is nutritiously simple. Since Food Services apprentice supervisor, Shane Stirling, established a herb garden in one of the hospital's courtyards two months ago, many of the meals prepared at the centre have been flavored with the likes of sorrel, lemon balm, fennel, chives and curry plant.

Over 100 plants representing more than 30 varieties of herbs grow in the atrium garden, tended by kitchen apprentices.

Despite the hospital administration's initial uncertainty, staff and visitors are staggered by the garden's appearance, says Mr Stirling.

Food Services manager and chief dietitian, Mrs Rosemary Perdriau, says the purpose of the garden is twofold: it gives apprentice chefs an opportunity to propagate and use herbs, and the herbs also provide an excellent salt substitute for patients on a salt-free diet.

It appears likely that the garden's 12-month trial period will now be extended to many well-seasoned years.



Pictured with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan (seated) and the Comptroller, Mr Peter Wade (right), are institute representatives Miss Jean Colledge, secretary, and Dr David Cockburn, chairman of the board.



Sisters in Law follow grandfather's footsteps

It seems fitting that twin sisters, Wati and Yanti Abdurrachman, left, should be doing their articles with a law firm that specialises in joint-venture work.

Born in Melbourne to Indonesian parents 24 years ago, the twins graduated in Law at a ceremony at Robert Blackwood Hall last month after having gone through their entire education together. Their closeness even extended to similar marks and the same study groups.

The twins' interest in the legal profession was sparked by their grandfather, a former Supreme Court judge in central Java. They believe they are the only

Indonesians to have graduated in law in Australia during the past two years.

Their remarkable similarity in appearance often led to confusion among fellow students at Monash. Friends would be upset when a twin failed to acknowledge a greeting. More often than not, however, they were talking to the wrong twin.

There appears to be less of an identity problem at Freehill, Hollingdale and Page where the sisters are articled clerks. In this law firm with extensive interests in Southeast Asia, Wati is specialising in banking while Yanti is interested in take-overs and mergers.

All right, who's been shaking this tree?

Caught toying with the "Apple of Wisdom" under the Newton tree in the faculty courtyard are Engineering's three deans. The caption accompanying this unsolicited contribution read:

"The tall jovial one in the middle is Emeritus Professor Ken Hunt (Dean 1960-1975), for whom Deanship is a receding memory. The relieved looking one on the left is Professor Lance Endersbee, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Dean 1976-1988) who has just relinquished the Deanship. The one with the forced smile is Professor Peter Darvall (Dean 1988-7)."



• Sima and John Kesselschmidt

Worth the wait

Two Arts graduates who belatedly received their degrees at a graduation ceremony last month were accompanied onto the Robert Blackwood Hall stage by their mothers — who also received degrees.

Aileen Mary Ellis and John Simon Kesselschmidt both completed their studies some years ago but did not return for the degree-conferring. Both are teachers and both were overseas when they heard that their mothers would be graduating.

Aileen Ellis finished a linguistics degree two years ago. A teacher at Traralgon, Victoria, she was on holiday

in Kenya when her mother, Margaret, broke the news. Margaret Arleux Ellis finished her degree in history last year.

Sima Kesselschmidt says her son, John, was the driving force behind her bid for a tertiary education. John finished his degree in sociology and history in the mid-1970s and now teaches at Footscray Technical School. He returned from a tour of Asia, Europe and the Middle East so he could "walk across the room" with his mother at the graduation ceremony.

Mrs Kesselschmidt, 53, who did her degree in Slavic languages, is now enrolled in the first year of a Law course at Monash.



• Margaret and Aileen Ellis

Hold it! Helga was first

Despite our best efforts to find out whether Geoff Crawford was the first Special Admissions student to gain a Ph.D (Monash Reporter, 4 May), nobody could say for sure.

Now we have learned that Monash's

own Helga Kuhse, deputy director of the Centre for Human Bioethics and a leading protagonist in the death-with-dignity debate, beat Geoff to the punch. She entered Monash under the Special Admissions Scheme in 1974 and was awarded her Ph.D in 1983.

Youthwork exchange

An international program promoting the sharing of knowledge and expertise in the field of childcare and youthwork had its Australian launch last month at a ceremony in the Gallery Building.

Jointly sponsored by the Centre for Youth Development and Research at the University of Minnesota and Youthorizons in New York, the International Learning Exchange in Professional Youthwork (ILEX) invites

youthworkers around the world to join a Youth Service Agency in America for 12 months. The program provides accommodation, meals and a monthly stipend for participants.

Pictured at the launch are Mr Race Mathews, Minister for Community Services in Victoria, Professor Millicent Poole (Education), who is national representative of ILEX, and the executive director of ILEX, Mr Herbert Barnes.



Space will be boom industry

The idea of a spaceport on the Cape York peninsula was considered almost laughable when the issue was first raised 18 months ago.

The scheme quickly became known as the *Cape York Caper*, following former Queensland Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's announcement of the project to an incredulous State parliament in 1986.

It was little wonder that Sir Joh's latest hobby horse was met with widespread scepticism. After all, he was the man who, several years earlier, had publicly championed the ill-fated hydrogen car.

But, as so often occurred throughout his premiership, it seems that Sir Joh could have the last laugh. A feasibility study carried out by the Institution of Engineers, Australia, and chaired by Dr John Simmons, Reader in Mechanical Engineering at Queensland University, concluded that a spaceport on Cape York was a viable proposition.

At a lunchtime lecture organised by the Monash Young Engineers last month, Dr Simmons declared that "space is going to be a boom industry".

He cited US plans to mine the lunar surface, a permanent American manned base on Mars, and the servicing of orbiting space stations, as examples of future expansion in the area.

A commercial spaceport on Cape York would reap the financial rewards if it could provide an international launch facility for such projects.

In the past, launch sites around the world have been heavily subsidised by governments because of their military use. A commercial spaceport was an entirely new concept, said Dr Simmons.

Cape York offered a number of advantages over similar planned commercial launch sites in Hawaii, Japan, Indonesia, Kiribati and Palmyra Island.

Among the peninsula's natural and man-made assets were: proximity to the equator (less fuel is required to put a rocket into orbit from an equatorial launch site), a predictable climate, vast areas of open land, existing access to sea and air through the bauxite town of Weipa, political stability and Australia's location on the Pacific Rim of Technology.

But although the \$500 million scheme had attracted the keen interest of the Federal Government, some problems needed to be examined, said Dr Simmons.

An amalgamation of several companies, including Bond Corporation, BHP and Comalco, which were unsuccessful in their bid to become Australia's first space agency, has set up a rival consortium to challenge the of-



● Dr John Simmons . . . "Sir Joh could have last laugh".

ficially appointed Cape York Space Agency.

The Federal Government has urged the consortia to work together, but Dr Simmons describes relations between the two as being "in a state of flux".

Another problem concerns the impact of the spaceport on the Australian environment. Rockets had a habit of "dropping things" after they were launched, and the regular dumping of used rocket parts over Central Australia

would create a "delicate situation", said Dr Simmons.

He believes there is a "50-50 chance" of the project coming to fruition. At this stage, he said, it would be irresponsible to establish a course in space engineering in Australia.

At present there is only one job going in the Australian space industry — that of first cosmonaut aboard a Russian space station.

Union grant

A biochemistry research scholarship funded by the Shop Distributive and Allied Employees' Association has been awarded to David Grasso, below, a postgraduate student at the Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine.

Mr Grasso graduated with a B.Sc (Honors) in Biochemistry at Monash in 1986, and worked at the centre in 1987. The union's grant enabled him to enrol as a Ph.D candidate in 1988.

In expressing appreciation for the union's support, the director of the centre, Professor Anthony Linnane, said that the results of Mr Grasso's work will provide valuable new information on the function of living cells in both health and disease.



Law prize

The Supreme Court Prize for the best student in a final year in the course for the degree of Bachelor of Jurisprudence in 1987 has been awarded to Ajai Thapliyal of Clayton South.

MONASH REPORTER



Winner of the 1987 Society of Chemical Industry of Victoria prize is Andrew Brown, son of Associate Professor Bill Brown of the department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering.

The prize was awarded for a "top high distinction" in the chemical engineering subject, CESC 303. Andrew is pictured above being congratulated by Professor Owen Potter, chairman of the department of Chemical Engineering.

Top apprentices

Brad Simcoe of Maintenance branch was last week named Best First Year Apprentice in Building Studies for 1986 at the Outer Eastern College of TAFE. His workmate, Glenn Craig, also received an award earlier in the year as Best First Year Apprentice in Carpentry for 1987 at the Holmesglen College of TAFE.

Win a computer

First prize of a personal computer is being offered in a computer program design competition open to all Monash first-year students enrolled in Mathematical Methods 101 or Mathematics 123.

Entrants are required to design a computer program aimed at illustrating, demonstrating or teaching some aspect of year 12 mathematics or Monash first-year mathematics.

The competition is being run by the Monash University Computer Centre. The prize, an IBM-compatible Micro Pro XT personal computer (approximate value \$1500), is being donated by Micro Pro Computers Pty Ltd of Oakleigh. Three consolation prizes of \$100 will also be awarded.

Entries will be judged by a panel of staff from the Computer Centre and the department of Mathematics. Closing date for all entries is 5 September 1988.

For further information and entry forms, contact the reception desk at the Computer Centre, ext. 4795.



Goethe winner

Judy Lachele is the winner of the 1987 Goethe Prize for the best first-year student in German. She is pictured above receiving her award from the German Vice-Consul, Mr Hans Müllers, during a ceremony held in the department last month.

Call for papers on Europe

A conference to be held at Monash next year by the Centre for European Studies will examine major social, political, economic and cultural issues in contemporary Europe.

Papers are being invited for the conference, part of which will be devoted to the concerns of the business community in its dealings with Europe.

Issues to be focused on include: The United States of Europe; Questions of Identity; East and West; Foreign Policy and Political and Cultural Relations.

The program will include distinguished guest speakers, and conference papers will be compiled into a volume in the Monash European Studies Series.

Europe Today: Problems and Prospects, to be held from 12-14 July, is the first conference organised by the centre, which was established last year to develop teaching and research.

Inquiries and offers of interest should be directed to Professor Brian Nelson, Centre for European Studies, Monash University.

On-the-spot training for medical students

After more than 25 years as a sufferer, and the replacement of both hips, both knees and her left elbow joint, Mrs Shirley Dunn is a great source of knowledge about rheumatoid arthritis — not only of what it is, but how it feels and what it looks like.

So, while she may not be able to drive a car or dress herself, she feels that she can contribute to helping train new doctors.

"The students have got to learn somehow, don't they? Why not on a live body like me?"

Mrs Dunn is part of a new program organised by Dr Alan Rose of the department of Community Medicine to give fourth year medical students from the Prince Henry's campus of the Monash Medical Centre the experience of examining patients in their own homes.

Here, Mrs Dunn is lying on her own bed being examined by Andrew Steele while (from left to right) Caroline Hawkins, Dr Alan Rose and Louise Johns look on.

About four-fifths of all medical services are provided by general practitioners, and that is the area of training that Community Medicine addresses.

The difference from the more conventional hospital setting can be quite marked, Dr Rose said. For instance, general practitioners on home visits are providing continuing care for chronic illnesses, as opposed to investigation, diagnosis and treatment of a condition in its acute stage.

He said seeing a patient in his or her

own environment could provide useful clues as to the best way to proceed with on-going treatment. For example, the state of the house could give an idea of socio-economic and educational status and how patients were coping, information it was impossible to get from examining someone in a consulting room or a hospital ward.

At home, there were likely to be other people caring for the patient, such as Mrs Dunn's husband Frank, who has

gradually shouldered the load of running the house and looking after his wife as she has become worse. The students were able to ask him important questions and he could be relied upon to help with treatment.

Dr Rose said that patients in their own environment were more assertive and inclined to say what they were thinking and feeling, all of which improved their compliance with treatment.

"In general, patients are only too pleased to help. Outside the hospital they have a different attitude towards students. They're co-operative and pleased to see them."

"They're allergic to us in hospital," said Louise Johns.

Mrs Dunn, who has been seen by a number of students in both situations, commented, "In hospital, they tend to ask the same questions over and over again."



Monash Reporter

The next issue will be published in the first week of July, 1988.

Copy deadline is Friday, 24 June, and early copy is much appreciated.

Contributions (letters, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor, Lisa Kelly, Information Office, Gallery Building, or ring ext. 2085.

Contraception explained

When a person is faced with selecting a form of contraception from the 'cafeteria' of choices available, a number of important considerations must be taken into account.

A public information session on the various contraceptive methods in use and the options available to teenagers, women who wish to space births, and women who have completed childbearing, will be held in R7 (Rotunda) on Thursday 16 June at 7 pm.

Entitled *Contraception Today*, the information session will be addressed by experts in the field. Some of the questions they will consider include: What are the optimal contraceptives for somebody prior to the onset of childbearing? Has the advent of AIDS altered the contraceptive choice at this time of life? What is the optimal interval between births? To what extent can a woman who chooses to breastfeed rely on this as a contraceptive method?

The cost of the information session is \$15. Further details and information on how to register can be obtained from Ms Rebecca Lodge at the Centre for Reproductive Biology on 565 2765.

Excessive politeness is often mis-read

Recent research by a Monash specialist in Japanese business communication has shown that the politeness which usually accompanies Australian and Japanese business meetings is often superficial.

According to Helen Marriott, senior lecturer in the department of Japanese and founder of Australia's first course in Japanese business etiquette, negative feelings arising out of an ignorance of the appropriate forms of behavior at such meetings often lie beneath the veneer of civility.

Australians who are unaware of Japanese drinking and eating patterns may offend their Japanese hosts if they fail to follow correct procedure in a Japanese restaurant.

Similarly, the Australian businessman left waiting in an empty Japanese meeting room might suspect that his

Japanese counterpart is deliberately trying to assert his authority.

In both cases, poor impressions are the result of one nationality's lack of knowledge of the other's pattern of behavior, says Ms Marriott, who has just guided her third class through the complex maze of Japanese business customs.

During four three-hour seminars, her students (mostly senior managers of private companies) are given a thorough grounding in the etiquette of Japanese business meetings and hospitality situations, and linguistic politeness.

The final session is held at a Japanese restaurant where some newly acquired knowledge is put into practice.

Says Ms Marriott: "The course enables Australians to function more effectively on an interpersonal level, and that is the basis for all business."

She finds that most of her students begin the course with the stereotypical image of the Japanese businessman as someone who is exceedingly polite. However, the myth is soon debunked.

"Bowing is merely a form of greeting. It's a rather neutral action that does not imply exceptional deference," she says.

"Linguistically, the fact that the English of the Japanese businessman has little or no slang can make him appear very formal and polite. But in reality, his lack of colloquial speech is due to his restricted competence in English."

In raising Australian businessmen's awareness of Japanese business etiquette, Ms Marriott hopes that they will be able to adjust their own behavior as well as evaluate the behavior of the Japanese more appropriately.

• Ms Marriott and her class pictured hard at work in a Japanese restaurant.



Probyn puts literature's 'Big Five' in a new perspective

Clive Probyn has a gift both in life and on the page for saying a great deal in few words, and his new book is a fine example of this.

Written for a Longman's series, its aim is to digest the rich multiplicity of eighteenth-century English fiction into 250 pages, including bio-bibliographical notes and chronology. It does this to the accompaniment of a steady crackle of intellectual fireworks.

The story centres, as is customary, on the big five — Defoe, Richardson, Fielding, Smollett and Sterne.

Probyn has no major reevaluation to propose here, though he does with regard to some of the lesser contemporaries, including John Cleland, the author of *Fanny Hill*.

But he is able to place the giants in a new perspective: one that identifies their particular kinds of originality (showing how each had in effect to re-invent the novel for his own purposes) and the kind of 'contract' that each negotiates with his reader.

If there is an overriding theme to these novels, Probyn argues, it is 'the validity and significance of the individual experience in oppositional relationships with society'.

He finds this most acutely expressed in Richardson's *Clarissa*, a work whose extreme length will always limit its readership, but in which, agreeing with recent feminist writers, he finds 'a profound social criticism of sexual politics'.

By contrast, the novelists of the Gothic and sentimental schools lose momentum because of their unwillingness to confront this key dialectic. Instead they retreat into private worlds of fantasy or a tame conformism.

Probyn's approach can be sampled through his treatment of the Scottish doctor-turned-novelist Tobias Smollett, the closest of the big five to the satirical tradition of Jonathan Swift.

Smollett has none of Defoe's or Richardson's concern with 'the definition of self . . . and the existential implications of loneliness' and rejects Fieldings' 'intimacy of tone with his reader'.

Moreover, 'of all the major novelists he has least to say about the medium of his message' — Sterne being the champion in this regard. Instead he presents us with 'a single dominating narrative ego, hell-bent on destruction'.

So much, at any rate, for *Roderick Random*, *Peregrine Pickle* and, most

IN REVIEW

English Fiction of the Eighteenth Century 1700-1789
by Clive Probyn
Longman's Literature in English Series. RRP \$22.95

notoriously, *Ferdinand Count Fathom*, works which are to be valued for their fierce narrative energy and 'shocking specificity' but for which Probyn otherwise shows little sympathy.

But *Humphry Clinker*, the novel which Smollett completed just before his death, is rightly seen as quite another matter.

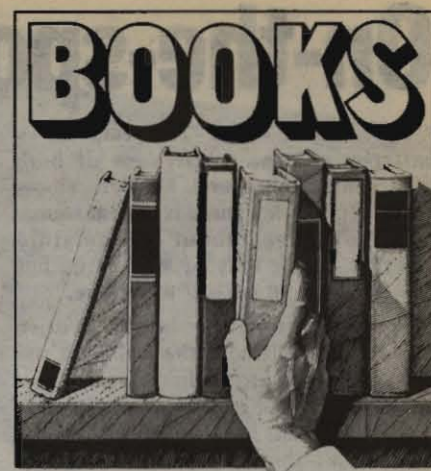
Here the acceptance of Richardson's method of telling the story through letters has liberated Smollett from the restricted viewpoint of his monomaniac heroes into an ampler world of vigorously but also lovingly interacting egos.

The passion for satire dies in its author just as it does in his fictional counterpart, Matthew Bramble, as the extended family of the Welsh misanthrope progresses on a wild and wonderful tour of the British Isles in search of health, spouses and an abiding home.

Probyn indicates all this with characteristic deftness. His advocacy is particularly welcome for a novel which, while it will never have as many readers as *Tom Jones* or *Robinson Crusoe*, yields to neither in its depth of human

understanding and power to entertain.

To sum up, this is a book which triumphantly transcends the limitations of its series format to offer a coherent and persuasive view of writers who still have an enormous amount to offer the



twentieth-century reader. My only regret is the absence of a chapter on Swift, about whom Probyn has elsewhere written so well.

Harold Love

Loss of trees spells disaster for Victoria

Victoria Felix: Improving Rural Land with Trees
by Robert Campbell, Ross Chandler and Graham Thomas (edited by Andrea Lindsay and Rob Youl)
Graduate School of Environmental Science. \$13.70

Most of Victoria's farmlands will be treeless by the middle of next century unless landowners take action.

The forest and dense woodland which once covered three-quarters of the state has been reduced by more than half.

With an estimated five million trees dying each year and lack of sufficient regrowth, the rate of decline is increasing and the consequences for everyone will be severe, say the authors of *Victoria Felix: Improving Rural Land with Trees*.

The book is a manual for land management, written for all Victorian farmers and landowners, and with a special section for hobby farmers.

It describes how the loss of tree cover affects all aspects of farm life from animal breeding to crop and pasture production and soil conservation.

"Trees, like soil and water, play an integral part in the land's natural processes . . . (but) agricultural systems are usually biologically very simple and lack the controls that keep natural systems in balance," say the authors.

"Good management should make maximum use of helpful natural processes rather than attempt to ignore them or abrogate them so that it

becomes necessary to employ expensive substitutes.

"Positive action to protect existing tree cover, to encourage natural regeneration and to plant or sow trees need not be excessively costly and will provide a valuable asset on the farm.

"We could, as a result of such action, see restored areas of healthy indigenous vegetation alongside highly productive land and reversal of the already evident damage resulting from excessive loss of tree cover."

Victoria Felix: Improving Rural Land with Trees was researched and written by Monash students as part of the degree Master of Environmental Science. It was sponsored by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, and launched at a recent symposium at Monash (Weeds on Public Land) by the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Mr Evan Walker.

The book is available from the Graduate School of Environmental Science, Monash University, 565 4619.



• Clive Probyn

BOOKS RECEIVED

Forty-Love
Studio Plays No.7
by Dennis Davison

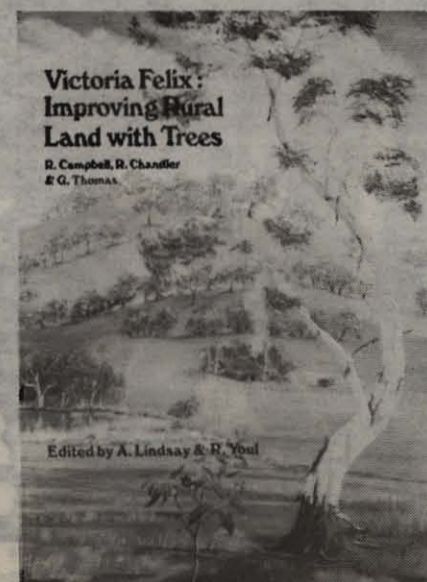
A new three-act comedy by the author of many short plays including *Overnight Loan Only*, *Maid in Australia*, *Weekend Affair* and *Lord for a Week*.

Available from Dr Davison, Department of English, Monash University. \$5 post-free.

★ ★ ★
Energy Supply for King Island
Environmental Paper No.7
by Stuart Campbell and John van Leeuwen (ed. Andrea Lindsay)

An investigation of different means of electricity supply in an isolated community, giving cost comparisons between stand-alone diesel generators, the HEC grid, and wind generation. The report takes in some social, political and economic aspects involved with each means of supply.

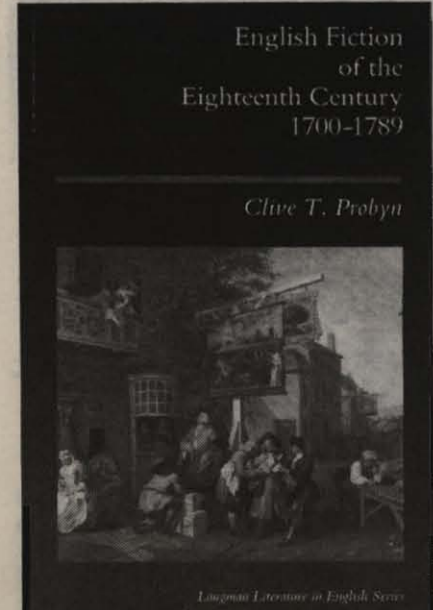
Available from the Graduate School of Environmental Science, Monash University. \$8.50.



IMPORTANT DATES

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

- 1 Graduation Ceremony — Arts
- 6 Second Term Begins
- Second Term begins for Medicine I, II, and III
- 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.St., 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 1 June and the end of the appropriate teaching period.
- 10 First half year ends for B.Ed.St., B.Sp.Ed., Dip.Ed.Psych. and M.Ed.St.
- 13 Queen's Birthday Holiday
- 24 First half-year lectures in subjects and units taught by the Faculty of Economics and Politics end
- Second Term ends Dip.Ed.
- 25 First half-year ends for Medicine V



As Australian as a Vegemite sandwich

IN REVIEW

Australia: A Cultural History

by John Rickard

Longman Cheshire Pty Ltd, Melbourne. RRP \$18.95

The reproduction of Michael Shannon's painting *Suburban Landscape — Melbourne* on the cover of John Rickard's history is familiar enough, especially to those of us whose lives cover nearly one-third of the two hundred years of European settlement in our country.

Red rooftops, a suggestion of a far country beyond and a sky which, most likely, will bring a change tomorrow.

Australia — A Cultural History is by no means a catalogue, drained dry of vitality, detailing dates and events in a fashion which will destine it to a peaceful life on the library shelf. No, it is a lively series of episodes written in straightforward, easy language as if the author is talking to us about his observations on our manners, customs, values, beliefs and doubts. It is about people, people in an everchanging culture — our people, us.

The splendid *First Impressions* exhibition currently at the Museum of Victoria describes a strange, to them, upside-down land seen through the newcomer's eye. *Australia — A Cultural History* tells the story of a place which most certainly is different, year after year receiving newcomers who are different again from those who preceded them.

In this history, change can be viewed through the eyes of all — all those who have played roles in the recent short history of Australia — the Aborigines, the settlers, the squatters, the diggers, the land-boomers, the shearers, the city-dwellers, the writers, the painters, the poets, the performers.

John Rickard deals with culture in the broadest sense — and seems to miss very little on the way. We follow the evolution of attitudes, beliefs, customs and values from the Dreamtime, passing through the application of transplanted cultures, to the emergence of what can be seen as a distinctive Oz way of thinking, feeling, behaving.

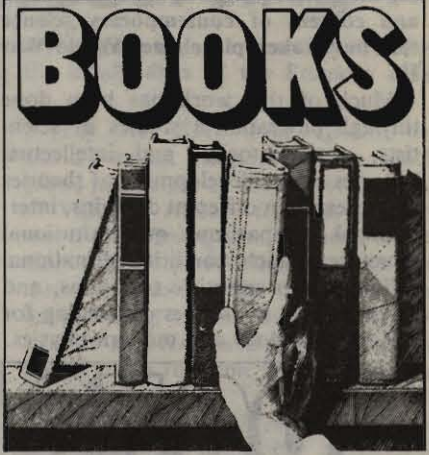
In one short volume, it is impossible to deal in depth with any one topic. I can't think of a better introduction to Australia for the non-Australian reader — chapters on the Aborigines, immi-

grants, the environment, political institutions, relationships and pursuits provide a colourful canvas of city and country, represented in Michael

Shannon's foreground and middle-ground.

For the student, historian or sociologist, it is an engrossing account of the ways in which Australians old and new have related to the near city, to the far country — and to each other.

For the vintage Australian, the pages bubble up half-known and half-remembered facts, events and names — White Australia, conscription, Empire Day, wowsers, Angry Penguins, the Move-



ment, cream brick veneers, the Cultural Cringe, green bans, "It's Time", The Dismissal.

Much of it is 20th century Australia, particularly in treatment of the period between Federation and the Second World War; some, in fact, is as up-to-date as "Come on Aussie, Come On" and the New Right. All of it is as Australian as a Vegemite sandwich.

As John Rickard moves through our history, he lets us hear his comments, his views and his observations in a most frank and direct manner. He is unafraid to rail against those who have taken unfair advantage of their place in the community or have scored at the expense of others. He takes to task the handful of takeover and merger specialists who play their games of Monopoly seemingly for their own satisfaction of putting another hotel on Park Lane, to the acclamation of the Stock Exchange and the financial press.

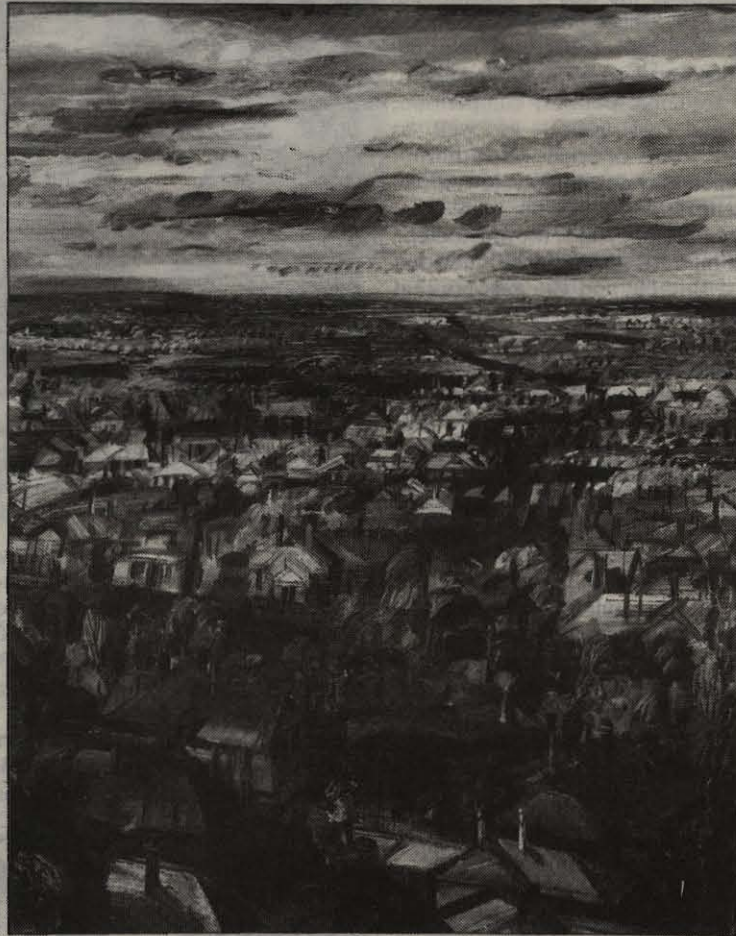
The final chapter carries the title — *Vision* — it is the "sky-scape" upper third of Michael Shannon's view. It is scuffed with clouds — some promising fair weather, some heralding rain. The different levels of acceptance of our history — the rival claims of disparate interests and groups, the questioning of past mediocrity, the awakening recognition of the peculiar "belonging" of the Aborigines, the status of the most recent immigrants, the acknowledgement of our convict heritage — all point to an uncertain future and suggest a new importance for our history to provide some lessons at least.

John Rickard's conclusions are both hopeful and challenging — it's really up to us.

George Fairfax

John Rickard

AUSTRALIA



A CULTURAL HISTORY

Mech Eng rebuilds links with Asian students

A recruitment drive in Southeast Asia has netted more than 60 new members for the department of Mechanical Engineering's Alumni Association.

During a week-long visit to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore in April, Associate Professor Arthur Williams, Professor Bill Melbourne and senior lecturer Mr Jacek Stecki met with many of their former students, including some who had graduated 20 years ago.

The response was overwhelming, said Mr Stecki, who is alumni co-ordinator. Graduates who had drifted out of touch with the department suddenly appeared at the reunions.

In Kuala Lumpur, an anticipated gathering of 14 students was more than doubled, with some participants driving for over six hours to attend the function.

Their Singapore counterparts were equally enthusiastic. More than 30 graduates were present at the informal

meeting in the southern capital.

Mr Stecki said the graduates could not believe that the representatives from Monash had travelled so far simply to meet them. For their part, the Monash teaching staff were surprised at how their former students had progressed.

In Kuala Lumpur, most were working as self-employed engineering consultants or as company managers. And two-thirds of the graduates at the Singapore meeting held senior positions in government departments.

The reason for the meetings was two-fold, said Mr Stecki.

"It was felt that former students from Southeast Asia had been neglected to some extent in the past and the department wished to let them know it still cared.

"Secondly, there was a real desire that contacts should be maintained for future business ventures.

"Australia doesn't have much of a presence in the area in the form of research organisations, and we feel that Monash could take part in any consulting or research-type activities."

Closer to home, the first in a series of alumni business lunches was held by the department in the Union's private dining-room last month.

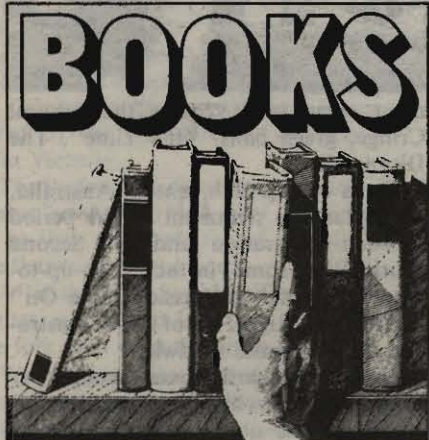
The alumni association hopes that these lunches, attended by a number of graduates from different years, will create an opportunity to "drum up a little business during work ing hours".

• New members of the alumni pictured in Kuala Lumpur with Mr Stecki, left, and Professor Melbourne, second from right.



Over the past 15 years or so, historians and sociologists of science, science journalists and scientists have devoted considerable energy to describing the great changes in the organisation and content of contemporary science that have taken place since World War II.

Much of this work has been done through biographical studies of scientists, oral histories, and intellectual histories of the development of theories and research in different domains, international comparisons of institutional structures which conditioned national differences in scientific traditions, and investigations of sources of funding for molecular biology and modern physics.



In *The Ends of Science*, Harry Redner has brought together a great deal of the insights won from these studies to discuss critical issues in the social organisation and conceptual foundations of modern science. His book is divided into three parts. The first is devoted to a discussion of the transformation from what Redner calls "Classical science" (characterised by a search for fundamental laws and "unified theories") to "World science".

The latter is distinguished from the former by "a high level of technification, formalisation, abstraction, problem solving and finalisation". Redner centres his discussion primarily on statements of leading geneticists, molecular biologists and physicists about advancements of their sciences and the conceptual foundations of their domains.

In the final section of the book,

New look at 'world science'

IN REVIEW

The Ends of Science

by Harry Redner

Westview Press Inc., Boulder, Colorado, USA. RRP \$80

Published with the assistance of the Monash University Publications Committee

Redner argues that reductionist concepts have been very useful for solving some problems, but that they cannot go the full way in understanding complex systems. Redner maintains that although "World science" should not be completely transformed, holistic concepts borrowed from systems theorists and organicists need to be re-shaped in order to understand integration and complexity in the natural world.

But Redner is no idealist; he, like many of the scientific critics of reductionism, realise that this transformation to "future science", will not occur without institutional struggle.

The issues discussed in the middle section of his book are therefore pivotal. Part 2 of Redner's book is dedicated to discussing the relationship between forms of authority and social organisation characteristic of "World science".

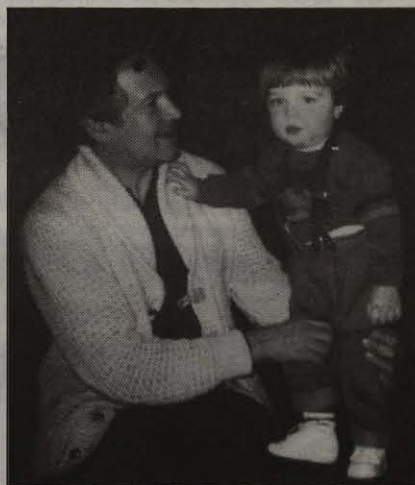
He discusses the loss of institutional autonomy of science brought in by state funding and other forms of external patronage. But he also looks inward to discuss academic politics, competition, power and corruption, as well as legitimate forms of scientific authority, all of which play a primary role in directing scientific work: the kinds of questions that are important, the phenomena that are interesting, the techniques that are most suitable and the answers that are acceptable.

Those readers who may still deny the importance of power and authority in directing science and in deciding the outcome of controversy, those who still may appeal to an underlying impersonal logic, or a timeless scientific method as a vital force directing the progress of science, will find little that is interesting in this book. However, Redner does not base his discussion on new detailed case studies of the relationship between knowledge, power and authority; he offers only vignettes of familiar case studies that have already been well popularised.

Instead of providing us with new convincing demonstrations of how changes in social relations lead to changes in the

kind of knowledge produced in a detailed case study, Redner has structured his discussions around a survey and critique of the social theoretic views of various well-known writers.

Theories on the politics of science, the relationship between knowledge and power, and scientific change abound in the metascience literature. The sociology of scientific knowledge is one of the most active and challenging domains of modern studies of science.



● Harry Redner, senior lecturer in Politics at Monash, pictured with his son, Joey, 2, in Boulder, Colorado. Mr Redner will return late this month from a visiting professorship in the department of Political Science at the University of Colorado.

Redner discusses various views of many prominent writers including: Gaston Bachelard, Michel Foucault, and Pierre Bourdieu, Thomas Kuhn, Germome Ravetz, Harry Collins, Bruno Latour, Richard Whitley and many others. There are few texts which have been successful in bringing this literature together for the general reader. Redner's book is not one of them. Those readers

who are not familiar with the sociology of scientific knowledge literature will find Redner's exposition of it to be too sophisticated and too complicated by his own polemics to serve as an introduction. They may find Bruno Latour's *Science in Action* (Harvard University Press, 1987) to be more useful.

Those who are familiar with the sociology of scientific knowledge may take objection to Redner's claim that "The 'politics' of science has not yet received adequate theoretical treatment despite some creditable empirical endeavours". (p. 122) One might argue to the contrary, what we need is not more social theoretical discussions, but just the opposite, more empirical studies of power relations operating in the technical domains of science. For Redner's purposes, an analysis of the struggle between holists and reductionists in biology, for example, might have done nicely.

Many historians and sociologists of science will also object to this book's self-acclaim as "path-breaking", and "a tour de force on several levels", for in many ways, it is following a path that has been, and continues to be blazed by many analysts of contemporary science.

On the other hand, those social theorists who continue to discuss on a purely theoretical level might profit greatly from the breadth of this book and the way it brings together insights won from historical and sociological investigations of technoscience with critical discussions about authority, patronage, and power.

Jan Sapp

Dr Sapp is a senior lecturer in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Melbourne.

Hear Confessions of a Diarist

Film maker, Paul Cox, attacked Hollywood values and their influence on the making of films in Australia when he visited Monash last month to take part in an Australian Studies Centre's lecture series.

Mr Cox (director of *Man of Flowers*, *My First Wife*, *Vincent*) talked informally with the audience about his own experiences as a film maker. He also mentioned the Australian racism which still identifies him as a migrant.

His lecture followed others in the series, *Australian Studies and the Arts*, given by historian Kay Daniels, writer Helen Garner and architect Ian McDougall.

This month the program continues with writer Barry Oakley (14 June, 5.15 pm, R7), composer Barry Conyngham (23 June, 5.15 pm, R2) and writer Donald Horne (28 June, 5.15 pm, R7).

Barry Oakley, who as well as being a novelist has retained an interest in drama (he was theatre critic for the now defunct *Times on Sunday*) has entitled his lecture 'Confessions of a Diarist'.

Barry Conyngham, a reader in Music at Melbourne University, was recently praised for his full length score for the bicentennial dance event, *Vast*. His lecture poses the question 'Music with an Australian Accent?'

Donald Horne, who has been chair-

man of the Australia Council, brings the series to a close with an examination of patronage, 'Why Subsidise the Arts?'

All lectures are open to the public.

Medieval music

Stevie Wishart, world authority on English music for the hurdy-gurdy, will perform *Bella Domna — Medieval Women's Songs and Dances* on 16 June at the Religious Centre.

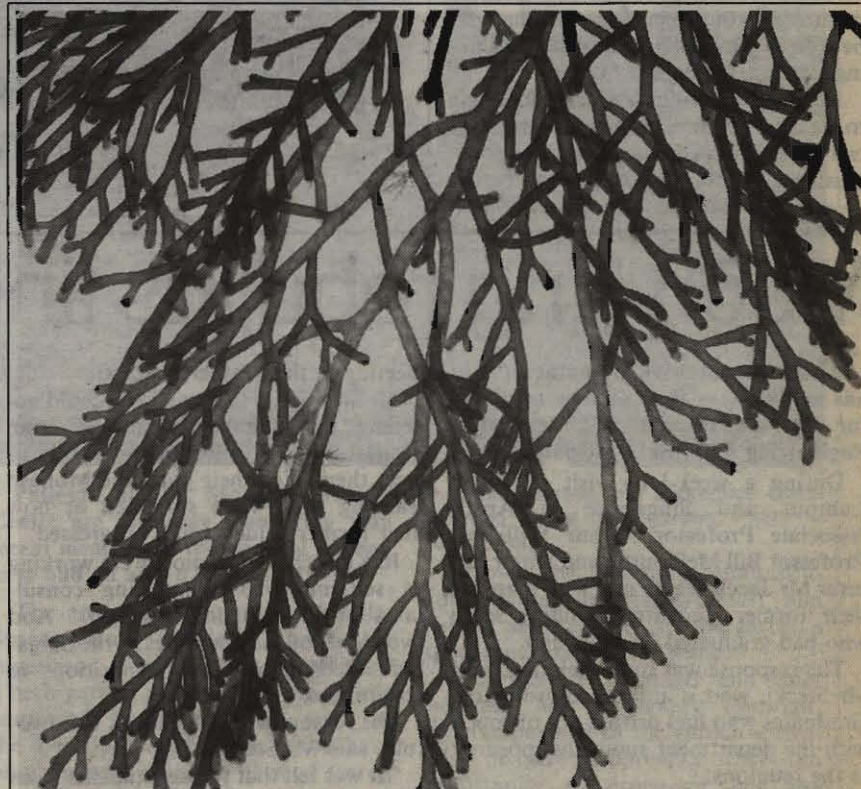
The Newbridge Ensemble, with renowned counter-tenor Hartley Newham, will present Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* the following week (23 June), in conjunction with the Music department at Monash.

Both presentations are part of the 10th annual series of lunchtime recitals at the Religious Centre.

This year's program, titled *Fourteen Recitals of Fine Music* on Thursday at Lunchtime in the Chapel, begins tomorrow (9 June) with the Peter Clinch Saxophone Quartet.

On 30 June, Trio Polyphonics will present a program of music by Buxtehude, John Bull, J.S. Bach and others; on 7 July, the series continues with Harold Fabrikant performing sonatas on harpsichord by Paradies and Haydn.

All recitals begin at 1.10 pm.



Two new books, *Seaweeds of Australia* by Bruce Fuhrer et al (paperback \$10) and *Name that Flower* by Clarke and Lee (\$23), are now available from the Botany department. Copies of the following publications can also be obtained: *The Mosses of Southern Australia* by Scott, Stone and Rosser (\$18), *Herbs and Spices Recipe Book* (\$7.50) and a selection of wildflower and fungi posters (prices on application).

Prose would have been a mere casual affair

New and Selected Poems by Philip Martin. Longman Cheshire. RRP \$6.95

The last piece in Philip Martin's *New and Selected Poems* is *Dream Poem*, in which the speaker hears "a voice coming out of sleep", enters "a marvellous house, made by women", and finds

The wide door open to a harvest landscape
Like Brueghel but without figures, land
Sloping away towards perhaps the sea,
And sunny, all of the colour of ripe wheat,
Some of the harvest cut back sheer already,
Everything bright and basking, while in here
Shadowed by walls and rafters it is cooler,
And yet still warm, smelling of gathered country . . .

Even as it gathers, the poem remains open, welcoming possibilities:

And towards the door
I see a figure hurrying, small and dark
Against the sunlit and the golden landscape,
Almost running, he is coming to tell . . .

The first piece is *Preserved*. Here the preserved remains of a young man who disappeared in the Falu copper-mine attract and gather Martin's dramatic instincts: the man's fiancée is asked to identify the body and the poem opens out into four versions of an old woman's heart. Whether fascinated by the subterranean, the subconscious, or the supernatural, Martin's poetry shapes its surfaces — of experience, knowledge, time and death — as a way of evoking their hidden possibilities.

Framed by *Preserved* and *Dream Poem*, we encounter selections from *Voice Unaccompanied* (1970), *A Bone Flute* (1974), and *A Flag for the Wind* (1982), as well as new poems, grouped under the title *Love Music*. The poetry is a work of gathering. It enjoys meetings which occur between masculine and feminine forces, conscious and subconscious states of awareness, past and present moments, familiar and foreign places. It prefers its lines to be regular and spare and its sounds to be clean-edged — an unaccompanied voice.

As well as being influenced by Donne, Yeats and Hope, Martin's love poetry derives some seriousness and some humor from his Christian belief in the resurrection of the body and from the notion of "sacral love". In an ABC broadcast, Martin quoted Suzanna Lilar's *Aspects of Love in Western Society* to confirm his sense of sacral love:

Lilar writes of 'sacral love'. For her the sexual act is 'itself a sacrament — not only sacred, but able to communicate the sacred: this is what I mean by *sacral*'. And she adds that sacral love is given to another body, another person, and awakens 'a desire that reaches out beyond all limit'.

His poetry, however, does not become merely a showcase for such theology. It retains its human immediacy. It even refuses the weary cynicism, self-protecting irony, and masturbatory self-referentialism of some contemporary love poetry.

It has its own style of contemporaneity. *The Temptation of Saint Anthony* and *A Sacred Way* dramatise a struggle with male puritanism, while *A Certain Love* challenges moralism. More mischievous and sensuous, *Laid in Earth* joins the body's spiritual and erotic possibilities. *Love Music* reflects a post-Jungian awareness, the notion of the integration of masculine and feminine forces within the psyche. While the medallionist refuses passivity ("But I like shaping too."), the conductor comes to realise, "I'm growing so much more/The woman in my self, twined with the man". *Lilith*, written for Kate Llewellyn, acknowledges how some contemporary poets have been reclaiming the old mythologies and telling them from the woman's point of view. Interestingly, *Lilith*, which creates a strongly independent figure, is printed next to *Going to Meet Her Lover*, where another woman chooses the interdependence of love and sensuality. With *Of Bright Hair*, these dramas of love are set within a larger scheme, that regathering called "the resurrection of the body". One lover says to another: "Let's steal a trick, a small device, from Donne." He takes some strands of her hair, she "this paper", as signs to be buried with them. The poem ends:

We will not need, and who will read, these signs?
Nevertheless let's make them,
Know that until that time
Past time when both of us, and all
Gather ourselves together,
Each still wears each, a little, in the tomb.

Martin's poetry is also fascinated with what remains after time, death, and even rationality have closed their doors.

Where at Nicaea the palace of Constantine
Once stood, and now the bare tree spreads its branches
Over a few stones by violet water,

A grader lately pushing earth aside
Sank to a vaulted tomb. Sunlight discovered
Grief outweighed: paintings on every wall

Still fresh in greens and reds and ripe wheat colour.

(Emblem)

Such moments occur often in the book, signifying a darker, harder truth which is able to penetrate the upper world of consciousness. *The Bog People* contrasts two responses to an archaeological find (the remains of a young girl killed in ritual sacrifice). There is the lively interest of the scholar, in whose living mind the dead are dancing as friendly presences. There is the earlier fear of a peasant, whose mind, dominated by superstition, wants only a domesticated consciousness.

Tongues opens its door upon the world of ancestral voices. A dying husband becomes the medium for some primal, unfamiliar language. His wife catches only its rhythm and remembers only two words. Yet she recognises that he has expressed some primitive belonging which must serve as their leave-taking. Although the doctor thinks it is a case of distorted German, the dead man's father is convinced that "It was our forebears speaking". The poem is fascinated by the pattern of irruptions: of subterranean into surface consciousness, of the unknown into the known, of the inarticulate into the articulate, of the past into the present, and of ancestral poetry into a modern prose context. This pattern expresses the existence and value of a deeper way of knowing, a larger destiny.

Dune ship threatens to break open the self-serving innocence of Anglo-Australian historical consciousness. It entertains the possibility that a wreck may emerge from the sand-dunes in which it is believed submerged. This wreck is — possibly — the remains of a Portuguese discovery of Australia, some 250 years before English shoes graced the sands of Botany Bay. By so evoking the size of time, the poem reduces the importance of any race which has crawled over the surface of this continent. What moves below? There is a detachment in this which frees the poet to take up Australia's anxiety about multiculturalism.

As *Reading the lines* suggests, the heartscape is an intermediate (as well as intermediary) zone:

Australia gave me flesh,
Europe runs in my veins from childhood on.
Which is my own, which is the Foreign Country?

Not that the poetry itself is anxious: it enjoys its meetings with foreign places and persons, celebrating the welcome encounter rather than the alienated observer. While not excluding all sense of strangeness and horror (see *Father and Son* and *Greek Migrant Goes Home*), this poetry lives happily in and with other worlds. While the speaker of *Christmas Ghosts*, celebrating a "first Australian Christmas", is troubled, the anxiety is caused by the separation between the living and the dead:

Centuries before Christ
My Danish ancestors buried their dead
In the house floor. No separation. So

My English family still expect their ghosts.
Kindly all, they step in from the cold,
Sit down with us at table . . .

In your country I find
All ghosts are laid. And too few places laid.
Bring in your dead.

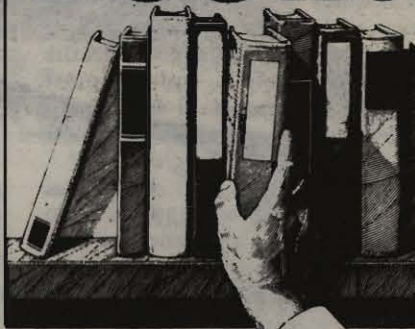
There are also poems which celebrate a relationship — personal and poetic — with Lars Gustafsson: poems with thin surfaces and deeper sounds. *Thanksgiving Snow* takes us to America and to an American voice, describing a ritual of reconciliation in which white Australian wine is flaked with American snow. In ways such as this, the poetry creates a world interesting, various, friendly, but not too composed.

There is much to like in this book, with its frank surfaces and friendly disturbances. The faults are easy enough to find: there are a few lines which need the Martin voice to make them vibrant and there are moments when persistent symbols, such as wind and water, become too familiar. As is often the case, these are but the reverse side of the poetry's virtues. It controls and varies its tones and rhythms, ranging from tenderness to horror, and from meditation to conversation. Although it is often a kind of dreaming, it keeps its symbolism unclouded and tells its stories in a way which uses sparseness to gather resonance (as a last line will more often ripple than settle). If this is poetry which believes in "the emotions of a destiny", those emotions include the cold grief of *Father and Son*, the cosmopolitan friendship of *Lake-walk, Sweden*, the reflective sensuality of *Laid in Earth*, and the playful commitment of *Muse*, which reminds us that

Prose would have been a mere casual affair.

Noel Rowe
English Department
University of Sydney

BOOKS



• Philip Martin



Ante-jentacular arguments

As a foundation member of Pedants Anonymous, I must point out an error of some seriousness in *Monash Reporter*, 4 May.

A "fight before breakfast" is not a "pre-prandial punch-up". Prandial means "pertaining or relating to dinner" (*affected* or *joc* 1820 *Shorter O.E.D.*). For pre-breakfast you could try "ante-jentacular" (*The Superior Person's Little Book of Words*, Peter Bowler, Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1979) which is so *affected* and *joc* that it fails to make it into the *Shorter O.E.D.*

Colin Burrows
ECOPS

(We sought solace and support in *Freund's Latin Dictionary*, which defines *prandeo*, v. neutr.: "to take breakfast, to breakfast . . .", and v. act.: "to breakfast on any thing, to take as a breakfast or luncheon . . ." *Prandium* it defines as "a late breakfast, luncheon . . ." *Ante jentacular* is great — but it doesn't alliterate.)

Erratum

A recent exhibition in the Main Library of works from the Fanfrolico Press was opened by the Dean of Arts, Professor John Hay. Mr John Arnold, La Trobe research librarian at the State Library, gave a talk on the press as a prelude to the opening.



The Port Phillip Journals of George Augustus Robinson: 8 March-7 April 1842 and 18 March-29 April 1843

Monash Publications in Geography No.34 — ed. Ian D. Clark

George Augustus Robinson was Chief Protector of Aborigines of Port Phillip from 1839 to 1849. His journals contain valuable insights into the state of relations between Aborigines and Europeans in the districts he visited.

"Both journals clearly demonstrate that western Victorian Aborigines actively resisted the white conquest of their lands and were not a passive people who simply faded away in the face of European colonisation," says Mr Clark, tutor in Geography.

"They help debunk the myth of 'peaceful colonisation' by contributing to the growing body of research into the Aboriginal resistance of Australia . . . the existence of Aboriginal resistance movements can no longer be denied."

The original journals are held by the Mitchell Library (NSW), which acquired them in 1949 from the estate of Robinson's son, Arthur, of Bath, England. The State Library of Victoria also holds some microfilm copies. The journals that concern Victoria have been largely unpublished.

Available from the Department of Geography, Monash University. \$5.



• Brendan Power, a carpenter with Maintenance branch, beside the display cabinet he built from mountain ash for Sir John Monash's restored telescope, now on show at the entrance to the Hargrave Library. Photo — Richard Crompton.

From islands at Monash to Southeast Asia

The Monash campus was a series of islands in a sea of mud when Pam Sayers started work at the university 24 years ago.

But they were the 'good old days', said Ms Sayers, before leaving her job as assistant to the director of the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies last month.

"The university was nice and small and you knew everybody. Now it's larger and people tend to stay in their own groups."

Ms Sayers has been with the centre since it was established in 1969 under the direction of Dr Jamie Mackie. In its first year of operation, the centre's total student enrolment was one. In 1988, the number has risen to 49.

With the encouragement of Dr Mackie and the centre's current director, Dr David Chandler, Ms Sayers studied part-time for her Higher School Certificate before commencing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Southeast Asian Studies in 1978.

"I found I had a natural affinity with Southeast Asian studies," said Ms

Sayers. "I was learning about their culture . . . and their wonderful food."

An increased knowledge of the region gave Ms Sayers a greater empathy for the centre's foreign students. As she tidied her office lined with Asian postcards and ornaments, she reflected on the position she was vacating for a job as personnel director at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

"It's been a wonderful experience. It's a unique job in the university. I used to organise conferences, look after visitors to the centre, and counsel students.

"Not a week went by without dinner with someone from the centre. It's just like one big family."

The job also had its fringe benefits. With the contacts she has made through the centre, Ms Sayers now finds she never has to stay in hotels when travelling through Southeast Asia. Some of her more memorable stopovers have been with princes in Thailand and a family of fishing folk in the Philippines.

• From page 4

especially those grants made to people in colleges.

His suggestion that more weight be put on teaching was welcomed but his view that teaching and research were 'not inextricably connected' was not!

So far so good, although Aitkin has presented a rather humorless character and this got him into trouble in the extensive question period.

For instance, an attempt by Dr Bill Kent to ask a question concerning research in the humanities was met with 'but I've always looked after you very well, Dr Kent'. It could have been a light-hearted remark, but it didn't seem that way when he resisted Kent's suggested amendment that it was the committee who had approved his grant.

Dr Pauline Nestor pointed out that Aitkin's paradigm of research, as presented to the meeting, was one that fitted sciences more-or-less well, but was so inappropriate for humanities and social sciences that it was impossible for them even to argue their case.

Aitkin pointed out that, to the extent this might be true, it was not a paradigm of his making.

He suggested that scholars in humanities simply had to go along with it, and that it was unrealistic of them to hope to bring about a major change.

Questions and comments then came quickly — and too rapidly for my note-taking — but in response to one request for reasons for discrimination against Arts Faculty members, Aitkin shot out 'because there are more wankers in Arts departments'.

Although he quickly retracted, and apologised for losing his temper, he had clearly lost the respect of most of his audience and few of us were sorry when the meeting came to an end.

Although I contribute this letter in a private capacity, I can tell you that the committee of the Staff Association of Monash University were most upset at Professor Aitkin's performance, and that I have written on their behalf to Mr Dawkins.

In my letter, I put it to the Minister that Professor Aitkin was not a suitable person to chair the ARC and expressed the (probably vain) hope that he would not be so appointed. I feel that most of your readers would agree with me.

Ian Rae
Chemistry



• Pam Sayers

Mannix lectures

The fifth History and Philosophy of Science Lecture Series will begin at Mannix College on Tuesday 14 June, with Professor Roger Short of the department of Physiology speaking on the topic, *Harvey's Conception — An historical view of our ideas about the beginning of life.*

The lecture program will continue as follows:

21 June, Dr Linden Gillbank, department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Melbourne. *Nineteenth Century Animal Acclimatisation and the Origins of the Melbourne Zoo.*

28 June, Dr Homer Le Grand, department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Melbourne. *Illustrating the Earth: Representing the 'Real' Earth.*

5 July, Professor Bert Bolton, Emeritus Professor of Physics, Monash. *Some Aspects of Science in Australia in the '39-'45 War.*

12 July, Dr Harold Love, department of English, Monash. *A Kind of Dictatorship: James Edward Neild and Medical Melbourne 1865-1880.*

19 July, Dr Pat Rich, department of Earth Sciences, Monash. *Polar Dinosaurs.*

All lectures begin at 8.15 pm in the Senior Common Room, first floor, Administration Building (located directly opposite the university in Wellington Road). They are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Inquiries should be directed to the college on 544 8895 or 544 8896.

Universities can help Australia compete

One of the answers to Australian industry's lack of competitiveness on the international market lies in the closer co-operation between industry and universities, said Professor Lance Endersbee at the first Supper Club meeting of Friends of Monash University.

In the past a shortage of skilled people combined with a reliance on overseas technology, a low level of research and development and a ready acceptance of poor performance had hindered our

industries' chances overseas.

But some companies were still not aware of the assistance that universities could provide, said Professor Endersbee. He cited the case of a well-known Australian electronics firm which rejected the offer of a Monash patent. It was later sold to a Japanese rival for \$1 million.

Fortunately for Monash and industry, there has been an enormous growth in the number of joint projects in recent

years, he said. But although the university may be at the forefront of Australian research in a number of areas, it must not forget the needs of local companies.

Located in the centre of a high-technology area that currently offers 40 new jobs for every one in Melbourne's western suburbs, Monash must be as mindful of the company in Waverley as the one in Brisbane.

The university, said Professor Endersbee, had a national responsibility to apply its resources to its immediate area as well as to the rest of Australia.

He concluded his address by using Montech as an example of just how

successful the co-operation between universities and industry could be.

As Monash's technology, consulting and commercial arm, Montech had made more than \$1 million in its first year of operation.

The next Supper Club meeting of Friends of Monash University will be held in the Banquet Room on Wednesday, 15 June at 8pm when Professor John Hay, the Dean of Arts, will talk on *Asia and Australia: Towards New Horizons*.

For information on Supper Club meetings, contact the Office of External Relations and Alumni Affairs, ext. 5007.

A friendly message

Friends of Monash University Inc. are running a series of interesting monthly functions.

Don't miss the next Supper Club night when Professor John Hay, Dean of Arts, will talk about *Australia and Asia: Towards New Horizons* (Wednesday 15 June, 8pm, Banquet Room, Union). The cost of \$6 (payable at the door) includes a delicious supper. Access to the Banquet Room is by the external stairs at the most northern part of the Union building.

Our July Dinner Meeting is proving to be very popular and is now fully booked. Myra Roper will speak on *China — Change and Continuity* (Wednesday 20 July, 7.30 pm for 8 pm, Beijing Palace Restaurant, corner Tooronga and

Toorak Roads, Hawthorn. This is a BYO function and further information is obtainable from External Relations and Alumni Affairs, ext. 4032, or Yvonne Wilson, 232 7717 (after hours).

For those who missed our May Supper Club talk, it was most successful. There was a good attendance and a friendly atmosphere. Professor Lance Endersbee's lively presentation brought us up to date with Monash University's involvement in industry and research (see story). We were told of many developing areas of Monash and its environs. We plan to help keep you informed so please watch for further news from *Friends of Monash University*.

Yvonne Wilson
Secretary



• Professor Endersbee.

JUNE DIARY

9: **RELIGIOUS CENTRE RECITAL** — "The Peter Clinch Saxophone Quartet". 1.10pm. Large Chapel. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 3160.

14: **HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE LECTURE** — "Harvey's conception — An historical view of our ideas about the beginning of life" by Prof Roger Short. 8.15pm. Senior Common Rm, Mannix College. Admission free. Inquiries: 544 8895, 544 8896.

14: **AUSTRALIAN STUDIES LECTURE** — "Confessions of a Diarist" by Barry Oakley. 5.15pm. R7. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2159.

16: **RELIGIOUS CENTRE REVIVAL** — Sinfonye "Bella Domna — Medieval Women's Songs and Dances" with Stevie Wishart (fiddles and hurdy-gurdy), Maria Kiek (vocals) and Jim Denley (percussion). 1.10pm. Large Chapel. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 3160.

16: **SE ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR** — "Economy Policy of Laos" by Dr G. Evans. 11.15pm. Rm 515 Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993.

ABORIGINAL RESEARCH CENTRE — "Aboriginal employment" by Mr J. Evans. 1pm. R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 3244.

17: **DEPARTMENT OF JAPANESE** — A cocktail party of staff and former graduates of the department to form an alumni committee. Prof Neustupny will address the group on "Developments in the Dept of Japanese at Monash University". 5.30pm. 41-43 Exhibition St. Melb. Inquiries: ext 2272, 2278.

19: **CLASSICAL STUDIES SEMINAR** — "The Etruscans: their origins and their influence" pres by Saul Bastomsky. \$40. Limit of 35 participants. Inquiries: ext 3250, 3257, (AH) 509 4765.

ALEXANDER THEATRE

8: **PLAY** — "The Merchant of Venice" directed by Dennis Bartholomeusz. Adults \$10.90, conc \$5.90. 6-7 June 8pm, 8 June 2.15pm, 9-11 June 8pm. Inquiries: ext 3992.

16: **MUSICAL** — "Sweet Charity" performed by MUMCO until June 25. Adults \$10.50, conc \$7.50. 8pm. Inquiries and bookings ext 3992.

18: **PLAY** — "Sunrise Sunset", a humorous play for 8-12 year olds from Ballarat's Theatre-in-education team. 11.30am. Inquiries and bookings ext. 3992.

29: **SCHOOL HOLIDAY ATTRACTION** — "Ark of Oz", a rock musical for primary school age groups. 10.30am, 2pm weekdays. Adults \$11.90, conc \$9.90 until July 9. Inquiries and bookings ext. 3662.

ROBERT BLACKWOOD HALL

11: **EVENING CONCERT** — Melbourne Welsh Male Voice Choir pres their annual "Night of Song", conducted by Bill Mead and featuring guest artists inc James Pegler and the Hawthorn City Band; compered by Barry McQueen. 8pm. Adults \$14, conc \$12. Inquiries and tickets: 211 1292, 720 3601.

12: **AFTERNOON CONCERT** — Melbourne Youth Music Council pres Melbourne Youth Symphonic Band conducted by Russell Hammond, and Melbourne Youth Orchestra conducted by Phillip Green. 2.30pm. Adults \$7, conc \$4. Tickets available at the door. Inquiries: 690 8624.

16: **EVENING CONCERT** — Avila College presents the "Performance of the Creative Arts", featuring music, drama and art. 8pm. Adults \$6, conc \$2.50, family \$12. Inquiries and tickets: 807 6677.

18: **EVENING CONCERT** — A grand Band in "Broadway at Blackwood" featuring the Croydon Band, the Vic-

torian State Youth Concert Band, the Victorian State Youth Children's Choir, with guest artists. Adults \$12, conc \$8, family \$35. Inquiries and tickets: 878 1057 (AH).

20: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Brian Brown Ensemble. Brian Brown, Judy Jacques, Bob Sedergrene, Michael Jordan and Geoff Kluge — pres a program of Jazz. 1.15pm. Admission free.

25: **EVENING CONCERT** — "Percy Grainger: An extraordinary Australian" pres by The Faye Dumont Singers, Melbourne CAE Concert Choir, with Trevor Barnard (piano). Program includes Country Gardens and Shepherds Hey (piano), Choral setting of the famed Irish tune for County Derry, An Australian Up-country Song and The Love Verses from Song of Solomon (choir). 8pm. Adults \$16, conc \$12, family \$36. Inquiries and tickets: 819 2228 (AH). R.B. Hall Box Office Inquiries: 544 5448.

LECTURES, SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS

9: **ABORIGINAL RESEARCH CENTRE** — "Koorie Organisations" by Ms Penny Bamblett. 1pm R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 3244.

9: **SE ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR** — "Church, state relations and development issues in East Flores", by Andre Bayo Ala. 11.15pm Rm 515 Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993.

21: **HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE LECTURE** — "Nineteenth century animal acclimatisation and the origins of the Melbourne zoo" by Dr Linden Gillbank. 8.15pm. Senior Common Rm. Mannix College. Admission free. Inquiries: 544 8895, 544 8896.

22: **SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT** — "Management Philosophy in Budget Transport Industries" by Mr Bob Ansett. R3. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2400, 2368.

22: **GENERAL AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE** — "The rhetoric of

literary oppositions: Derrida's reading of Rousseau and Nietzsche" by Kevin Hart. 3.15pm. Rm 310 Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2159.

23: **AUSTRALIAN STUDIES LECTURE** — "Music with an Australian Accent?" by Barry Conyngham. 5.15pm. R2. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2159.

ABORIGINAL RESEARCH CENTRE — "Aboriginal health". 1pm. R6. Admission free. Inquiries ext 3244.

RELIGIOUS CENTRE CHAPEL — "Pierrot Lunaire" by Arnold Schonberg. Hartley Newnham (countertenor) with the Newbridge Ensemble. 1.10pm. Large Chapel. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 3160.

28: **HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE LECTURE** — "Illustrating the earth: Representing the 'real' earth" by Dr Homer Le Grand. 8.15pm. Senior Common Rm, Mannix College. Admission free. Inquiries: 544 8895, 544 8896.

AUSTRALIAN STUDIES LECTURE — "Why subsidise the Arts?" by Donald Horne. 5.15pm. R7. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2159.

29: **GENERAL AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE** — "Literature, History and Post-Althusserianism" by Andrew Milner. 3.15pm. Rm 310 Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2159.

30: **RELIGIOUS CENTRE RECITAL** — Trio Polyphonics with Roger Heagney (harpsichord), Stephen McTaggart (violin) and Jacqueline Johnson. Music by Buxtehude, John Bull, J.S. Bach and others. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 3160.

MONASH UNIVERSITY GALLERY

8: **EXHIBITION** — "Walter Burley Griffin — A Re-View". Original drawings, plans, photographs, building fragments and contemporary architects on Pholiota. Until July 16. Gallery Bldg. Tues-Fri 10-5pm, Sat 1-5pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4217.

Walter Burley Griffin — A Re-View

Original drawings, plans, furniture, models and photographs of the Australian work of Walter Burley Griffin and his wife, Marion Mahony, are now on show at the Monash University Gallery.

In *Walter Burley Griffin — A Re-View* there is also a contemporary section of 16 Melbourne architects who were invited to respond to the design concept of *Pholiota*, the Griffins' own little house in Heidelberg. Built in 1919, it was described by Marion Mahony as "the cheapest, most perfect and charming home in the empire".

The Gallery's curator, Jenepher Duncan, says Griffin (1876-1937) was an American-born architect who shared an office with Frank Lloyd Wright in the first few years of the century.

In 1912, Griffin won the international competition for the plan of Canberra and, a year later, arrived in Australia with his wife and Wright's star draughtsman, Marion Mahony (1871-1961).

The Canberra project, in Griffin's time, proved to be a disaster, Ms Duncan says.

Griffin's position as Federal Capital Director was terminated in 1920. His most productive period occurred in Melbourne during the 10 years after he opened a practice here in May 1914. He also maintained an office in Sydney from 1915 to 1935.

Robin Boyd believed Griffin chose Melbourne to set up his Australian practice because "he was a born crusader" and saw the people and the city as "material for salvation".

Newman College, the Palais de

Danse, The Cafe Australia and the Capitol Theatre are just some of the distinguished buildings Griffin created for Melbourne, Ms Duncan says.

By 1925, the Griffins had moved to Sydney to concentrate on developing Castlecrag, a community project of dwellings and landscape designs which sprang from their ideas of democracy and anthroposophy. This project too was never completed and in 1935 the Griffins moved to Lucknow, India, where Walter died two years later.

Walter Burley Griffin — A Re-View is complemented by a substantial catalogue with accounts of the Griffins' work and their lives by Conrad Hamann (Visual Arts, Monash), James Weirick (Environmental Design and Construction, RMIT) and Anna Rubbo (Architecture, University of Sydney). It also contains a revised checklist of the Australian projects, by Peter Navaretti.

The exhibition, which was opened on 7 June by Professor Peter McIntyre, Department of Architecture, University of Melbourne, is accompanied by a program of lectures. It will continue until 16 July. Gallery hours are 10 am to 5 pm Tuesday to Friday, 1 pm to 5 pm Saturday. Inquiries: 565 4217.

● Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony, Castlecrag, Sydney, 27 July 1930. National Library of Australia.



Oh no, not Harry too

Surely Harry, the great white hunter, couldn't be interested in *that* sort of thing? And what *did* happen in the barn with the black manservant? Ellen the governess has a perfectly respectable fondness for her mistress — or does she?

Cloud Nine, Caryl Churchill's brilliant study of sexual roles and repressions, begins in the manner of a Monty Pythonesque spoof, as it hilariously exposes the shenanigans that lie behind the pukka facade of an English outpost in Africa in the 1880s. The climate, as one of the characters says, is *very* confusing.

But there is pain behind the masks, and it is explored more closely in the second act, which takes a look at the complications of the new sexual freedoms of the present. The play spans a century — as do a number of its colonists from Act One; but perhaps the people haven't grown up so very much. *Cloud Nine*'s stunning theatricalism and humor co-exist with a serious and analytical view of authentic human feeling.

The Monash production has a cast of drama students from the department of English. The players are Toby Oates (doubling as Clive and Cathy); Gaye Quin (Maud and Lin); Sue Turnbull (Edward and Victoria); Gillen Wood (Joshua and Gerry); Cameron Wood (Betty and Edward); Debra Jeffries (Caroline and Betty); Bill Orr (Harry and Martin); Wendy Collinson (Ellen); and Gus McMillan (a dead soldier).

The only way to unravel the mysteries of the doubles and cross-gender casting

is to see the production, which opens on Thursday, 16 June, in the Manton Rooms (ground floor, Arts Building) at 8 pm. Other performances are June 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25. Tickets at \$6 and \$4 are available through the English department office (Room 707, ext. 2140).

Peter Fitzpatrick
Director

Pudding for the children

Almost 13,000 school children, teachers and parents saw the Marionette Theatre of Australia's production of *The Magic Pudding* at the Alexander Theatre last month.

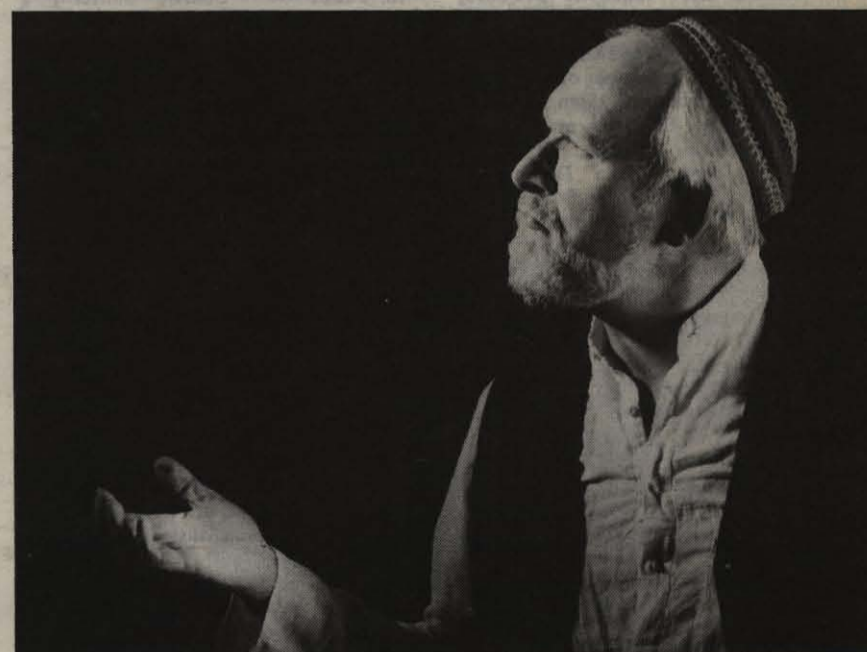
The children were brought in by busload from all over the suburban area and the peninsula for two performances each day (except Sunday) of the three-week season.

The puppet characters for the 1988 production were based on original designs by *The Magic Pudding*'s author, Norman Lindsay, who was also portrayed on stage.

For Term Three, the Alexander Theatre will present the Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia with their version of Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*. Performance dates and times: Monday, 5 September to Friday, 9 September, 10am, 1.30pm. Inquiries and bookings, 565 3992.



The Merchant of Venice



Richard Pannell as Shylock in the English department's production of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. The play, now being staged at the Alexander Theatre, is directed by Dennis Bartholomeusz and produced by Robin Gerster. Major parts are played by Sue Dodd (Portia), Paul Griffin (Antonio), Tom Bradley (Bassanio) and Deborah Rothfield (Jessica). Tickets are available at the theatre for the remaining performances, at 2.15pm on Wednesday 8 June, and 8pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9, 10 and 11 June. Adults \$10.90, students and pensioners \$5.90. Phone inquiries: 565 3992.