



# MONASH REPORTER

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## MONASH AT SHOREHAM

Monash Players at Shoreham —Photo: The Sun.

**REMEMBER** all the games you learnt as a child? . . .

Right back to mothers and fathers, through to cowboys and Indians, British bulldog, cops and robbers. The list is timeless.

Were they just harmless expressions of exuberant, normal childhood? Or did they represent the inculcation of social values, the acceptance of set roles, the instilling of aggression and competition?

**The Monash Club and Societies office is holding a camp at Shoreham this coming weekend, May 5 and 6, where participants will play and analyse the social significance of children's games.**

It is the second such weekend at the University's Shoreham camp. Union members are still talking about the success of the experimental weekend last August when 60 people explored new techniques in fine arts, film, sculpture, drama and dance.

The official title for the coming weekend is "The Miss Bun, the baker's daughter's memorial games weekend". Miss Bun is a character from a children's card game.

Both students and staff are encouraged to join in the weekend. Cost will be students \$2.50 and staff \$6. Cars will be leaving Monash on Friday evening. Bulk food will be provided. More details are

available from the Clubs and Societies office, first floor, Union, ext. 3180 or 3144.

The activities officer, Vicki Molloy, said the weekend would include a wide spectrum of games — from cards, dice and ludo to social games. She said people could also play with musical instruments, use the Union's new video-tape unit, and even build sandcastles.

**The State Government last month announced a grant of \$17,000 for improvements to facilities at the Shoreham camp.**

This followed a submission to the government Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation from the joint managers of the camp — the YMCA and the Monash Sports and Recreation Association.

The money will allow improvements to the kitchen, dining hall, shower blocks, and tennis court.

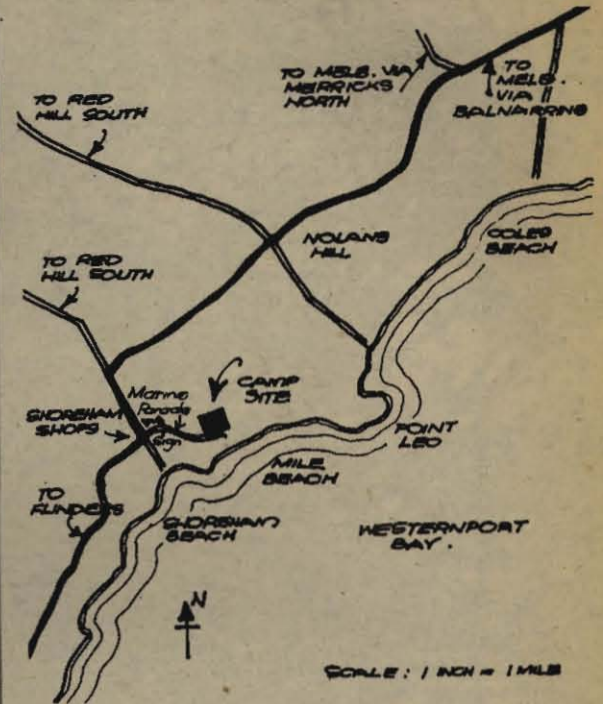
Monash and the YMCA are currently half-way through a two-year trial period. Next March a long-term agreement may be entered into.

**How successful has the camp been? On page 2, Doug Ellis, the Monash man behind the re-opening of the camp, talks about its successes and failures.**





## THE SHOREHAM EXPERIMENT—



ABOVE: The area plan of the camp. It is on the Mornington Peninsula, 46 miles from Monash.

LEFT and BELOW: Two pictures by Wayne Harridge from the last Clubs and Societies week-end. See page 1 for details of the next camp.

## HOW SUCCESSFUL HAS IT BEEN?

In the 12 months to the beginning of the academic year this year, the Monash-YMCA camp at Shoreham was used by more than 3600 people from 87 organisations.

In round figures its total revenue from camp fees was \$33,000. Its expenditure was \$38,000.

In other words, the camp cost the Monash Union fund about \$5000. The Union had budgeted for a cost of \$7000.

Further, the State Government late last month agreed to a Monash-YMCA submission and has given \$17,000 for general improvements.

All this pleases Doug Ellis, deputy warden of the Union, and the person who negotiated the agreement with the YMCA to re-open the camp on a two-year trial basis.

The camp is officially called the W. H. Buxton Education and Recreation Centre, after the man who originally donated the property to the YMCA. It covers 26 acres and is situated about 400 yards from a sheltered beach and 900 yards from Pt. Leo surf beach.

However, Mr. Ellis is not fully satisfied.

"The response to re-opening a run-down camp has been most satisfying," he said.

"We have had schools book the camp from as far away as Echuca, Shepparton and Redcliffs. A number of other schools and organisations have re-booked the camp.

"But we would like to see even greater use of the camp by Monash people.

"Some groups, the Monash Players, Clubs and Societies and Social Involvement for example, have been regular users. But it is a pity that more academic groups have not used the camp — the only real use of this type has been a survey class from civil engineering.

Mr. Ellis hopes that the government money will allow more under-privileged children organisations to book the camp. "One of our major problems is that the camp was built for normal young people, and there is a great need for ramps, wider doors, and

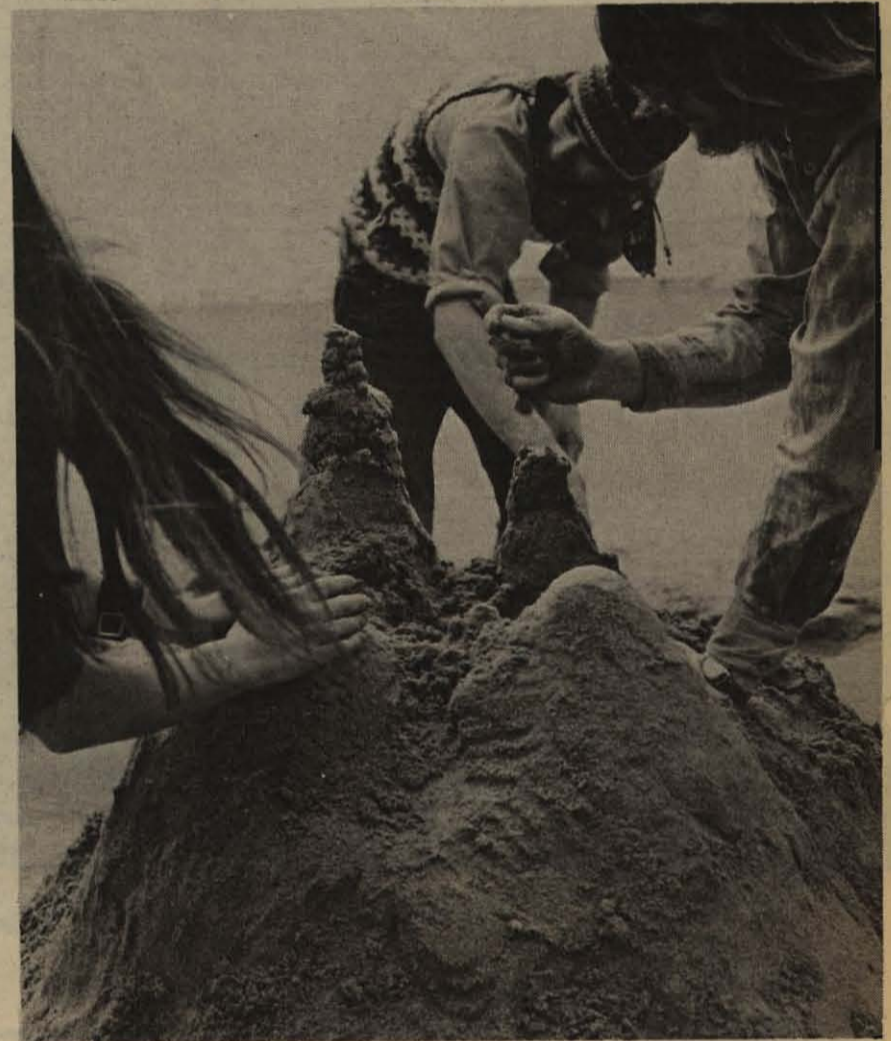
adequate paving for the hand-capped."

Another problem has been the catering arrangements where bookings must be made well in advance. It is uneconomic at weekends to cater for groups of less than 30 people.

The camp consists of bunk type accommodation for 72 people. There is one dormitory for 24 people and six huts each taking eight people. One hundred persons can also be accommodated under canvas.

The sporting amenities include table tennis, volleyball court, basketball court, recreation hall and cricket oval. Flinders golf course is nearby.

MONASH PLAYERS have rehearsed three of their productions at Shoreham. BELOW: The cast from their most recent production, "Dracula". —Photo: The Sun





## LAW REFORMER ON STAGE

The Right Hon. Gerald Austin Gardiner, P.C., Baron Gardiner of Kittisford, is a tall, impressive man with a fine, deep speaking voice. He will be 73 this month.

Lord Gardiner spoke in the Alexander Theatre last month to staff and students from the Faculty of Law.

He described himself as a "left-wing reformer."

As Lord High Chancellor of England in Wilson's Labor Government he was responsible for many changes to British law.

In reply to a question he told the Alexander Theatre audience that he regarded his "milestone" as the establishment of the law commission, a body of full-time salaried experts who were empowered by statute in 1965 to "simplify and modernise" British law.

Lord Gardiner has championed many legal reforms — lowering of the voting age, the abolition of capital punishment, relaxation of censorship, and the liberalisation of laws relating to censorship, homosexuality, abortion and divorce, to name just a few.

Lord Gardiner said he hoped it would not be long before Victoria abolished capital punishment.

"There is no evidence to suggest that capital punishment is any greater deterrent to murder than any other form of punishment," he said.

"There is no country where the murder rate has increased because capital punishment has been abolished.

"Most murders are family affairs — that is that the people involved know each other well.

"Among western Christian democracies capital punishment is dead."

He hoped the time would come when no country retained capital punishment.

Questioned about the Commonwealth, Lord Gardiner said that although he was a left wing reformer he thought there was something to be said for its retention.

The Commonwealth allowed the leaders of various states to meet and this was worthwhile — "when difficulties arise it is a good thing if they know each other personally."

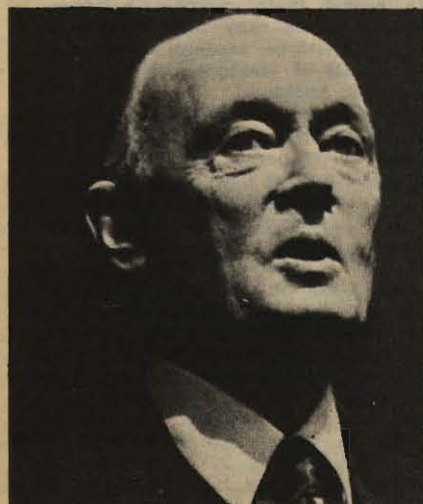
Turning to the monarchy he said that "on balance" it should also be kept. "I don't know if they need as many royal dwellings as they have,"

he said. "I believe they lead an awful life. They are good at what they do."

Lord Gardiner was in Melbourne for the 100th birthday celebrations of the University of Melbourne law faculty. He delivered a memorial lecture on "The Likely Pattern of Legal Change in the Commonwealth."

At Monash, as a guest of the law faculty, he spoke in detail about the life and role of the Lord High Chancellor. He was extremely well received by the audience. His only problem was the billowing curtain, which, as this picture shows, occasionally blocked him off from a small section of his audience.

His strong facial features are more in evidence below. Both pictures are from The Sun.



● Lord Gardiner speaking at Monash.

## INSTANT REPLAY IS POSSIBLE

Monash's clubs and societies now have the possibility of instant replay of their activities. Debaters can study their presentation, actors can check movement and voice, athletes can see their style.

The Union has been donated a \$1400 portable video tape unit by the Monash Parents' Group.

"The beauty of the equipment is that it is portable and easy to operate," says Vicki Molloy, Union activities officer. "A video tape is inexpensive and can be used a number of times".

The Audio Visual Aids Section trained a group of students and staff to operate the unit.

In turn, these people have been conducting weekly demonstrations — usually on a Wednesday afternoon — to show students how to use the equipment.

People wanting to use the equipment should book with the Clubs and Societies office, first floor, Union, ext. 3180, 3144. The video tapes can be borrowed free of charge for short-term use.

Clubs that have already used the video tape include — Monash Players, the Monash University Musical Theatre Company, and the French Club. Over Easter the Railway Club took the video tape off campus on a vintage train trip.

## New counsellor critical of text-book learning

Monash student counsellor, Robin Coventry, has returned to Australia critical of the undue emphasis our education system places on text-book learning rather than on educating the whole individual.

Before taking up his Monash appointment recently, Mr. Coventry spent nine years at the University of Southern Illinois and visited a number of other campuses in the United States.

He trained as an educational psychologist and is currently writing up a Ph.D. on student counselling effectiveness.

Mr. Coventry believes that the American university system has a lot to offer the Australian system.

"Australia should adopt the philosophy of the American system in trying to making degree courses more applicable to the environment," he said.

"The trend in the U.S. is to give more practical experience, especially in areas like counselling, psychology and sociology."

### Earning money

The practical experience may not be directly related to a degree, but would provide the student with an opportunity for earning money to stay in college, as well as actual work experience.

Applied programs, which provide practical experience within courses, have been developed in a number of U.S. universities. Students are given credit for gaining this experience in the area in which they are studying.

Mr. Coventry added that many American universities had students involved in the administrative running of the university.

"This gives the student responsibility in co-ordinating and running a unit within the university," he said. It also gave them some idea of the complexity of running a modern university.

The Australian system may have to provide practical types of degrees or more "vocational" courses where people are "trained to do actual things"; otherwise one may find funds being reduced and channelled elsewhere.

There was little evidence of the practical experience aspect at the under-graduate level in Australia, Mr. Coventry said.

### Continual assessment

Another advantage of the American system, Mr. Coventry claims, is the three semester system. This, he said, enables continual assessment of a student's learning and takes into consideration student needs rather than faculty needs.

"It is a more student-oriented and more flexible system than ours," he added.

Mr. Coventry also suggested that H.S.C. students may benefit from taking one or two years off before entering university.

"Maturity, not just academic aptitude, should be a pre-requisite to university entrance," he said.

In his role as student counsellor in the U.S., Mr. Coventry found that 90% of all student problems affecting academic performance were social ones relating to the development of social relationships.

Environmental adaptation difficulties were experienced by the majority of students who had left home to attend college.

Mr. Coventry added that many country students in Australian universities often experienced similar problems.

He compared the difficulties that migrant students faced in assimilation in Australia with those experienced by the blacks in the United States.

Mr. Coventry sees American universities as very social, with a lot more sharing of ideas between faculties, and a willingness to try new things.



# NEWS FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES

## ANU: PhD SURVEY

Most PhD students at the Australian National University are satisfied with the general level of supervision they receive but the introduction of course-work into PhD programs does not have popular support.

These findings are the result of a survey of ANU graduate students conducted by the Research Students Association last August. Detailed results of the survey were presented at the March meeting of the university council.

Of the 442 PhD students currently enrolled full-time at ANU, 73 percent responded to the survey. The questionnaire was in four parts. One section, on attitudes towards coursework in the PhD program, closely resembled a similar survey conducted by the RSA in 1966 and interesting comparisons have been drawn between the 1966 and 1972 survey results.

Fewer students favoured compulsory coursework in 1972 than in 1966 but a greater number of respondents in 1972 favoured the option of doing coursework.

In response to the related question, 'If compulsory coursework is to be required should the results of any examination affect (a) tenure of scholarship and (b) qualifications for the award of the PhD, the view that coursework examinations should affect the award of a PhD was much less popular in 1972.

The recent survey showed that 59 percent thought coursework (if it were introduced) should take up less than one tenth of the program; 41 percent wanted their thesis requirements reduced; 34 percent thought the time for a PhD should be extended and 50 percent felt coursework should be required only in the first year; a further 33 percent thought it should be spread over the first two years.

Thirty-one percent (111) of ANU PhD students have completed some coursework during their PhD program. Ninety percent of those currently enrolled in courses said time required was less than five hours per week; more than half were in their first year of a PhD. Of the students who said they had completed some coursework during their PhD program, 20 said their aim had been to improve research techniques and 57 to broaden their knowledge of the subject. If attendance had not been required 51 percent of these students said they would have attended anyway.

The survey also found that 65 percent of PhD students at ANU are satisfied with the general level of supervision of programs. Only 15 percent indicated they were not satisfied.

The survey showed that more women students than men were unhappy with the general level of supervision (21 percent compared with 14 percent) and that students assigned to a supervisor by a department tended to be less satisfied than students who chose their own supervisor. A significantly higher proportion of fourth-year students were dissatisfied with supervision than those in early years of the PhD program.

### Left alone

The most common reasons given for satisfaction with supervision were that students were left alone to do what they wanted (15 percent) and that the supervisor was competent and readily available for consultation (52 percent).

Based on personal information obtained from students, the survey found that a greater number of Asian students were satisfied with supervision (83 percent) compared with the mean population (65 percent). The survey also showed that twice as many students from Asia favoured 'thesis and coursework' than the survey population. 'Students from Asia may have different expectations from the PhD program than students from other areas,' the report concluded from these findings.

### Majority satisfied

The formal conclusions presented to council were that the majority of PhD students are satisfied with the general level of supervision they receive but that the 'introduction of coursework is an issue to be approached cautiously as a large proportion of students oppose coursework altogether'.

An overall policy by members of the Research Students Association would favor a flexible attitude by the university towards a PhD program which would offer the option of coursework.

● The above report is based on an article in the March 23 ANU Reporter.

## LA TROBE: Assessing the staff

Students at La Trobe University plan to assess each member of the university's academic staff in a survey of student opinion commissioned by La Trobe's Students Representative Council.

"The survey will not be concerned with content of courses as much as coherence and unity of presentation," an SRC spokesman said.

The chairman of the SRC's academic affairs committee, Miss Uniacke, said every academic, recent graduate and student would be polled.

## Designing campus flats

Students and staff at La Trobe University are being invited to assist in the design of the third block of flats to be built for them on campus. At a meeting on Wednesday, April 11, the preliminary plans for the flats were displayed and comments were invited from members of the university community.

The plans arose from a competition conducted in 1971 for 4th-year Melbourne University architectural students who were set the task of making a master plan of the 12-acre area of the campus reserved for accommodation for members of the University. The area includes the block of 24 flats which La Trobe built in 1969.

The proposed flats will increase accommodation from 135 to 255 places. The cost will be about \$650,000 of which \$250,000 has been provided by the Australian Universities Commission.

The flats are controlled by a non-profit company, La Trobe University Housing Ltd. The company has also leased a number of flats in the surrounding district.

## NEW SOUTH WALES:

### Inspecting experiments

New South Wales Government officials will be empowered to inspect universities and laboratories suspected of conducting cruel experiments on animals.

Legislation before the State Parliament provides for authorised officers to enter and inspect premises that use live animals in experiments.

If the officers find evidence of cruelty they will be able to take the experimenters to court.

The NSW Chief Secretary, Mr. Griffith, said that the officers would have the powers of special constables.

They could take out warrants to search any premises where animals were reportedly mistreated.

## NEW ZEALAND:

### Accommodation available

Monash students and staff who plan to spend their summer holidays in New Zealand may take advantage of the hostel-type accommodation of the two halls of residence at the University of Auckland.

Accommodation will be available at the University's International House from November 11, 1973 to December 25, 1973 and at the O'Rorke Hall from December 17, 1973 to January 16, 1974.

The university is near the centre of town.

It is expected that the daily rate, with full board, in the two halls will be \$5.00-\$6.00 per day (adult rate). Special rates are available for block bookings of 30 or more persons and reduced rates for children 12 years or under.

Bookings should be made through Mrs. N. Walker, Manageress, International House, 27 Whitaker Place, Auckland, 1, Mrs. K. Aird, Manageress, O'Rorke Hall, 49 Symonds Street, Auckland, 1.

## AND NEWS FROM THE CAE'S

### SECRETARIAL COURSE POPULAR WITH MONASH GRADUATES

The job of being the boss' secretary is no longer the domain of the female stenographer and the Girl Friday.

That's according to Monash graduate Edward Starnawski, of Glenhuntly, who is doing a secretarial course at the Caulfield Institute of Technology.

Edward, a 21-year-old Bachelor of Economics, firmly believes that being a secretary nowadays is not strictly for the girls.

To prove a man can do the job just as well as a woman if not better he has enrolled in a post-graduate diploma course in secretarial studies at the institute.

The first and only mister to enrol in a course for Misses, Edward said he was not in the least embarrassed at being a man in a woman's world.

#### Many offers

The institute's senior lecturer in secretarial studies, Lynne Wenig, believes Edward will receive many job offers after he finishes the 12-month course.

"The entire attitude towards the private secretary is changing," she said.

"Secretarial work is finally being recognised as a profession.

"I think the private secretary is now regarded as having a foot on the first rung of the management ladder.

"There is a big gap now between a shorthand typist—the secretary of the past—and an efficient private secretary," Ms. Wenig said.

"Executives now want the best private secretaries available. They have to do more than just take shorthand notes and type letters.

"Employers will regard a private male secretary as a change and will probably hold the view that a man can do a better job than a woman, even when it comes to being a secretary."

Ms. Wenig will be at Monash on Thursday this week for Careers and Appointments Office interviews. Any student interested in doing her course at CIT next year should make an appointment on ext. 3150 or at the C & A office, first floor, Union.

More than half of the 17 students doing the course this year are from Monash.

Lionel Parrott of the C & A office told the Reporter that the office could not satisfy the employment demand for trained graduate secretaries. Female science graduates with secretarial backgrounds were especially in demand.

He said Commonwealth scholarships could be extended to cover the CIT course fees. The course was normally a year full-time but could be taken part-time as classes were held in the morning.

Mr. Parrott said the course included accounting, economics, business administration and a thesis on an aspect of business.

## WIDER JOURNALISM COURSE IS PLANNED

RMIT is planning to offer an Australia-wide correspondence course for its Diploma of Journalism. All that is needed is sufficient student demand.

The course will be available to cadet journalists and others in country areas and in capital cities where there is no university instruction in journalism.

The head of the RMIT external studies department, Mr. H. C. Pratt, wants to hear from students who would be interested in a journalism correspondence course. This year 125 people applied for the 60 places offering in RMIT's internal journalism course.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The Academic Registrar's department has been advised of the following scholarships. The Reporter presents a précis of the details. More information can be obtained from Mr. D. Kelly, ext. 2009.

Thomas Lawrence Pawlett Scholarships For postgraduate study in agriculture at Sydney University. Value: \$2900 p/a. Applications close May 11, 1973.

F. H. Loxton Scholarships/Studentship Open to male graduates for postgraduate study in agriculture at Sydney University. Value: \$2000 to \$4150 p/a. Applications close May 11, 1973.

The Harkness Fellowships of the Commonwealth Fund of New York

Five fellowships for study and travel in the United States for a period of 12 to 21 months are offered to men and women in any profession or field of study. Value: all travel, residence and tuition expenses. Applications close July 24, 1973.

Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan The New Zealand Government is offering scholarships to men and women students from other parts of the Commonwealth, to undertake postgraduate research in institutions of higher learning in New Zealand. Value: all travel, residence and tuition expenses. Applications close May 18, 1973.

Italian Scholarships 1973/74 Open to postgraduate students wishing to undertake courses in economics leading to a diploma at the "Scuola Superiore Enrico Mattei" near Milan. Value: travel, living and tuition expenses. Applications close May 15, 1973.



The fundamental reason for the present crisis in the human environment is that "man takes too little notice of his actions or, more accurately, prefers to remain in ignorance of the consequences of his actions".

This was the theme of a recent address by Dr. Larry Osborne, a Ph.D. student in the department of social and preventive medicine at the Alfred Hospital. He was speaking at a dinner organised by the Kyabram Business and Professional Women's Club.

Dr. Osborne said it was only following the worst natural disasters such as air pollution in London, oil pollution at sea, and mercury poisoning from fish in Japan that unrestrained progress and economic development began to be questioned.

"Man had, at last, to look to the consequences of his actions, whether he wished to or not, so that he could enhance his own survival."

The second major component in the environmental crisis, Dr. Osborne said, had been "the extension of the 'expert' into most areas of human activity."

While "experts" may be valuable in this post-industrial age, they tended not to be interested in the broader issues of the problems they were asked to solve.

This tendency to narrow down the definitions of problems, Dr. Osborne said, had often created situations where too many decisions had been made in absolute isolation from the community or environment which was affected by the problems. He emphasised that "there must be consultation with people at all levels and at all times in the making of decisions which will affect their lifestyles."

### Defining objectives

The third major component in the environmental crisis, he suggested, was that "the objectives for human life have not been defined."

Such fundamental questions as the optimal population for a city, the appropriate balance between work and leisure, and the purposes of health, educational and welfare services, had not been answered. Without such definitions, any decisions made, any problems solved, and any solutions adopted were likely to be inconsistent and opposed to each other.

Dr. Osborne said that the definition of objectives would basically involve citizen participation, for the implementation of these objectives would influence their day-to-day activities in the years to come.

Using Melbourne as a model, Dr. Osborne discussed how the problems confronting urban dwellers were inter-related.

The desire for "a house of your own", for instance, had resulted in the dispersion of the urban population over a vast area. This excessively low density housing had placed enormous strain on water supply and sewerage services and created the problem of inadequate hospital and other social services. It had also downgraded public transport in favor of freeways to cope with the increasing volume of vehicular traffic. The increased traffic flow in turn generated additional problems in terms of air pollution and noise which affected the health of the people.

### High-rise buildings

Dr. Osborne emphasised the need for the definition of the objectives and the anticipation of the consequences of change in urban environment planning. For example, high-rise buildings were constructed to solve the problem of housing a large number of people in a comparatively small area. This, in itself, presented new problems, like the number of people the building would accommodate, the age groups involved, and the ethnic background of the people to be included. Dr. Osborne suggested that until these points had been considered, the construction of the buildings should not be started.



## WILL THIS . . . LEAD TO THIS . . . ?

The theme of Dr. Osborne's recent address — summarised on this page — was the need to realise all the consequences of a social act. One problem solved might create another.

High rise building may ease the problem of housing demand. But what effect does it have on the occupants?

Does it suit elderly people and the young? Cartoonist Cobb saw the same problem.

The significance of these basic considerations should not be under-emphasised, he said. A simple matter like age of the people to be housed could be crucial.

A study in Glasgow, for example, revealed that the elderly and the young were the two groups most unsuited for high-rise accommodation. The children often were deprived of outlets for their boisterousness in the confines of a small flat. The old people, on the other hand, found great difficulty in getting out of the flat. In addition, the design of the flat limited the opportunities for neighbors to talk and gossip with each other.

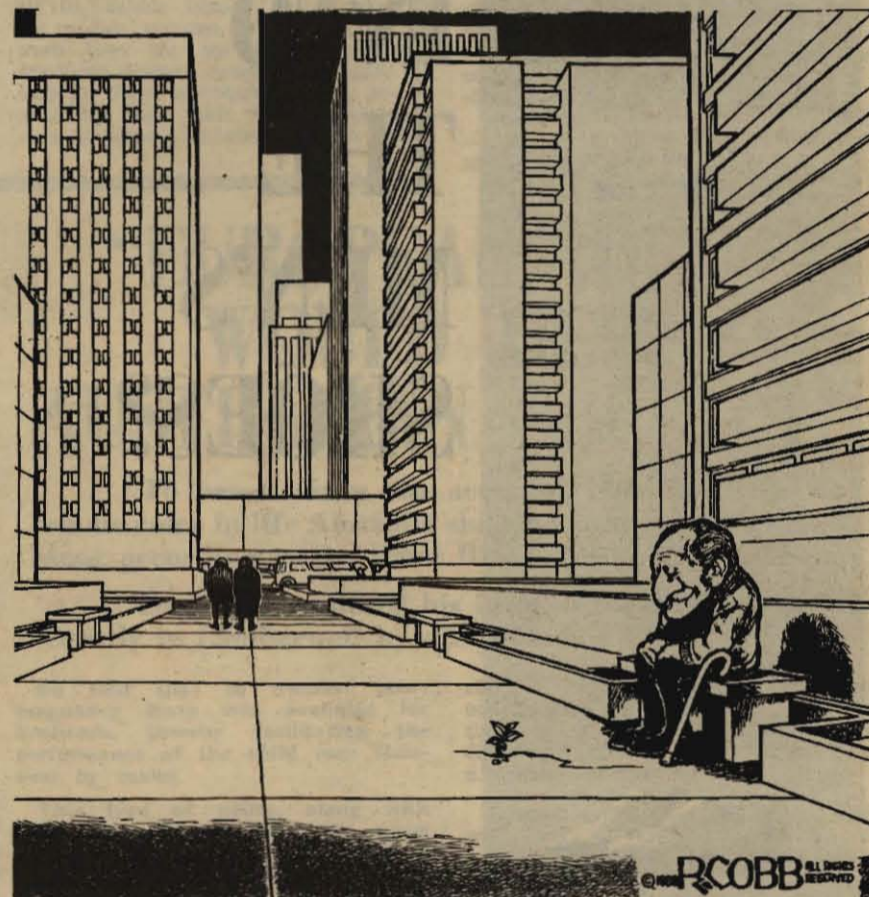
On the other hand, high-rise building in Chicago was thought ideal by its population of 20-30-year-olds. Mostly single and fun-oriented, this age group usually found the accommodation of the high-rise flat suited to their lifestyles.

Studies on high-rise flats in Melbourne have also underscored the significance of the life cycle of the occupants. Thus families with adolescent children in general found the high-rise flat a considerable improvement on their previous accommodation. Families with young children had great difficulty in managing simple tasks like going shopping and supervising the play period.

The high-rise flats in Melbourne had also given rise to other problems like housing together one particular group of people (e.g., single mothers), adequate provision for schools, health and welfare facilities in areas adjacent to the flats, and the provision of safe playing areas.

Dr. Osborne cautioned that unless such principles in urban environmental planning were considered "we may impose physical, social and psychological burdens on the urban environment, to which man may not be able to adapt."

● Reports from two Monash environmental meetings on page 11.



## SAFETY ON CAMPUS

Being trendy and fashionable can have its safety pitfalls. Take clothing and hair style, for example.

At Monash recently we had an accident where the floppy bottoms of a pair of trousers caught in an escalator at the point where the steps disappear into the floor.

Fortunately, on this occasion — no injury, just a ragged pair of trousers.

In this situation the victim could easily have overbalanced and fallen, with consequent injury, onto the moving stairway. His hair could have been caught in the moving stairs — this would have been a tragedy.

On the subject of hair, I recently saw a photograph where a man using a portable electric

drill had allowed his long hair to drape over the drill. His hair was sucked into the drill ventilation intake. The drill, when dismantled, had hair closely wrapped around the armature and computer.

If you like to be "trendy", remember the hazards:

- Lift floppy clothing clear of the ground when near moving transport such as escalators and lifts.

- Always contain long hair when working near moving machinery.

★ ★ ★  
The recently released 1972 report of the Monash safety committee shows that 240 accidents occurred on campus last year leading to 91 classified injuries.

The following is a breakdown of where the accidents occurred (classified injuries in brackets): arts 2 (1); — education I (1); law nil; medicine 37 (14); Ecops nil; engineering 7 (2); science 56 (23); central services 43 (21); union 18 (8); library 2; halls of residence 15 (8); university offices 3 (1); maintenance 47 (9); grounds 7 (4) and audio visual aids 2 (1).

—Will Barker, Safety Officer.



WOMEN'S Lib. is embroiled in the seventies. It has forced widespread re-thinking, and even change. How have the universities reacted? Do their courses reflect the general interest in women's rights? Is there sufficient research material on which to base courses?

Journalist Mietta O'Donnell investigated these questions and spoke with several Monash staff members. This is her report...

# GOSH! ARE WOMEN STEPPING INTO THE MEN'S SHOES?

By MIETTA O'DONNELL

Historians and sociologists by and large have neglected half of our present society — the women — in their research work.

However, with the current interest in women's rights and roles, students and academics are turning their attention to Australia's 'other half.'

Course studies and research projects specifically dealing with women are starting in Australian tertiary institutions, particularly under the guidance of women members of staff.

At Monash a study of women in Australia as a sociological phenomenon will be offered as a third year option to students in the sociology department. Also some work into the historical role of women in Australian society is now being done by the history department.

And, for example, in South Australia both universities this year are setting up courses on women's study. At the University of Adelaide a course in the politics department will include the study of sexism in contemporary society and the history of feminism.

At Flinders University a group of women students have set up a course in conjunction with the philosophy department. Suggested topics include the history of women's struggle against their oppression, the role women have played in history, the position of women today, and modern technology and its relation to women in society.

Enrolled students and women outside the universities are eligible for both courses.

## Scant source material

Discussing the dearth of material on women in society, Monash historian, Associate Professor Ian Turner, said historians in the past had shown little interest in this area. There was now very little material on which students could work.

"I do deal with the role of women in Australian society in a popular culture seminar now offered to 2nd year honors students," he said.

"But there is no flow on to the pass course and I cannot yet introduce it as a full subject."

Professor Turner explained that this must wait on the development of research work being currently undertaken by historians.

He said that a large number of his students, particularly women post-graduate students, had shown interest and were undertaking their own research work.

"Many are using women's magazines as a means of tracing the development of women in Australia and of attitudes towards them."

## Romance and reality

A history honors student at the ANU, Miss Andree Wright, used the Australian Women's Weekly for her thesis on Australian women, "Romance and Reality, from 1933-1950."

She came to the conclusion that Australian women have been used as an expendable work force manipulated to suit the economy, treated as an oppressed minority, and neglected in serious Australian history studies.

Miss Wright believes that magazines such as the Women's Weekly have indoctrinated women into believing that marriage is true romance: jam making is fulfilment.

"The pity is," she said, "that many women have been prepared to go along with being manipulated and accepted role playing and housewifely status without questioning the motives behind it."

A similar study using the Women's Weekly was made by Ms Jennifer Simmons, a postgraduate student in the Monash history department.

She found that the concept of women as presented in the magazine had changed considerably during the post-war years until the current decade.

Ms Simmons explains that the Australian woman who had long been deluded into believing in the ideal of romantic love and the career of marriage, had now been robbed of her illusions and left with no real means of coping in modern society — "her survival kit is no good," she says, "and the problem is not just being female but being alive."



The course offered to Monash sociology students this year will be taught by Ms Jan Mercer, a teaching fellow in the department.

Ms Mercer is currently editing a book which she hopes to finish this year on Australian Society — A Woman's Perspective. The book will be based on original research material and Ms Mercer hopes that it will help correct the imbalance in past research work, much of which, she says, was written from an exclusively male viewpoint.

The book will include chapters by Dr Lois Bryson, senior lecturer in sociology. Dr Bryson is also the co-author of a study of life and leadership in a new housing suburb, An Australian New Town, published in paperback last year.

She believes that sociologists have lacked a 'gender perspective'—“They have neglected the study of the socialisation process in a sex-comparative situation — that is, what being male or female means in terms of upbringing, education and behaviour.”

Dr Bryson explained this viewpoint in an address given recently to the Royal Society for the Arts.

“Sex typing in our society is not only restrictive for women but for men also,” she told the society.

“Among other things men are supposed to be ambitious, achievement oriented, aggressive, physically strong and attracted to and attractive to women.

“What happens to those who do not fulfil these expectations?

“Homosexuals obviously suffer but what of the misery of the male who does not, or does not wish to, measure up to the expectations in other ways?

“In the very much higher death-rate from heart disease among men, we see one clear liability of the emphasis on ambition and achievement and on the greater acceptability for men to smoke and drink heavily.

“Also men are often required to support a divorced wife and they are assigned a later retirement age than women, despite the fact that they do not live as long.”

Dr Bryson in her paper then made the point that in Sweden, “the society which has made probably the most determined efforts to bring about equality between the sexes, the difference in life expectancy for men and women has been reduced to a minimum.”

Dr Bryson said that the recent resurgence of the women's movement had developed from the realisation that much of the rigidity of traditional sex roles remains today.

“Rights have been increasingly generously given to those discriminated against but we see today that this is not always considered enough.

“Members of such organisations as black power, women's liberation, gay liberation and the like are requiring the substance as well as the legal shadow.”

### Paternal role

But Dr Bryson sees a significant difference in the attitudes shown towards women's movements and other social movements.

“They have always been the subject of ridicule,” she says. “Such a reaction in fact mirrors the very relationship of men to women which the movement is reacting to.

“We see here, man acting in a paternalistic role dealing with the foolish and impetuous demands of the child.”

However, Dr Bryson does see the possibility of greater parity between male and female roles resulting from a number of processes.

“Technological progress in production and medicine tends to minimise the effects of the biological differences between the sexes,” she said.



“More to learn than just jam making”

“We find men moving towards traditional women's roles, not only through sharing what have been traditionally women's tasks but also through increasingly accepting the family as their central life's interest.

“At the same time women are moving into the workforce, the traditional domain of men.”

Dr Bryson believes that these changes, together with the direct agitation of the women's movements will bring about important changes in the position of women in society.

But one of Dr Bryson's colleagues, Ms Lone Fett, sees plenty that is still unjust in the comparison of attitudes to men and women in the work force.

She has recently conducted a survey of women medical graduates and has found that, although the percentage of women graduating from Australian medical schools has risen steadily since their first admission in the 1880's, the profession has made few, if any, organisational adaptations to mitigate the resulting conflicts which are known to exist.

Ms Fett says that women medical graduates have to face charges of being ‘unfeminine’ in neglecting their domestic duties in favour of their work or, alternatively, of wasting their medical training if they do not work full-time or at all.

She says that despite the obvious need “there is very little part-time work available and there is no provision at all (to my present knowledge) for part-time residencies and other postgraduate training in specialities.”

Ms Fett says that instead, there is talk of quotas on women medical students, while there is speculation about future shortages of medical manpower.

“No one has thought of looking at the hundreds of women doctors working part-time or not at all, as a reservoir of medical manpower which only requires a modicum of recognition and encouragement to move into fuller practice.

“To do this, short realistic refresher courses could be provided, plus realistic co-operation with co-existing family commitments.”

Ms Fett cites other ways of relieving the professional frustrations of women doctors—maternity leave, high quality child-minding facilities, tax deductions for child care and domestic help, more part-time work, and especially part-time ways of gaining postgraduate qualifications.

She says that all these things are being done in America and England. In Australia the medical profession turns the clock back by trying to exclude women from entering medical courses, by ignoring the work they do, by making postgraduate degrees increasingly difficult for them to obtain, and by demanding that their medical wives stay at home and mind the kids.

## MONASH LIBRARIAN VISITS THE PHILIPPINES

Mrs. Fay Baker, officer-in-charge of the Monash biomedical library at the Alfred Hospital, has just returned from four weeks in the Philippines as medical consultant to the World Health Organisation. WHO has its regional headquarters for the Western Pacific in Manila.

Mrs. Baker acted as consultant to the library of the institute of public health, University of the Philippines. The university has developed into a South-east Asian centre for the study of tropical medicine and of public health administration.

Her work involved the study of library facilities and procedures. She also made recommendations for the library's future development.

Mrs. Baker, who has been with Monash for 10 years, is scheduled to go later this year to the University of the South Pacific, Fiji, where she will work in a similar consultancy capacity.

## TASMANIAN FIGURES

Enrolment figures at the University of Tasmania are down on last year, the biggest drop being in the economics faculty.

Enrolments are down in all faculties with the exception of law and medicine.

The total enrolment figure is 3,250 — 100 down on the figure for this time last year.

## “EUROPEAN IDEAS WOULD HELP AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY”

To break down the accepted ideas of male and female roles in life Australia should adopt some European ideas, according to Dr. Peter Riach, reader in economics.

Dr. Riach outlined his ideas at a forum organised recently in Camberwell by the Women's Electoral Lobby.

He said that in Sweden post-pregnancy leave was available for husbands, thereby facilitating the performance of the child care function by males.

This type of policy, along with child care courses for both sexes in secondary schools, would help to reduce the differential job turnover rates between males and females, Dr. Riach claimed.

In East Germany 15 days' ‘absentee leave’ was allowed for working men to take over the normal wifely duties of caring for sick children or taking them to medical or dental appointments.

Another Swedish idea was the use of service apartments. These are flat blocks for dual-career couples and they incorporate such things as 24-hour, seven-day-a-week child minding shops and laundries.

Turning his attention to current Australian conditions, Dr. Riach said in his talk that the housewife was ignored by the economy and should be paid for her efforts.

Housewives, through maintaining homes and caring for husband and

children, made a real and productive contribution to community life. But the housewife did not rate in the GNP nor did the census define her as a member of the workforce.

Where a couple decided that the wife stay at home rather than go out to work, she should receive a salary from her husband.

“After all, a bachelor may hire a housekeeper and pay for her work. If he then marries her this is no reason for the salary to stop,” Dr. Riach said.

In the case of the wife who ran both a house and cared for children, Dr. Riach said the State had an obligation to make some payment for children rather than for ‘wifedom’. Well-cared for children, he suggested, were a benefit to the community. Child endowment payments should be made more realistic.

However direct payments should not be to the housewife as this would reinforce the idea of specific role-playing. Instead the payments should be made to the family unit for general allocation.

### Open University submission

The Australian Universities Commission's ‘Open University’ committee will call for submissions on extramural higher education in Australia.

The committee chairman, Professor P. H. Karmel, said that the committee would shortly invite submissions by wide public advertisement throughout Australia, and would in due course

take additional steps to discover what type of courses adult members of the community might wish to take.

In this connection, the emphasis would be on people who, for various reasons, had missed higher educational opportunities at the normal age, those who wished to heighten the qualifications they already have, and those who wished to engage in further study for its own sake.



# In Review

## CONCERTS

The Student Madrigal Choir, Munster University, Germany. Robert Blackwood Hall, March 26, 27.

By PAUL MALONEY



The student choir in concert in Robert Blackwood Hall. Above is its founder and conductor, Frau Kramm, and (at right) a section of the 48-member choir.  
—Photo: The Sun



### The conductor of a university student choir can follow one of two courses.

Conductor and choir can experience together the great works of the choral repertoire, even if that leads to more or less disastrous performances affording minimum satisfaction to the listener. Or (taking advantage of the downy beauty of young untrained voices), the problem of rapid turnover of choir members can be solved by restricting the repertoire to simple works that can be well performed within the restrictions of an inexperienced group.

Australian university choral societies usually choose the first course; Frau Herma Kramm, conductor and director of the Student Madrigal Choir, Munster University, Germany, has chosen the second.

#### Thin bass line

The choir gave three concerts in Blackwood Hall, on Monday, March 26, at lunchtime and in the evening, and on Tuesday morning, March 27, for school children.

The choir always sounded pleasant. However, the bass line was too thin and the soprano had rather too much edge. Although that suited well enough

the German folksongs that ended their programs, it was not adequate to bring out the Russian character of the folksong 'Sudsidka'; nor did it fully realise the darker orchestral colors of Bruckner's Ave Maria or Brahms' 'Nachtwache II'.

The first half of the Monday evening concert consisted of a selection of mostly Baroque sacred works and a group of Renaissance madrigals. These were sung accurately, with pleasant tone and careful attention to phrasing, sometimes bordering on the mannered, but, to those familiar with the works, within astonishingly restricted ranges of dynamics, timbre and tempo. The simple, childlike effect of this singing brought to mind the heavenly choirs of less than life-sized angels in 15th century Flemish paintings.

The second-half of the program consisted of a group of 19th century choral songs by Brahms and Tchaikovsky and one 20th century work by J. N. David, and a selection of folksongs.

The most animated performances of the evening were the German folksongs at the end — the other folksongs were sauced with a gentility which,

for instance, reduced to drollery the religious fervor of the negro spirituals.

The most ambitious work was the predominantly chordal opening section of Bach's motet for double chorus Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied. The contrast of sections for single choir against the thickly scored sections for combined choir was well handled. The most sensitive performance was the delicately simple setting by Brahms of 'Ernst in der Herbst'.

#### 48 singers

The choir, 48 singers from all faculties of the University of Munster, was founded in 1947 by Frau Kramm. At present it consists of 27 women and 21 men, whose average age is 26. The choir has a wide reputation having toured extensively in Europe, the USA and Asia.

On this tour the choir visited Singapore, New Zealand, and Australia — in Australia singing in Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra and Sydney.

The last 15 minutes of the Monday evening concert and an interview with Frau Kramm were broadcast 'live' from Monash to Radio Cologne.

movement, situation, expression and timing.

Sally Macarthur, "Winnifred the Woebegone", was the central character. She was the most accomplished, the most convincing; her fellow players, to their credit let the production evolve around her actions, her behaviour, her whims. On the whole Sally's bluster, not her singing voice was the key to her appeal.

The show's success came from its life, its pace, and its change of mood and scene. All contributed to this, especially Daryl Cloonon (minstrel), Erik Rinkel (Prince Dauntless), Peter Dunn (wizard) and Heather Aldred (Queen Aggravain).

Let's hope the standard is maintained for the company's next production, "The Pyjama Game" in the Alexander Theatre from August 28 to September 7. And please, another leading part for Sally Macarthur.

— Ian Anderson

"Once Upon a Mattress" came along in the spate of American musicals in the 1950s. Funny in parts but easily forgotten; not even one memorable tune.

Just before Easter, the Monash University Musical Theatre Company decided to resurrect "Once Upon a Mattress" . . . insignificant as a musical, though one of MUMCO's most successful recent productions.

The entire cast enjoyed the show and did their best. An audience can not ask for more.

However, its ultimate success; its vitality and brightness boiled down to two people — the producer Marie Cumisky and the leading lady, Sally Macarthur.

Miss Cumisky's professionalism shone through. Her products were amateurs, enthusiastic students; she got them to make the most of

LEFT: Queen Aggravain (Heather Aldred) lays down the law to her subjects.



## BOOKS

The Receding Wave, by Brian Matthews, Melbourne University Press, 1972, \$6.75.

By DENNIS DOUGLAS,  
Senior lecturer in English

Brian Matthews' "The Receding Wave," is one of those uneven and deeply-pondered books written under the influence of a thesis supervisor and registering the impress of many formative experiences of an unformed critical sensibility.

That is putting it kindly.

A great deal of what Matthews has to say about Lawson's short stories is penetrating and well-presented. A great deal that he has to say is also over-written and over-stated, to a degree that does Lawson the disservice of imposing on a slender achievement a weight of exegesis it simply cannot carry.

There is also a curious compulsion to resort to defining the meaning of the tales in terms of a kind of spiritual autobiography. The dangers of extrapolating beyond the text in the direction of the author's inner life are completely disregarded.

I doubt if anybody ever pointed out to Matthews the need to distinguish between ascertainable fact and conjecture in matters such as this, or the sources of the fantasies that replace concrete evidence when no concrete evidence is likely to be available.

What we have as a result is a bright book, a stimulating book, but an unreliable one on matters of scholarly and exegetical approach, and an even more unreliable one from the critical point of view.

It needs stressing again and again that the strength of a critical approach depends on the willingness of the critic to analyse the text on its own terms, and not to bring to it assumptions that bear no relation to its formal and technical reality.

A critic who scores positively or negatively by enunciating condensed aphoristic or seemingly profound observations on human nature, the universe, or positive emotional processes, is playing a rather crass game. And Matthews comes so close, so often, to projecting into Lawson's work a radically dissimilar sensibility, that one wonders whose emotional life comes first, the author's, or the critic's.

#### Gifted scholar

I have no doubt that the author of The Receding Wave is one of the most gifted scholars in the fields of Australian literature and Commonwealth literature, and that his reputation is bound to become widely respected, but not for this book.

Still, I doubt if he will be driven in ten or fifteen years to do what my MA supervisor was driven to in the late fifties, the systematic buying up and burning of all extant copies of a study of T. S. Eliot's poetry he had written at the height of the Eliot boom after the Second World War.

It is not a stupid book. But it is a book I have strong reservations about placing in the hands of my undergraduate students.

#### Religious Centre weddings

For the record: The annual chaplains report indicates that there has been an eight-fold increase in the number of weddings performed in the Religious Centre over the last four years. In 1968 the total was 38 weddings; last year it reached 246.



# UNIVERSITIES SHOULD "CIVILISE" NOT "CERTIFY" SAYS SIR ERIC

Universities have been diverted from their true goal of educating students to the false goal of handing out certificates, says Sir Eric Ashby.

Sir Eric, master of Clare College, Cambridge, and member of the Carnegie Commission on Higher Education, made this observation in an address to the Second International Conference on Higher Education held recently at the University of Lancaster.

The conference had as its theme "The Implications of Mass Higher Education". The latter part of his talk was published in the Bulletin of the International Association of Universities (Vol. 20, No. 4).

Sir Eric said that if non-vocational higher education was to serve its real purpose, which was to civilise people, it ought to attract people who wanted to be "civilised," and not those who only wanted to be "certified" so that they could obtain a job.

He said some employers did a great disservice to higher education by using degrees and diplomas as filters for selecting candidates for jobs. Although credentials were essential for getting a job, evidence suggested that they had little to do with how well an individual performed a job.

## Class certificates

Sir Eric suggested that the only way to correct this misdirection in non-vocational higher education was to scrap the practice of certifying non-vocational education, and simply to issue class certificates to those who had attended courses and done the required written work. This would probably produce an equalising effect — "as a greater proportion of the age group acquires certificates of higher education, the salary differential between certified and uncertified will diminish," he said.

He conceded that this policy, which was common in Scottish universities in the 19th century, was "unpopular," and would encounter a great deal of opposition.

Sir Eric went on to outline what he believed should constitute the aspirations of a good teacher when he is teaching any subject non-vocationally at the level of higher education (for instance, history or German or physics to students who are not going to become historians or linguists or physicists). The aspiration should be "to carry the students from the uncritical acceptance of orthodoxy to creative dissent over the values and standards of society".

The beneficial effect of non-vocational higher education lifted the student from a level of conventional moral reasoning to what had been described recently as the post-conventional level, where students were deliberately challenged to re-examine assumptions, convictions, and world views they previously took for granted.

"In a pluralistic society it is essential that as many people as possible are lifted from the conventional to the post-conventional level," Sir Eric said.

## "Provocative" themes

Sir Eric concluded by proposing three "provocative" themes to the conference.

The first was that mass higher education, like mass production, was inconsistent with "hand-made" education or production. A lot of it would have to be carried out in impersonal terms, like using video tape, television, and correspondence courses.

However, he said, there were still two kinds of education which de-

manded a personal student-teacher relationship, for which there was no substitute. One was vocational, in which a student was apprenticed to a master and submitted to his regime of discipline. The other was non-vocational, in which a student engaged in sustained dialectic with a master whose own intellectual and cultural achievements were distinguished.

While he agreed that not many students were fit for this "austere discipline" or were willing to submit to it, Sir Eric acknowledged that those who were willing must be given the opportunity, "or the thin clear stream of excellence on which society depends for innovation and for statemanship, will dry up".

However, he personally was not in favor of this form of "elitism". "Talent and mediocrity can share the same central heating plant and cafeteria, and they should, for talent has to learn to operate in a world of mediocrity," he said.

His second provocative theme was that cost-benefit analysis applied to non-vocational education was "a nonsense" as non-vocational education "may be counter-productive, producing men and women who not only eschew high-income careers for themselves but even reject and oppose the commonly accepted norms of western society such as the necessity for an ever-increasing GNP".

Cost-benefit analysis, Sir Eric said, could be useful in suggesting ways in which mass higher education could be more effectively conducted, but it would be "positively inefficient" to try to increase the efficiency of that sector devoted to minority "hand-made" education. "We still cannot teach or learn at this level any faster than our ancestors in mediaeval Oxford," he said.

Sir Eric's third theme was the increasing pressure from young people to place more emphasis in higher education on the skill of working with people, rather than on the skill of working with ideas or the skill of working with things. Young people, he said, felt that added concentration on this area would enable them to contribute more to society. Mass higher education must take serious account of this demand.

## Universities "not good social critics"

Sir Eric Ashby believes that universities are not an "important source for social criticism."

Speaking last month on the ABC television program Monday Conference, he said that the problems of society were extremely complicated and could be tackled only by people with extraordinary antennae for political decisions.

Professors were good at solving problems within their own disciplines, but no better trained to solve society's problems than the man in the street.

"I think the university is arrogant

if it thinks it has some function to criticise society," he said.

Sir Eric had some advice for students seeking to widen student participation in university government.

He suggested that they should try to exert their influence at department and faculty level, rather than concentrate on the pinnacle of the Senate or Council at the top.

"In universities you've got an extraordinary inverted hierarchy of influence," he said. "All the really exciting things happen down below and percolate up the Senate... The really bright ideas happen at the level of the departments and faculties, and if I were a student that's where I'd like to be."

Sir Eric also criticised academics who regarded students as a nuisance.

"One of the things that worries me is when a professor or lecturer says 'I haven't had time to get on with my own work.' You have to remind him that his 'own work' is teaching students — that's what he's there for."

"Any spread of that attitude gives the student a right to be disgruntled and say 'I want to horn in on this and to see that the people who are appointed are the people who are prepared to take an interest in me, not just in research.'"

## Children's film club to be formed

Members of the Monash Womens' Society and local community mothers' clubs are forming a committee to launch the Monash Children's Film Club.

The committee, in conjunction with the Alexander Theatre, will aim at screening children's films in the Alexander Theatre on Saturday afternoons during winter.

A festival of films especially designed for children is also planned for one week of the May school holidays.

Films to be shown have been made by the Children's Film Foundation in London and distributed through the Australian Council for Children's Films and Television.

Information on club membership and screening dates will be available shortly through the Alexander Theatre manager, Philip A'Vard, ext. 3991.

## Bulk food at the new "Pantry"

"The Pantry", a new shop selling a variety of bulk foods will open on the ground floor of the Union in May.

The shop, established by the Union, will stock such items as natural fruit juices, honey, dried fruit, nuts, raw sugar, breakfast foods, a variety of cheese, natural cooking oils, skim milk, beans and all equipment necessary for breadmaking (including organically grown flour).

The manager, Jim Bluett, objects to the term 'health foods', to describe the shop. He sees the shop's role on campus as mainly that of a food supplier, catering to those students and staff members interested in getting away from the idea of instant packaged foods.

Prices will be low, as the shop will be essentially a service organisation.

The idea for the venture grew out of the success of the regular Friday stalls run by the Earth Food Co-operative.

"The Pantry" is expected to open between 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. each week-day.

## NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY IS SPROUTING

To promote interest in the Monash Native Plant Society, members have been holding weekly sales of hundreds of Australian native trees and shrubs.

The Friday stalls have proved an overwhelming success for the society, with as many as 700 plants being sold in 25 minutes. Plants were priced at either 20 cents or 30 cents.

The last sale for this season was held on Friday, April 13, but the society plans to resume selling in Spring.

The plants were grown in the society's experimental nursery in Bodley St., Clayton (off Clayton Rd.).

The nursery, administered by a sub-committee of the native plant society, grows species of indigenous plants not generally available through other nurseries.

It also grows a wide variety of high-quality plants for distribution to members at nominal cost, and aims to assist in teaching members the basics of propagation and cultivation.

A dome polythene hothouse has recently been installed for the growth of more delicate species.

The nursery will open officially this month. People interested in working in the nursery are asked to ring Harry Corbin (phone 791-8581).

Cataloguing the distribution of all Victorian species is the special interest of another sub-committee of the society — the flora study group.

Under the direction of Dr. Peter Bridgewater, lecturer in botany, this group holds regular workshops. It also conducts field trips to assist in the development of a comprehensive collection of Victorian vegetation for the Monash Herbarium, located in the Department of Botany.

Trips have already been held to Churchill National Park and to Mt. Martha. The study group also plans to establish a seed bank, and will encourage members to develop their own herbariums.

Another society activity is presenting public lectures. Tomorrow night, May 2, at 8 p.m. in H.2 Dr. Gretta Weste, senior lecturer in botany, University of Melbourne, will speak on the serious effects of phytophthora fungus on native trees and shrubs.

The society says there is no known cure for this fungus which has started to destroy forest areas.

More than 400 people have joined the society. Membership forms are available from the Union reception desk. The membership fee is \$1, and new members are entitled to two free plants.

Peter Hohaus on ext. 2928 has more details on the society's activities.



# THE GRADUATION CEREMONIES

A total of five graduation ceremonies will be held in Robert Blackwood Hall during April and May.

This month the Reporter publishes extracts from the occasional addresses delivered at the first two ceremonies . . .

**April 6: Medicine and science.  
Speaker: Professor M. J. P. Canny, professor of botany.**

**"Natural Selection is the Finger of God", I cried to myself in a moment of hazy enlightenment.**

If you want a modern mythology to explain the whale's throat or the camel's hump or the rhinoceros's skin, buttercups and daisies or the cat's whiskers, you use natural selection.

Those that did thus and thus survived to breed, and so therefore did all generations after them; any that did otherwise left few to emulate them, and their line has perished.

But where is the Finger pointing now, and what are we doing about it?

A wild population living under high selection pressure shows very little variation. But when the selection pressure is eased the variability of the population increases.

The most conspicuous examples of this are in those species that man has domesticated, since to domesticate is to relieve the selection pressure: horses and roses and dogs, apples and pigeons and corn and chickens.

Man is in the same sense a domesticated animal. For a thousand generations much of the pressure of natural selection has been lifted from him by his own efficiency. And the races of men are as many and various as the races of dogs.

Man is especially conspicuous in having evolved enormously complicated cultural changes — the use of weapons and fire, language and tools, magic and religion, agriculture and warfare, writing and cities, science and industrialisation.

Cultural evolution is just like genetic evolution in being controlled by natural selection.

## Adaptive value

Those cultural inventions survive that have adaptive value: those societies whose habits and rituals are in harmony with their ecological position grow and prosper; those whose customs are non-adaptive disappear.

But there is this important difference: cultural evolution is immensely more rapid than genetic evolution.

The sorting out of hereditary material by relentless selection takes

many generations; cultural evolution, in contrast, has that remarkable property (called Lamarckian) that genetic evolution lacks: the inheritance of characteristics acquired during the life of the individual. It works on the phenotype, the matured body of the organism, not on the germ cells only.

Once a cultural discovery has been made, for example the bow and arrow, or arithmetic or the bikini, it can be communicated very rapidly throughout all branches of the culture.

In all this you will see the role of that strange biological phenomenon money. Money is a kind of negative selection pressure, a means of storing and transmitting relief from selection.

A squirrel who has a hoard of nuts has an edge on evolution; he is to some extent relieved of the selection pressure imposed by the coming winter. But a squirrel who can communicate with his fellows to the extent of getting them to do what he wants in exchange for some of his nuts, has evolution by the throat.

Selection has passed from the hand of nature into his own hand, and he will use it to make things more comfortable for himself. The species is not his concern.

As cultural man has grown rapidly more efficient at getting his living with less effort, his cultural invention of money has enabled him to store and accumulate bigger hoards of nuts, the capacity to protect more and more of his fellows from a wider range of decimating influences, thus perpetuating genotypes that natural selection would have weeded out at their first appearance.

The doctor or lawyer or engineer used to be looked up to, and accorded respect, because it was recognised that he had spent years in acquiring knowledge, that he had standards of skill and standards of integrity, and that he contributed something to the common weal of the community, beyond what he needed to do in order to earn his remuneration.

That attitude of the man in the street is no longer apparent.

In the minds of many there is but one test of success, one criterion for earning respect — the ability to acquire wealth — and no very great enquiry is made as to how the acquisition is accomplished, whether it be by foisting on to the consumer public shoddy goods at inflated prices or by even more dubious means.

Taxation, among other factors, tends to reduce the professionals' ability to accumulate capital, and whatever the gross earnings it is extremely difficult for the professional

Modern technologies of medicine and hygiene allow proliferation of millions who can exist only under such reduced pressure.

It is not their numbers that I want you to concentrate on, but their diversity — a new range of genetic variation.

As the pressure has been lifted from genetic evolution, the increasing wealth of cultural man has lowered the pressure controlling cultural evolution.

More and more can societies afford to let people do what they please, and can afford to protect them from the consequences that would once have followed their doing what they pleased.

## Harsh selection

And what pleases them, as it pleases our squirrel, is to be relieved of the unfairness to themselves of harsh selection for the population's sake.

It is worth your thinking at some length of the degree to which you are protected in your cultural development from many things your grandparents had to come to terms with.

You have been protected by your schooling, by your higher education (and the protective label of your degree). You go into a world protected by tariffs, subsidies, trade unions; a world segregated in suburbs, on private lots that keep you from your neighbour; protected by insurance from the cradle to the grave; by contraceptives; by pensions; even by hire-purchase from the need for having a bag of nuts before joining in the game.

man to enjoy a high standard of wealth.

You will, I have no doubt, be adequately rewarded for your endeavours, and for the years of laborious preparation that you have already endured.

That, after all, is the outward and visible distinction between the professional and the mere amateur.

But in most cases the financial return will not be the factor that gives you the greatest reward. That, you will discover, comes from the satisfaction of having applied to your problems the expertise and skill you have acquired, and the realisation that you have performed a craftsmanlike operation.

If, at your retirement, you can look back and see that you have left the world, and particularly your own professional world, somewhat better than you found it, then your lives will have been full and rewarding in the best sense.

By analogy with genetic evolution, one would expect that this release of selection pressure on cultural evolution would result in a diversification of cultural inventions, and that, since cultural evolution is much faster than genetic, the variations of cultural behaviour would appear sooner than the variations of the genes. It does not need much searching to find those variations.

Since when have so many diverse groups moved so far outside the accepted bounds of the culture, and in so many different directions?

Is there anything whose value has not been called in question? that is not considered by someone to be an offensive idea?

All the mainsprings of our cultural evolution up till now have become ridiculous in someone's view, and downgraded in everyone's view.

Such symptoms seem to be common to all our affluent societies, whatever the details of the rules that are being departed from.

Their potential value to the culture is the same as that of the genetic variations: that they may provide the key invention that will be in harmony with the new selective pressures when the natural world re-asserts its authority.

But there may be a self-defeating flaw in the system that will sweep it away before it is tested by outside cataclysm.

A rich and busy nation can afford the luxury of a few mockers. But as the fashion of individualism grows, the fashion of mutual distrust, of non-involvement, of the malicious frustration of the desires of others, the disintegration of co-operative effort and goodwill may undermine that very wealth by which the system was sustained.

By the time the individualists realise that they have rocked the boat too far, they and all of us will be in the water.

Is cultural evolution always upward, or does it contain the mechanism of its own destruction? Was this the fate of Babylon and Egypt and Rome?

In the end, the dream of our individual worth flies away, and only a few of us will see the spring.

## A FAMILY AFFAIR IN RBH

The April graduation ceremonies in Robert Blackwood Hall held special interest for two senior Monash academics.

On Friday, April 6, Joel Bornstein, the son of Professor Joe Bornstein, professor of biochemistry, graduated with a B.Sc. honors degree.

Joel is now doing post-graduate work with Professor Mollie Holman in the department of physiology.

On Wednesday, April 18, Barbara Manton, daughter of Professor Guy Manton, graduated with a 2A honors in chemical engineering. Prof. Manton is Dean of Arts.

**April 18: Engineering and law.  
Speaker: Mr. Justice Barber, of the Victorian Supreme Court.**

Unless you truly love your profession, you will never be entirely happy in it.

I have known several good lawyers who would have been far happier as mechanical engineers or even mechanics.

There was a time not so long ago when being a member of a profession was in itself recognised as an achievement, and the professional man was looked upon with a kind of respect and envy by the rest of the community.

In my view the attainment of membership in a profession is nowadays even more of an achievement but unhappily the status accorded the professional is no longer anything like that of former times.



# LARGE AUDIENCE HEARS STATE POLITICIANS IN RBH

ERIC (the Monash Environmental Research and Information Centre) gained the support of a large audience at its forum on 'Politicians and the Environment' (Robert Blackwood Hall, Wednesday March 28).

The politicians, accepting that something must be done, or at least said, about the environment, seemed willing enough to go on the spot.

It was something to hear the Minister for Lands, Mr. Borthwick, start off by admitting the value of the Little Desert episode, that threw out his predecessor at the last election.

Now, says Borthwick, he has transformed the Lands Department. There will be "no further alienation of Crown Lands," instead a standstill, until all the public lands in Victoria have been surveyed — not merely their metes and bounds, but their present and recommended land use.

He claimed not only that the Environmental Protection Act was a new concept in Victoria, but that the Act gave teeth to the Authority.

Claiming that the great problem was the fragmentation of departmental effort in conservation, Mr. Borthwick described the new set up of the Conservation Ministry with a scientific director. "For the first time," he said, "we are now able to make the right value judgments."

## DR. CASS TALKS TO THE ENGINEERS

At Monash late in March the Federal Environment Minister, Dr. Moss Cass, hinted at moves for stronger Federal Government control over environmental development.

Dr. Cass was speaking at a regular Wednesday forum organised in normal lecture time by the Monash Engineering Students Society (see below).

His formal talk was short and off-the-cuff. Compared with his undergraduate days he was pleased to see so many engineers interested in the environment — the 400-seat lecture theatre was full, with only a few outsiders.

He stressed the need to re-think the use man was making of resources. Why, for example, did man spend so much money sterilising and then dumping sewage? It was part of the biological cycle and could be more effectively used, he suggested.

Then came questions. Can we interfere with or regulate population growth?

His department was about to join a long-term study which would look at desirable population trends. Speaking generally, he said that the human animal was the main pollutant on the planet. Every other animal was self-regulating.

"Man abuses nature," Dr. Cass said. "He can tamper with nature and get away with it. The only problem is that man can only flout the biological laws for a certain time."

Next, Cans. Ex-PR man and now Monash master's student, Gabrielle Lafitte, stated his claims that BHP was guilty of fraud in its program to re-cycle cans. It was, he said, deceitful because the program created consumer demand and thus added to pollution.

After first dismissing the question, Dr. Cass said: "We can't interfere with people's rights to buy and consume what they want to. If people want soft drinks in cans then we have no right to be authoritarian and interfere with the right of choice."

But the greatest difficulty of all was that the vast majority of people were not aware or informed or concerned about the environment or the condition of it.

In answer to questions, Mr. Borthwick admitted the need to limit the growth of the population of Australia; he even agreed with the new restrictions on immigration.

Mr. Peter Ross-Edwards, leader of the Country Party, claimed that there was no real difference between the parties on environmental issues: "It all depends on what the taxpayer is prepared to pay," he said.

As for him and his party, the clue to pollution and the disposal of waste was, above all, decentralisation.

Of course the Country Party believed in national parks; but priority should be given to existing parks rather than, by adding to them, ending up with desolation.

He too saw education of the public as the greatest problem. As evidence of this he said that burning off at

Mr. Lafitte wasn't satisfied and continually pushed the question. Dr. Cass continually answered that he was not a censor and would not dictate how people were to receive their products.

Another question asked how the Federal Government could overcome the constitutional power which gave the states control over many developments which affected the environment?

In reply Dr. Cass outlined several possibilities. (After the meeting, Dr. Cass said he believed that the development of Clutha in N.S.W. and Lake Pedder in Tasmania might not have occurred if more Federal control had been possible.)

Dr. Cass suggested that as the Federal Government had control of the purse strings it could put conditions on state grants.

"We would ask them for environmental impact statements on their proposed development," he said.

Further, legislation could be initiated which would bypass the states — grants would be given by the Government direct to local authorities.

A referendum asking for a change in the constitution was another possibility.

"History has shown that people tend to vote against referenda, but we still may put it up," he said.

Dr. Cass also said he believed that Australian car makers could act more quickly in regulating exhaust emission.

"One way to hurry them up is to bring in cars from overseas fitted with emission control," he said.

On Wednesday afternoons the engineering faculty board has set aside an hour (12 noon - 1 p.m.) for the student society to organise talks and discussions on a wide variety of social topics.

The aim is to broaden student understanding of matters beyond the boundaries of engineering.

Other than Dr. Cass, speakers invited include Liberal MHR, Mr. Chipp, and representatives of the Victorian Theosophical Society, the U.F.O. Society of Victoria and the Environmental Protection Authority.

The talks are held in E.I. and are open to the general Monash community.

—Ian Anderson.

the weekends created more pollution than industry and cars!

Nevertheless, he said, of course we will need:

- More dams.
- Bigger farming areas.
- More area for housing.
- More freeways.
- Greater use of timber.
- More mining and quarrying.

So, according to Mr. Ross-Edwards, parks could not remain static, AND no political party could have a fixed policy on environment.

Mr. John Button, deputising for the ALP leader, Clive Holding, reminded us that pollution was a product of economic affluence.

While admitting the change in the Liberal outlook since the arrival of Premier Hamer, he asked us to look at past performances. In effect, he said, conservation and free enterprise don't mix; and state efforts so far had always been ad hoc.

He summarised the ALP attitude by saying that

- The Federal ALP government would provide the funds.
- In the State, more emphasis would be placed on resource planning.
- The growth of Melbourne would be restricted.
- The Yarra Valley and Western Port Bay were high value resources for recreation.

He summed up by saying that the price of a good environment was eternal vigilance.

Mr. Frank Dowling, State Secretary of the DLP, claimed that the DLP had had a policy on the environment before the other parties.

The DLP doesn't believe in doom, nor in Erlich, nor in those who overstated the case. Similarly, the conservationists could not say that all development must cease. Mr. Dowling wanted eminent good sense.

Dr. David Smith, who succeeds in combining politics (State convener of the Australia Party) with agricultural science at Melbourne University, gave a scientific view of the allocation and expenditure of resources.

With eminent good sense, he and his party went along with zero population growth, and advocated a stable economy with conservative use of resources.

Why not bike tracks, for example, to encourage the safe use of an alternative to cars and their fuels and effluents?

Questions came freely enough, some charged with emotion, all with interest and concern.

—Gilbert Vasey.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE DEGREE HAS 58 STARTERS

THE Master of Environmental Science, Monash's post-graduate interdisciplinary degree, is underway with 58 starters — about twice the original number intended.

Eighteen students are doing the course full-time in two years; the rest, taking time off from their employment, will take about five years to finish.

The basic aim of the course is two-fold — first, to provide environmental depth in the student's own professional field, for example in law, sociology, chemistry, zoology, and secondly, to provide breadth by acquaintance with as many other disciplines as possible.

Any bachelor's degree graduate is eligible to take the course which involves up to 15 units plus a minor thesis at the end of second year or its part-time equivalent.

This year 28 units are offering with 12 in the first semester. Seven other units are planned next year.

Some unit examples are, environmental psychology, coastal environments, waste treatment, environmental acoustics, wildlife management, radio activity, urban sociology and urban legal problems.

Some units have undergraduate pre-requisites. Some courses are taken in conjunction with senior undergraduate courses, others are completely new.

The students come from 20 different backgrounds — 14 are engineers, 10 are teachers. Other people are from — for example — psychology, law, geography, planning, architecture, botany, politics, economics and sociology.

Ages range from early twenties to mid 40s. Slightly more than half are men.

Course co-ordinator is Dr. E. H. M. Ealey, senior lecturer in zoology.

Dr. Ealey hopes that teams of students will be able to work together on community problems. Field work has begun on Western Port Bay, Port Phillip Bay, and two proposed projects — the Newport power house and the Yarra Brae dam.

"It takes people with all sorts of expertise to solve environmental problems," Dr. Ealey said.



OVER the past two years the Reporter has occasionally published items from its collection of "doodles" — drawings and sketches left behind after Council and Professorial Board meetings. Normally they are just idle patterns; although trains and fly fishing tackle make regular appearances.

Recently one meeting member excelled in topicality and drawing ability. The Reporter believes it worthy of singular publication.



# HAPPENINGS AT MONASH

**PAST:** "POLONEZ", the Polish National Dance Group, was in the Alexander Theatre on April 27 and 28.



## PRESENT:

**Theatre: May 2-12**    **Squash: May 3-25**    **Opera: May 21-24**

Monash Players' second production this year will be "Rabelais" by Jean Louis Barrault.

It will be in the Alexander Theatre at 8 p.m. nightly from Wednesday, May 2 to Saturday, May 5, and from Wednesday, May 9 to Saturday, May 12.

Admission is \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for students.

The play will be directed by Nigel Triffitt, the University's recently appointed Director of Student Theatre. It is his first production for Monash Players.

Nigel describes the play as "a huge, bawdy romp; an experience of life as it perhaps should be lived—to the full, unrestrained, uncensored and uninhibited."

## Choral: May 3

The Monash University Choral Society will hold a three-item concert ranging from the traditional to the experimental in Robert Blackwood Hall at 8 p.m. this Thursday, May 3.

Scarlatti's St. Cecilia Mass will be performed by the choir, soloists and a small orchestra.

The other works on the program are Percy Grainger's five-part songs and "The Ill Chambered Naughtiness", an experimental piece composed for the choral society in 1970 by its conductor.

Tickets are \$1.50 for non-students and 80 cents for students.

For more information about the society or the concert leave name and telephone number in the society's Union letter box.

Former world squash champion Geoff Hunt will be among the competitors in a squash tournament to be conducted by the Monash University Squash Club at the University's courts between May 3 and May 25.

The tournament, one of the richest ever staged in Australia, has attracted entries from 288 players, including a number of State representatives from Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

The tournament is a joint enterprise by the squash club and the University's Sports and Recreation Association. It offers prizes totalling more than \$1300, comprising \$600 cash to be shared by the first seven professionals competing in the Men's Open event, and other trophies valued at more than \$700.

The 14 events include a men's veteran competition, junior events and matches for every standard of pennant and non-pennant player.

The semi-finals of the men's and women's open and junior contests will be held on Tuesday, May 8, with the finals on Thursday, May 10.

Seedings for the main events are: Men: 1. G. Hunt; 2. L. Atkins; 3. T. Burgess; 4. L. Keppell; 5. R. Lewis; 6. P. Papst; 7. A. Minchington; 8. M. Heeley.

Women: 1. M. Zechariah; 2. A. Smith; 3. J. Palin; 4. M. Warren.

All qualifying and finals matches will be held in the evenings, beginning at 7 p.m.

The public will be admitted to all matches, but because accommodation is limited, a gallery fee of 50c for the semi-finals and \$1 for the finals will be charged.

For inquiries and bookings phone 435 6221.

A four-night season of German opera films will be held in the Union Theatre late in May.

The films are in color, and were filmed at actual performances of the Hamburg State Opera.

The cast includes such world-famous singers as Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Toni Blankenheim, Sena Jurinac, Gottlob Frick, Nicolai Gedda, Christina Deutekon and Lucia Popp.

More details from Mrs. A. Kohl, ext. 2241.

The program is as follows:

May 21: "Die Meistersinger", Union Theatre, 5.30 p.m.

May 22: "Wozzek", Union 8 p.m.

May 23: "The Magic Flute", Union Theatre, 8 p.m.

May 24: "The Marriage of Figaro", Union Theatre, 8 p.m.

## Physics: May 22

The Victorian branch of the Australian Institute of Physics is arranging a symposium on the training of physicists for research and technology. It will be held in the late afternoon and evening on Tuesday, May 22.

The symposium will bring together physics teachers and physicist employers.

The president of the Australian Industrial Research Group, Dr. L. W. Davies, chief scientist of AWA laboratories in NSW, will talk on the aims of an industrial research laboratory.

More details are available from Professor H. C. Bolton, professor of theoretical physics, on ext. 3631.

## High power visitors to engineering

The electrical engineers entertained in the department, on a recent Sunday, a group of international and local engineers working in power systems.

They were in Melbourne for committees of CIGRE (International Conference of Large Power Networks).

The members of this group were drawn from the top echelons of management in power utilities, large manufacturers, and research organisations; from Italy, Switzerland, France, U.S.A., Great Britain — indeed from the electrical power world.

The Monash electrical laboratories were able to show their power system simulator, and its ability to represent a wide variety of situations that arise, with or without notice, in the operation of large power systems.

"Hello! This is 3MU your campus radio station"

"3 MU is a campus alternative to the jangle of commercial radio. It is your station. You are entitled to a say in its running..."

Thus goes the advertising blurb of Monash's first campus radio station. And, true to its word, 25 student announcers spin out their own special brand of music each week-day between 9.00 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Musical tastes run from classical through to hard rock and "commercial crap played with a zap" (?).

News bulletins, weather forecasts and general campus information are broadcast at regular intervals.

3 MU has three speaker outlets — one downstairs in the Union near the theatre, one in the upstairs foyer, and another in the northwest courtyard. This last speaker operates at lunchtime only. Plans are also being made to bring 3 MU into the Halls of Residence later this year, via a loop-aerial system through transistors.

An enthusiastic group of students originally set up a campus radio specifically for last year's Open Day. They later received a grant from the Union, and 3 MU was launched. The Union Board will review future operations of 3 MU later next month.

Technically 3 MU is run on the same lines as a commercial radio station, but, unlike commercial stations, 3 MU policy is to give all new releases air play. New records are received from distributors free of charge and costs can therefore be kept to a minimum.

Station manager, Paul Cuthbert, sees 3 MU as an effective medium of campus communication. "We are responsive to campus needs," he says.

He feels, however, that more voluntary student help is needed to assist in the publicity and advertising of 3 MU.

At present, apart from the 25 student announcers, 10 students are engaged in the technical aspects of transmitting.

Students interested in offering their services to 3 MU are asked to ring extension 3129.

Free personal or club advertising is available through 3 MU, and interested persons should contact the studio which is located in the basement, north extension of the Union.

— by Daina Smurthwaite

Copy deadline for the next issue of Monash Reporter is Friday, May 11. Letters and contributions from staff and students should be forwarded to the editor, Ian Anderson, in the Information Office, first floor, University Offices (phone 3087).

## Diary of events

MAY

May 2-12: "Rabelais", by Jean Louis Barrault, Monash Players, Alexander Theatre, 8 p.m. Admission: adults \$1.50, students \$1.

2: Rock concert, RBH, 1 p.m. Presented by M.A.S. and Contact, proceeds for Link-Up Benefit. Tickets 80 cents.

Public lecture, "Rationality and Inductocrination", Dr. A. V. Townsend. First in series of 10 lectures arranged by Department of Philosophy on Education and Inductocrination. 2.15 p.m., R7. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3200.

Illustrated lecture: "The Art of Montage", Professor Jerzy Toeplitz. Part of a series The Art of Cinema, arranged by Faculty of Arts. 1.10 p.m., R1. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2105.

Space films, Monash Astronautical Society, 8 p.m., H.1. Admission free. Four films over two hours. Luncheon, Monash Women's Society, 12.30 p.m., Union conference room. Speaker Dr. Margaret Kartomi, Indonesian music. Details Mrs. Joan Rae, 277 4405.

UFO Society of Victoria lecture for Monash Engineering Student Society, E1, 12-1 p.m.

4: Seminar on aluminium alloys, Department of Materials Engineering, 9 a.m. Room G30/1, Building 1, Engineering Faculty. Inquiries: ext. 3910.

Film, "Tatowierung", Department of German, 8 p.m., H1. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2241.

6: Sunday afternoon concert, The Australian Boys Choir, RBH, 2.30 p.m.

7: Lunchtime concert, Paul McDermott String Quartet, including "The Harp", Op. 74, Beethoven, RBH, 1.15 p.m.

Seminar, "Management Graduates in Australia — What is their Future?", Monash Administration Graduates' Assoc. Guest speakers from industry. 8 p.m., Union Theatre. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2313.

8: Film luncheon, Monash Parents Group, Alexander Theatre, 11 a.m., "Cactus Flower". Ticket secretary Mrs. H. E. Bailey, 97 3532. Tickets \$2.50.

9: Seminar, "The Role of an Aboriginal Agency", Mr. Barrie Dexter, secty., Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Arranged by Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs. 2.30 p.m., R3. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3358.

Lecture, "Rationality and Inductocrina-

tion", Part 2, Dr. A. V. Townsend, 2.15 p.m., R7. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3200.

15: Morning coffee, Monash Women's Society, 10 a.m., Vice-Chancellor's House. Speaker Professor R. Street (physics) on metric conversion. All women members of staff and staff wives welcome. Details Mrs. Coates 232 7540.

16: Illustrated lecture, "The Role of Color", Professor Jerzy Toeplitz, 1.10 p.m., R1. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2105.

18: Public lecture, Professor Linus Pauling, Nobel Laureate of the USA, the Sixth Russell Grimwade Memorial Lecture, "Nutrition and Health", RBH, 4.30 p.m. Admission free. Inquiries, reservations: 544 5448.

19: Variety, "Ngoma", Monash African students, Alexander Theatre, 8 p.m. Admission: adults \$1.50, students \$1. Inquiries: ext. 3991.

30: Lecture, "On Defining Education: A Critique of the views of R. S. Peters", B. J. Sheppard. Third in the Department of Philosophy series (see May 2 and 9 above). 2.15 p.m., R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3200.

Talk by Mr. Chipp, Liberal MHR, E1, 12-1 p.m. Organised by Monash Engineering Student Society.