

What happens when the sun goes out?

On Saturday, October 23, Victorians will undergo a "once-in-50-lifetimes" experience — a total eclipse of the sun.

And to observe and record every conceivable aspect of the phenomenon, Monash is helping to assemble one of Victoria's biggest-ever research teams — a thousand or more schoolchildren throughout the State.

The first steps in organising the operation were taken on Saturday when the Monash Centre for Continuing Education held a preliminary meeting with 40 teachers from more than 25 State primary and secondary schools.

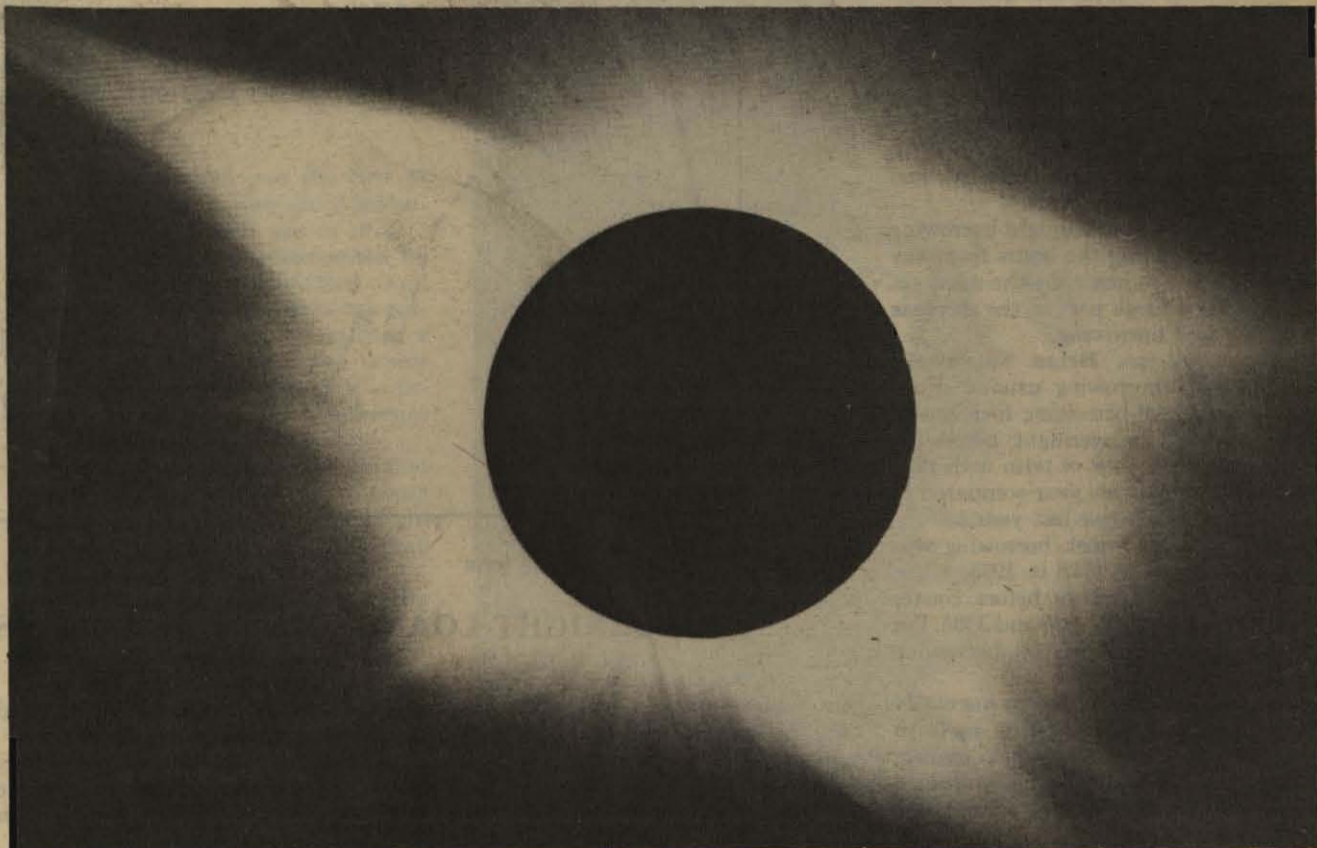
The meeting set up a number of working groups to start detailed planning of individual projects which, it is hoped, will be carried out by teams of pupils. CCE will organise a series of workshops to help teachers plan and carry out these projects.

Dr Jack McDonell, director of CCE, says that the eclipse will afford a rare opportunity for Victorians to study and record the effects of an event that occurs, on average, only once every 360 years in any one place.

In Victoria, the eclipse will be total throughout a band covering half the State. The band's centre line will run roughly through Mt Gambier, Hamilton, Ballarat and Omeo and include Bendigo in the north and Geelong in the south.

The sky should darken about 4.10 p.m. Totality will occur about 4.40 and full light will return about 5.15 p.m.

Thus there will be an early "twilight", followed by darkness, and a



"false dawn" before normal twilight begins.

Dr McDonell says that, while highly technical scientific observations must necessarily be concentrated at a few points, simpler observations can be made by thousands of pupils at hundreds of locations within (and outside) the band of totality.

"These can be assembled to provide worthwhile information that would be impossible to obtain through the nor-

mal procedures of scientific data collection," he says.

"It may be possible to match the experience of the Open University in the UK, where home experiment kits aimed at determining aspects of water pollution were distributed to more than 5000 OU students. The result was a complete, simultaneous mapping of pollution in lakes, rivers and streams all over the United Kingdom. It gave an overall picture of the pollution

problem that could not have been achieved in any other way."

But, even if the solar eclipse observations do not produce significant new information, Dr McDonell believes that the interest generated in science among primary and secondary schoolchildren will be of immense benefit.

And what will the junior researchers be looking for?

Preliminary work by a number of University departments has already suggested many lines of research that they may follow. For instance:

- * How do Argentine ants (or any other species, for that matter) behave during a solar eclipse?
- * What happens to the communication system used by bees?
- * How do other creatures behave . . . daphnia, or brine shrimps, or human beings (e.g., motorists, or cricket umpires)?
- * Will the milk yield of cows be affected?
- * Do birds "stop singing", as they're commonly supposed to do . . . will roosters crow during the false dawn . . . will hens roost twice?
- * Do flowers close prematurely — and open again?
- * How cold will it get?
- * Will the wind change in direction or velocity?

Monash staff already involved in the project come from areas as diverse as psychology, physics, zoology, classical studies, botany, education — even Southeast Asian Studies — and Dr McDonell hopes that this interest will spread.

● A map showing the path of the eclipse appears on page 3.



New musical at the Alexander

WITH THAT shiny nose make-up, actor John Cousins could be playing a clown . . . or perhaps a gentleman with a fondness for good port.

In fact, he's bumbling Brer Bear in the Alexander Theatre's May holiday production of "The Adventures of Brer Rabbit".

● Another photograph and the story are on page 8. (Photo Herve Alleaume.)



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Study starts early and...

BOOK LOANS, SALES LEAP

Library borrowing and Bookshop sales have risen dramatically this year.

Overnight loans from the Main Library have doubled and general borrowing has increased by about 50 per cent over the same period last year.

Allowing for inflation, Bookshop sales for the period from January to March are up 17½ per cent on last year's figures.

The increases have Library and Bookshop staff intrigued.

A change in the overnight borrowing system, extending the hours from any time one day to any time the next, accounts for a large part of the increase in overnight borrowing.

But Librarian, **Brian Southwell**, says weekly borrowing usually drops when overnight borrowing increases.

The jump in overnight borrowing began the first week of term with 1996 books borrowed this year compared to 791 in the first week last year.

In the second week borrowing was 3150 compared to 1198 in 1975.

For the three weeks before Easter borrowing was 3511, 3966 and 3805. For the week ending April 15, borrowing was 4373.

Weekly borrowing began normally but has increased rapidly as term progressed — in the week ending April 2, 3556 books were borrowed compared to 2693 in the same week last year.

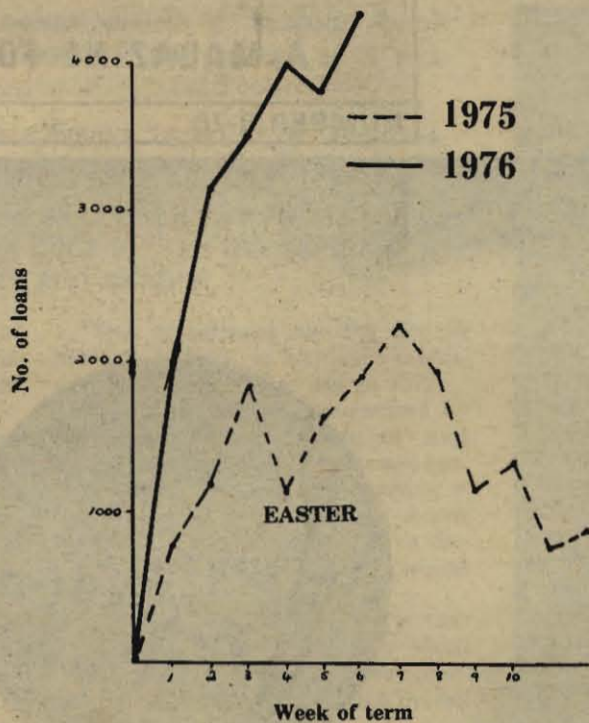
In the week ending April 9, 4028 books were borrowed; this dropped to 3969 for the week to April 15.

Of the other campus libraries — Hargrave, Law and Biomedical — only Biomedical has reported any change in borrowing patterns.

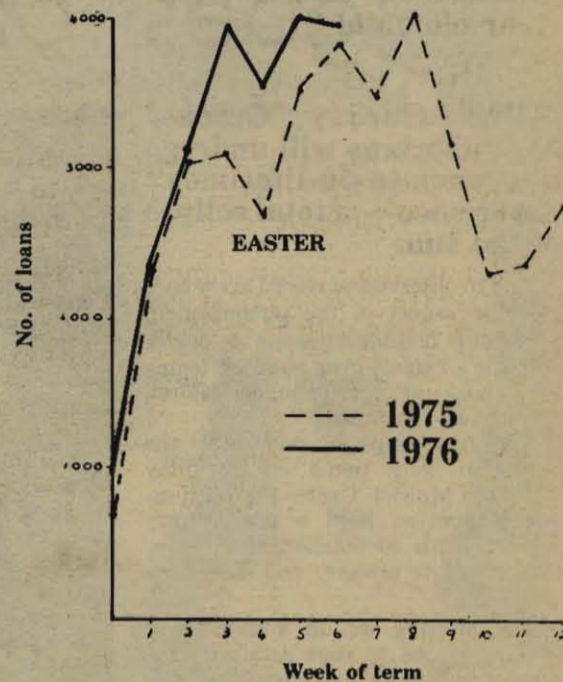
The Biomedical Librarian, **Fay Baker**, said both overnight loans and day reserves had risen sharply.

There has been only a small net increase in student numbers since last year so Mr Southwell and his staff have no immediate explanation for the studying habits of the 1976 Humanities students.

Mr Southwell said: "The thought



OVERNIGHT LOANS



STUDENT WEEKLY LOANS

that comes off the top of my head is that it stems from some form of insecurity — not surprisingly with the job market the way it is.

"This has happened before with the post-war kids in the fifties who were brought up without fathers and again in the late fifties, the Cold War period.

"Students are working harder, taking life more seriously.

"There was a particular corner of the library which has always had kids who chatted and read race reports. They clearly failed because they didn't come back the next year, but this year's group is quite different.

"Students want to get the best degree possible."

Mr Southwell said another possibility was that the Federal Government's scheme of providing proper libraries for secondary schools was beginning to bear fruit.

"Quite a few hundred libraries, good ones, would have been built.

"Students from these schools may be less self-conscious about using the library and about asking questions in the library."

He also said there had been a better response to orientation tours of the library this year and that the Library now had a better collection with more general books and more books on the edge of students' interests.

The manager of the Bookshop, **Beresford Demnar**, said the increase in sales had been "staggering".

"The increases have been right across the board. In some cases we have sold more books than there are students in the course.

"Everybody seems to be buying more books this year — even in the reference section. Quite a few are being bought irrespective of price.

"Allowing for an even greater rate of inflation than we do, we are still looking at an increase of at least 15 per cent," Mr Demnar said.

The chairman of the Anthropology and Sociology department, **Professor Michael Swift**, said that, without studying the figures, there seemed to be a general feeling among students that they ought to do well.

"It's not as easy to get a job with a degree — you hear about unemployed physicists, engineers."

Professor Swift said there seemed to be a general trend, which became noticeable last year, towards taking study more seriously.

"How long is it since we have had a 'decent' demonstration and there has been little of the 'drop out to find yourself' syndrome recently."

CLUB MANAGER APPOINTED

Steve Abougelis, 25, has been appointed manager of the Monash University Club.

Mr Abougelis took up his post yesterday (May 3).

His first task will be the selection and placing of equipment and furnishings, compilation of menus and appointment of staff for the new club premises.

Work on the new club, behind the Religious Centre, is on schedule and club president, **Warren Mann**, expects it to be open for business in October.

Mr Abougelis holds a diploma of catering and hotel management from the Footscray Institute of Technology (William Angliss course) and has worked for the catering firm, Carlyon Hotel Group, for the past four years.

In that time he has opened a number of new cafeterias and clubs for the

group, including the Swinburne College of Technology canteen and the catering service for the Cranbourne Recreation Reserve — a horse racing, greyhound racing and trotting complex.

Mr Abougelis left this job to take up his Monash appointment.

He said establishing the new club presented a new challenge.

"What we are going to try to do is to make it an interesting club that members can feel proud to come to and to bring their family and friends to.

"We don't want it to be run like a factory canteen."

The new club will have bar and lounge facilities as well as a range of eating facilities from quick snacks to formal dining and an outdoor eating area.

Pre-school applications now open

Applications for 1977 enrolment at the Monash Pre-school will close on July 2.

There are 40 places for children born between July 1, 1972, and June 30, 1973, available.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

All Monash graduates who are "alive and well" are invited to a get-together at the Gresham Hotel, Elizabeth St. in the city on May 28 at 6 p.m.

The gathering has been organised by the Monash Graduates Association.

Dinner will be available from 7 p.m.

Inquiries should be directed to committee member **James Meehan**, 69 4615 (business hours) or 81 6079 (after hours).

The chairman of the Pre-school Committee, **John Fyfield**, of the Education Faculty, says places will be allocated first to brothers and sisters of children who have attended the pre-school in the past.

Remaining places will be decided by ballot on July 16.

Parents will then be notified if their application has been successful or of their place on the waiting list.

Application is open to the public as well as university staff, and forms are available from the pre-school director, **Barbara Lewis**, 541 0811, ext. 2887.

The pre-school also reserves a small number of places for children with handicaps or special requirements.

Application for these places can be made at any time on special admission forms and age limits are not strictly adhered to.

"TODAY'S STUDENTS WRITE WELL"

Literacy — a philosopher's view

Today's teenager "never reads a serious book and seldom uses a word beyond the range of a six-year-old child."

His or her "semi-literate essays" are full of "truisms, muddle, plagiarism and ignorance."

What's more, Victorian education has become "too trendy" and it's time to get back to "the four basic Rs — reading, writing, arithmetic and religion."

That, at least, is the view of many of the current critics of education in the sixties and seventies and its products.

But according to the chairman of the Monash Philosophy Department, **Professor A. C. Jackson**, those who remember students of 25 years and more ago as paragons of literacy and application to study have slightly askew memories.

From his impressions as a student at Melbourne University in the early thirties and as a teacher at Melbourne and Monash since, he believes today's students are more literate than their predecessors.

"Today's students write clearly and well," Professor Jackson says.

"I see the work of quite a lot of first-year students and I think there is a higher proportion of good ones."

No silly essays

"Among the students of the past 15 years there has been a much higher proportion of good ones."

"By this I mean someone who, with hard work, is capable of doing second class honors."

"In the forties, and the very early thirties when I was a student, you had to be bright enough to get a scholarship or have enough money to come to the place."

"Three-fifths of the intellectual talent in the community was not in the universities."

"On the whole I do think that my chief impression is that there was a higher proportion of thoroughly silly essays then."

"One rarely gets those these days," he said.

The philosophy department has 445 first-year students this year.

"This department was the first at Monash, I think, to introduce assessment by essay — that was in 1972."

"I was immediately surprised by the extremely well-written and carefully thought-out essays one got."

"Of course if you are writing a Philosophy essay and you know anything about your subject it's difficult to write absolute nonsense without feeling guilty."

"But my chief impression is that compared with 1930-34 when about one-third to two-fifths just were not interested in anything at all, the overall standard is much higher."

"The essays are more concise, better argued."

Four-fifths are good

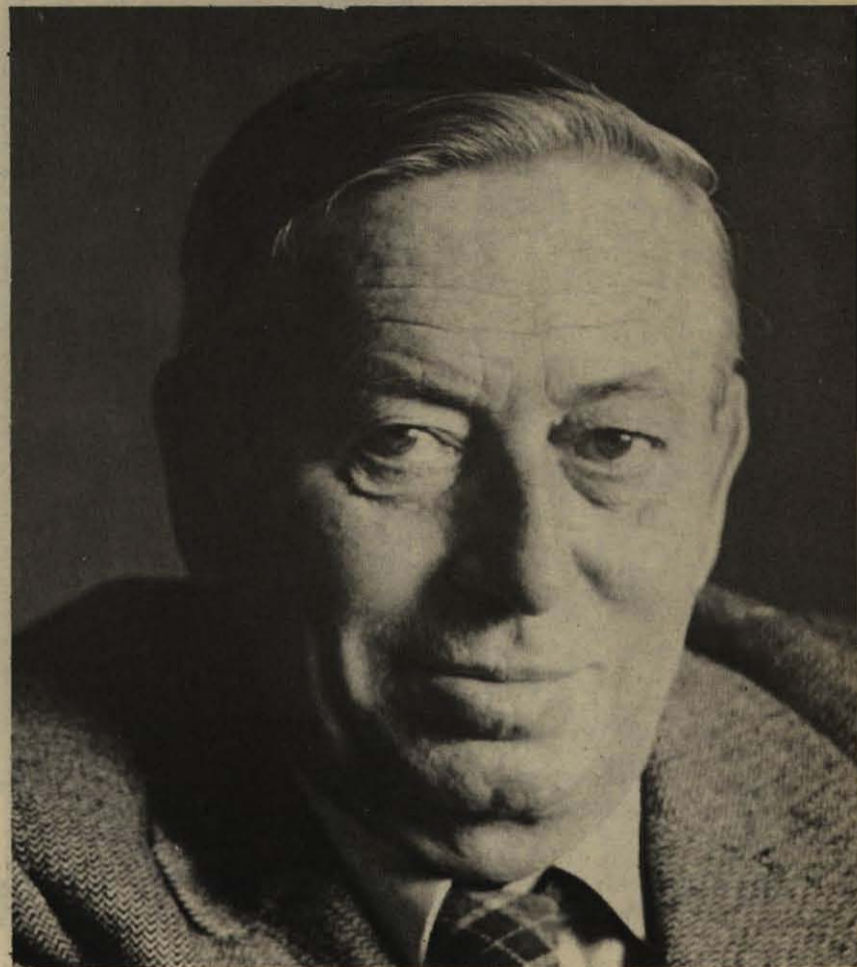
Professor Jackson says some of the reasons may be the high standard of English teaching in high schools in recent years, the increased amount of tutoring at universities, the high standard of writing in daily journalism, and that school students read "many more, and more easily accessible, books (as well as the so-called inaccessible ones)."

"I do think the standard of arguing in essays among first-year students is reasonably good — nowadays that would be four-fifths in the class."

"When I first went to university the reasonably good ones would have been one-third."

Professor Jackson believes the increased emphasis on tutorial teaching at universities is partly responsible for developing thinking ability.

"In all the very great universities of the world you certainly think for yourself but with a good amount of 'bullying' from people who have been thinking about the subject for a long time before you."



Professor A. C. Jackson

"This is increasingly the tendency in Australian universities, 'inspiration' is being replaced by quite careful teaching."

"By this I mean that in the thirties there were hardly any tutorials. You went to lectures and despite the queerness of what was being said, the lecturer looked quite an ordinary bloke. So you went away and thought about it and if you had a few ideas of your own you usually did fairly well."

"Nowadays, through tutorials, students are guided until they have a good basis on which to begin having their own ideas."

"In any well-established subject there is always a fair amount known and you don't expect the bright ones to agree with it all but you do expect them to be able to reproduce the argument."

"This discipline is the chief difference between serious philosophy and 'making up your mind about the world' — it just doesn't wear."

It is this disciplined careful argument which Professor Jackson believes may be in danger from the "freedom of expression" now being urged by some educationists.

"I'm certainly worried and apprehensive about what may be happening 10 years from now."

"I think it was the Director of Education in New South Wales who spoke of the main need being to be able to talk, as opposed to write, in order to communicate."

"The passage from the mind to the tongue is much easier, looser, than from the mind to pen and paper."

Professor Jackson and Professor Hector Monro, former chairman of the department, will retire at the end of the year.

Snake Gully whale is no joke

There's an old scrub turkey mound in the Jock Marshall Zoology Reserve which university personnel would be well advised to avoid.

It currently contains a complete flipper from a 65ft. blue whale — rapidly decomposing, the Zoology department hopes.

The flipper, about 7ft. long, was taken from the carcass of a blue whale washed up on a beach near Warrnambool early in April.

Three zoologists from Monash — senior technical officer, **Dennis Black**, post-graduate student, **Glen Carruthers** and former student, **Peter Meyer** — joined experts from the National Museum and the Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education to take samples from the mammal.

Mr Carruthers, who is studying towards a master's degree in entomology, said the team began working in respirators borrowed from the local fire brigade because of the stench.

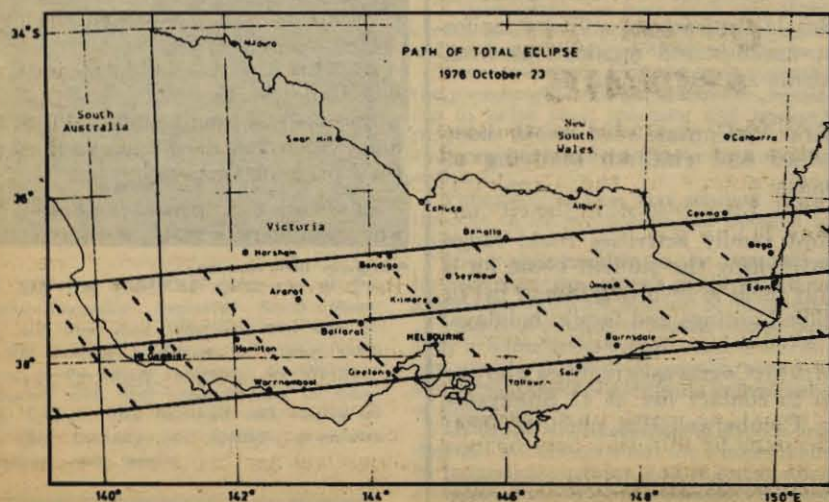
"But they were heavy to work in and after a while you seemed to get used to the smell."

The flipper and some of the whale's baleen (the filter apparatus to separate food from water) will be disinterred in a few months.

The skeleton will be cleaned up and displayed in the department's teaching collection.

The Monash team also brought back the penis, 3ft. long, which is preserved in a tub of formalin.

SOLAR ECLIPSE PATH (from page 1)





'76—a bad year for employment

1976 was the most difficult year since World War 2 in which to emerge as a university graduate, High Court Justice, Sir Ninian Stephen, told a combined Law and Science graduation on April 9.

"All of us who were lucky enough to complete our education in the boom years of full employment and unlimited opportunity have a special concern for today's graduates.

"Of Australia's 30 post-war years 1976 is probably the most difficult into which to emerge as a university graduate."

Sir Ninian, giving the Occasional Address, congratulated graduands on succeeding "in the competitive world of the university in the disciplines of your choice at a time when the challenges to be overcome are not only those set by the examiners but include the siren songs of those who use familiar words, like relevance and morality, in a new sense and who would destroy existing disciplines rather than have them adapt to meet changing needs."

At the ceremony 171 Law students and 122 Science students received their degrees.

They included two men and a woman who graduated as Masters of Laws and three postgraduate Science students who received their Ph Ds.

Sir Ninian told graduands that he believed the Monash legal product to be unique in Australia.

"It is double certificated, Bachelor of Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Laws.

"It has been said in older law schools of this city that all a Monash law graduate needs is a short midwifery course so as to emerge fully fledged and triple certificated.

"But inter-campus rivalry aside, Monash Law School's achievements in its relatively short life have been notable; it is now firmly established as one of the great law schools of Australia," he said.

AT LEFT, joint winner of the Supreme Court Prize, Mrs Gail Owen, met Sir Ninian Stephen (left) and the Chancellor, Sir Richard Eggleston, after the ceremony. Mrs Owen shared the Supreme Court Prize with Mr David Moore.

OVERSEAS STUDY CHANCE

Monash medical students will in future have the opportunity to do elective programs at hospitals in England, Greece, and India.

The arrangements were made by Associate Professor Eric Glasgow, of the department of Anatomy, during a recent overseas study visit.

"I have always been a strong advocate of the great benefit of elective programs during the undergraduate medical course," he says in a report to Council.

As a result of his discussions with overseas authorities, it will now be possible for Monash students to do electives at medical schools and hospitals in

- Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Birmingham, in the U.K.
- Athens.
- Ludhiana, in north India.

"This is in addition to those contacts already established for assistance in obtaining positions in elective programs in London and Paris," he adds.

"For some years now elective programs have formed an integral part of the curriculum in many medical schools in the U.K. and they are often highly organised.

"However there is great pressure on the places available, especially from students from North America."

★ ★ ★

Professor Alan S. Henry, of the Monash department of classical studies, has been appointed an adviser to a U.K. team developing a new course for teaching Greek to sixth formers and undergraduates.

He accepted the role while on study leave at St. Andrews University, Scotland.

In a report to Council on his study leave activities, Professor Henry says the course is due for completion next year and will be published by Cambridge University Press for world-wide distribution.

"My function — which will continue now that I am back at Monash — will be to advise on the suitability of the material for use in Australia," he says.

The new approach has been named the Joint Association of Greek Teachers' Greek Project.

Professor Henry was asked to serve as an adviser because of his interest in teaching the language to beginners at university level.

★ ★ ★

Associate Professor John Agnew, of the Monash department of chemical engineering, has returned from study leave in Europe with news of an unusual student "underground" movement in Czechoslovakia.

He spent a week in the country attending an international congress on chemical engineering, at which he presented a paper.

Prague, where the congress was held, is a beautiful city virtually untouched by World War II, he says in a study leave report to council.

"... although it was obviously affected somewhat by the construction work in progress on a new underground railway.

"The labor force for this project, I was assured, includes any university student who dares to express dissatisfaction with the administration of his institute."



Families for Host Scheme

The Monash University Host Family Scheme for country, interstate and overseas students has been so successful that the scheme has a shortage of host families.

The convener of the scheme, Mrs Meredith McComas, said that 32 new host families had joined the scheme this year and were hosting 47 new students.

But 11 students are still waiting for host families and applications from students are still coming in.

Mrs McComas said most host families had children studying at Monash.

Host family activities could range from inviting the student home for a family meal to involving him or her in weekend outings and family holidays.

Mrs McComas asks families who can help to contact her at 42 Sunnyside Ave., Camberwell 3124, phone 82 4884.



Photographs: Herve Alleaume

FIRST TO GRADUATE IN NEW COURSE

The first 10 students to graduate from the Monash Master of Environmental Science degree course were awarded their degrees at the recent Science graduation.

The course for graduates and diplomates was first offered in 1973.

There are now 72 people studying for the degree and 90 people applied for the 25 places offered this year.

The graduates joined the course co-ordinator, Dr Tim Ealey (third from left) after the ceremony for a celebration.

From left they are Jennifer Kimpton, Brian Weavers, Bryce Dunkley, David Payne, Georges Ruta, Rodney Orr, Gary Catt and John Hutchison. Absent were Susan Taylor, overseas, and Wayne Smith.

Mr Weavers and Ms Taylor developed a management plan for Warrandyte State Park for their master's thesis; Messrs. Payne, Orr, Ruta and Smith produced a mathematical model of Kananook Creek for predicting the effects of various approaches to the problem; and Messrs. Dunkley, Hutchison and Catt and Ms Kimpton studied the urban environment, specifically the inevitability of increasing density and its effects.



State control of graduate supply cannot succeed

Any attempt to manipulate university programs to meet the predicted manpower demands of industry would be "objectionable" and "doomed to failure", according to the Dean of Arts, Professor Guy Manton.

Such predictions were possible only in a totalitarian state, he declared.

He was speaking at a recent Monash graduation ceremony at which 283 Science graduates received their degrees.

While some of them had already commenced studying for further qualifications, the rest — "more than in previous years" — might have already found difficulty in obtaining employment related to their Science course, Professor Manton said.

"Those who have received higher degrees may be encountering at least equal difficulty in finding opportunities for applying their training in scientific research," he added.

"The facts are that in America, in Great Britain and in Australia we are going through a period of restriction in the provision of funds for research, and that there is no certain prospect of immediate improvement in the general economic situation.

"Consequently, we hear much talk of the over-production of graduates in Science as well as Arts," Professor Manton went on.

"Some will argue that the fault lies with the government and the universities in failing to tailor their teaching and research programs to suit the market, and that an elaborate system of manpower control is the solution.

"Personally, I find this solution objectionable in its conception and doomed to failure.

"It is objectionable in its conception because it applies controls on the search for knowledge which are inimical to its nature.

"And it is doomed to failure, except possibly in a totalitarian state, because we cannot predict demand far enough ahead to plan the intake of students at the beginning of their training.

"Of course considerations of supply and demand will always affect the choices made by individual students, and of course some attention must be paid to demand in planning professional schools," added Professor Manton.

But even then, planning could be too rigid.

He pointed out that medical, engineering and law schools did not exist solely for the production of practising members of those professions.

were qualified to do so would continue with scientific work. The solution for the remainder rested with themselves.

But he warned that they would have to realise the community did not feel under an obligation to provide Science graduates with a lucrative scientific occupation.

"The work you have done may be more in the nature of a long-term investment," he said.

Professor Manton said that in some modern universities, traditional faculty divisions had been abandoned and disciplines regrouped under schools of various kinds: physical sciences, biological sciences, environmental sciences, behavioural sciences, and so on.

"I would not advocate that we should abolish faculties at Monash and introduce schools that reflect more closely the relationship of disciplines at the present time," he said.

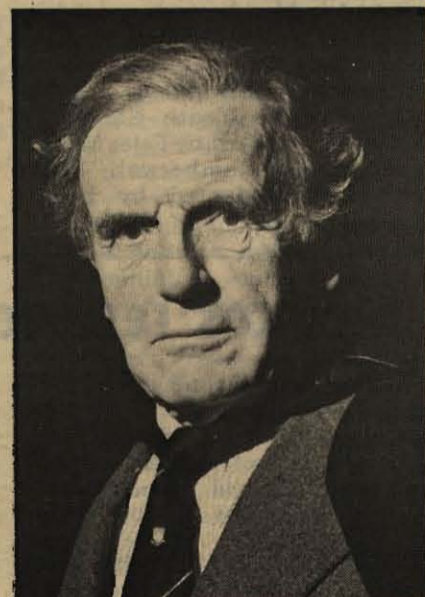
"You do not scrap the system of classification in a library every ten or twenty years to suit the changing face of knowledge.

"Rather, you develop new sub-divisions and cross references.

"Similarly, in the University we should retain our broad faculty divisions and retain our departmental divisions, but recognise them for what they are — an administrative convenience, and be prepared to encourage research and teaching across the boundaries of departments and faculties.

"At the research level there is sometimes a need for some kind of umbrella organisation, such as the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies or the Board of Studies in Environmental Science. Often, co-operation between individuals from different departments will prove fruitful enough.

"My point is that we should be prepared to encourage interdisciplinary co-operation, both in teaching and in research, at all levels rather than attempt a re-organisation of the administrative set-up."



● STEPHEN WESTFOLD (left), son of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kevin Westfold, and Mrs Joan Westfold, was one of the 283 Science graduates to receive their degree at the recent ceremony. Mr Westfold graduated with first class Honours in Computer Science. One hundred and twelve of the 268 Bachelor of Science graduates graduated with Honors.

● Professor Guy Manton

Some medicos and engineers had become administrators; lawyers had a habit of turning into politicians; and it was worth noting that two of the best known of today's Australian playwrights were a Monash Engineering graduate and a University of Melbourne medical graduate.

Professor Manton told the graduands he hoped as many of them as possible who

Works from the Monash collection *by Grazia Gunn*



Minimal Art, a movement originated in New York in the mid-sixties, particularly influenced a group of Melbourne painters.

Robert Rooney, Dale Hickey, Robert Hunter and Peter Booth, four of the principal painters in the group are represented in the Monash Collection.

In "Painting 1970" Booth deals with time, space and surface.

Experienced meditatively the luminous black field in the painting

urges the eye into a recessive infinity.

The color blocks arrest the experience. The black is fluid, the blocks are static. They stand independently, two color shapes; one of a buttery cream color creates a relaxed contrast to the black, the other a red block is aggressive and creates a dynamic contrast.

The paint is laid on thickly, the color shapes are kept on the surface, the texture is generally smooth.

A small retrospective of Peter

Booth's work is currently on exhibition in Sydney at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

In Melbourne, the exhibition will be mounted at Monash in the Exhibition Gallery, Department of Visual Arts from May 17 to June 9.

PETER BOOTH: Born 1940, Sheffield, England. 1956-57, Attended drawing classes Sheffield College of Art. 1958, moved to Melbourne worked at various laboring jobs until 1962. 1962-65, Studied painting National Gallery School, Melbourne. 1964, Awarded prize for subject painting; joint winner of Bernard Hall Prize, for Figure Painting. 1966-69, Taught painting

PAINTING 1970
Acrylic on canvas, 156.5 x 320 cm

Prahran Technical College. 1968, "The Field", National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne and Art Gallery of N.S.W., Sydney. 1969, One-man show, Pinacotheca Melbourne, and Central Street Gallery, Sydney. 1970, One-man show, Pinacotheca, Melbourne. 1972, One-man show, Pinacotheca. 1973, One-man show, Chapman Powell Gallery, Melbourne. "Recent Australian Art," Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney. 1974, One-man show, Chapman Powell Gallery, Melbourne. 1975-76, Teaches painting Preston College of Advanced Education.

AYO IN FAREWELL CONCERT

The Australian Youth Orchestra will give an Australian farewell concert, before their overseas tour, in Robert Blackwood Hall on May 13.

Because their tour will include performances at American bi-centennial celebratory functions, their farewell concert is being sponsored by the Australian-American Association.

During May there will also be a visit to Blackwood Hall by a group of American musicians.

The Ciompi String Quartet from Duke University, North Carolina, will give a free lunchtime concert on May 31.

They will present works by the American composers Barber, Copland and Gershwin.

The quartet, members of the university's music faculty, has been invited to Australia by Dr Brian Chapman, of the Monash Physiology Department, who recently returned from study leave in North Carolina.

The group has engagements in Melbourne and Shepparton during their stay and will make three recordings with the ABC.

Following the outstanding success of Graeme Bell's concert last year the Blackwood Hall management will present a "Welcome Back Graeme Bell" concert on May 5.

The hall manager, Don Vincent, said that following last year's tribute to Scott Joplin by Bell there had been

hundreds of requests for another concert.

The performers will be Graeme Bell and the All Stars, Frank Johnson's Fabulous Dixielanders, and special guests Ade Monsborough and Adrian Ford, both musicians, and singer Judy Jacques.

On May 8 there will be a performance by the Youth Chorale of Australia conducted by Peter McKenna and the Camberwell Youth Orchestra conducted by Harold Badger.

Medicos resource centre urged

Establishment of a national resource centre for medical educators is advocated in a recent "Newsletter" of the Australasian and New Zealand Association for Medical Education.

Writing from Perth, Max Kamien, a senior lecturer in medicine at the University of Western Australia, says that the present human and financial resources of individual Australian medical schools are insufficient to meet the demand for educational aids and other information.

"The apparent solution would be to form a national resource centre," he says.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission will hold the State final of its annual Instrumental and Vocal competition in the hall on May 12 and the second in its highly-acclaimed Gold Series concerts on May 29.

The Beethoven Consort will present some of Beethoven's British folk song arrangements at a free Sunday concert on May 16.

On May 15 children from all parts of Victoria will present an orchestral concert as the finale to a May Music Camp for schoolchildren.

"I envisage an information service run by medically and paramedically qualified staff who would evaluate the needs of, and provide information to, medical and paramedical educators."

Such a service would reduce the time that medical teachers spend acquiring suitable audiovisual aids, Kamien says. It would provide information and access to what is available in Australia and would reduce the reduplication of similar material by two or more medical schools.

"Activities which release medical educators from administrative duties should benefit students by increasing the time teachers have available for student contact," he says.

PARENTS MEET

The Monash Parents Group will hold a film-luncheon at the Alexander Theatre on Thursday, May 6.

The film — "The Voyage", starring Sophia Loren and Richard Burton — will begin at 10.30 a.m.

For reservations (\$2.50) phone the ticket secretary, Mrs J. Landman, 57 5881.

Women's careers

A conference on "Perceptions About Women's Careers" has been organised by the Centre for Continuing Education.

It is being sponsored by the Australian National Advisory Committee for International Women's Year.

The conference has been arranged in three stages. It will begin on May 28 and 29 with the establishment of working parties to investigate particular aspects of women's careers.

These groups will operate between meetings of the conference. Their reports will be submitted to the CCE by July 19 and will be discussed at a final one-day summing-up at Monash on August 14.

The deadline for enrolment for the conference is May 17.

The CCE expects that career teachers, senior educators, trade union officials and employers will attend.

YOU MIGHT FIND THE ANSWER IN THE FINE PRINT

Looking for a book on child rearing in 1581, for information on the American women's rights movement last century or for details of the culture of an obscure Russian people?

The answer may be in the microform section of the Main Library.

Reference librarian, **Sylvia Ransom**, says the section is under-used at present.

"People seem to be reluctant to use the microfilm because it's not a book.

"But they will all watch television and using the readers here is almost the same," she said.

The section has more than 12,000 boxes of microfilm and more than 150,000 microfiche sheets dealing with many Humanities and Social Science subjects.

Material is normally reduced about 16 times for microfilm and up to 150 times for microfiche sheets. At this reduction 2380 pages can be reproduced on one sheet.

The section contains a fascinating range of material.

Some of the most popular items are microfilm copies of "The Age" and "The Bulletin" since publication began, and copies of major overseas papers.

But some of the lesser known sets are equally interesting.

They include a set of all League of Nations documents and a huge set which will ultimately include every

book in the English language written before 1700.

This project has been underway for 40 years and its planners hope to finish work on the period from the invention of printing to 1640 in another eight years. Finalising the period 1640 to 1700 will then take until 2000.

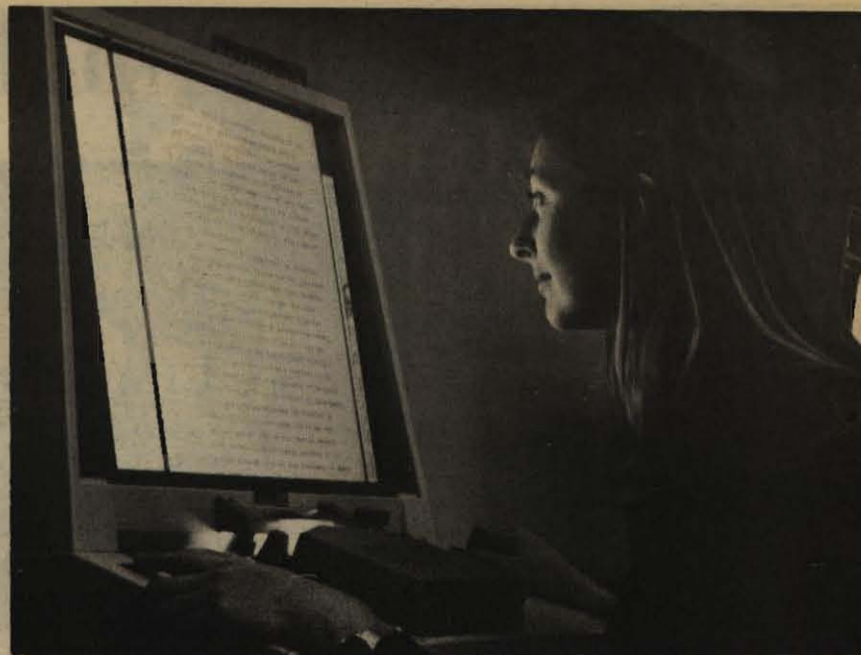
Back to 1581

It's in this set that the book "The Training Up of Children" first published in London in 1581 can be found.

Even if the original books were generally available, this is one of the many sets in the section which it would be impossible to store in book form because of their size.

Two others in this category are the Human Relations Area Files — a series of reports, books and periodicals giving a breakdown of the world by cultural group — and a set covering more than 7000 Indonesian books on the social sciences published between 1945 and 1968.

The Human Relations Files, as well as giving information on particular tribes within races, can be used to compare cultures.



REFERENCE Librarian, Sylvia Ransom, demonstrates use of the microfilm reader in the microform section of the library. The section is open to all staff, students and the public.

On microfiche sheets it occupies 127 drawers in the section.

The section also has a set of economics books and literature published since 1801 and a copy of the British Broadcasting Commission Monitoring Service — translations of foreign news broadcasts since the beginning of World War 2. This set would, for example, enable comparison between a news item broadcast on Radio Free Europe and the same item on official Russian radio.

Other sets include American women's rights pamphlets from 1814-1912, the underground press of Great Britain from 1965, the annual reports of the British Labour Party from 1900-1966, and papers on Chinese Communism.

By second term, the section expects to have 60 cartridges of microfilm listing the books in every major library in Australia to 1974.

The set, put out by the National Library in Canberra, will greatly speed up inter-library borrowing.

Cataloguing all the titles in some sets — English literature before 1700 and the Human Relations File — would take drawers and drawers of space, so much of the material appears in the library catalogue under the name of the set only.

Ms Ransom said inquiries should be made in the reference section for particular information about material on microfilm or microfiche.

The section is currently used mainly by postgraduate students and staff but it is open to all students, staff and the public.

Two staff members **Liz Bracher** and **Liz Minogue**, will help with the use of readers, and photocopies of microfilm material can be made.

Play competition produced...

High writing standards

Judges of the Alexander Theatre's \$1000 play competition were very impressed with the high standard of writing in the competition.

The convener of the competition, **Mary Lord**, said that of the 200 entries any one of eight or nine plays would have been a worthy winner.

The winning entry "Cass Butcher Bunting" by Adelaide playwright **Bill Reed** was ultimately a unanimous choice.

But Mrs Lord was very pleased to announce after the judging that an anonymous donor had given \$500 so the committee could award a "second prize" to **Jill Shearer**, of Brisbane, for her Australian historical drama, "Catherine".

"Cass Butcher Bunting", a drama about three men trapped in a mine shaft, will be staged at the Alexander Theatre for a three-week season from June 15.

Mrs Lord, a lecturer in the English department, believes the opportunity to have their play produced was partly responsible for the large number of entries from both professional and amateur playwrights.

Sydney director **Peter Williams**, who recently produced the highly-acclaimed "Boesman and Lena" for the Adelaide Festival, has agreed to produce "Cass Butcher Bunting".

Mrs Lord described the play as "a visually exciting, modern play."

Mr Reed is an established playwright. Two of his plays "Burke's Company" and "You Want It Don't You Billy", have been staged by the Melbourne Theatre Company.

The competition was judged by Mrs Lord; **Dr John Rickard**, of the History department and director of the Alexander Theatre; author and historian **Dr Geoffrey Serle**, also of the History department; and **Mr Geoffrey Hutton**, a theatre critic and author of a number of books on Australian theatre.

SHARE THOSE RECIPES

For incurable collectors of new recipes or those who simply enjoy cooking and eating good food there will be a new event on the time-table for second term.

Clubs and Societies are hoping to repeat last year's Cooking Network — weekly meetings at which national dishes are prepared, and shared.

The Network will meet on Tuesday nights from 6 to 8 in the Sports Common Room. The first meeting is expected to be on June 1.

To the editor:

The Reporter trivia prize?

The content of **Dr D. G. B. Silberbauer's** last two letters to the Reporter (April '76 and earlier) would suggest that he is competing for some literary trivia prize of which the rest of your contributors are unaware.

Perhaps the Editor could inform the readers of details of this competition.

Mal Haysom
Electrical Engineering.

(Sorry! It's been won already — by Professor Arthur Brown. — Ed.)

POEMS SOUGHT

The 1976 Monash University Prize for Poetry competition is now open.

A \$50 prize is awarded annually to the best poem by a Monash undergraduate who has done no more than four years' study since matriculation.

The prize is awarded on the recommendation of the professors of English.

Entries must be the author's original work and must not exceed 150 lines.

Competition conditions are displayed on departmental notice boards or can be obtained from the Academic Registrar's office.

Entries must be lodged with the Academic Registrar, Mr J. D. Butchart, by August 30.

Scholarships

The Academic Registrar's department has been advised of the following scholarships. The Reporter presents a precis of the details. More information can be obtained from the Graduate Scholarships Office, Ground Floor, University Offices, Extension 3055.

Armidale College of Advanced Education — Research Fellow in Aboriginal Studies

A three-year research fellowship to examine the effectiveness of Aboriginal Studies programs in tertiary institutions is open to a graduate with an honors degree in a relevant social science discipline. Stipend: \$12,835 p.a. — \$17,229 p.a. Applications close on May 14.

The Royal Society of N.S.W. — The Edgeworth David Medal — 1976

The award is made for work done mainly in Australia or its territories, contributing to the advancement of Australian science. Nominations close August 9.

Goethe Institute Language Scholarship

Two-month language scholarship in Germany providing accommodation, tuition fees, monthly allowance DM300, open to anyone having completed a basic course in German. Applications close May 31.

Australian School of Nuclear Technology

Radioisotope course for undergraduates, No. 20, will be held from September 13 to October 1 at Lucas Heights, N.S.W. Cost of course \$300, plus accommodation and travel. Applications close August 9.

Brer Rabbit in holiday musical

Brer Rabbit and other characters from the Uncle Remus stories will be entertaining children at Monash's Alexander Theatre during the May school holidays.

They all had a thumping good time at rehearsals this week.

The show, "The Adventures of Brer Rabbit", is an updated version specially written for the theatre by Ray Biehler and Bill Harding.

The script won the 1972 Australian Writer's Guild Annual Award as the best written for children.

There are 11 songs, one of which was specially written for the Monash production.

It will be a Victorian premiere for the show, which was originally presented in Sydney and later toured Tasmania.

Director Marie Cumisky has assembled a cast which includes many well-known show business personalities, including Frank Wilson as Brer Owl and John Cousins as Brer Bear.

In an interesting departure from the original, Brer Fox becomes Sister Fox, played by former ABC-TV choreographer Anne Petersen, who has also produced the costumes for the show.

Brer Rabbit is played by Leigh Chambers, a former member of the Australian Ballet Company and Brer



Wolf by Ron Challinor, who has appeared on television in "Certain Women" and in the Sydney productions of "Godspell", "Applause" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown".

Inside the shell of Brer Tortoise is Robert Harsley, who has just finished entertaining Sydney audiences in "Say It with Music".

"The Adventures of Brer Rabbit" will open at the Alexander Theatre with a 2 p.m. show on Monday, May 10, and continue daily from Monday to

Friday at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. until May 21. There will also be a 2 p.m. show on Saturday, May 15. Reservations, at \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children, can be made at the Alexander Theatre or by calling 543 2828.

Friday at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. until May 21.

There will also be a 2 p.m. show on Saturday, May 15.

Reservations, at \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children, can be made at the Alexander Theatre or by calling 543 2828.

And at the Union...

Revue harks back to the '50s



MEMBERS of the cast of "Top Rocker" — (from left) Cowboy Ben Cartwheel, played by Steve McCreddie of Farrer Hall; Mrs. Jones, Gail Matthews of Deakin Hall; priest Fr Ignoras, Rob Saul of Richardson Hall; and the star of the show Top Rocker, David Glazebrook from Deakin Hall. The revue's "sex symbol", Cherry Martinis, played by Colleen Cridlands, from Roberts Hall poses on the bench.

The fifties era — when any self-respecting young man wore a bottle of California Poppy slicked on his hair, young women cared about bras and the local milk bar was the focus of social life . . .

Feeling nostalgic?

Well the Combined Halls revue is your answer.

The revue, by students from the Monash Halls of Residence, will be staged in the Union Theatre on the last four nights of term, May 4-7.

It rejoices in the title of "76 Halls Revue presents: How a Top Rocker Discovers Inconsequential Trivia."

The director of the revue, David Glazebrook, plays the "star" of the show, Top Rocker. He describes Top Rocker as a "1956 type."

Topical sketches

The "inconsequential trivia" he and the audience will discover during the show include topical sketches and singing and dancing skits.

Thirty-six students from the five Halls will take part in the revue.

The producer is Philip Dutton and the musical director Karen O'Heany.

The revue is resuming this year as an annual end-of-first-term event.

Any funds raised from the production will be used to provide facilities for the Combined Halls.

MAY DIARY

4-8: **PLAY** — "The House of Bernarda Alba", by Federico Garcia Lorca. Presented by the Monash Players (dir. Andrew Ross). Alexander Theatre. 8 p.m. Admission: adults \$2.50, students \$1.50.

4: **LECTURE** — "Transcendental meditation technique". Introductory talk by Ross Curtis. 1.10 p.m. Lecture Theatre R7. Admission free. **FILMS** — NASA space films presented by Monash Astronautical Society. 8 p.m. Lecture Theatre H1. Admission free.

5: **LECTURE** — "Paul and Women", by The Rev. Pamela Kerr. Sixth in Chaplaincy Lecture Series. 1.10 p.m. Lecture Theatre R3. Admission free.

5: **JAZZ CONCERT** — Graeme Bell and the All Stars, Frank Johnson's Fabulous Dixielanders and special guests. Robert Blackwood Hall. 8.15 p.m. Admission: adults \$6, \$4.50; students \$3, \$2.50.

8: **CONCERT** — Youth Chorale of Australia (cond. Peter McKenna), Camberwell Youth Orchestra (cond. Harold Badger). Robert Blackwood Hall. 8 p.m. Admission: adults \$3.50, students \$2.50.

8: **SATURDAY CLUB** — "Under the Shade of the Coolibah Tree", a program of Australian folklore in music, song and story. Alexander Theatre. 2.30 p.m. Admission: adults \$2.50, children \$1.75.

10-22: **CHILDREN'S MUSICAL** — "The Adventures of Brer Rabbit", by Ray Biehler and Bill Harding (dir. Marie Cumisky). Alexander Theatre. Monday - Friday 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturdays 2 p.m. Admission: adults \$3.50, children \$1.75.

12-15: **G & S OPERA** — "The Mikado", presented by The Babirra Players. Alexander Theatre. Nightly at 8 p.m. Saturday matinee 2 p.m. Admission: adults \$3, students \$1.50.

12: **RECENT ADVANCES IN WATER ENGINEERING** — A one-day symposium designed for water engineers in middle and upper level management. Fee: \$32. Inquiries: Centre for Continuing Education, ext. 3718, 3719.

12: **ABC STATE FINAL** — Instrumental and Vocal Competition. Robert Blackwood Hall. 8 p.m. Admission free.

13: **CONCERT** — Australian Youth Orchestra, sponsored by the Australian-American Association. Works by Brahms, Sibelius, Sculthorpe. Robert Blackwood Hall. 8 p.m. Admission: adults \$4, students \$2.

15: **MAY MUSIC CAMP** — Robert Blackwood Hall. 8 p.m. Admission: adults \$2, students and children 50c.

16: **CONCERT** — Beethoven Consort presenting some of Beethoven's British folk arrangements. Robert Blackwood Hall. 2.30 p.m. Admission free.

17: **APPLYING MODERN CONTROL THEORY** — A five-day workshop for design engineers in industry and government establishments. Fee: \$185. Inquiries: Centre for Continuing Education, ext. 3718, 3719.

17-JUNE 9: **ART EXHIBITION** — Peter Booth Paintings 1968-1976, presented by Monash Department of Visual Arts. 10 a.m. — 5 p.m., Monday to Friday. Exhibition Gallery, Menzies Building. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2115.

20-29: **MUSICAL** — "Annie Get Your Gun" presented by The Cheltenham Light Opera Co. Alexander Theatre. Nightly at 8 p.m. Saturday matinee 2 p.m. Admission: adults \$2.50, students \$1.20. Bookings: 95 3269.

28: **PERCEPTIONS ABOUT WOMEN'S CAREERS** — A two-day conference for careers teachers, employers and members of trade unions. Fee: \$5. Inquiries: Centre for Continuing Education, ext. 3718, 3719.

29: **CONCERT** — ABC Gold Series. Conductor Vanco Cavdarski; soloists Raymond McDonald (tenor), Marilyn Richardson (soprano), Lauris Elms (contralto), presenting "La vida breve" by Falla. Robert Blackwood Hall. 8 p.m. Admission: \$5.10, \$3.80, \$2.60.

30: **ORGAN FESTIVAL** — Final of Dandenong Yamaha Electronic Organ Festival 1976. Robert Blackwood Hall. 8 p.m. Admission: adults \$1.50, children 50c.

31: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Ciampi String Quartet of Duke University. Works by Barber, Copland, Gershwin. Robert Blackwood Hall. 1.15 p.m. Admission free.

31: **COMPUTER COURSE** — "Introduction to Programming in the COBAL Language". Conducted by Monash Computer Centre. Monday nights to August 2. 7.30 p.m. Lecture Theatre S14. Fee: \$40. Inquiries: Mrs A. Malone, ext. 2783.

MONASH REPORTER

The next issue of Monash Reporter will be published in the first week of June. Copy deadline is Thursday, May 20.

Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the editor, (ext. 3087) c/- the Information Office, 1st floor, University Offices.