



A sneak preview of the new pool — P.7

In step for that first big splash?



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Governor-General to launch Monash biography

Tomorrow marks the climax of six years' endeavour for Monash historian Geoffrey Serle when the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, launches his latest book — the biography of the man for whom this University was named: Sir John Monash.

The launching will take place in Robert Blackwood Hall before an invited audience consisting of descendants of the great World War I military leader, leaders of the Australian Jewish community, representatives of the State Electricity Commission (which Sir John founded), of Melbourne University (where he graduated in three disciplines — and subsequently became Vice-Chancellor), of the armed services, the RSL, and other community groups.

Dr Serle's task began in 1975 when Sir John Monash's daughter, the late Mrs Gershon Bennett, and her children offered him access to the general's papers — previously unavailable to researchers.

● Continued next page

John Monash: A Biography is published by Melbourne University Press. 600pp. Recommended retail price is \$27.50.



● Biographer Geoffrey Serle examines some of Sir John Monash's papers.

It's been a little time coming but it's been worth the wait — Monash's new indoor swimming pool complex is a beauty!

Monash Reporter took four members of the Monash Modern Dance Group — Maree Bromfield, Lynda Gent, Robyn McGann and Vanessa van Buuren — over to the pool, north of the Sports and Recreation Centre, in its final days of construction for a preview and an impromptu rehearsal for the modern dance show, "Instep '82", which starts in the Alexander Theatre on July 13. There are more of Rick Crompton's photos on page 7.

As Reporter went to press, the latest indications were that the

pool would be open by the first week of August. And, in the meantime, if you want to catch the girls above together with nearly 50 other Monash dancers, plus guest artists, "Instep '82" will play on July 13 at 8 p.m., July 14 at 1.15 p.m., and July 15 and 16 at 1.15 p.m. and 5.15 p.m.

The program will comprise selections of five different styles of modern dance — primitive jazz, jazz ballet, Afro-Cuban, contemporary, tap and modern classical. Tickets are \$2.50; \$1.50 for students. Subscribers to all productions in the Alex's Festival of Comedy and Dance will have complimentary tickets to "Instep".

Breast feeding: a 'push button' contraceptive

Breast feeding has the potential to be a form of contraception — one of particular importance in the developing world.

This is according to an international authority on human reproduction, Professor Roger Short, who has taken a chair at Monash recently.

Professor Short says that a new appreciation of "Nature's way" of controlling the spacing of births (by up to four years) is the single most important contribution that could be made towards containing the world's population explosion in the immediate future.

He advocates the restriction of sales of feeding bottles and powdered and condensed milk in less-developed countries (as is the case in New Guinea where they are available only on medical prescription), and encouragement of the traditional practices of suckling children.

He says that there is a scientific explanation behind what has often

Study supports 'old wives' tale

been regarded in the West as an "old wives' tale" — that a woman will not conceive while she has a child on the breast. The important element in that link, which researchers are just coming to understand, is the frequency of breast feeding.

Professor Short says: "The breast is a superb push-button contraceptive. But it only works provided that you keep pushing the button. Now we have to discover just how often that is."

A Melbourne study, soon to be launched, could provide the formula.

Professor Short comes to Monash, as a joint appointment in the departments of Physiology and Anatomy, from the British Medical

Research Council's Unit of Reproductive Biology of which he was Director for 10 years. The Unit is based in Edinburgh and has, as one of its chief tasks, the development of improved contraceptives.

In his old job Professor Short headed a staff of 50: he now looks forward to "escaping" from administration and returning to research. His appointment strengthens the research on reproductive biology being carried out in several departments and units in the Medical faculty.

It was work in the Edinburgh laboratory in the last few years which explained lactation's effect on the interval between births, a connection most clearly recognised today among great apes in the wild, (fast disappearing) hunter-gatherer societies such as the tribesmen of the Kalahari Desert, tribal Australian Aborigines, and some rural societies in Asia.

● Continued next page

Study explains lactation and birth spacing link

● From front page

It is, says Professor Short, a "simple mechanism."

The key to the process lies in sensory nerve endings in the nipple itself. These are connected to the brain. When a baby suckles, a message is transmitted from the nipple to the brain, triggering reflex responses. One of these inhibits the pituitary gland which in turn controls the ovary. Ovulation will not occur if the breast is suckled frequently enough.

The question that needs to be answered is: How often is enough for this state of "lactational amenorrhoea" to be maintained?

In the hunter-gatherer societies and among apes in the wild, for example, it has been observed that offspring will feed up to four times an hour but each feed lasts only one or two minutes. Most significantly, in these groups the mothers sleep with their babies at night, when frequent suckling may occur even though the mother does not wake up.

Breast feeding is maintained over three or four years and birth intervals of anything up to four years are the result.

In the developed world, where women do breastfeed (and in many countries up to 70 per cent of mothers do not), it is usually only for the comparatively brief period of three to four months. And the advice they still follow today dates from a mid-18th century medical text: feed the baby once every four hours, giving up the night feeds as soon as possible. The contraceptive effect of lactation in such circumstances has been minimal.

Melbourne study

Professor Short's team conducted a study of 57 breast feeding mothers in Edinburgh in a bid to determine how the frequency and pattern of feeding regulated fertility. Early indications are that maintenance of a night-time feed is of vital significance.

He now hopes to extend this to a larger study among Melbourne women. He has approached the Nursing Mothers Association of Australia seeking volunteers — new mothers who are enthusiastic about breast feeding — for the survey.

Professor Short acknowledges that breast feeding as a birth control measure will hold only limited appeal in developed countries. Lactation only governs birth spacing: it has no role in the timing of the first birth or the last. But, he adds, it could be of significance to women who follow the Roman Catholic Church's teachings on artificial contraception. "It's far more 'natural' than the rhythm method," he comments.

"The best advice we can give Western mothers at the moment if they wish to maximise this natural contraceptive protection is that they should breast feed as frequently as possible, and certainly more than five times a day, and that they should maintain a night-time feed for as long as possible."

Far more important, however, is breast feeding's potential for contraception in developing countries.

The population growth in Asia is the greatest challenge the world faces in the immediate future: "This is where the action in contraceptive development is, or should be, in the next 20 years," he says.

Up to 70 per cent of women in developing countries have no access to any form of artificial contraception.

"Anything which can regulate the fertility of so many people should be of overriding significance until such time as the supply and distribution of artificial contraceptives are improved," he says.

Main target group

One of the main target groups consists of younger, educated women in developing countries who have moved into urban settings. A recent World Fertility Survey study identified an upsurge of fertility in such women who, Professor Short says, are deserting the traditional rural practice of breast feeding without, as yet, adopting artificial means of contraception.

"In the next decade, the most important thing the world can do in cutting down the birth rate is to persuade these people to hang on to their traditional practices," he says.

"The single most important factor is to encourage frequent suckling both by day and by night; ideally, the baby should be fed on demand and should sleep beside its mother at night. Breast feeding should be continued regardless of whether or not the milk supply is adequate to meet the entire nutritional needs of the baby, regardless of whether or not supplemental feeds have been introduced into the baby's diet."

Human infants derive much comfort from what has been described as "non-



● Professor Roger Short: his wife, Marilyn Renfree, is also at Monash as a senior research fellow in Anatomy. She too is interested in lactation's influence on reproduction — in relation to marsupials.

nutritive suckling," according to Professor Short. There may be little milk transfer, but the neural inputs will still provide valuable contraceptive protection.

He says: "Anything that reduces the infant's contact with the mother's nipple should be regarded as a potential conceptive, something that will stimulate fertility."

Thumb-sucking 'clue'

"In this category should be placed all feeding bottles, teats, dummies and even the baby's own thumb. Thumb-sucking is almost certainly brought about because of inadequate nipple contact. Its incidence could provide a valuable clue as to the probable contraceptive effectiveness of breast feeding in a particular community."

One of the problems raised by Professor Short's work concerns the provision of food in areas of famine.

The temptation, he says, is to feed

Professor Roger Short's research in Edinburgh on lactation and contraception will be featured in a program 'The Naked Breast' in the ABC-TV 'Discovery' series, scheduled to go to air on Thursday, July 22 at 8.55 p.m.

milk supplements to the baby when the mother's milk supply begins to fail. "Would it not be better in the long run if we supplemented the mother's diet so as to increase her milk yield, and also preserve the contraceptive effects of breast feeding?" he asks.

Professor Short says that the abandonment of breast-feeding by Western women as they became "civilised" makes a fascinating social history.

"The changing history of breast feeding is the history of the human population explosion," he says.

The bed and bottle

Two inventions, he adds, have been responsible for eroding the contraceptive effect of breast-feeding. One was the invention of the bed, the other of the artificial teat and formula feeds.

When man abandoned the ground to sleep on and built a raised bed, there was a fear that the baby might fall out. To this was added the irrational fear that in colder climates the baby might be smothered by bedclothes. So mother and baby were parted from one another at night and the baby placed in a separate cot. To feed such a child during the night then became a matter of disturbing the mother's sleep: night-time feeds became unpopular.

The invention of the pram further separated mother from child during the day. And accentuation of the sexual significance of breasts in Western countries also made it embarrassing for women to feed in public.

The earliest feeding bottles that have been found go back some 3000 years — to Crete. Bottle-feeding grew in popularity in Roman times. By the Middle Ages, women of the upper classes employed wet nurses to care for their babies, and the urban lower classes fed their children on artificial milks and gruels — with terrible infant mortality.

Today, with improved artificial foods and hygiene, the mortality problem has been conquered, but fertility can reach staggering proportions in the absence of contraception. The Guinness Book of Records cites one Mrs McNaught of Birmingham who produced 22 children in the space of 28 years. Professor Short says that an inspection of her hospital records shows that lactation was suppressed following each delivery by a massive injection of stilboestrol.

"Our hunter-gatherer ancestors spent most of their reproductive lives in a state of lactational amenorrhoea," he says. "There is much to be said for trying to recapture some of that lost magic."

A little lunacy?

There will be a total eclipse of the moon tonight (July 6). The threat of lunacy notwithstanding, those wishing to get a close up of this phenomenon on a telescope have been invited to join members of the Monash Astronomical Society on the solar platform of Engineering building 5 between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Access to the platform is through the building's north door. For further details see the Society's noticeboard in the Union.

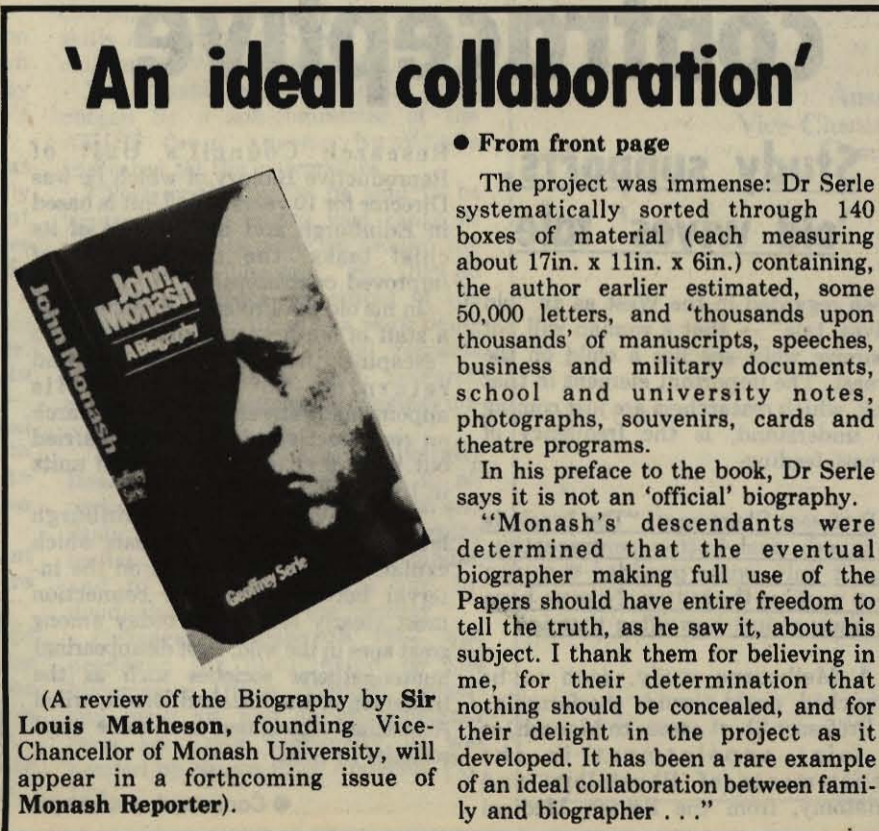
'An ideal collaboration'

● From front page

The project was immense: Dr Serle systematically sorted through 140 boxes of material (each measuring about 17in. x 11in. x 6in.) containing, the author earlier estimated, some 50,000 letters, and 'thousands upon thousands' of manuscripts, speeches, business and military documents, school and university notes, photographs, souvenirs, cards and theatre programs.

In his preface to the book, Dr Serle says it is not an 'official' biography.

"Monash's descendants were determined that the eventual biographer making full use of the Papers should have entire freedom to tell the truth, as he saw it, about his subject. I thank them for believing in me, for their determination that nothing should be concealed, and for their delight in the project as it developed. It has been a rare example of an ideal collaboration between family and biographer..."



(A review of the Biography by Sir Louis Matheson, founding Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, will appear in a forthcoming issue of Monash Reporter).

'Doctrinaire interference' spells danger for education

A newly-appointed Monash professor of English has warned of the "far-reaching consequences" of ill-judged and doctrinaire interference with the aims and requirements of higher education.

Professor Clive Probyn, who comes to Monash from the University of Lancaster, said in an occasional address delivered at an Arts graduation last month:

"On current trends, it is certain that



● Professor Probyn

many of those who aspire to and are qualified for higher education will not have the chance to realise their potential."

Professor Probyn said that the situation may ultimately arise in which possession of a degree was no longer a measure of intellectual attainment but merely the token of a self-perpetuating social privilege.

"An educationally elite corps defined solely in terms of its financial ability to pay is a dangerous component for a democracy to live with at a time of rapid change," he said. "There is a point at which economic priorities must reckon with their social cost, and any university which suppresses its intellectual life in favour of a fashionable economic or political dogma will most surely decline.

"Monash, it seems to me, has taken a very strong stand against cuts as such and against the particular prospect of making parental bank balances the key to the University's door."

Professor Probyn said that an important purpose of university teaching was to develop in students a critical faculty.

Universities, he added, were "quite properly" the home of creative misfits.

"For the student of the humanities, the art of life is the creative use of an intelligence which will quite often say 'No, I cannot accept that . . .', and whose critical scrutiny will often search out the flashy, the superficial,

the merely convenient and the expedient. The urge to join the crowd is sometimes overwhelmingly strong: it is, after all, much easier to accept than to question and to form one's own judgement."

Speaking on the significance of study in the humanities, Professor Probyn said that art, in its broadest sense, was concerned with the record of individual reactions to a public reality: "literature records the changes between an individual and his or her society — it is news which stays news; the law provides the consensus of rights, privileges and deterrents in human conduct; sociology the means of understanding its coherent or sometimes incoherent principles; history its stark record of failures and of its few successes."

He continued: "But it is language and art which are the very medium of all individual and social expression, and the first principle of a language is that it is formed by and changes according to usage.

"I think it was George Orwell who once remarked that you can measure the intellectual and political health of a society by the thickness of its dictionaries. What he was upholding was the necessity in any society for plurality, choice, a richness and range of precise meaning in its language, a freedom from authoritarian control.

"This, I think, better defines the concern of the humanities student than anything I know.

"Large books may be difficult to

U.S. poet is 1982 'Writer'

A distinguished US scholar, poet and editor is visiting Monash currently as Writer-in-Residence.

He is Professor Ted Weiss, professor of English and Creative Writing and Senior Fellow of the Council of Humanities at Princeton University.

Professor Weiss, together with his wife Renee who is accompanying him on his Australian visit, is the editor and publisher of the *Quarterly Review of Literature*, considered to be the most influential journal of new writing in the United States. He is the author of nine books of poetry and a number of critical books and essays, notably on Shakespeare.

Professor Weiss will be "in residence" in the English department for nine weeks. He will hold a number of seminars on creative writing as well as readings from his own work and that of other recent American poets.

He welcomes the opportunity to talk with students and budding writers on campus and will be available for interviews during the mornings in room 709 (ext. 2144) or by appointment through Mrs Dougherty (ext. 2130).

handle: you need to be shown how to use them, but at least one is left in no doubt that they represent the many and varied ways of saying and believing.

"When the chores of essays, examinations, tests and perhaps even graduation ceremonies are all over, this is what is left, a hopefully keener awareness of not just a particular discipline, but also a way of living, a habit of learning, and of the need to exercise judgement constantly."

AVCC takes aim

The Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee has released a booklet aimed at stimulating interest in — and support for — research in Australian universities.

The 52 page publication describes a number of recent and current research projects in 11 universities, and makes a plea for the reinvigoration of the nation's research program.

The booklet carries an introduction by Professor David Caro, chairman of the AVCC, and Professor Ray Martin, chairman of the AVCC's research committee. In it, they say:

"Research in Australia today is at risk. The amount we spend nationally compares unfavorably with that outlaid by the developed countries with whom we like to identify ourselves.

"There is no single reason for this state of affairs, and no single answer: Governments are not entirely to blame; nor are those companies — local and overseas-based — which find it more convenient, or cheaper, to import their know-how than to encourage Australian inventiveness and initiative.

"But between them — government and private enterprise — answers can and should be sought."

Mr Frank Hambly, secretary of the AVCC, said that the committee was moved to produce the booklet because of deepening concern over the state of research funding in Australia today.

"Our case is directed to both governments and private enterprise,"

Mr Hambly said. "The booklet sets out to identify the problem, and to encourage collaborative effort to remedy it."

Topics covered in the book range from the measures taken to counter the box-jellyfish menace in the far north, to the much-discussed *in vitro* fertilisation program in Melbourne, to comparative studies of the memory skills of desert Aborigines and white children in Western Australia.

Mr Hambly said the topics were chosen by a sub-committee of the AVCC from among hundreds suggested by the universities.

"They could hardly be said to be 'representative' of the vast range of research projects going on around the country today," he said. "But they do serve to illustrate something of the nature and breadth of the work being done — work that in all respects compares favorably with research carried out in comparable overseas universities."

The booklet, entitled *University Research 1982*, is being sent to all parliamentarians, Commonwealth and State, to members of the governing bodies of all universities, to the media, and to influential groups and individuals throughout the country.

University Research 1982 was prepared for publication by the Information Office, Monash University, with art and design assistance from La Trobe University. It was printed by Brown Prior Anderson Pty. Ltd.



Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee

UNIVERSITY
RESEARCH
1982



Monash is playing its part in the Australian Broadcasting Commission's 50th birthday celebrations: Robert Blackwood Hall was the venue for the recording of a new symphony by Master of the Queen's Musick, Malcolm Williamson.

Mr Williamson came to Monash last month to put the finishing touches to the work, to be known as Symphony No. 6.

It consists of seven movements — each one played by a different symphony orchestra. The MSO was responsible for the first movement, written for orchestra and organ.

During Mr Williamson's visit, RBH Director Ian Hiscock revived memories of an earlier musical triumph: the first Australian performance of Williamson's opera *The Stone Wall*.

Our picture shows Dr Hiscock presenting Mr Williamson with a photograph taken at the time. In it are the three leaders of the warring factions in the opera, which was designed for audience participation: from left, Professor Ken Hunt as the 'elegant Englishman', Dr Hiscock as the 'valorous Viking' and Dr (now Sir) Louis Matheson as the 'dour Scot'.



Monash graduate Rob Jolly returned to the University last month — in his new role as Victorian State Treasurer.

He came to deliver the inaugural address at a business luncheon arranged by the Centre for Continuing Education.

(Mr Jolly is pictured here with the Director of CCE, Dr Jack McDonell, left, and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin).

Introducing the visitor, Professor Martin noted that he had been "properly" trained for his new position as a Monash student.

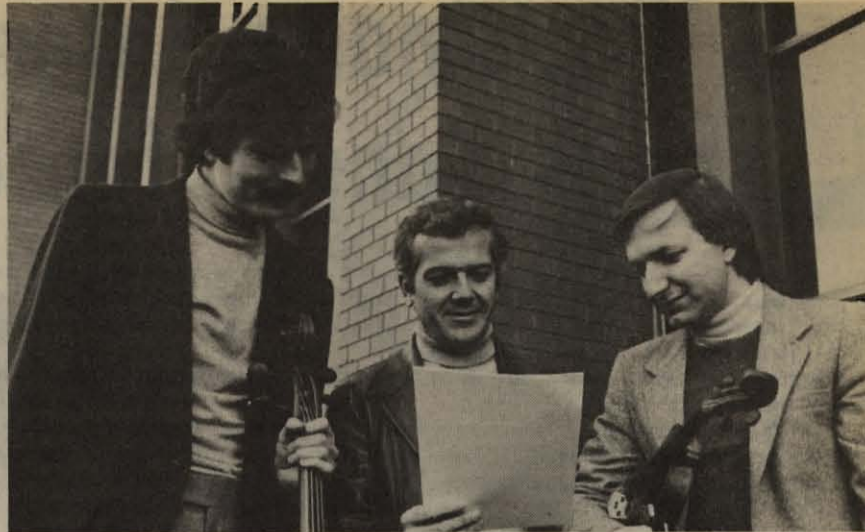
"It may be going too far to claim that a Monash Master of Economics degree is both a necessary and a sufficient qualification to become Treasurer," he said. "But we might legitimately claim that such a qualification is at least highly desirable for anyone who is to be entrusted with the guidance of our State's future finances."

Mr Jolly congratulated the Centre for Continuing Education on its initiative in organising the "Update" business training program.

The Government, he said, was very conscious of the importance of forging links between the academic community and the business community. A similar situation existed in the State sphere where the Government had formed an office of management and budget task force of 15 economists drawn from both the public and private sectors.

Another member of the new Government will address the next Business Lunch at Monash on Friday, August 6.

He is Mr Evan Walker, Minister for Conservation and Planning, who will speak on "Urban planning and regional shopping centres."



In honor of Brahms ...

Monash University next year will be the scene of one of the musical world's most ambitious projects to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Johannes Brahms — (1833-1897).

Leading Australian musicians will join with distinguished overseas performers to present the composer's complete chamber music cycle of 27 works.

The entire performance will spread over nine concerts in Robert Blackwood Hall beginning on Sunday afternoon, April 10, and concluding on Saturday evening, May 7 — the precise date of the composer's birth.

Total playing time will be 13 hours 19 minutes — and it will all be recorded by the ABC for broadcasting on its FM and AM networks.

The project — to be known as the 1983 Brahms Chamber Music Festival — has been planned by a sub-committee of the Blackwood Hall Management committee, convened by Dr Brian Chapman, Monash physiologist and widely-acclaimed concert pianist and recording artist.

It is being supported by a generous

grant from Mrs Vera Moore, long a benefactor of the University and supporter of the arts.

Mrs Moore's gift will enable the outstanding Rowe Quartet from the United States to participate in the event. For the duration of their stay in Australia, the visitors will be known as the Vera Moore Quartet-in-Residence.

The other artists taking part will be:

- Trio Victoria, comprising Brian Chapman (piano), Michael Kisin (violin) and Steven Finnerty ('cello).

- Members of Ensemble I — Brachi Tilles (piano), Spiros Rantos (violin), Marco Van Pagee (viola), Gwyn Roberts ('cello) and Richard Runnels (horn).

- Philip Miechel, principal clarinetist with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and founder of the Melbourne Wind Virtuosi.

The Rowe Quartet consists of Patricio Cobos (violin I), Arlene De Cecco (violin II), Ronald Gorevic (viola) and Luca Di Cecco ('cello). Both Brian Chapman and Philip Miechel played with the group during its 1975 visit to Australia and later the same year in the USA.

The 27 works to be performed during the Festival consist of: three string quartets, two string quintets, two string sextets, piano quintet, clarinet quintet, horn trio, clarinet trio, three piano quartets, three piano trios, three violin sonatas, three 'cello sonatas, two viola sonatas and two clarinet sonatas.

All nine concerts will be free to the public.



TOP: Trio Victoria — Steven Finnerty, Brian Chapman and Michael Kisin. LEFT: Philip Miechel. BELOW: The Rowe Quartet — Ronald Gorevic, Luca Di Cecco, Arlene De Cecco and Patricio Cobos. (Photo: Matthews / Napal Ltd., New York)



Environmental 'pioneer' chalks up some of the movement's successes

For some 20 years Professor Bill Stapp has been a key figure in the environmental movement, particularly in relation to education.

In that time, and especially in the last decade, the movement has undergone a change of nature, according to Professor Stapp, professor of Environmental Education at the University of Michigan in the United States. It has been "institutionalised."

Professor Stapp, who visited Monash's Graduate School of Environmental Science last month as part of an Australian visit as a Fulbright scholar, says that concrete benefits have come from institutionalisation of the movement which, at various times, has been called a manifestation of "trendyism" or just another form of youth protest.

One of the movement's great legislative achievements in his own country, Professor Stapp says, was the National Environmental Protection Act passed in the early '70s. Other legislation has followed and government agencies have been established to control such aspects as water and air quality, noise pollution, soil erosion and the like.

Before his appointment to the University of Michigan in 1965, Professor Stapp was Co-ordinator of Environmental Education in Ann Arbor (Michigan) Public Schools.

In the last 20 years he has received a steady stream of awards in recognition of his contribution to conservation and education. These include an Outstanding Young Man of America Award (1964), an American Man of Science Award (1974) and the National Association of Environmental Education Award for International Leadership (1978).

His interests are in developing a national strategy and an instructional model for environmental education, and in teaching and learning strategies in the subject.

Environmental education he defines as "educating people for the total environment." It involves attitude formation, value ordering and problem solving. And it is a process that extends beyond the formal teaching of a classroom.

Professor Stapp nominates three "target audiences" for education aimed at heightening an awareness of environmental issues: the public generally, decision makers, and environmental resource managers.

He has published widely on the topic and also served on, or acted as adviser to numerous bodies concerned with environmental education in the US, Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. From 1974-76 he served as the first Director of the International Environmental Program of UNESCO in Paris.

Professor Stapp holds a special place in the development of environmental education in Australia. In 1971 he was the main speaker at the first national symposium on the subject which was held in Canberra.

Just over a decade later he is back to evaluate what direction the movement has taken. Specifically, he has been invited to make an intensive comparative study of environmental



● US visitor, Professor Bill Stapp (right), with Dr Tim Ealey.

Few universities in the world could match Monash for the strength given to its programs in environmental education by an interdisciplinary approach, in the opinion of Professor Bill Stapp.

Professor Stapp, one of the pioneers of environmental education internationally, said: "I am extremely impressed."

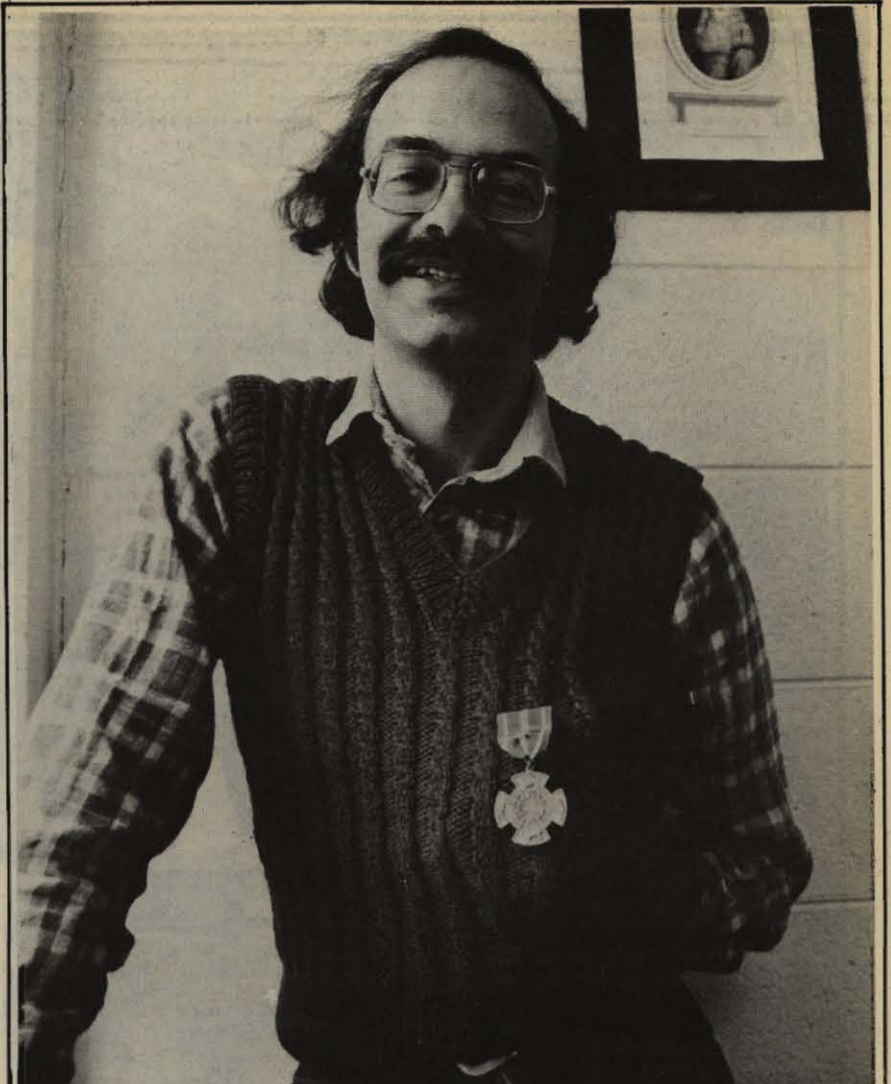
During his eight month stay in Australia as a Fulbright Scholar, Professor Stapp has visited Monash at the invitation of Dr Tim Ealey, Director of the Graduate School of Environmental Science, and Professor Peter Fensham, Dean of Education. He has been asked to make a critique of programs in the Graduate School as well as contribute to its teaching.

Professor Stapp also had words of praise for the environmental component of teacher training at the Rusden campus of Victoria College.

programs at Monash and at Griffith University in Brisbane. He will also be visiting, with his wife, all other States and the NT to talk with people involved in formal environmental teaching at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, environmental managers, and members of citizen interest groups.

He will also be discussing with senior administrators and local groups the idea of a World Conservation Strategy — a current joint exercise of the International Union for the Conservation of National and Natural Resources, the United Nations Environment Program and the World Wildlife Fund. Countries have been invited to devise strategies to meet some of the world's major environmental threats — the extinction of species, the spread of deserts, and the destruction of tropical rain forests, for example.

Professor Stapp will give his evaluation of the Australian scene at a conference to be held in Canberra in November. He will talk on goals for environmental education, the constraints in this country as he sees them, and the strategies that can be adopted.



Professor Peter Singer, of the Monash Philosophy department, has been awarded The Humane Medal for 1982 by the Humane Society of New York.

In awarding the Medal to Professor Singer, the President of the Humane Society, Virginia Chipurnoi, said: "You have familiarised and educated the public with the concept of animal rights in all its aspects through your book *Animal Liberation*."

"The award is given in particular for your book, *Animal Factories*, co-authored with Jim Mason, the first book in this country (the US) to bring to the attention of the public the problem of factory farming, an abuse causing suffering to untold millions of animals."

Photo: Tony Miller

Fight 'to the last bucket of cement' on Franklin — campaigner

The fight for the Franklin River in Tasmania's rugged south-west wilderness is emerging as perhaps the biggest conservation battle in Australia's history.

The director of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, Dr Bob Brown, spoke to a large audience at Monash last week on the campaign to "Save the Franklin".

Dr Brown said that it was urgent that the Federal Government intervene to stop the Gordon-below-Franklin power scheme proceeding. He also said that "the fight" would continue until the "last bucket of cement has been laid."

He invited people to participate in the preservation of this internationally recognised wilderness area by lobbying



members of Federal Parliament or by taking part in protest action against Tasmania's Hydro-Electric Commission.

Dr Brown was at Monash as a guest of Monash Friends of Tasmanian Wilderness, a recently formed club which aims to keep the campus informed about developments concerning wilderness in Tasmania.

Dr Brown left behind a career as a medical practitioner in 1978 to become director of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society.

Social Work 1983

Applications are now being received for entry into the Social Work course next year. Forms are available from the department of Social Work on the 11th floor of the Humanities building. The closing date is October 8.

Next Reporter

In the August issue, out for 'Courses and Careers' afternoon, we survey graduates' starting salaries, look at an early history of the Australian car industry — and examine the case of Raoul Wallenberg.



Monash invention to earn export dollars

Electronic equipment designed in Monash's department of Electrical Engineering will allow accurate and reliable measurement of the degree of muscle relaxation in anaesthetised patients.

Such accurate measurement may allow continuous and precise control on the depth of muscle relaxation in patients undergoing surgery.

Currently, clinical observation by the anaesthetist is used almost universally as a means of judging the degree of muscle relaxation.

Over the last 10 years the department of Electrical Engineering and the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne have been investigating the properties of several commonly used muscle relaxants. The research team consists of Professor D. G. Lampard, of Monash, Dr N. M. Cass, Deputy Director of Anaesthesia at the Royal Children's Hospital, Associate Professor W. A. Brown and Dr. K. C. Ng, also of Monash.

In order to measure the degree of muscle relaxation, an electronic instrument to stimulate the median nerve and to measure the resulting electromyogram from the thenar muscle was developed and built. From the integrated EMG the instrument calculates the percentage neuromuscular transmission and displays it on digital readout. Dr Ng was responsible for the electronics design.

The method is simple, non-invasive and has been proved to be accurate and reliable in clinical trials over the

last three years using earlier models culminating in the prototype shown here.

The 'Monash Neuromuscular Block Monitor', as the new instrument is called, is now being manufactured and marketed by a Melbourne firm, Electromedical Engineering Pty. Ltd. So far about 50 instruments have been ordered, about half from overseas. These high-technology scientific instruments are expected to bring substantial royalties and secure an export market for Australia.

● Our picture shows Dr Kim Ng with one of the new instruments.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Australian Kidney Foundation — Vacation Scholarships

● Available to undergraduates to undertake research projects related to the kidney and urinary tract. Tenable for six to eight weeks. Value: \$500. Applications close in Canberra on October 1.

National Heart Foundation — Vacation Scholarships

● Available to undergraduates to undertake research projects related to cardiovascular function and disease. Tenable for six to eight weeks. Value: \$85 per week. Applications close in Canberra on October 1.

Accountancy graduates in demand: Survey

Only one in five of a sample of final year accounting students at the four Victorian universities and Swinburne Institute of Technology was still looking for employment for 1982 by early third term last year.

The other 80 per cent either had a job organised or were not eligible for employment in Australia (overseas students with visas were in this group, along with students intending to continue studies in 1982).

The survey was conducted by Monash's Careers and Appointments Service by means of a 34-point questionnaire completed by students attending a final year lecture on each campus.

It was the fourth year in which C&A has conducted a survey of final year accounting students although the first time it has embraced students from all the universities and one CAE. The 1980 survey sampled students from Monash and Melbourne universities only.

The results of the latest survey were published last month by C&A with assistance from Touche Ross and Co.

Says Careers Counsellor, Janice Joosse: "The aim of the survey was to explore the students' opinions about employers and their interviews on campus for employment in 1982. We were interested in their success in obtaining employment, their employment preferences, and their opinions of campus careers services and their courses of study."

Questionnaires were returned from 428 students, 228 of whom had participated in on-campus interview programs with employers organised by careers services. The largest samples were from Monash (172) and Swinburne (102) followed by La Trobe (73), Melbourne (57) and Deakin (24).

A word of caution

The report urges caution in drawing conclusions about success rates for obtaining employment because the respondents at each institution may not have been representative of all final year accounting students. Small sample size at three of the institutions must also be remembered.

The survey found that of the students who had been interviewed by employers on campus, 39% had obtained jobs as a result of the interviews. The success rates in the samples, campus by campus, were: Monash 38%, Melbourne 50%, Deakin 67%, La Trobe 38% and Swinburne 32%.

Early in third term, some 28% of those students who had been interviewed on campus were still "available for employment" (and 11% of those who had not been interviewed). The Monash percentage "available" was the lowest — 19% of those interviewed; Swinburne's was the highest at 32%.

Chartered accounting firms had interviewed more students than any other employer group: about 80% of those taking part in campus interviews. A total of 110 students in the sample had received 283 offers of employment for 1982, an average of 2.6 offers each. Chartered accounting firms made offers to 96 of these 110

students. Melbourne and Monash students received an above average number of offers (2.9 and 2.8 respectively).

The survey found that the student most likely to be successful in obtaining a job through a campus interview was male (average success rate of 42% compared with 33% for females) and attended a non-Catholic private school (the average success rate for this group was 52%).

The finding that male students were more successful than females was, according to the report, "surprising in view of the statement often made by recruiters that female students do better than males at campus interviews." The figures for Melbourne University differed from those for other institutions: females had a 56% success rate; males 47%.

Responses to questions seeking student opinion on their courses, teachers' attitudes and prospective employers make interesting reading although, here again, the report urges caution.

Some 83% of respondents answered "yes" to the question: "Do you think your course has given you a good grounding for a career in accounting?" La Trobe respondents gave the highest percentage of "no" responses (34%).

Another question asked students to rate how well they thought academic staff in accounting were informed about employment in the accounting field.

Some 28% of students thought staff were well-informed about employment, 32% thought they were poorly informed, and 40% were non-committal or gave no response.

Students at Monash and Melbourne gave staff the poorest rating: 37% on each campus thought staff were poorly informed while only 18% at Monash and 28% at Melbourne ticked "well informed". Leaving aside the small Deakin sample, the best confidence in staff knowledge of employment was expressed by students at Swinburne (36%).

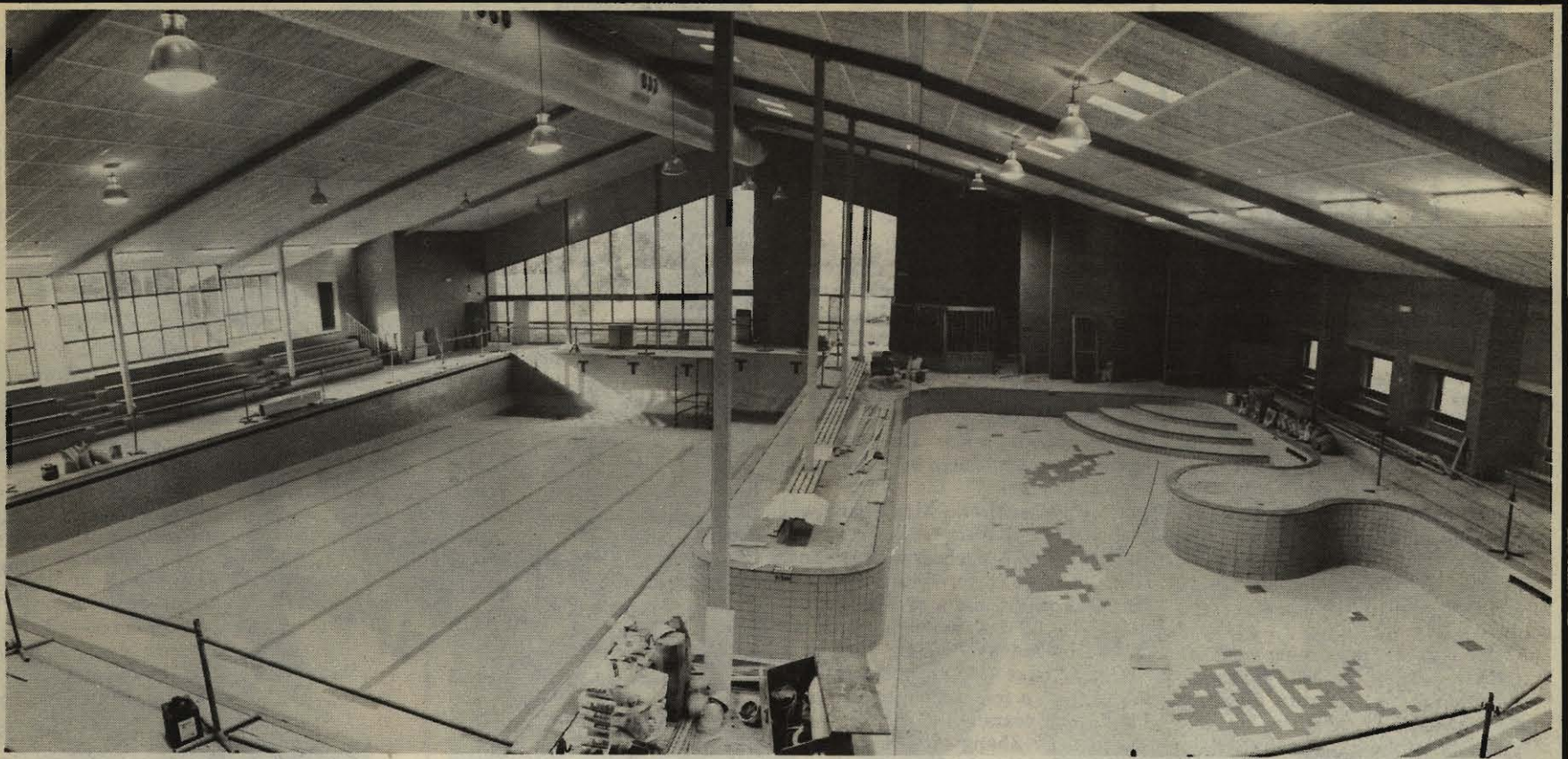
The report comments, however, that student responses can be influenced by many factors and are unlikely to be related to the actual knowledge and attitudes of staff.

The survey revealed that a widespread belief among students that their prospective employers would "discriminate unfairly" on a number of grounds.

Some 75% of respondents thought that unfair discrimination existed. The most popular "charge" was discrimination on the grounds of academic results (41% of respondents). Discrimination on the basis of sex was ticked by 36%, race by 22%, citizenship by 18% and age by 15%.

Swinburne students were the most inclined to think discrimination existed (79%). At Monash, 40% of the "charges" concerned race or citizenship.

There was a general satisfaction with careers services at each institution. At Monash 75%, Melbourne 85%, Deakin 100%, La Trobe 79%, and Swinburne 82% of the respondents marked one of the two categories at the "very satisfactory" end of the scale.



August — in the dead of a Melbourne winter — might not be the most promising month for Monash's proud new asset, its indoor swimming pool complex, to open.

But, according to Deputy Warden of the Union, Mr Doug Ellis, ideas of swimming being a summer-only pursuit should go down the drain, so to speak.

"We hope this pool's environment will be attractive enough to entice people to go swimming year-round," Doug says.

It will certainly be warm enough. The complex will be heated by natural gas supplemented by a solar system being designed by Physics and Engineering.

Doug says that the pool, which has been financed from the Union development fund, has been designed to meet the needs of all members of the Monash community — students (including part-timers) and staff — their families, and the general public.

There is no fear of swimmers and splashers colliding. A regular 25m pool for the "serious-minded" adjoins a

Ready to get in the swim?

free-form pool for the more leisure-oriented patrons. Also included in the complex are a spa, two saunas and, for the better weather, a sun deck.

The pool will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week to members of the University (the general public's entry will be restricted at special times like lunch hour). Admission charges will be 50c (Union members — that's

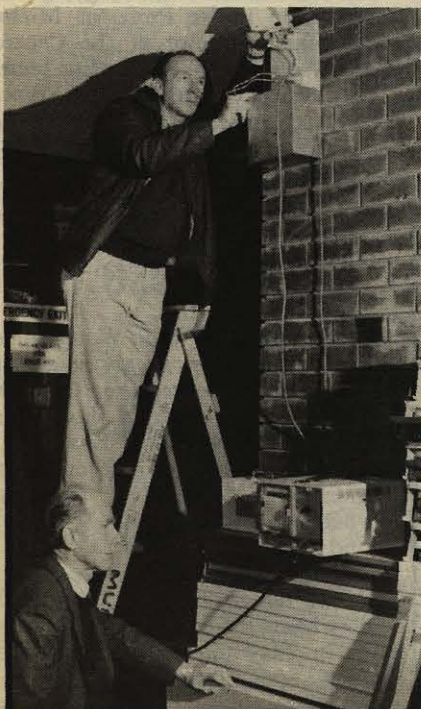
students and staff), 90c adult "outsiders", 60c children and pensioners. A "block" of 20 admissions will cost Union members \$7. Use of the spa and sauna will cost \$1 for members, \$2 for the general public.

Watch the Daily News sheet and notices in the Sports and Recreation Centre and Union for the pool's opening date.



Needless to say, that's the pool panorama above, as photographed by Rick Crompton.

Trying out the sauna are Maree (3rd year Rusden), Vanessa (3rd year Arts), Lynda (1st year Arts) and Robyn (2nd year Science): Modern Dance Group members.



A smaller bill when all is still

● Next year the University faces an electricity bill somewhere over the \$1 million mark. This compares with a budgeted figure of \$890,000 for 1982.

● Gas, it's estimated, will set us back about \$150,000 (\$140,000 this year), and water around \$150,000 (\$97,000 this year).

● On top of all that there are what is known as "mandatory contracts" — lifts, escalators and other unavoidable expenses — that will add \$240,000 to the bill (up about \$40,000 on this year).

Little wonder, then, that the University's Energy Conservation Committee is exploring every means of conserving energy!

A readily identifiable area of waste is in areas that are brightly lit for much longer than is strictly necessary.

And this is where the gadget pictured here comes in . . .

It's a movement detector — just like the scores already at work around the campus, opening doors for approaching visitors.

In this application, they monitor areas within buildings and are so programmed that if there's no movement in, say, a lecture theatre or library area for five minutes, they'll automatically switch off the lights.

University Engineer Kevin Grace is quick to point out, though, that there will be absolutely no risk of anyone being trapped in a pitch-black room.

Even in the unlikely event that a student (or staff member) falls asleep in an otherwise unoccupied theatre, the mere fact of awakening will automatically switch the lights on again, and the sleeper will be blissfully unaware that he's been in the dark.

The "silent watchers" are currently undergoing tests to determine their ef-

fectiveness in many differing situations, and Mr Grace says he'd be pleased to receive suggestions from members of the University about areas that could be considered.

Simultaneously, the Energy Conservation Committee has authorised test installation of light sensors in a number of areas to monitor the actual hours of operation of lights in theatres, meeting rooms, libraries and the like with a view to rationalising electricity usage.

Mr Grace points out that there's something like 50,000 fluorescent tubes around the University — each notching up about 1½ cents a day in electricity costs. Any means of reducing that sort of expenditure is going to be worthwhile, he says.

In our picture, electrical superintendent Laurie Fitzgerald adjusts the movement detector while Kevin Grace checks a monitor below.

Chinese paleontologist here to aid computer translation project

One of China's leading vertebrate paleontologists is currently visiting Monash to help in the final stages of a project which will give Westerners greater access to the rich field of Chinese literature on vertebrate fossils.

She is Mrs Yu-ping Zhang, researcher at the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology of the Academia Sinica in Peking, who is visiting on an Australia-China Council grant.

In 1964 Mrs Zhang made the first significant discoveries in China of early mammals — dating from the Paleocene, some 65 to 70 million years ago — at a fossil site in the south of the country.

At Monash she is working with Dr Pat Rich, lecturer in Earth Sciences, on a computer-based system for automatic translation of Chinese paleontological literature into English (and vice versa) and the production of the first Chinese-English/English-Chinese dictionary in the subject.

Mrs Zhang's Monash visit follows that last year of Dr Minchen Chow, the director of the Institute with which she works.

The idea for a bilingual paleontological dictionary and a rapid, low cost translation facility grew from a visit to Peking by Dr Rich in 1979. While in China she met Dr R. P. Sloss and Dr J. L. Dawson, of the Literary and Linguistic Computing Centre in Cambridge, who have been interested in compiling a series of technical vocabularies in scientific and engineering fields to be used in an existing computerised translation system. It was agreed to add paleontology to that list.

Meanwhile, at Monash, a parallel computer system is being established with the help of Mr Ron Savage, who teaches Chinese in the Japanese department, and Professor John Crossley, of Mathematics.

Collecting the terms

The backbone of the project has been the compilation of a comprehensive paleontological vocabulary (with Chinese character, Pinyin and English equivalents). Terms have been collected from a number of sources: existing dictionaries, many of which were out of print; the personal vocabulary files of specialists in the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology; unpublished vocabularies; glossaries in scientific articles; and Chinese translations of foreign books, articles and texts.

The fruit of two years' work is some 14,000 entries, which, given the nature of the study of fossils, include terms from diverse other fields such as zoology, geology, physics, chemistry, genetics and mathematics. Mrs Zhang has been involved in the final checking of these terms, which will form the dictionary, and in the preliminary stages of the machine translation system.

Dr Rich explains that when the system is operational it will give a literal word for word translation — not a grammatical, much less colloquial, one. However, she adds, it should be quite suitable for much paleontological literature which is descriptive in nature. In the case of interpretive

papers, the "Pidgin English" translations will often be useable or will allow scholars to scan papers or abstracts and assess the worth of having them translated by technically-trained linguists.

While in Australia Mrs Zhang will also complete papers on China's fossil elephants and hedgehogs with Dr Tom Rich, curator of vertebrate fossils at the National Museum of Victoria.

She is, at the moment, with an expedition led by Dr Tom Rich at a site, near Lake Eyre, of rocks ranging in age from a few million to well over 100 million years.

China, Dr Zhang says, is a country rich in vertebrate fossils. In the last 25 years, she and colleagues from her Institute have conducted extensive field work in the south of the country, Yunnan and Inner Mongolia, among other areas.



ABOVE: The fossil and the computer — a new project at Monash makes the connection. Chinese visitor, Mrs Yu-ping Zhang checks a print-out of paleontological terms with Dr Pat Rich and Mr Ron Savage.

The study is pre-history

Aboriginal scholars to study in France

Four years ago, Deniliquin-born Jeanette Carroll started work with the National Parks and Wildlife Service in Sydney.

Initially employed as a typist, Jeanette's interest in the history of her people — the Aboriginal — was soon recognised and put to use. She joined teams from the Aboriginal relics section on site recording field trips all over NSW. At the same time she started formal study in pre-history as part of a Bachelor of Arts course being completed by correspondence from the University of New England.

Now Jeanette has been chosen as one of the first two Aborigines to study in France under a scheme established by the French Society for the Promotion of Aboriginal Culture. The other is Cliff Coulthard from the Flinders Ranges in South Australia.

Jeanette, a mother of two, visited Monash late last month to finalise details of her trip with the Australian secretary of the Society, Eve Fesl, who is Director of Monash's Aboriginal Research Centre.

The Society is the brainchild of Professor John Martyn, of the Melbourne University Classics department. His proposal received enthusiastic support from other academics — both in Australia and France — and the Aboriginal Research Centre. It became a reality at a con-



gress in Perpignan, France, two years ago.

The Society's aim is to develop a cultural and educational exchange system between French and other European scholars and Australian Aborigines. One of its first tasks has been to set up a scheme to provide opportunities for Aborigines to acquire archaeological, anthropological, linguistic and other skills in European centres so that they may be applied in the study and preservation of their own culture.

The program is seen as international recognition of the importance of Aborigines being custodians of their own heritage. At a later stage it is hoped that French students will visit Australia to learn about Aboriginal culture from Aborigines.

Jeanette Carroll and Cliff Coulthard will study at the Centre de Prehistoire at Peche Merle, Cabrerets, in the central Massiv range. The Centre is close to the site of Europe's most extensive and famous prehistoric painted caves.

BELOW: Aboriginal scholar bound for France, Jeanette Carroll (right), and Eve Fesl with a poster from the Museum at Perpignan given to Eve by a recent visitor there — the Chancellor, Sir Richard Eggleston.

The Australians will study rock art conservation under Professor Michel Lorblanchet, director of the Centre. They will also join an excavation team.

The second congress of the French Society is scheduled to be held at Peche Merle in September, at the tail end of their stay.

Waterhouse art

Melbourne artist John Waterhouse, well-known to Monash art lovers for his work here during the '60s, has opened his first one-man show since 1978 at the Raya Gallery, Kew.

The collection consists of landscape memories — some close to home (Wyperfeld), others distant (Pompeii) — and still life paintings.

The exhibition, at 42 Cotham Rd., Kew, will remain open until August 1. Gallery hours are Sunday 2-6, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10-5. Other times by appointment.

Computer assesses strategies for improved public transport

Most forms of public transport in Australian cities are in a bind.

On the one hand, they face the problem of containing rising deficit levels. On the other, they are under increasing public pressure for generally improved services.

In attempting to meet this demand, the provision of major new services — requiring a massive injection of funds — is usually out of the question. The remaining option, then, is to secure a better performance from the existing system.

But here again public transport authorities face a major problem: it can be a costly business experimenting with changes to a system — and risky when the price of failure can be inconvenience for thousands of people.

Clearly there has been the need for a tool enabling comprehensive evaluation of a proposed strategy before its implementation in the field.

Researchers in Monash's department of Civil Engineering believe they have now developed such a method, specifically designed for the testing of different strategies in the operation of tram routes using a sophisticated variety of performance measures.

Mr Upali Vandebona, a Ph.D. student, and Dr Tony Richardson, a senior lecturer in transport, have developed a computerised model of Melbourne tram routes. For initial demonstration purposes they are studying the no. 75 route which runs between East Burwood and the City, although the model can be adapted to realistically represent any tram route.

Associated with the model is an animated display which allows the researchers to watch on a visual display unit a mini-portrayal of the movement of vehicles along the route. They can get a "bird's eye" view of where each tram is in the system over, say, the three busiest hours in the morning and evening.

A wide range of considerations affecting the performance of a tram between terminuses has been incorporated into the model (appropriately enough known as TRAMS — Transit Route Animation and Modelling by Simulation) to make it an accurate reflection of reality.

For example, account has been taken of tram stops and time spent in passenger loading and unloading (with allowance for varying passenger flow at different times of the day), acceleration and deceleration between stops and the time in which cruise speeds can be achieved, the effects of traffic lights, right-turning traffic and so on.

Dr Richardson says that after two year's work on the model he is confident that it duplicates the variability of the real-life situation.

On the Burwood-City route (18km) there are some 73 stops (11 timetabled) and 32 signalised intersections. Each animated "run" is different so that on one occasion a tram will be stopped by a red light or an alighting passenger but not necessarily on the next run — this variability, of course, reflects the "real world" performance of any service from one day to the next.

Dr Richardson says that recent tests in the field have confirmed the model's realism. Now, he adds, the model is at a stage where it can be used to quantify

the effects of changes in strategy — say, of changes in tram design or of introducing co-ordinated traffic signals.

The model allows the evaluation of change using a wide range of performance measures, including average unit travel time, the average passenger waiting time at tram stops, the average bunch size of tram platoons and the probability of a passenger not obtaining a seat in the tram.

Already the simulation model has been used to "measure" in such ways the effects of:

- Changes in tram cruise speed.
- Changes in the number of doors on a tram (hence, their loading and unloading rate).
- Changes in the number of right-turners at signalised intersections.
- Changes in passenger demand for the tram service.
- The introduction of tram priority signals at intersections.

The animation package won for Mr Vandebona an award for best student paper at a recent conference of the Australian Institutes of Transport Research held at Melbourne University.



● Upali Vandebona and Tony Richardson at the East Burwood tram terminus. Photo: David Holmes.

'TRAMS' turns up a surprising result on right-turn traffic

Ever felt a heel as a motorist waiting to turn right in peak-hour traffic with one (or more) trams behind?

A Monash study using the TRAMS (Transit Route Animation Modelling by Simulation) model developed by civil engineers, Dr Tony Richardson and Mr Upali Vandebona, has confirmed what seems obvious about right-turning traffic at signalised intersections: it delays trams.

But the study has come up with another, more surprising, result which the researchers say should be considered in the case for or against permitting such right turns: as the volume of right-turning traffic increases above a moderate level there is a decreasing tendency for trams to "bunch" and then run together.

This means that while individual trams are delayed they are more evenly spaced. This may be of significance to the peak-hour traveller who may be more concerned about a reliable interval between trams of, say, five minutes than whether it is actually the scheduled 8.05 tram arriving at his stop at that time.

Relative importance

The researchers say: "While increased right-turning traffic may have a detrimental effect on site-specific tram performance measures, it may not necessarily be detrimental to tram route performance measures.

"The overall effect will depend on the relative weights assigned to the two types of performance measure."

Dr Richardson and Mr Vandebona conducted their study on a computer model based on the East Burwood-City tram route, with tram departures from East Burwood every five minutes over a two-hour morning peak period.

At each of the 32 signalised intersections along the route, the flow of right-turners was varied from zero vehicles per hour (i.e. right turns banned) up to a value close to the maximum number of vehicles which could possibly make a right-turn at the intersection in the hour.

The study also examined the effects of different right-turn control strategies, such as right turn arrows or simply letting the right-turners move off whenever they found a gap in the opposing traffic. In each case, the opposing traffic volume was 1000 vehicles per hour (vph).

The effect of change was measured by the following yardsticks: average

Right-turners will delay a tram . . .



. . . But tend to break up bunches



tram travel time (in minutes per kilometre), average tram bunch size, and average passenger waiting time.

Dr Richardson and Mr Vandebona found that, as far as the effect on tram travel time is concerned, leading right-turn arrows are better than lagging right-turn arrows but that filtering of right-turners across opposing traffic is better than an exclusive leading right-turn arrow. A combination of filtering and leading arrow gave the best overall performance.

For this signal control strategy, the average travel time when right turns were banned was 2.7 min/km. This value was maintained until right-turn traffic was about 400 vph. As this traffic increased to 540 vph (the maximum possible) the travel time increased to 4.4 min/km.

The average bunch size when there were no right-turners was 1.10. This remained relatively constant until the traffic volume was 360 vph and then dropped to 1.04 as the right-turners grew to 540 vph. Obviously, the absolute minimum bunch size is 1.0.

The average passenger waiting time stayed fairly constant at 3.1 minutes when right-turn flow was in the range of zero to 360 vph. However, as the right-turn traffic grew to 540 vph, the waiting time fell to 2.8 minutes. The absolute minimum average waiting time is 2.5 minutes (if all trams ran exactly to schedule with five minute headways).

Dr Richardson explains how tram bunches form:

One of the most significant factors, he says, is variation in tram delay at signals and tram stops.

For example, a tram may arrive at a signalised intersection and be delayed for a considerable time. On arriving at the next tram stop, there will be a larger than scheduled headway in front of this tram (assuming that the previous one was on time) and hence a greater number of passengers to pick up. This will delay this tram even further.

When the next tram arrives at the stop — assuming it is on time — there will be fewer passengers to pick up. It will thus have a shorter loading time and move off earlier than expected. The combined effect of the delayed departure of the first tram and the early departure of the second means that the headway between the two is reduced. At each stop the gap is narrowed until the second tram catches up with the first.

How do right-turners affect this flow?

It is possible — indeed probable at high right-turn flows — that the two trams will be separated at an intersection by right-turn vehicles in the queue, says Dr Richardson.

When the first tram moves off, the second one will not follow unless all the right-turners clear immediately. This is generally not the case as the first tram will go in the through-movement phase of a signal leaving the turners behind to filter through opposing traffic or wait for a green arrow.

Either way, the second tram is delayed and the bunch broken up.

Shaking out a well-chewed blanket

IN THIS pamphlet Max Teichmann re-states (and updates) his case for armed neutrality and non-aligned foreign policy. Max's case is already well-known to most informed Monash readers. In the pamphlet he is addressing himself primarily to the left-of-centre intelligentsia, in and around the ALP.

Just looking at the updated aspects of the case for non-alignment, the pamphlet asserts that the "health hazards" of being associated with a super-power — in our case the United States — have become more demonstrable than ever. The moral and political degeneration of both the USA and the USSR, accompanied by their increasing tendency to play with fire in other people's yards, ostensibly on an ally's account, should by now have convinced even a moderately sceptical Australian to judge that the "disutilities" of existing (conservative) policies with respect to alliances outweigh their supposed utilities.

Having castigated the incorrigible power-mongering of the USA and the USSR, the cynicism of the Chinese (in Beijing), the ambiguities surrounding Japan, and the opportunism of political elites in the Third World, Max concludes — with some justification — that Australia, whose moral virtues are not inherently superior (witness East Timor), would be better advised to carry a stick no

Max Teichmann, *Australia Alone: A Case Against Alignment* (Victorian Fabian Pamphlet, 1981) pp. 24 Rec. Ret. \$1.00.

bigger than it can support (by itself) and act commensurately. In other words we should pull in our heads and let others embroil themselves in their own destructive conflicts. Non-alignment is about the fact of self-preservation, not its morality.

Keep our powder dry

Yet he also propounds that we Australians should be "polite to all, trusting towards no one, determined to defend ourselves if attacked, unafraid to criticise the actions of others from a moral point of view, ready to support all moves to further the cause of reason, justice, equality and peace in the world system, while aware of our quite limited capacities in those quests, and the impossibility of forcing such standards of conduct upon many of the elites and peoples of this world as things stand. We should combine compassion with prudence, benevolence with realism, and keep our powder dry."

One might well wonder if we can't do any or most of these things particularly well nationally what prospect would there be for us internationally!

Max has a good case for non-alignment, though this somewhat intemperate pamphlet (which would benefit from tighter editing and proof-reading) is surely not its definitive expression.

In a footnote he mentions that according to Age polls, 70 per cent of Australians are not convinced that the US alliance will reduce the risk of attack upon us, but more than 60 per cent support both the US bases here and the transiting of B52's through Darwin. Now that we have just witnessed the imbroglio over US nuclear powered and armed ships (thanks to a certain local naivety) the case for non-alignment no matter how plausible in the abstract needs to be put a good bit harder if the emerging concern over the risks of the alliance is to be joined effectively with such specific issues.

As the ALP leadership appears still to recognise, there is an even greater risk, in the electorate, of even contemplating the removal of this well chewed security blanket.

Andrew Farran
Faculty of Law



Students get the drum on African percussion

Students from Monash's Music department, together with their counterparts from La Trobe, "got the drum" (so to speak) on West African music and dance in classes held last month by African master musician, Kobra Ladzekpo.

Mr Ladzekpo is a performer, composer and teacher of songs, dances and percussion of the Ewe people of West Africa. He is from a talented family of musicians who have served as lead composer-drummers among the Anolo Ewe people of south-east Ghana for three generations.

He currently teaches at the California Institute of the Arts and the University of California at Los Angeles and is visiting Australia at the invitation of the La Trobe Music department.

Mr Ladzekpo has appeared throughout the US, Africa, Soviet Union and Israel as a member of dance companies and cultural groups sponsored by the government of Ghana. He has recorded two albums of Ewe music and published a number of articles on Ghanaian music.

The Monash students travelled to La Trobe to attend Mr Ladzekpo's workshops and then joined him late last month in a concert held in the Phoenix Theatre, Elwood, which was sponsored by the Monash Music department and the African-Australian Society.

● Second year Arts students at Monash (from left) Mark Fryer, Mary-Jane Kane and Kristin Jones get tuition in West African percussion instruments from visiting musicologist at La Trobe University, Kobra Ladzekpo. Photo: La Trobe Library — Reprography.

MAD TUDS I,II ... and there's more on the way

It was a week of MADness — that's how members of the Monash Association of Debaters (MAD) describe events that took place during a visit by the Tasmanian University Debating Society (TUDS) in the May vacation. And more is on the way.

MAD Vice-President Elisabeth Ford here gives a rundown on the MADness and includes a few tips on how you can join in if you're so inclined:

THE HISTORY: Unsuspecting members of the Monash Association of Debaters little knew what we were starting in May, 1981, when we hosted our first Debating Intersarsity. This was the start of a tradition: the rituals of May were re-enacted in Hobart during August.

Through the last long vacation, MAD traded in its faithful treasurer, David Bentley, to the Tasmanian University Debating Society in return for their Immediate Past President Brian Yates. Both clubs were able to learn more about the others' activities and interests. When term began again for 1982 we reclaimed our exchange debaters.

By this time the link had been established, and we met at Monash for our May '82 Miniversity. Rumour has it that MAD will migrate, mouths at-the-ready, in a month's time to enjoy another week of miniversity activities in Tasmania.

THE RITUALS: In May at Monash, the Tasmania



MAD and TUDS members take time away from letting off steam in their debates for a ride on Puffing Billy! From top (left to right): Filomena Colavecchio, Naomi Yellowlees, Paul Williamson, Elisabeth Ford, Anne Dalton, Tony Holmes and Sue Campbell.

troupe was treated to a tremendously taxing tournament of debating and socialising.

We held debating workshops in the Union and presented our Test Grand Final Debate to students at Carwatha High School in Noble Park North. The topic was "That we should put the third world first," with Monash debaters Genevieve Overell, Tony Holmes, and Mark Harrick presenting a fine affirmative case. Tasmania, represented by Sue Campbell, Naomi Yellowlees and Paul Williamson, also argued very well, and the diplomatic audience declared the debate a draw.

A large part of the MAD vs. TUDS Miniversity tradition is associated with social activities, and we indulged in a great deal of partying and tripping around Melbourne: Mount Dandenong at midnight, Puffing Billy, Phillip Island, the Victoria Market, and Lygon Street among the highlights.

LIKE TO JOIN IN? Both Debating Societies are generously funded by their Unions' Clubs and Societies Councils. These miniversities are tremendous fun and very good experience for all would-be prize debaters. MAD would welcome any new members who might like to join us in our miniversity MADness, or general club activities. We can be contacted via our letterbox in the Union, except between August 12-19, when we will be in Tasmania for our Counter Revenge Miniversity.

It was a fresh and vital Knight

For its contribution to the Festival of Comedy and Dance, the Monash University Shakespeare Society has made a courageous move to the Alexander Theatre with their performance of Francis Beaumont's "The Knight of the Burning Pestle" (c.1607).

Tim Scott's production has a great freshness and vitality and at least four considerable strengths. The first is certainly Greg Evans who as Rafe the grocer's apprentice must sustain throughout the comedy the rich fantasies and incongruities of several plays within the play itself.

The second is the citizens, grocer George and his wife Nell (vigorously interpreted by Ray Goodwin and Sue Rocco) who gradually assert a total control over the action.

The third is John Leonard's Merrythought — a demanding role which calls not only for ebullience and comic flair but for a capacity to sing 30 or so ballads and snatches in a kind of intermittent recitative.

Fortunately the original scores for many of the songs have survived and the music for this production, arranged and directed by Margaret Scott and David Bradley, must be counted as its final and perhaps most memorable success.

David Bradley's set cleverly reduces the vast expanse of the Alex's stage to a cheerfully tatty London scene, with plaster peeling off the bricks, and a squat central turret permits old Merrythought to make a breathtaking late appearance ('Come aloft, boys, aloft') from a confined upper acting level. Costumes by Lorraine Bullock are generally an appealing blend of period authenticity and whim-



● Michael Warren as The Host and Greg Evans as Rafe ... a production with considerable strengths.

sicality, and Rafe's splendidly hobbyhysical charger fits perfectly with the prevailing burlesque of chivalric romance and indeed with the whole atmosphere of festive comedy.

The program cites passages from Dekker and Jonson to prepare us for the spectacle of George and Nell very much at their ease on stage, peeling oranges, cracking nuts, and furthering the histrionic talents of their loyal apprentice, Rafe. But as audience, at least on the first night, we needed a firmer guide to the relationship between the citizen framework of the comedy and the very distinctive absurdities of that early 17th century soapie, 'The London Merchant', the play within our play.

Ideally, this might have been noted in the

program and pointed up with greater clarity in the production. (The brilliant ensemble playing of the Rusden College version of the Knight made this distinction very clearly some years ago).

In Tim Scott's reading of the play, the good citizens engage our sympathies as soon as they clamber onto the stage and then, gradually, we come to realise that their own farcical preferences for ludicrous heroics effectively provide some startlingly good theatre. Even the brief scene of the King of Cracovia's house and Rafe's great declamation as Lord of the May are revealed as far more arresting than any 'London Merchant' or 'Four Prentices of London' — despite the assured performance of James Ross as Jasper.

An excessively studied lack of interest on the part of the cast of 'The London Merchant' does not finally distract us from the sheer exuberance of Rafe's farewell appearance when, a forked arrow through his head, he gives his dying speech as the Knight of the Burning Pestle: 'I die; fly, fly, my soul to Grocers' Hall'.

By the concluding chorus, both audience and actors have been drawn inevitably into George-and-Nell's fantasy world which happily blends with the hilariously irresponsible and life-enhancing capers of old Merrythought. It seems fitting then that Nell should speak the epilogue and remind us of Rafe's triumph: 'I thank you all, gentlemen, for your patience and countenance to Rafe, a poor fatherless child . . . I refer it to your own discretions whether you will applaud him or no'.

Ian Laurenson
Department of English

Regional university aid report

The 1980-81 report of the Australian-Asian Universities' Co-operation Scheme has been published by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

The report will be the last to be issued under the AAUCS title. On July 1 last year the Scheme underwent a change of name and is now known as the Australian Universities' International Development Program.

The report emphasises that the change of name does not reflect any major change in policy. All on-going commitments of the AAUCS will be continued by the AUIDP, it says, and all office-bearers remain in their current positions.

Wider ambit

The Scheme, designed to provide assistance to universities in South-East Asia, was formally established in November 1969 by an agreement between the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Australian Government provides basic finance for the Scheme through the Australian Development Assistance Bureau.

At present the scheme is confined to the ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand), but the report says the Committee "looks forward to the opportunity of including Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific in its ambit of assistance in the future."



Abstinence is better vaccine

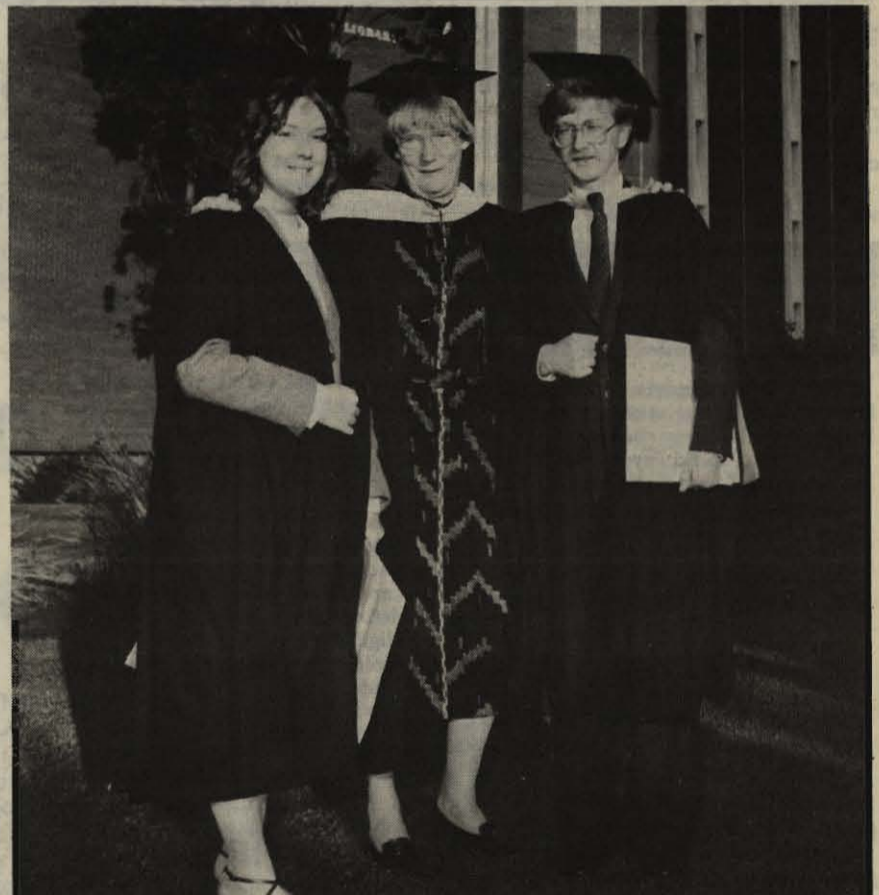
Sir: The attempt by Monash researchers to develop a vaccine for syphilis (Reporter 4-82) illustrates that modern science thinks that what it can do, it should do.

Are we to accept that our taxes are supporting the attempt to protect people from the justly deserved consequences of their immoral lives? And, despite the fact that syphilis "can be cured relatively easily with penicillin" (P.1), are our researchers encouraging immorality by supplying the means by which we can avoid the only factors which (for some) restrain our society from further decay (viz bad consequences)?

Or does Professor Faine think that such research is morally neutral, or if not, that doctors are the 'experts' not only in the field of medicine, but ethics as well, and hence should be the ones who tell us what is permissible?

There already is a vaccine for syphilis; it is called "refraining from fornication and sexual immorality" and it is a far better vaccine than the one in preparation, for it rightly presupposes that there is a lot more to life than the medical fraternity will ever be able to tell us.

Brian Steer,
Student,
Diploma in Education
course



Met at, married at — now Masters

Christine and Anatolij Lisov met at Monash, married at Monash and last month graduated Masters of Arts in Librarianship — from Monash.

Christine and Anatolij met while studying for their Arts honours degrees — she taking hers in Music, he in Anthropology.

Christine, whose MA thesis was on "The compilation of thematic catalogues with special reference to thematic locators and the effect of computerisation", now works as a cataloguer of music at the Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne.

Anatolij's thesis was "A case study of immigrants from Yugoslavia and their attitudes towards public libraries in Melbourne". He works at the Brunswick City Library as the Housebound Service Librarian.

The two were married on April 3 this year in the Religious Centre.

After the Arts graduation, the Librarianship Class of '82 gathered near the pond in the forum for photographs and farewells. Professor Jean Whyte is pictured above with the Lisovs.

Charley's Aunt's back — but never a drag!

The Victorian farce, "Charley's Aunt" — a hardy perennial but one that rarely fails to delight its audience — is being given a production in the Alexander Theatre by the Monash Student Theatre Committee this month.

The play, by Brandon Thomas, is being directed by Murray Copland who has directed some of the Playbox Theatre's greatest successes in recent years.

Set at Oxford University (the producers are hoping to roll in on the "Brideshead" wave and have subtitled

their production "Frivolity Revisited") in the 1890s, "Charley's Aunt" focuses on the romantic intrigue of two undergraduates, Charley and Jack. When they fall in love with two girls and wish to propose, a male friend offers to act as chaperone — dressed as Charley's aunt. Disguise is at the heart of increasingly tangled relationships — the stuff of good, gutsy farce.

Stage design and costumes are by Jennie Tate and Graham McGuffie.

"Charley's Aunt" will play at 8 p.m. from July 8 for three nights, resuming on July 14 for another four nights. Prices are \$4.50 and \$2.50 (concession).



● Cast members of Charley's Aunt: (left) Jani McCutcheon (Kitty), Brad Felstead (Charley) and Simone Dolista (Ela).

'Stevie' and her aunt take the stage too

Veteran entertainer Queenie Ashton joins Melbourne actress Anne Phelan in a production of Hugh Whitmore's play "Stevie" which will have a season at the Alexander Theatre from July 22 to 31.

"Stevie" has been described as a play of great warmth and charm which is based on the life of the late poet Peggy ("Stevie") Smith who, as a critic remarked, wrote poetry about "important things — life, death and cats."

Anne Phelan takes the title role which was created in the West End



and on film by Glenda Jackson. Queenie Ashton, who is 79, plays Stevie's loved and lovable aunt.

The production, which will subsequently tour Victoria, is being mounted by the Alexander Theatre and the Victorian Arts Council. It is being directed by Don Mackay with sets by Jennie Tate. The cast of three also includes Kirk Alexander, who has recently returned to Australia from work in England and South Africa.

Tickets cost \$12.50 (\$9.50 concession) and can be obtained from the Alex. or through BASS outlets.

Important dates

The Registrar advises the following important dates for students in July.

12: Second half-year begins for B.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., Dip.Ed.Psych. and M.Ed.St. Second half-year begins for LL.M. by coursework.

Last date for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in Medicine VI for it to be classified as discontinued. If a subject or unit is not discontinued by this date, and the examination is not attempted or assignment work is not completed, it will be classified as failed. In exceptional circumstances the Dean may approve the classification of a subject or unit as discontinued between July 12 and the end of the appropriate teaching period.

17: Second term ends for Medicine VI (Prince Henry's Hospital students).

19: Second half-year begins for Medicine V.

23: Last date for second half-year course / subject / unit / changes. After July 23 no student may take up a new subject or unit taught in the second half of the

year, except with the permission of the Dean of the faculty, and on payment of a late change fee calculated at the rate of \$5 for up to one week late; \$10 for between one to two weeks late; \$20 for more than two weeks late.

Last date for discontinuance of all studies by not - for - degree, diploma, bachelor degree and Master preliminary candidates, and by Master candidates defined as coursework candidates, to be eligible for 50% refund of the 1982 Union fees paid (not applicable to students taking summer term subjects).

24: Second term ends for Medicine VI (Alfred Hospital students).

26: Third term begins for Medicine VI (Prince Henry's Hospital students).

Technology and women

The next meeting of the Southern Suburbs Group of the Australian Federation of University Women will be held on Wednesday, July 14 at the Vice-Chancellor's house at 7.45 p.m.

Lyn Beaton, of The Working Women's Centre, will talk about "Technology and Women". All interested persons are invited to attend.

The Southern Suburbs Group, which is based at Monash, needs new members. Anyone interested should contact Pat Minton, 'phone 568 1017.

JULY DIARY

The events listed below are open to the public. 'RBH' throughout stands for Robert Blackwood Hall. There is a BASS ticketing outlet on campus at the Alexander Theatre.

6-19: EXHIBITION of books from the Rare Book Room in recognition of 15 years of support from the Friends of the Monash University Library. Monash University Library. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2689.

7: ENVIRONMENTAL FORUMS — "Resistance to the SEC Transmission to Alcoa", by David Mercer. 14: "Values in a Sustainable Society", by Prof. Charles Birch. 21: "Centre for Education & Research in Environmental Strategies", by Chris Ryan. 28: "Health and Safety in the Workplace", by John Mathews. All forums at 5 p.m. Environmental Science Seminar Room. Admission free. Inquiries: exts. 3837, 3840.

8: LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL by Harold Fabrikant; 15: Kenneth Weir; 22: Bruce Steele and Merrowyn Deacon. All recitals at 1.15 p.m. Large Chapel, Religious Centre. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3160.

8-10: PLAY — "Charley's Aunt", pres. by Monash Student Theatre Committee. 8 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults \$4.50, concessions \$2.50. Performances also July 14-17.

10: SATURDAY CLUB (Red Series B, 5-8 year olds) — "Soundscapes". 2.30 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults \$4.50, children \$3.50.

13-16: "INSTEP '82" by Monash Modern Dance. July 13 at 8 p.m.; July 14 at 1.15 p.m.; July 15 & 16 at 1.15 p.m. and 5.15 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults \$2.50, concession \$1.50.

13: LECTURE — "Education for the Liberation of Life", by Prof. Charles Birch. 5 p.m. Room G19, Education Building. 14: "Genes, Gravitons and God", by Prof. Charles Birch. 1 p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Both lectures presented by Monash Chaplaincy. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3160.

16: MATHEMATICS LECTURES — "Formation of the Solar System", by Dr A. J. Prentice. 30: "Two Circles Intersect at Four Points!", by Dr C. F. Moppert. Both lectures at 7 p.m. Lecture Theatre R1. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2607.

CONCERT — "Bima Suci: Bima's Journey to the Depths of the Ocean", pres. by department of Music. Program will be accompanied by traditional Javanese gamelan orchestra. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$3.50, students \$2, school parties \$1.

17: CONCERT — National Boys' Choir Celebrity Concert with the Taipei Children's Christian Chorus. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: auditorium \$5; balcony \$4.50; students/pensioners \$2. For tickets ring 861 5838 between 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

19: LUNCHTIME CONCERT — piano recital presented by Helen Krizos and Peter Noke. 1.15 p.m. RBH. Admission free.

MIGRANT STUDIES SEMINAR — "Turkish Migration to Australia", by Joy Elley. 7.30 p.m. Lecture Theatre R3. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2825.

20: ELEVENTH WILFRED FULLAGAR MEMORIAL LECTURE — "The Constitutional Protection of Human Rights", by Sir Harry Gibbs, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. 8.30 p.m. Alexander Theatre. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3300.

21: ANNUAL LECTURES ON INDONESIA — "The Malay-Islamic World of Sumatra: studies in politics and culture", by Lance Castles and Barbara Leigh. 28: "Minangkabau Authority Patterns and the Effects of Dutch Rule", by Ken Young; "The Upland and Downland Rajas of Barus: A North Sumatran Case Study", by Jane Drakard. Both lectures at 8 p.m. Lecture Theatre R4. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2197.

22-31: PLAY — "Stevie" pres. by Alexander Theatre and Victorian Arts Council. 8 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults \$12.50, students \$10.50, pensioners \$9.50.

24: SATURDAY CLUB (Red Series A, 5-8 year-olds) — "Soundscapes". 2.30 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission adults \$4.50, children \$3.50.

26: LUNCHTIME CONCERT "Melbourne Kammermusiker" performs trios by Martinu, Pleyel and Weber. 1.15 p.m. RBH. Admission free.

29: CONCERT — ABC Monash Series No. 3: The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra conducted by Piero Gamba, Hakan Hagegard — baritone. Works by Haydn, Martin and Tchaikovsky. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults A. Res. \$10.60, B. Res. \$8.60, C. Res. \$6.60; students and pensioners A Res. \$8.60, B. Res. \$6.60, C. Res. \$5.60.

30: INDIAN DANCE RECITAL presented by the Ceylon Tamil Association, with Shanthi Rajendran and Chandrabhunu. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$5, children \$3. For tickets ring Dr Sivendran on 541 3740.

31: CONCERT — The Hawthorn City Band with the RAAF Central Band. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: \$4.

SATURDAY CLUB (Blue Series, 8-13 year-olds) — "The Excitement of Ballet". 2.30 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults \$4.50, children \$3.50. Alexander Theatre Bankcard Telebooking now available for all Alexander Theatre productions.

MONASH REPORTER

The next issue of Monash Reporter will be out for 'Courses and Careers' Afternoon — August 1.

Copy deadline is early — Wednesday, July 21.

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