## Scientists to swap notes before trial

Forensic scientists and pathologists will soon play a more assertive role in the legal process, says Professor Stephen Cordner, director of the new Victorian Institute of Forensic Pathology.

The Forensic Science Society of Australia is considering an ethic which includes consultation before a trial.

"Even though the lawyers may not like it, forensic scientists and pathologists are going to work that way," he said.

"The best forensic pathology evidence relies on the people involved getting together.

"The prosecution pathologist might not have thought of everything, although he or she has tried very hard.

"Maybe the defence pathologist could point out something beforehand which might actually lead to the prosecution saying — 'Well, we can't proceed'."

Consultation could also bring genuine differences into sharper focus, Professor Cordner said.

"It's common to have a lot of time wasted on spurious differences when there has been no pre-trial conference."

Recent events like the Lindy Chamberlain case were a perfect example of the need for consultation before a trial, he said.

Professor Cordner, 33, was appointed in May to the foundation Chair of Forensic Medicine at Monash, an appointment which also makes him director of the institute.

He graduated MBBS from the University of Melbourne in 1977, having also obtained a Bachelor of Medical Science degree and a Diploma in Criminology.

He has held a lectureship since 1981 in the Department of Forensic Medicine at Guy's Hospital Medical School, London, where, in addition to his teaching responsibilities, he assisted in police investigations of suspicious or homicidal deaths.

Although he had no part in planning

the new State Coronial Services Centre in South Melbourne, he is delighted with what he describes as "an absolutely purpose-built facility".

"There's nothing to touch it in England, and there are only one or two places in the United States and Canada which could be comparable.

"Forensic medicine owes Monash University a great debt for its farsightedness and commitment."

Victoria would soon have the capacity to deal with the most difficult cases such as the Chamberlain case — in the best possible way, he said.

"The role of the institute in relation to all the issues that are coming up about expert evidence is going to be a very interesting one.

"We hope to be able to satisfy both prosecution and defence and we must work very hard to make sure we do."

There are about 6000 sudden and unexpected deaths in Victoria each year. "About 4500 will be perfectly straightforward uncomplicated natural deaths, the other 1500 will be murders, accidents and suicides," Professor Cordner said.

The institute was established by the Coroner's Act 1985 (which came into effect on 1 June, 1986) as a service, teaching and research organisation.

It has a responsibility "to provide forensic pathology services and related services for the State of Victoria".

It will also provide postgraduate training in forensic pathology, undergraduate education, facilities for medical students and training for people qualified in the biological sciences, toxicology and forensic science.

"There is not much research going on in forensic pathology anywhere in the world," Professor Cordner said.



"Most places tend to be very serviceoriented and they don't have the time or the staff for research.

"We've got the facilities at the institute and that is going to be one of our big tasks."

Very fundamental things need to be looked at, such as the ageing of injuries, he said.

"We need a more accurate definition of the patterns of injury — at present it depends upon a forensic pathologist's own assessment.

"For too long it's been left to individual experience; there's no wellrecognised body of available information — we're right at Square One as far as a lot of that goes."

Professor Cordner said there was a need to be more precise about the circumstances of death.

"If someone drops dead in the street, say, you do a post-mortem examination and find out what diseases they suffered from.

"One might be heart disease, and you say to yourself, well, that is sufficient to cause death.

"In the absence of anything else it becomes the cause of death, but there could be problems with conclusions based on the exclusion of possibilities."

Professor Cordner said research into other sciences — such as toxicology, biochemistry, microbiology, serology and radiology — was important in combination with forensic pathology.

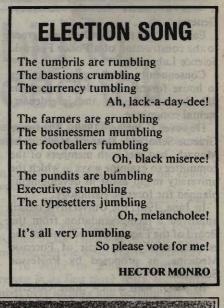
"Collaboration between the institute and the university is limited only by the imagination.

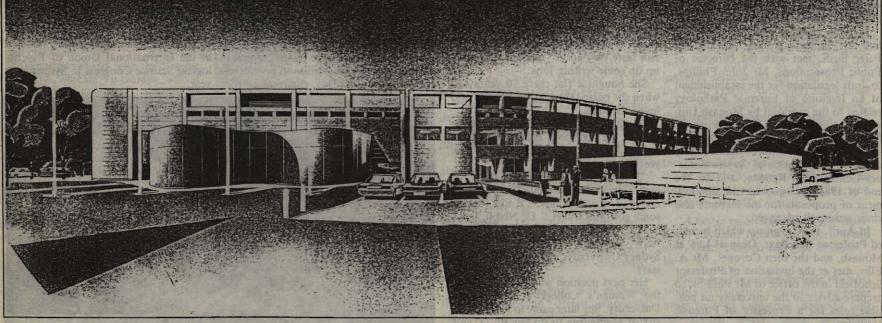
"Being a corporate body we can apply to all sorts of people for research funds, which most government-funded institutions have difficulty doing."

See story page 2



Professor Cordner





• An artist's impression of the new State Coronial Services Centre in South Melbourne. The Victorian Institute of Forensic Pathology will be housed in the 14,000 square metre building, which will be completed in March, 1988. It is on a 1.4 hectare site on the corner of Kavanagh and Power Streets, 150 metres south of the Victorian Arts Centre (see map, page 2). The building contains coroners' offices, two coroners' courts and administration areas. The institute has separate facilities, including a mortuary, laboratories, offices, a lecture room for 70 people, a conference room, museum and library. It is "an absolutely purpose-built facility", says Professor Cordner.

## 'Death of a member of society is a public fact'

"Death of a member of Society is a public fact and the circumstances that surrounded the death and whether it could have been avoided or prevented, through the actions of persons or agencies under human control, are matters within the legitimate scope of interest of all members of the community." (Ontario Law Reform Commission, Report on the Coroner System in the Province of Ontario, Canada 1971; 25).

Each year in metropolitan Melbourne between 4500 and 5000 coronial autopsies are performed, each requiring the most accurate and careful assessment of the cause of death.

In February 1977, the Coroner's Court Review Committee (established in 1977), commented on the lack of qualified pathologists with specialised training in forensic pathology.

In October 1979, an interdepartmental committee comprising officers of the state departments of Law, Health, Police, Public Works and Treasury recommended that medical and other non-medical scientific staffing, and the functioning of services for the Coroner's Court should be the responsibility of the Department of Health within a new complex dedicated to forensic pathology and forensic services for the police.

In September 1981, at a meeting with the committee, the then Minister for Health declined to accept responsibility for coronial autopsies, considering that it was a matter for the Attorney-General.

Early in 1982 the then Premier agreed to the construction of a Police Forensic Science Laboratory.

Consequently, planning for a complex to house forensic pathology lapsed, as did the activities of the interdepartmental committee.

However, during 1980, Professor Graeme Schofield, Dean of Medicine at Monash, had met with members of the committee to examine ways in which the university might assist in developments planned for forensic pathology.

In June, 1981, the University Council approved a recommendation from the Board of the Faculty of Medicine for the establishment of a Chair of Forensic Medicine, as proposed by Professor Schofield.

By 1983, with a new State Government, it became necessary for the university to develop a new impetus for developments in forensic pathology.

In June, 1983, faculty representatives and the Victoria Police Surgeon, Dr Peter Bush, met with the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr John Phillips, to draft legislation for the establishment of an Institute of Forensic Pathology related to the proposal by Monash University to establish a Chair of Forensic Medicine.

These matters were immediately drawn to the attention of the new Attorney-General, Mr Kennan, and by the end of 1983 strategies for the development of proposals for the institute and chair were well advanced.

In April, 1984, a group which included Professor Bob Baxt, Dean of Law at Monash, and the then Coroner, Mr A. Ellis, met at the invitation of Professor Schofield in the office of Mr Phillips, to prepare advice to the university on possible roles for a Professor of Forensic Medicine.

A report on that meeting was conveyed to the Secretary of the Department of Law.

At a subsequent meeting of the group, held in July, 1984, the chairman, Mr Phillips, announced that the Attorney-General had asked him to invite the group advising the university to constitute itself as an Interim Council of a new Victorian Institute of Forensic Pathology.

The council held its first meeting soon afterwards and prepared a report for the Attorney-General which included the following recommendations:

- That a Victorian Institute of Forensic Pathology be formally set up by appropriate legislation;
- That it be under the control of a director whose authority was statewide;
- That the director should occupy the Chair of Forensic Medicine at Monash;
- That the director's salary be met by the Victorian Government.

In December, 1984, Mr Kennan an-

nounced that the government had accepted these recommendations, and that the position of Professor/Director of the new institute would replace the current position of Chief Government Pathologist.

Legislation establishing the Victorian Institute of Forensic Pathology under a new Coroner's Act was prepared and assent was given to the Act on December 10, 1985.

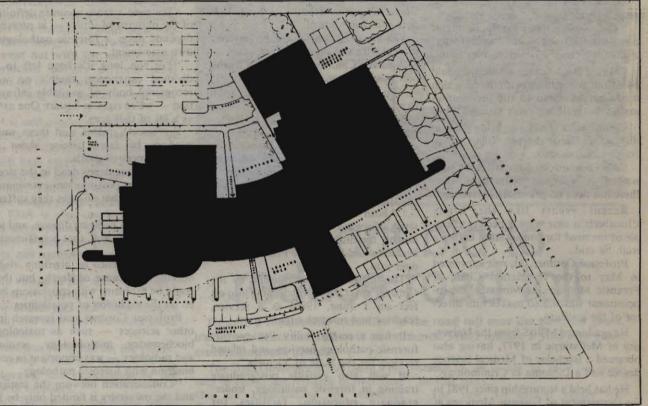
This Act established the position of State Coroner and required that the person who holds the Chair of Forensic Medicine at Monash University would also be appointed Director of the Institute.

It also established a Council for the Institute with representation from both Monash University and the University of Melbourne.

At its inaugural meeting on 27 May, 1986 the council appointed Mr Justice Phillips as chairman. From August 1982 to February 1985 two members of the Interim Council, Professor Schofield and Honorary Professor Vern Plueckhahn, were closely involved with architects and representatives of state government departments in the design and planning of a new Coronial Services Centre and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Pathology, for which an allocation of \$25 million had been made by the State Government.

A site was chosen, and Mr Kennan laid the foundation stone on 2 June, 1986. The building should be ready for occupancy in April, 1988.

• The site plan for the State Coronial Services Centre in South Melbourne. The coroners' offices, courts and administration are in the left wing; conference rooms, meeting rooms and the library are on either side of a gallery running through the centre; and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Pathology occupies the wing on the right.



### Mary's travelling show goes north

Home is where you hang up your hat, says senior lecturer in Education, Dr Mary Nixon, who is about to retire to the NSW north coast.

Dr Nixon has given her last lecture at Monash after 20 years, and she will move to Foster-Tuncurry, "where the fish taste very good" and she can catch up on some writing jobs.

She bought a flat there 10 years ago when she passed through on holiday and loved the area.

One project she has in mind is a revision of the textbook, *Issues in Psychological Practice*, which she edited a few years ago.

"I might also have more time for embroidery. I'm interested in arts and crafts of various kinds; I'd like to play some golf and travel," Dr Nixon says.

She was born and raised in Wagga, NSW, and did her BA and MA at Sydney University, where she joined the staff.

Her next position was as principal of the Women's College at Queensland University. She later came to the University of Melbourne to do her Ph.D, and joined the Faculty of Education at Monash in 1967.

One evening last month, Dr Nixon's

final group of Dip.Ed.Psych. students met for a farewell with a difference.

She was very pleased and proud of their work on an assignment to produce plans for a "Travelling Psychology Exhibition" which could travel Australia during the Bicentenary.

The 35 students were invited to enter their work in a competition to be judged by Professor Ross Day, chairman of the department of Psychology and a colleague and friend of Dr Nixon's from Sydney University.

Three assignments were chosen to be submitted to the Australian Psychological Society, and Dr Nixon hopes they may be included in display material at the International Union of Psychological Science Congress in Sydney next year.



 Dr Mary Nixon appraises the "Travelling Psychology Exhibition" proposal put forward by student, Peter Milesi, who is pointing out some of its features.

JULY 1987

## May Day meeting cuts family Thais

May Day in Bangkok — and by 7am queues were already forming for the Vasectomy Festival at Sanam Luang parklands near the Grand Palace.

Throughout the day, a team of 10 doctors was busy inside the six airconditioned tents.

But by 5pm at the close of business, only 561 operations had been performed, a number which did not even reach the day's target of 600, let alone the 1190 record set on the King's Birthday in 1983.

However, moves are underway in Thailand to "market" vasectomies as the best contraceptive alternative, says Sandy Lie, a fifth-year medical student at Monash who has just returned from a six-week stint as a guest of that country's Population and Community Development Association (PDA).

"Vasectomies are painless, efficient and free, but the men don't feel very comfortable about them.

"Although there's a fee for tubal ligations, many couples opt for that instead.



and giving more publicity to the Vasectomy Festivals, which are held four times a year on occasions like May Day and the King's Birthday."

Ms Lie went to Thailand on a "condom" scholarship provided by the Ansell company.\*

She expected to work with the director of the PDA, Mechai Viravaidya, who is known as "Mr Condom" because he was responsible for a program which distributes condoms and contraceptives to Thai villagers.

She didn't see him at all, but as the only non-Thai permitted to accompany medical teams in their regular duties she had first-hand experience of the PDA's programs.

"I was at the central office in Bangkok, where there's a regular free service in vasectomies," she says.

"People can enter by a side door and go straight upstairs — it takes 10 minutes; the only requirements are that they have had two children, and that the youngest is more than 12 months old."

But it was at smaller clinics in the northern areas that Ms Lie saw the greatest changes.

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"They're hill-tribe people with their own language, cultures," she said. "Each of the six tribes has its own

way of speaking and dressing. "They are fairly primitive; one tribe,

the Akha, only wash once a year and that's when they change their clothes." The PDA is trying to introduce family

planning among these tribes, where the women usually start having children around the age of 14 or 15.

"The pill doesn't fit in to their culture — they forget to take it.

"The men make most family planning decisions, and so the women line up regularly for their injections of Depot Provera because the men find that easier than using condoms," she said.

(One dose of Depot Provera is effective as a contraceptive for about three months. It is not used widely in Australia and other western countries because it is more inconvenient than other contraceptives. "Beside, we don't like injections," says Ms Lie. "But the villagers love them, they think injections make them healthy and strong.")

"I went out with the mobile teams and watched doctors perform tubal ligations on the hill-tribe women.

"Everything was sterile — but very basic."

Ms Lie said condoms, pills and other contraceptives were distributed to villages from the PDA's regional bases. "Each base supplies between 50 and 80 villages, and in each village there is a distributor, trained by the PDA, who gives the women regular health checks."

The PDA is also involved in community development, and Ms Lie saw the results of programs to improve water supplies and agricultural output in the villages.

"One village in the north-east had a very effective program.

"The houses had iron roofs to catch the rain, and each had two water tanks and a latrine.

"There was a rice mill for the village, and a co-op which did away with the over-charging and exploitation of the monopoly suppliers."

\*Ansell International, the largest manufacturer of condoms in the world, has endowed an annual scholarship of \$1000 to the Faculty of Medicine towards the airfare for a student to go to Bangkok and study Mr Viravaidya's work.

The Ansell Mechai Viravaidya Scholarship was set up in gratitute for advice given to Ansell by Professor Roger Short of Physiology about how to improve the effectiveness of its condoms.



• A woman and child from the Akha tribe which has distinctive headgear.



 A PDA nurse and a villager clean the floor of the "operating theatre" where tubal ligations will be performed on the hill-tribe women seen below changing into theatre gowns. Photos — Sandy Lie.



# All-out bid to reduce road toll

Despite a remarkable reduction in the road toll over the past few years, traffic accidents can still cost an estimated \$1000 million a year and cause much emotional distress.

The State Government has taken a big step to encourage research to overcome this by establishing an Accident Research Centre at Monash to bring all the experts together.

Many Monash departments in engineering, education, science, law and medicine have long been involved in traffic accident research.

One recent project in Civil Engineering looked at truck involvement in accidents.

"We found that different speeds didn't mix very well; cars were inclined to run into the back of trucks that were going too slowly," said Associate Professor Ken Ogden, co-author of the book, *Traffic Engineering Practice*.

"Similar research has led to the recent decision to raise truck speed limits."

Another project is looking at the location of accidents on the road hierarchy.

This work is still underway, but it has already shown that a significant number of accidents occur where local roads meet arterial roads.

Meanwhile, in the department of Psychology, Dr Tom Triggs, and research assistant Mr Wal Harris undertook a project for the Australian Road Transport Department to determine drivers' reaction time.

Among their findings was evidence that present road design standards allowed for maximum driver response in emergencies.

This put paid to ideas of easing design

standards in a bid to save on roadmaking costs.

The new \$1 million centre was announced by the Transport Minister, Mr Roper, who said it would be jointly funded by the Transport Accident Commission and the Road Traffic Authority.

"In order to show a worthwhile return in its first three years, the centre need only identify and develop one major initiative which reduces the severity of road crashes by only one per cent (\$10 million a year)," he said. It will be staffed by a director, Dr

It will be staffed by a director, Dr Peter Vulcan (who will be seconded from his position as chief general manager responsible for road safety at the Road Traffic Authority) and a small team of full-time employees including three researchers and a secretary.

Dr Vulcan said last week that some of the areas which the centre hoped to tackle included driver fatigue, young driver accidents, ways to identify and treat potential accident blackspots, and accidents at traffic signals.

"A better understanding is also needed of accident trends by type or road user, time, location and type of crash," he said.

Plans for the centre include the possibility of its future expansion into other areas such as industrial, domestic and recreational safety, using successful techniques derived from the road safety field.

gear. Page 3

# Indonesia stars on stage and screen

Leading Indonesian film director, Teguh Karya, and actress Tuti Indra Malaon, visited Monash last month as part of their involvement in the Melbourne Film Festival.

They were also special guests, together with the Vice-Consul of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr Ramli Sa'ud, at a performance by third-year students of the Indonesian play, *Kapia-Kapai*.

Teguh's latest film, *Ibunda* (Mother) was shown with four others at the festival under the heading, Women in Recent Indonesian Cinema.

He is one of the country's foremost filmmakers, with a talent for historical films which explore the Indonesian national identity.

Tuti won the Best Actress Award at last year's Indonesian Film Festival for her starring role in *Ibunda*.

She came to films later in life and was the first actress to win the award for playing the part of an ageing woman.

Teguh and Tuti gave a seminar at Monash about their work in the cinema. Their visit was arranged by staff and postgraduate students in the departments of Visual Arts and Indonesian and Malay, and in the Centre of Southeast Asian Studies.

The three Indonesian dignitaries were among more than 400 people who came to performances of *Kapia-Kapai*, including 250 high school students from all over Victoria.

The production was organised by Barbara Hatley, lecturer in the department of Indonesian and Malay,

• Visiting the department of Indonesian and Malay were Tuti Indra Malaon, left, Teguh Karya, third from right, and Ari Batubara, an Indonesian journalist accompanying the film-makers. Also pictured are third year students of the department, from left, Polly Croke, Jeanette Button, Brett Hough and Paola Michelotti. Photos — Tony Miller.



· Performers at work (but what are they doing?) In Kapia-Kapai, a modern play about a poor man's journey to the end of the world.

### **Nobel Laureate writes for Cochrane**

A book written in honor of the late Professor Don Cochrane, founding Dean of Economics at Monash, has a Nobel Prize winner as one of its major contributors.

Professor Sir Richard Stone, Nobel Laureate in Economic Science in 1984 and founding director of the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge, was professor to the young Don Cochrane.

Sir Richard was awarded the Nobel Prize for his pioneering work on the British National Accounts and National Income Systems, and his contribution is a chapter on the accuracy of British National Accounts.

The book, Specification Analysis in the Linear Model, is aimed at students of postgraduate level or higher.



Professor Max King, co-author of Specification Analysis in the Linear Model written in honor of the late Don Cochrane, presents a copy of the book to Professor Cochrane's widow, planist Margaret Schofield, in the Donald Cochrane Library.

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It was co-edited by Max King, Professor of Econometrics at Monash, and David Giles, Professor of Economics at the University of Canterbury (formerly of Monash).

Professor King said it was a collection of "new" essays by well-known econometricians.

In the appendix are two articles written by Don Cochrane and a fellow doctoral student at Cambridge, Guy Orcutt, which gave both an international reputation.

Monash contributors include Professor King, Mr Grant Hillier, Dr Keith McLaren and Associate Professor Peter Praetz.

The book was started in 1979 two years before Professor Cochrane's death, as a present for his retirement.

"When Don retired early due to sickness, we threw the idea out the window," says Professor King.

But last month, in the department's Donald Cochrane Library, he presented a copy of the book to Professor Cochrane's widow, Mrs Margaret Cochrane (better known as pianist, Margaret Schofield).

• Specification Analysis in the Linear Model, published by Routledge, Kegan and Paul, is not yet available in Australia.

Neale speaks to US group

The director of the Krongold Centre for Exceptional Children, Professor Marie Neale, was a pioneer in bringing children with special needs into mainstream education.

For the past 20 years she has been teaching intellectually gifted children and the severely handicapped in the one classroom.

Professor Neale was invited to explain her program earlier this year at an international conference in the United States on innovations in special education.

She argued that bringing handicapped students, gifted students and those with special learning disabilities into a regular classroom situation aided all the children.

"The program can provide therapy for the handicapped students and the gifted children act as peer models for the others.

"This lifts the general education atmosphere," Professor Neale said.

In a paper presented at the conference, she states that "there is no future for the disabled child unless teaching programs are streamlined to speed the acquisition of basic literacy".

She uses dance, music, drama and techniques from sports medicine, especially the use of water, to teach the students new skills.

Professor Neale believes that workshops for teachers promote acceptance of people's disabilities and draw attention to individual differences in children's pace of learning.

"Experimental models have resulted in new knowledge and fresh explanations of human development, helping to modify prejudice concerning intellectual and physical disability.

"These models are incorporated into new, acceptable forms of scholarship," she said.

More than 120 people involved in special education came from England, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, Italy, China and the United States for the conference.

Professor Neale was asked to present her techniques as one of six OECD country speakers and the only Australian contributor at the three day conference.

## Hotting up for super conductor race

In the past two months Monash has been gearing up quietly to take on the world's hottest research topic, high temperature superconductors.

The departments of Physics, Chemistry and Materials Engineering have established a co-ordinated research program to which the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan, has allocated \$35,000 of his special funds.

Superconductors are materials which offer no resistance to the passage of electric currents.

They hold great promise. Not only could they make possible the transmission of electricity over vast distances without loss of power, but they also allow the development of powerful magnets for fusion reactors and magnetically suspended trains, as well as heat-free electronics to produce even smaller and faster computers.

Physicists had believed superconductors could not exist at temperatures above about -230 degrees Celsius; such temperatures demand cooling with liquid Helium, which is bulky, complicated and expensive.

Since late last year, however, the physics world has been left reeling by a spate of announcements about new ceramic materials which become superconductors at temperatures above -180 degrees Celsius. There are even unconfirmed reports that the threshold temperature has risen above -80 degrees Celsius.

## Bursary for Solomons trip

Fifth-year medical student, Paul Monagle, will no longer need to borrow money to study in the Solomon Islands.

The Association of Commonwealth Universities has awarded him one of its six Lennox-Boyd Memorial Trust bur-

saries for 1987. Mr Monagle, who will spend two months in the Solomons from September, doing an elective for his course, is excited at the thought of being exposed to forms of medicine many western doctors never see.

"In Australia, medicine is very hitech, but I imagine that Central Hospital, where I will spend my first four weeks, doesn't have a lot of money to splash around," he said.

He believes the trip will give him a chance to study such classical diseases as malaria, cholera, polio and tuberculosis. "A doctor in Australia rarely is given

the chance to treat these diseases.' Mr Monagle, who has never travelled overseas, also hopes to join an ongoing World Health Organisation study on malaria while he is in the Solomons.

Associate Professor Eric Glasgow of Anatomy was the driving force behind his application for the award.

Paul Monagle



That brings superconductors into the realm of the usable. This is very important for Australia as one of the principle sources of the rare earth elements which are incorporated in the production of ceramic superconductors.

The Monash research program was set up in May with two purposes in mind: to keep the university up to date with the latest research and to set up the infrastructure to try to produce a structural breakthrough in superconducting materials.

Acting Professor Paul Rossiter of Materials Engineering said: "We have already made some of these materials.

"Since its inception, the Physics department has been working in the area

of conventional superconductors.

Monash also has a very good structural chemistry school, and a world-class ceramics processing lab in Materials Engineering.

"Chemistry will be looking at producing alternative compounds; Glen Deacon and Brian Gatehouse (both Readers in Chemistry) have longdeveloped expertise in working with rare earths.

"Physics will do the measurements. We have hired a physics graduate, Jim Fraser, to help speed up that process,' Dr Rossiter said.

"And Materials Engineering will concentrate on ceramics fabrication, producing the compounds in three ways: by sintering (taking oxides and pressing them together at high temperature), by flame spraying (combining oxide powders in a high temperature flame and spraying the molten result onto a condensing surface) and by plasma spraying (combining the oxides at high temperature by passing an electrical discharge through a gas and again spraying the result onto a condensing surface.

What we are doing is setting up a mini-production line for ceramic superconductors, into which new compounds can be slotted when they come through.

"We want to get industry and government involved, particularly so they can tell us what kinds of superconductor products would interest them.'

### Engineers must lift their game

The recovery of Australia's manufacturing industry relies partly on the engineering profession's ability to attract more people, says Associate Professor Reg McPherson of Materials Engineering.

"Australia needs more engineers to improve manufacturing performance and increase the research backed by private enterprise - but students are not interested in studying engineering.

"Engineers must attempt to improve their social status and profile," he said. "Potential students see the country doctor or the successful lawyer or vet on television, but never the country materials engineer.

"The Australian public is naive; we need a program to make people aware of what engineers do.

"Sophisticated gadgets, cars and hitech equipment were impressive, but people failed to appreciate the incredible amount of engineering development that went into producing them.

"Many people appear to have this idea that a single inventor has drawn up the model on paper. They don't consider how sometimes hundreds of engineers

have worked to develop a finished pro-duct," he said.

Associate Professor McPherson recently returned from three months in Japan investigating the many uses the Japanese find for ceramics.

He said it was no coincidence that Japan, a country with a high percentage of engineers, was also the world leader in manufacturing research and development.

Part of Japan's success was based on companies' decisions to employ engineers to carry out research.

"If a company in Japan sees a need or market for an undeveloped product, then the company will pay for the research to develop it from scratch," Associate Professor McPherson said.

'In Australia, academics carry out the research and become frustrated when private enterprise doesn't back their advances.

"The Japanese model would only work if there were companies with sufficient funds to back research, and these did not exist on a large scale in Aus-

tralia. "What it comes down to is that we are



Professor McPherson

naive if we believe we can compete with countries such as Japan with our present numbers of engineers and level of interest in company research," he said.

'Australia has only just realised that in order to be competitive we have to get back into the manufacturing industry." Associate Professor McPherson believes that ceramics, and in particular the manufacture of superconductors, is one area where Australia has great potential.



It's a daunting business taking part in Civil Engineering's Primitive Primordial Cupreous Bridge Competition for first year students. The heat, tension and roar of the crowd have all but the bravest contestants quailing in the queue, and with good reason. Only 12 of this year's 68 entries survived - the rest smashed or slowly crumpled beneath the weight of Professor Noel Murray's test roadway and trolley. First prize for the lightest of the successful bridges went to Paul Duncan, Marcus Kupfer and Geoff Wood. The bridge judged most ingenious was made by Mark Shields, Alain Archer and Richard Beggs. Photo - Tony Miller.

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### Old mill yields up its secrets

Fourth year history students on a recent field trip to the Goulburn Valley found more than they had bargained for.

Their project, as part of a History in the Field course, was to catalogue buildings and artefacts on the site of Day's Mill, built at Nooralim in 1865 to serve the needs of small farmers in the Nagambie-Murchison areas.

The mill was abandoned in the late 19th century when the railway by-passed the area. Its buildings, including the family house, farm sheds and equipment, are now owned by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, and have been left virtually untouched.

Among a pile of fairly recent household furniture, the students found some real treasures: bound record books giving a detailed picture of 19th century farming and gardening.

Lecturer, Dr Chris McConville, who accompanied the expedition, said the books were now in the possession of the Historic Places Branch of the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

"The department is trying to work

out how to manage the site; whether to set it up for tourism or for educational purposes.

"The books are invaluable because they show exactly how the place operated, and even how the gardens were laid out," he said.

"Day's Mill has what is probably the most untouched collection of materials on an agricultural site in Victoria."



### Believe it or not ...

• Day's Mill, top left, and the family house. Above: Examining their lucky find are student Liz Forster, Dr Charles Fahey from the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, and, right, Professor Graeme Davison of the Department of History.

Recent historians uncovered some startling coincidences concerning the deaths of the assassinated United States presidents, Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy.

Lincoln was elected to the presidency in 1860; John J. Kennedy was elected in 1960. Both men were concerned with Civil Rights, both were succeeded by men named Johnson, who in turn were both Southerners. Andrew Johnson was born in 1808, Lyndon Johnson was born in 1908.

Both Lincoln and Kennedy were shot in the head from behind, and both were shot in the presence of their wives. Both men were killed by Southerners favoring unpopular ideas, and both assassins were shot before their trials.

John Wilkes Booth was born in 1839; Lee Harvey Oswald was born in 1939. Both presidents had been warned of danger before their deaths.

Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, warned him not to go to the theatre; Kennedy's secretary, whose name was Lincoln, warned him not to go to Dallas.

Following the respective assassinations, Booth ran from a theatre and was captured in a warehouse; Oswald ran from a warehouse and was captured in a theatre. —U3A at Monash Bulletin, June, 1987

### Take care to avoid the mosquitoes in Vila

Overseas travellers may not be surprised to learn that they risk catching Yellow Fever in equatorial Africa, or Rabies in Europe and the Middle East. But unexpected dangers — including malaria of the lethal kind — lurk in nearby tourist spots like Vanuatu and Bali. All care must be taken in the countries on our doorstep, according to *Travelling*, a booklet produced by two Monash lecturers in the department of Community Medicine. Dr John Murtagh and Dr Peter MacIsaac put together this handy, easy-to-read guide at the request of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. The following article has been taken from Winthrop *Impulse*, a monthly newsletter distributed to the medical community.

Travelling documents just about any health problems that the intrepid traveller might encounter anywhere in the world.

The authors emphasise that taking simple precautions and following a few basic health rules should ensure that most people enjoy their holiday with no mishaps.

A recent report in the daily press has reinforced the need for these precautions.

A young Sydney man apparently returned from a trek in Nepal with an infectious form of meningitis.

Those seated near him on the return flight to Sydney were given a course of antibiotics as a safeguard against, the disease.

Dr Peter Christopher, the Health Department's adviser on communicable disease, was quoted as saying that there had been quite an epidemic in Nepal in recent times, adding that the Health **MONASH REPORTER**  Department had been recommending vaccinations against the infection for visitors to Nepal for over a year.

With the increase in demand for more adventurous holidays in areas off the beaten track, travellers may encounter a host of medical problems they never knew existed.

Advice from their general practitioners or through this booklet may reduce such hazards.

In any event the astronomical costs of health care in some countries (for example the United States) makes taking these precautions rather mandatory.

Murtagh and MacIsaac firstly identify the general considerations concerning health insurance, clothing, medication and precautions against food and water contamination.

Common problems such as traveller's diarrhoea (also known as Montezuma's Revenge, Bali Belly, Tokyo Trots), skin conditions and travel sickness are ex-

plained and treatment advised.

Other hazards such as snakebite, insect stings, STD's and high altitude problems are also included.

Non-medical advice extends to theft, illicit drug problems, and sexual harassment (a considerable problem for young women travelling in middle eastern and Mediterranean countries).

Infectious diseases, such as the case of meningitis mentioned above, can be prevented.

All travellers should have current immunisations against tetanus, polio and diphtheria although other vaccinations are not required unless travelling in "at risk" areas.

Two compulsory immunisations when travelling in "at risk" areas are those for Cholera and Yellow Fever.

Voluntary immunisations against Hepatitis, Typhoid, Rabies, Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Tuberculosis, Typhus, Plague, Meningococcal infection and tetanus may also be advisable depending on the areas to be visited and circumstances or length of stay (for example doctors, nurses and dentists working in third world countries may be at special risk).

Malaria is a special problem. According to the authors, over 500 Australians contact malaria through their travels every year. These cases could have been prevented by simple precautions — avoiding mosquito bites, taking anti-malarial medicines regularly.

A disturbing new trend is the reported resistance of malaria to chloroquine (commonly in Papua New Guinea, Southeast Asia, northern South America and parts of Africa).

Resistance to the new drugs, Maloprim and Fansidar, has also been reported (Indo-China, Thailand, and the Amazon Basin).

Anti-malarial drug prophylaxis must be tailored to individual patients.

The booklet gives explicit instructions in this area, including details of drug regimes and dosages.

Air travel, exotic infections, sea travel and details of a medical kit for travelling together with a table of recommendations for immunisations are also included.

Perhaps the best advice given in this health guide to travelling is to consult a doctor at least four weeks before embarking on a trip, take the necesary precautions, and report any persistent problems after returning home.

• Travelling is available at \$3 a copy from the RACGP office, 70 Jolimont Street, Jolimont, 3002. (Telephone: 654 3000).



## B. Wongar: multi-cultural man of mystery

#### A man who was a mystery figure in Australian literary circles for many years is now Writer-in-Residence at the Aboriginal Research Centre.

From 1972, B. Wongar's short stories and novels have been published and acclaimed overseas as the voice of Aboriginal Australia.

Because of their commitment to traditional culture, they have found a sympathetic readership in such countries as the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Yugoslavia, the USSR and France.

Their impact slowly filtered back to Australia — but nobody knew who the mysterious B. Wongar was.

It took novelist Robert Drewe, in an article titled Solved: The Great B. Wongar Mystery (*The Bulletin Literary* Supplement, 21 April, 1981) to tie all the loose ends together and reveal publicly that Wongar was the Aboriginal alterego of a middle-aged Yugoslav immigrant, Sreten Bozic.

He had lived among tribal communities, so his extraordinary understanding of Aboriginal culture, lore and legend made the deception possible.

In 1976, says Drewe, Thomas Keneally reviewed the American edition of Wongar's *The Track to Bralgu*, and described it as a "fine book of fantastic stories written by an Australian Aboriginal".

"Mr Wongar's writing partakes of the fierceness of the country his people wander in. It is said that amongst the finest poetry composed on the continent of Australia are the ancient incantatory songs of the Aboriginal peoples. Mr Wongar's arresting chants do full honor to that tradition," Keneally wrote.

A foreword by South African writer, Alan Paton (author of *Cry the Beloved Country*) was equally enthusiastic: "I find these stories very beautiful harsh, bitter, magical and to my untutored ears they all ring true. I do not know enough of Aboriginal contributions to Australian literature to know how far these stories open up a new lode of earth, but they open up a new world to me and, what is more, the writer who does it is a master of an ancient craft."

The American Kirkus Review said the book was "written with an impudent vigor and irony resembling the black African writings of the sixties unusually skilful and resonant".

After this critical praise it became important to find Wongar, says Drewe.

"Around the literary dinner tables the rumors flew. Patrick White suggested that Wongar was Keneally. Keneally said he didn't think any white man could have written *The Track to Bralgu*. Frank Hardy said: 'I honestly don't know who he is — I'm not hedging'."

Eventually, Bozic came into the picture when the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies gave his name as a contact for Wongar.

But it was several years before the struggling migrant writer (who could not get a Literature Board grant) would admit he was also the talented, successful Arnhem Land Aboriginal writer (who could).

Wongar himself brushes aside the whole question of names, but Robert Drewe has more to say.

"B. Wongar' is something more than a pseudonym. It is really an identity change like those beloved of comic strip cartoonists. The B. Wongar name and character could be said to reflect the spiritual, creative side of Bozic's personality."

European Bozic writes non-fiction, Aboriginal Wongar writes fiction. MONASH REPORTER Bozic struggles along quietly in a Melbourne suburb; Arnhem Land's Wongar wins literary awards, is acclaimed in *The New York Times*, befriends Sartre and de Beauvoir and co-writes with Alan Marshall.

In Australia, Wongar's work is controversial because of its sympathetic portrayal of the Aborigines.

There were difficulties with the Australian launching of *Walg* and *Karan*, the first two books of his "nuclear trilogy".

First published overseas and now available from Macmillan Australia (\$24.95), they offer an Aboriginal view of the devastation caused to lands and tribes by uranium mining and nuclear weapons testing.

The director of the Aboriginal Research Centre, Ms Eve Fesl, arranged for the books to be launched at Monash late last year, and that is how the contact with the centre came about.

As Writer-in-Residence for 12 weeks (a position funded by the Literature Board) Wongar is taking creative writing classes for students of MOSA, the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines.

While waiting for the Australian publication of *Gabo Djara*, the third in the nuclear trilogy, he is re-writing an earlier novel.

Wongar's list of works include: Aboriginal Myths, co-written with Alan Marshall (published in Australia, Germany, USSR and Yugoslavia); The Track to Bralgu (US, UK, Hungary, Germany, Yugoslavia, France, USSR, adapted for German radio); Babaru (US, Yugoslavia, France, USSR); Bilma (US); Walg, Karan, and Gabo Djara (US, Germany, UK, USSR, adapted for German radio).

He has won the PEN International Award and the American Literary Association Award in the US, and the Observer Award in the UK.

\* \* \*

"In the pages of *Walg* I met the tribal girl Djumala from half a world away. Innocent and brave, she revived in my heart a mirage long evaporated by taking me on a daring journey to her native country...

"I have been led along desolate tracks charted by explorers, missionaries, traders, and uranium prospectors ... They plundered the country, seized a generation of tribal girls and took them away to be raped and mutilated. The invaders called that "strangling the serpent which lays the eggs", the reason being that, with generations of young girls destroyed, the tribes would soon become extinct, thus vacating the land for the whites ...

"The white man has strangled the country by stealing the magic that made rain. That is the image of the tribal country I encountered earlier also in The Track to Bralgu and Babaru (both first published in Les Temps Modernes). Like Wongar's other books, Walg is a lyrical document of our time, a time monstrously savage. "There is still some magic left,

"There is still some magic left, though: while journeying, Djumala carries in her dilly bag the soul of her unborn child. According to a tribal legend, life can sprout from dust, if there is a woman around to mother it. The tribal country, envisaged as an immense womb, billows dust from open wounds; Djumala struggles through the shattered landscape, hoping innocently that the trees might bloom again from a uranium quarry. "She reminds me much of a Polynesian face painted by Gauguin, as she endeavours to regain the magic of life stolen by the invaders. I will harbor her in my heart for a long time to come. When the nuclear madness spread over the world strangles us too, I will know: the fallout will be the ashes of her soul and country."

Simone de Beauvoir

• B. Wongar

**JULY 1987** 

### Where do you get it?

**B.WONGAR** 

In the past, the Information Office — with the co-operation of Central Services and the Mail Room — has sought to meet all reasonable requests for special internal mailings of *Monash Reporter* to departments and centres throughout the university.

Increasingly heavy pressures on the Mail Room staff (and wide variations in the numbers of copies required by individual departments) have forced us to review the system. Reluctantly we have had to limit the numbers passing through the internal mail system.

Beginning with the July issue, we shall be sending through the mail three copies only to chairmen of departments and directors of centres. Additional copies will, however, be placed in the normal distribution boxes around the university, and departments are invited to make their own arrangements to pick up sufficient copies for their purposes from these points:

Engineering Building - General Office	Main Library
Bassett Theatre	Robert Blackwood Hall
Hargrave Cafeteria	Union — Reception Desk
Hargrave Library - 1st floor	Union - Box near Reception
Eastern Science - Lecture Theatres	Union - Box near Cafeteria, ground floor
Outside Lecture Theatres	Union - Box near Grill Room, ground
Biomedical Library - 1st floor	floor
Medicine - box in foyer near lecture	Union - Box upstairs, east end
theatre	Union - Box upstairs, west end
Law - ground floor	Monash University Club
Alexander Theatre	Sports & Recreation - Inquiries Desk
Humanities Foyer - ground & 1st floor	Halls of Residence - Admissions Office
Education Foyer	and which the second in

### Female Fool brings balance to Lear

The English department put on a special production of King Lear last month in the newly-refurbished Guy Manton Rooms (formerly the SGO rooms) on the ground floor of the Menzies Building. It was a sell-out from the first night. The production was based on the Folio text of 1623 and was probably the first performance of this text in Australia. It was directed by Dennis Bartholomeusz and produced by Chris Worth.

Some lovers of Shakespeare, afraid that amateur productions will be too inept to endure, stay away from them.

If any have missed Dennis Bartholomeusz's King Lear they have made a sad mistake, for this was an interpretation which illuminated the essentials of the play.

Opening with an old St Kilda derelict on a park bench, the production flirts briefly with gimmickry, but almost at once, as with its other risky touches, justifies its unconventionality.

The tramp, it appears, is a necessary implication of Lear's universality. The tramp is a guise of Lear: so therefore is Lear's regality a guise.

The mixture of period and contemporary costume allows such points to be made unobtrusively. Costume is a pointer to character, and the characters — a chief pleasure of the production were carefully defined. Most members of the cast have to portray at least two selves — a "before" and "after" — and they need to achieve a credible continuity between the two.

In John Leonard's Gloucester the continuity is through simplicity. At first too sweetly simple-minded to be suspicious, at last he is simply wise, dignified and resigned.

Alistair Roosmale's Cornwall is always chilling: analytical when confronted when Kent, ruthless to Gloucester because incapable of imagining tenderness.

Ray Goodwin's admirable Kent, even when disguised, is always plain and blunt.

This experienced trio gave a firm backbone. They had thought carefully about their roles and made themselves

interesting — by no means easy when you are sharing the stage with a powerful Lear.

Edmund and Edgar were also wellmatched. David Vadiveloo and David James are amongst the best of the new generation of Monash actors.

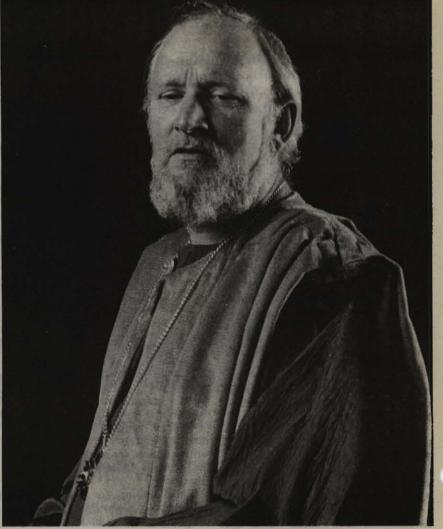
Edmund was quite in control of his part. He built up a relationship of attraction and repulsion with the audience which made credible the power he exercised.

Edgar was refreshingly frank, bluff and vigorous. He was capable of subtleties as Poor Tom, and it was unfortunate that in contending with the distracting sound effects of the storm scene he was forced to sacrifice something of his range.

A point of originality in the presentation of the three sisters was precisely that they were just that — sisters, recognisably out of the same stable, all products of an exclusive school — Goneril and Regan showing the marks in their easy assumption of insensitive privilege, Cordelia in a certain prim correctness. They developed and held their own in the testing later scenes.

I was very impressed by Jacqui Horan's Fool. A female Fool gives the sexual balance of the play a different emphasis.

If the play is about a father who wishes to understand himself in relation to his daughters, and if the Fool has the duty of telling Lear who he is, then a female Fool, though called "Boy", is a licensed daughter. And, of course, this lends point to Lear's "And my poor fool is dead" spoken over Cordelia's corpse. The production gambled here. That it worked is the measure of Jacqui



Richard Pannell's Lear . . . "intelligent sympathy".

Horan's achievement. The relationship between Lear and the Fool came across as the warmest and most intimate in the

play. As to the King himself, I think this is quite the best performance I have seen from Richard Pannell. There have been productions in which Richard's superior polish and power have merely exposed the deficiencies of the rest of the cast. That didn't happen here.

Instead, Richard's presence raised the others up. His conviction made them believe in themselves. His delivery was a delight — there was something absorbing in almost every line. He gave the part the intelligent sympathy which Shakespeare must have and doesn't always receive, even from professionals.

This is a tribute to Dennis Bartholomeusz too, of course. The scholar's and the actor's Shakespeare united here, quite memorably.

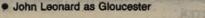
If you were foolish enough to have missed it, all I can suggest is that you lobby for a revival, soon.

**Alan Dilnot** 



Students David James (Edgar) and David Vadiveloo (Edmund)
 MONASH REPORTER

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## There are no 'uses' for an Arts degree

**Professor John Hay**, the newly-appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts, gave the occasional address at an Arts graduation ceremony last month in Robert Blackwood Hall. Professor Hay, an honors graduate of the University of Western Australia, gained his MA at Cambridge in 1969 and his Ph.D at the University of Western Australia in 1976. He has played a significant role in the planning of secondary and tertiary education in Western Australia. He is the author of several books on education and modes of examination, and the co-author of four critical anthologies of short fiction.

In recent years, a practice has arisen, and it has been inscribed in Monash's account of its first 25 years, of describing this not as the first of Australia's new universities but the last of the old.

May I propose a different rubric? And may I preface my proposal with a personal explanation?

Like most people here, I chose to come to Monash, preferring it to a different but attractive alternative. However, I did not come here because I saw it as the last of Australia's old universities. Rather, I see it as the Australian university which has done more in the first 25 years of its existence than any other university in this country.

I knew it in Western Australia, as I knew it beyond Australia, as an institution with an impressive international reputation in many disciplines, for excellent teaching and for original research.

I recognised that Monash was at a critical and exciting time in its history. An outstanding new Vice-Chancellor had been appointed and enthusiasm and expectation were both high.

And a faculty with conspicuous strengths and resources had reached a moment when new directions and consolidations of existing reputations could be achieved. And, given that Monash, of all Australian universities, has the best structure for academic planning and leadership, the Deanship of the Faculty of Arts seemed irresistible.

Unlike many Melburnians, who may take the matter for granted, I saw Monash as a central part of the life of the only Australian city which seems to put a premium upon intellectual values.

From any point of view Melbourne, with its four universities and even more institutes of technology and colleges of

BRIEFLY

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versity lecturers from Auckland and/or

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advanced education, may fairly claim to be a major intellectual centre in that society which is generally characterised as Western democratic.

Quite frankly, the inscription, "the last of the old" holds few attractions for me. I prefer to see Monash, quite simply, as one of Australia's four great universities and I am excited to be here at the beginning of its second quarter century, embarking with all this year's new graduates upon an exciting venture which has already seen the beginning of major new developments in Australian Studies, European Studies, Women's Studies and Development Studies, together with the completion by each of the 17 departments of numerous strategy plans for the next five years.

#### Value

Eulogies of this kind are rarer in Australian universities than one might expect, for example, in American universities. Part of the reason for this may be that as Australians we are naturally inclined to be laconic, often ironical and, except in sporting activities such as those of the West Coast Eagles, rarely inclined to be strong proponents of our country and of its achievements.

By contrast, graduates of American universities are accustomed not only to taking pride in the institution where they took their first or subsequent degrees, but more strikingly, to committing themselves to the preservation of the institution itself and of the values which it stands for.

A close friend of mine from the world of finance and politics explains this phenomenon in the following way: the reason why Americans go to great lengths to support and defend the universities where they took their

Pass as well as individual segments of the trip. For example, the return fare Melbourne/Madrid plus Visit Spain Pass plus overnight accommodation in Los Angeles can be purchased for \$1870.

For further information and brochures, contact Alun Kenwood, Department of Romance Languages, ext. 2265.

#### Lunch music

Eat your lunch while you relax to pleasant informal music at the Religious Centre's free lunchtime recitals, held on Thursdays from 1.10pm.

Local, interstate and overseas musicians will present good music, some of it rarely performed. In some cases tapes will be offered for sale.

- This month's program is as follows: 2 July Pianoforte recital (Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin) — Brian
- Chapman 9 July Organ and voice (Sacred Can-
- tatas by Shutz) Bruce Steele and Merrowyn Deacon

16 July Organ recital - Rod Junor

**Robert Oliver** 

If you wish, you may take advantage 30 July New Zealand gamba virtuoso,

23 July Recorders with sound effects (including bells and gongs) — Rodney Waterman degrees is that in so doing they add value to their credentials. They see their degree and its quality as a prized commodity and do nothing to diminish its value.

This is, of course, one way of looking at the issue. And it has a persuasiveness to it. But it does reduce the degree to a commodity, valued in terms of its usefulness, rather than as a shaper of the rest of our lives.

The criterion of usefulness is not merely one of the cliches of politics and journalism, it is part of the lexicon of utilitarianism, a mid-nineteenth century philosophy much admired by the leisured rich who had plans for the ways in which the less well-to-do should order their lives.

The weakness of the philosophy of utilitarianism, the reason for its failure, is not simply that it ignores moral and ethical issues but that it seeks to solve complex matters by the simplistic device of asking "What is its use?"

This is fine for can openers but as a means of evaluating more complex matters it's even less than useful. What's the use of education? What's the use of the humanities and social sciences? What's the use of an Arts degree?

There is, of course, at least one kind of answer to each of these questions. But it will, typically, be expressed in terms that will upset the questioner. Thus, an Arts degreee is useful because it develops the practice of critical enquiry to a high degree, because it offers insights into various aspects of human society, because it recognises the complex, multi-dimensionality of issues that are sometimes presented as simple, and because it fosters a love of and respect for intellectual endeavour in its own right.

Responses like this, insisting as they do on complex conceptual frameworks, tend to irritate the questioner, provoking a repetition of the question and an even crasser re-framing of it. Yes. But what's the use of the BA? What do you do with it?

It is at precisely this moment that too many of us in the humanities and social sciences make a tactical blunder. We fail

#### **Evaluation**

The Australasian Evaluation Society Inc. will hold its National Evaluation Conference in Canberra from 29-31 July, at the Parkroyal Hotel, with speakers from the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

The opening speaker will be Dr Peter Wilenski, chairman of the Public Service Board.

For further information contact: The Australasian Evaluation Society President, Dr Anona Armstrong, 51 1467.

#### Post-doctoral

Approximately 10 awards are available in areas of interest to CSIRO. The awards are normally available for one year in Australia or overseas and a following year in Australia. The value of the awards includes stipend, dependants allowances, travel and maintenance grants. Reimbursement of fares for overseas awards is also available.

Information and application forms are available from the Higher Degree & Scholarships Office (ext. 3009).

Please note that for 1987 the closing date for applications has been changed to Tuesday, 30 June 1987. to insist that what we do with a degree is not necessarily related to its use. And we fail to insist that the question of "use" is in many ways an essentially trivial question anyway.

This tactical failure leads us to assert that all Arts graduates get jobs, that many become teachers, public servants, social workers, business people, writers, librarians, administrators and so on.

All of which is fine, of course, and may lead us to feel that we've come out of the argument quite well. It leads some of us to make pointless comparisons with science, where job problems persist.

What we've done, of course, is accept a rhetoric that places no value upon those intellectual and ethical criteria which underpin our training. And one falls as a consequence of this into a pernicious logical trap which is characterised by this kind of discourse: Oh, if all the BA does is teach you to be a teacher, or a public servant, or a business person, surely we can reduce the degree to those aspects that are essential to the job towards which you are heading. So English and history become the prerogative only of those who intend to teach them, and philosophy and languages became esoterica. Thus, the end obscures the means, and the application of the skill obscures the nature of the skill.

#### Parody

I wish I could say that I am parodying this argument in order to focus upon it. But much of the present discourse about education in Western democracies is too close to this parody to be at all amusing.

Indeed, in the latest and saddest example of those occasional convulsions of anti-intellectualism that recur in Australian history, a political Watch/ Waste Committee has deplored the fact that research money should investigate aspects of the achievements of past ages in human society.

What is more depressing is that the general reaction in the media was that few could fault this example of crass, anti-intellectual philistinism.

Because the stakes are high, it is time that those of us who have had the privilege of a university education should assume the responsibility for defending the values our community stands for. I don't mean by this that universities should be viewed critically. On the contrary, I believe in the most rigorous scrutiny. What I am asking for is that the appropriate questions be asked, the relevant criteria be applied to evaluations of what it is we do as universities.

It will not be easy deflecting those who are habituated to the simplistic formulations of utilitarianism. It is hard to deflect the question: What is its use? by insisting upon the question: What is its value? But we have no alternative in the present times.

To accede to the question of mere use is to accept a rhetoric and a logic which will ultimately dispossess us, a language which will have no terms for the things we do. I cannot emphasise this too strongly.

It has long been understood, in rhetoric as in logic, that once we accept the metaphors of our critics, we have conceded the struggle.

Of course we can talk about our usefulness, but only as an illustration of one aspect of our value. If use is all that is to be considered, universities will be misdescribed, misunderstood and devalued.

Contraction of the state

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THE DODGERS: Back row, from left: Umpire Steve Szego\*, George Balla (Grants and Donations Officer), Bev Odgers\*, John Trembath (Buildings Officer), Richard Waller (Financial Accounting Clerk). Centre row, from left: Hank ?\*, Peter Cook\*, Paddy Skelly (Financial Accountant), Len Candy\*, Alan Burke\*, Morris Reid (Maintenance). Front row, from left: June Inwood (secretary to Finance Manager); Sue Walker (Accounts Payable), Robyn Hunter\*, Margaret Fox\*, Wendy Reeves (Finance), Bridgid Presieg\*, Mary Gavazis\*, Paula Lee\*.



THE CUTIES: Standing, from left: Val Rosalion\*, Adrian Fox\*, Ian Tate (deceased), Neil Robertson (Telecom), Bill Cunningham (Manager, Central Services), Steve Szego (again!), Hal Skinner (Financial Adviser to Students), Eric McGill\*, John McPhee\*, Laurie Fitzgerald (Maintenance), Ian Bloomer (Telecom). Seated from left: Regina Drosg\*, Gwen Armstrong\*, Marge Nathan (Office Services and Printing), Helen Granter (deceased), Lyn Shiells\*, Pam Witheridge\*, Denise Barrett (Salaries), Annette James\*.

### **IVF: the debate goes on**

Pressing questions about the new reproductive technologies will be aired in IVF: The current debate, a conference to be held on Tuesday 28 July at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

The conference, organised by the Monash Centre for Human Bioethics, will cover the history, current practices and regulation of IVF (in vitro fertilisation), embryo experimentation, and the effects on women of the new reproductive technologies.

The program will be as follows: **OPENING:** 

- 9 am Professor Max Charlesworth, Deakin University
- SESSION 1: SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS Chair: Emeritus Professor John
- Swan
- 9.10 History of IVF: Professor Carl Wood, Queen Victoria Medical Centre
- 9.25 Research Present and Future Dr Ismail Kola, Research Fellow, Centre for Early Human Development, Queen Victoria Medical Centre
- **SESSION 11: REGULATION OF IVF** Chair: Judge Lynette Schiftan, **County Court**

#### **MONASH REPORTER**

- 10.40 There Ought to be a Law Mr Kevin Andrews, Barrister
- 11 am Alternative Models of Regulation Mr Russell Scott, Deputy Chairman, NSW Law Reform Com-
- mission 11.20 The Case for Self-Regulation Associate Professor John Funder, Deputy Director,
- Research Centre, Prince Henry's **SESSION III: EMBRYO**

#### **EXPERIMENTATION: PRIVATE MORALITY AND PUBLIC POLICY**

- Chair: Professor Louis Waller, Monash University
- 1.05 Fertilisation - Process or Event? Dr Leeanda Wilton, Research Officer, Centre for Early Human Development, Queen Victoria Medical Centre
- When Does Human Life Begin? 1.20 The Search for a Marker Event three views:
  - Mr Nick Tonti-Filippini, Director, St Vincent's Bioethics Centre
- Fr Norman Ford, Master of Catholic Theological College, 1.35 1.50 Dr Helga Kuhse, Deputy Direc
  - tor, Centre for Human Bioethics

- 2.05 Public Policy in a Pluralist Society: Professor R.M. Hare, University
  - Chair: Ms Mary Draper, Direcordination Unit, Victoria Dept. Premier & Cabinet
- Dr Mary Anne Warren, Lecturer 3.20 in Philosophy, San Francisco State University
- Dr Robyn Rowland, Senior Lec-3.40 turer, Women's Studies, Deakin
- 4 pm Ms Catherine Coulter, Combined Infertility Groups of Victoria
- 4.50 Professor Peter Singer, Director, Centre for Human Bioethics

are: full rate \$50, associate of the centre \$30, concession \$20.

Further details can be obtained from Jill Hudson, Community Education Officer, Centre for Human Bioethics, (ext.

Old, bold and this story's been told

In days of old when Monash staff were brave and bold a mighty clash took place on the football field.

It came to light again when Information Office staff were searching through their collection of photos (many of which would now qualify as Very Old).

Monash Reporter of June, 1976, says the battle between Odgers' Dodgers and Cunningham's Cuties was billed as the Match of the Year.

The teams were drawn from various departments in Administration, and spectators, crowded one deep along 15 metres of the southern boundary of No.2 oval, were treated to a fast entertaining display.

The results were reported thus:

Cunningham's version: Cuties 3.2.20 def Dodgers 1.5.11.

Odgers' version: Dodgers 2.8.20 drew with Cuties 3.2.20.

We have done our best to identify those involved, and with the indefatigable help of Building Branch staff - especially Averil Jackson believe we have almost succeeded.

The list is published E & OE, and your comments are warmly invited. Asterisks indicate those who have left Monash. Two members of Cunningham's Cuties, Ian Tate and Helen Granter, died while in the university's employ.

Wales link

The Centre for Australian Studies in Wales was inaugurated in September 1986 to further the study of Australia in Wales and establish links between the two countries.

Specifically the centre hopes to initiate and co-ordinate research on Australia and the Australia-Wales connection, to co-ordinate and organise events, lectures and seminars in Wales, encourage visits by Australian academics and other Australians and Australianists to Wales, and establish exchanges between institutions in the two countries.

Inquiries to Dr Graham Sumner, Department of Geography, Centre for Australian Studies in Wales, St David's University College, Lampeter, Dyfed SA48 7ED, Wales, United Kingdom.

### NASA talk

A senior NASA official specialising in planetary entry vehicles and advanced space transportation systems will be the speaker at the next meeting of the Space Association of Australia, to be held at Monash on Thursday, 2 July.

Dr Gerald Walberg, chief of the Space Systems Division at NASA Langley Research Centre in Hampton, Virginia, will speak on Major space technology initiatives into the 21st century.

The association's meetings are held monthly in R3 (Rotunda), starting at 7.30pm. They are free and open to the public.

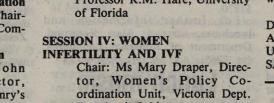
Further information can be obtained by phoning 772 5804.

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4.20 Discussion **CONCLUSION:** 

Registration fees, including lunch,

4278).



### Pharmacology makes an international mark

The Pharmacology department has been heavily involved in organising the first international meeting of pharmacologists to be held in Australia

More than 2000 scientists will attend the 10th triennial conference of the International Union of Pharmacologists (IUPHAR) in Sydney from 22 to 25 August. The decision to hold the meeting in this country reflects Australia's high international standing in the field, despite relatively few

pharmacologists.

Among the speakers will be a large contingent from Monash dealing with a wide range of topics including medicinal chemistry, the control of pain, and cardiovascular and reproductive pharmacology.

In December, 1986, Monash, which has one of the smallest and youngest departments in the country, hosted its third national meeting of pharmacologists in 11 years.

The chairman of Pharmacology, Professor Alan Boura, has been a member of the IUPHAR scientific programming committee since its inception, Dr Jean Olley is co-organiser of a workshop on teaching pharmacology in an era of economic restraint and Dr Jo O'Neil is co-ordinating a symposium on fertility control.

Researchers in other departments of the Faculty of Medicine will also be involved.

Academic Services Officer, ext. 3011, an

information sheet which gives details of

the conditions of the exchange agree-

ment and what must be included in

applications. Additional material about

The closing date for applications,

which are to be sent to the VVCC, is 31

Nanjing is also available.

July 1987.

For instance, the chairman of the symposium on fertility control will be the Professor of Reproductive Biology, Dr Roger Short, and the director of the Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine, Professor Tony Linnane, will deliver a paper on the potential therapeutic role of the interferons.

Staff from the Pharmacology and Physiology departments, and the Baker Institute also will take part in satellite meetings and symposia prior to the Sydney conference.

### Exchange agreement for staff and students

The university, in conjunction with the other Victorian universities through the Victorian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, has entered into an exchange agreement with Nanjing University in

the People's Republic of China. The agreement enables staff or students of Victorian universities to visit Nanjing for periods from three months to two years to engage in either teaching or research. Accommodation will be provided by Nanjing University. Fares and all other expenses will be the responsibility of the successful applicants.

Intending applicants are asked to obtain from either the VVCC, 40 Park Street, South Melbourne, 3205, (690 7977) or Ms Annie Menell,

### JULY DIARY

The events listed below are open to the public:

- ALEXANDER THEATRE 1: HOLIDAY MUSICAL "The Gingerbread Man" until 11 July. Daily 10.30am, 2pm. Sat, 2pm. Adults \$9.90, Child \$7.90. 18: SATURDAY CLUB - pres. Bwung-
- Gul Cultural Group. A demonstration of Aboriginal performing arts for children. Adults \$8, Child \$6. 27: PERFORMANCES FOR SCHOOLS
- "Noddy in Toyland", Mon-Fri 10.30am, 1pm. Until 7 August. Inquiries and bookings 565 3991, 565 3992,
- **ROBERT BLACKWOOD HALL** 4: EVENING CONCERT State Music Camp Orchestral Concert. Bishop Orchestra (cond. Henryk Pisarek), Loader Orchestra (cond. Geoffrey Conrau), Elton Brown String Orchestra (cond. Warwick Stengards), Van Ernst Flute Ensemble (cond. Valda Fouvy). Adults \$9, conc. \$4. 7.45pm. 5: AFTERNOON AND EVENING COMPETITION - IFBB Vic.
- Amateur Body Building Champion-ships, 12 noon-3pm, Judging \$7; 5.30pm-8.30pm presentation of Trophies \$15. Tickets and Inquiries 428 7285.
- 13: LUNCHTIME CONCERT Merlyn Quaife (soprano), Phillip Miechel (clarinet), Brian Chapman (piano) pres. works by Mozart, Schubert and Schumann. 1.15pm. Admission free.
- **18: EVENING CONCERT** Dandenong Mayoral Charity Concert: Dande-nong Band with Melb. Chorale and vocalists Steve Burrows and Donna Plaskett. Compere Malcolm Grey. Adults \$8, conc. \$5. 8pm. Tickets available from Municipal Offices, Dandenong, 791 6500.
- 19: AFTERNOON CONCERT Melb. Youth Music Council pres. the Mie Youth Symphonic Band from Japan and the Melb. Youth Symphonic Band. Adults \$7, conc. \$4. 2.30pm.
- 20: LUNCHTIME CONCERT Monash University Gamelan Orchestra pres. music and dance from Central Java, performed by students of the Music Dept., directed by Poedijono. 1.15pm. Admission free.
- 23: EVENING CONCERT -The William Hall Chorale from California perf. Cantata: Misericordium (Britten) and works by Hovland, Morley, Sweelink, Durufle and Nystedt. Adults \$7, conc. \$5. 8pm.
- 25: EVENING CONCERT Perspectives Concert No. 3. The Melb. Sym-

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phony Orchestra (cond. Hubert Soupres. Sinfonia Concertante dant) Hob. 1:105 (Haydn), Symphony No. 8 (Bruckner). 8pm. Tickets from ABC, 10 Queen St, Melb. or any **BASS** outlet.

27: LUNCHTIME CONCERT - "Best of Bach", pres. by Elizabeth Ander-son — Harpsichord. 1.15pm. Admission free.

LECTURES, SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS

- 1: ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR -"Disarmament, development and the United Nations" by Phillip Huggins. GSES Seminar Room. 5.15pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4622. 2: ZOOLOGY SEMINAR "Madagas-
- car: An island apart, an ocean away" by David Curl. Room 232, Biology Bldg. 1pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4668.

S.E. ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR "Why did Sina dance: Person and event in the ritual life of Ata Tana Ai (East Flores)", by Dr Douglas Lewis. 11.15am. Room 515, Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993. SPACE ASSOCIATION MEETING "Major space technology initiatives into 21st Century" by Dr Gerald Walberg. R3. 7.30pm. Admission free. Inquiries: 772 5804.

- 7: HISTORY OF SCIENCE LECTURE "Perceptions of deceptions: Fraud in science" by Dr Jan Sapp. Senior Common Room, Mannix College, 8.15pm. Inquiries: ext 3583
- 8: MANAGEMENT SEMINAR "Programme budgeting and Public Sector efficiency" by Dr Peter Shee-han, Director, Vic. Govt. Dept. of Management and Budget. 6.15pm, R3. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2368. 2400.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR** -"The Government's conservation strategy" by Joan Kirner, Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands. GSES Seminar Room, 5.15pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4622.

9: S.E. ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR — "'Invulnerability', local knowledge and popular resistance: a Thai theme in Southeast Asian perspective", by Dr Andrew Turton. 11.15am. Room 515, Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993. ZOOLOGY SEMINAR - "Organochloride pesticides in Antarctic seabirds" by Barry Luke. Room 232, Biology Bldg, 1pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4668.

S.E. ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR — "Oligarchy and democracy in the Philippines and Thailand", by Bene-

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dict R. O'G. Anderson, Cornell Uni. 8pm. R3. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993.

- 11: S.E. ASIAN STUDIES "The Indonesian Army: Class representation or cross-class institution"; "The Trauma of 1965: Meaning and Memory", by Benedict R. O'G. Anderson. 10.30am. R3. Registration
- and inquiries: ext 4993. 13: WRITERS WORKSHOP - by Elizabeth Jolley. Room 803, Menzies Bldg, 1.10pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2137. LIBRARIANSHIP SEMINAR -

"Popular culture pot-pourri" by Grant Stone, Murdoch Uni. Room SGO, Menzies Bldg. 2.15pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2959.

**14: HISTORY OF SCIENCE LECTURE** "Mistakes - Their role in the development of mathematics" by Dr. John Stillwell. Senior Common Room, Mannix College, 8.15pm. Inquiries: ext 3583. MIGRANT STUDIES SEMINAR -

"Issues in researching racial discrimination" by Lucinda Aberdeen. 1pm, R3. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2958, 2428.

15: COMPARATIVE LITERATURE SEMINAR — "Gender and analy-SEMINAR — "Modernity, social scisis", by Marie Maclean. Room 310, Menzies Bldg, 3.15pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2979.

ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR -"Vertebrate pests: Some practical issues", by Hans Brummer, Keith Turnbull Research Inst., and Gary Davies, Dept. of Conservation, Forests and Lands. GSES Seminar Room, 5.15pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4622.

**READING** — by Elizabeth Jolley. Room 803, Menzies Bldg, 4.15pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 2137.

16: ZOOLOGY SEMINAR - "Koalas: Reproduction and disease" by Dr. Kath Handasyde. Room 232 Biology Bldg, 1pm. Admission free. In-quiries: ext. 4668.

S.E. ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR - "Singapore: the State, the Church and the May 87 Detainees", by Father Jim Minchin. 11.15am, Room 515, Menzies Bldg. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4993.

**READING** — by Elizabeth Jolley. R4, 1.10pm. Admission free. In-ouries: ext 2137

- 20: LIBRARIANSHIP SEMINAR "The history of electricity in N.Z.: the role of libraries, archives and records departments in the research process" by Mary Ronnie. Room S411, Menzies Bldg, 2.15pm. Inquiries: ext 2959.
- 22: COMPARATIVE LITERATURE SEMINAR "Everyday life and the values of modernity" by Prof. Agnes

A "spin-off" of the IUPHAR meeting is the number of the distinguished international visitors who will be coming to Monash. They include Professor Sergio Ferreira whose early work on the substance bradykinin and the effects of venom from the South American pit viper led to the discovery of a drug now used for the treatment of high blood pressure and congestive heart

> Heller. Room 310, Menzies Bldg, 2.15pm. Inquiries: ext 2159. ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR -

failure.

- "Environmental regulations and their industrial impact" by Max Bradbury, Nuform Chemicals. GSES Seminar Room, 5.15pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4622.
- 23: ZOOLOGY SEMINAR "Ecology and conservation of the Eastern Barred-Bandicoot in Australia" by Dr Peter Brown. Room 232, Biology Bldg, 1pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4668.
- **27: COMPARATIVE LITERATURE** SEMINAR — "The temporality of modernity" by Ferenc Feher. Room 1010, Menzies Bldg, 2.15pm. Inquiries: ext 2159.
  - LIBRARIANSHIP SEMINAR "Corporate planning in the Parliamentary Library", by John Bruden-all, Deputy Parliamentary Librarian. Room S411, Menzies Bldg, 2.15pm. Inquiries: ext 2959.

HUMAN BIOETHICS CONFER-"IVF: The current ENCE debate." Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. 9am. Inquiries: ext 4278.

SEMINAR - "Modernity, social science, Hermeneutics" by Agnes Heller. Room 310, Menzies Bldg, 3.15pm. Inquiries: ext 2159.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR** -"Land care: Some moral and ethical issues", by Oliver Heywood, Bishop of Bendigo. GSES Seminar Room, 5.15pm. Admission free. Inquiries: ext 4622.

- 30: ZOOLOGY SEMINAR "Reciprocal altruism in Bell Miners?" by Mike Clarke. Room 232, Biology Bldg, 1pm. Admission free. In-quiries: ext 4668.
- MONASH UNIVERSITY GALLERY 1: EXHIBITIONS - "Thief's Journal", a three-part installation by Julie Brown-Rrap, and "The Glamour Show — Studio Photographs Show — Studio Photographs 1925-55" from Australian National Gallery. Open 10am-5pm Tues-Fri, 1-5pm Sat. until 10 July.

#### Monash Reporter

The next issue will be published in the first week of August, 1987.

Copy deadline is Friday, July 24, and early copy is much appreciated

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

## Four for World **University Games**

Life will not be all beer and skittles for four Monash students when they travel to Zagreb this month for the World University Games.

The four, Michael Johnston, Justin Negri, Andrew Cohen and Marc Howard, will be visiting Yugoslavia as competitors in the biennial games, Universiade.

Michael Johnston, a second year Science student, will be competing against Olympic medallists from the United States and Russia in his bid to win the men's diving competition.

He has been diving for five years and trains nightly for an hour and a half.

International competition is no stranger to Michael who has travelled to the United States and New Zealand with Australian teams.

He said he was excited although a little unsure of what to expect in Yugoslavia.

"I've been reading a bit, but I think my perceptions are wrong," he said. Andrew Cohen, a third year Economics student, lives across the road

from his rowing partner, Justin Negri, who is studying third year Medicine.

recently won the Oxford-Cambridge Cup.

The pair have been rowing together since their Scotch College days.

They, along with six other Monash rowers, recently won the intervarsity rowing trophy, the Oxford-Cambridge Cup.

This time they will be on the water with only two other rowers and a cox, but are equally as confident of victory. "Nothing more needs to be said other than we're going to win.

"We are going to row with friends from Canberra, but we will now be in a boat with a fellow from RMIT and two from Adelaide," said Andrew, whose grandfather rowed for Cambridge.

Although Justin is looking forward to his first international competition, Andrew has competed overseas twice in as many years.

Marc Howard, an Arts student, will be pitting his strengths against athletes from nearly 80 countries.

More than 5000 students competing in swimming, basketball, volleyball, fencing, water polo, tennis, gymnastics, judo, football, diving, rowing and athletics will attend the 11-day event.

· Justin Negri and Andrew Cohen, proud members of the Monash rowing team which



### EFTS: a mythical animal

The following definitions are reprinted from the University of Otago Newsletter.

- Academic (1) Describing staff, means untrained (2) Describing dress, means unfashionable (3) Describing a development committee, means unchallengeable (4) Describing a justification, means unrealistic.
- Computer (1) Device you use for your stock-market dealings, winecellar inventory, etc. (2) Device to aid your University work (rare) (3) Device capable of replacing registry staff (never!).
- E.F.T.S. (1) Equivalent Full-Time Student, a mythical animal hunted by ho can vork ou what it is (2) Extra Full-Time Staff, helpful little animals now believed extinct.
- Resignation (1) Creation of a spare post: eagerly sought after by deans (2) Last resort of the talented and principled, usually counter-productive (3) Attitude taken by sensible chairperson on appointment.

- Submission (1) An attitude to be taken when entering the Vice-Chancellor's office (2) A lengthy document you send to a committee to aid the decision-making process.
- Committee (1) A collection of familiar faces (2) A body that receives submissions and makes decisions in spite of them.
- Vice-Chancellor A person who knows your first name, and the first names of all the members of your family (see Security, Lulling into a false sense of).
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor (1) A person in favor of Vice-Chancellors (2). A Vice-Chancellor who has, lost
- University Planning (1) Deciding what we'd all do if we could afford it (2) Planning your life around the needs of the University (see Wife and Family, Neglect of).
- Promotion (1) An annual exercise in which you discover what a miserable place the university is (2) Telling everyone what a wonder-

ful place the university is.

theatre skills", with lessons in juggling, tumbling and magic. "You can be taught to juggle in half an hour," says Nicholas. Everyone is welcome. Photo - Richard Crompton. Add spice to your life

· As president of the Monash Society of Clowns, Arts student Nicholas Engelman is

well qualified to demonstrate the kinds of skills you can learn in the Union's Rehearsal Room from 4-7pm on Thursdays. The group wants to develop what it calls "circus street

### Heard the one about the Gingerbread

Man left to cool on top of the cupboard?

There he meets the folk of the kitchen Salt, Pepper, The Old Tea Bag and Herr Von Cuckoo of the Cuckoo Clock.

There are problems on the cupboard. Herr Von Cuckoo has a sore throat and cannot call out the time, and there is a villainous mouse causing trouble.

In some exciting adventures, the Gingerbread Man gets rid of the ra rodent and saves the cuckoo clock from the dreaded dust bin.

The Gingerbread Man is by David Wood, Britain's most popular writer of plays for children. It opens at the Alexander Theatre on Tuesday 30 June at 2pm and plays at 10.30am and 2pm weekdays and 2pm only on Saturdays until 11 July.

There is a special evening perfor-

mance for fathers to come with their children on Tuesday 30 June at 7.30pm. Prices for "The Gingerbread Man" are (adults) \$9.90, (children) \$7.90. Par-

ties concessions for 20 or more, and aged pensioners \$8.90. Bookings ext. 3992.



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