



# MONASH REPORTER

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## Ruth the rock hound gives her 'gems' to Monash

A Kew woman will leave her mineral collection, built up over more than half a century and now considered one of the finest in Victoria, to the earth sciences department of Monash University.

Retired secondary school teacher and inspector, **Ruth Coulsell**, decided to leave her collection to the Department after discussing with second-year student, **Allan Pring**, at the Waverley Gem Club.

The collection, in two parts, consists of about 2000 miniatures and 3000 larger specimens.

It is as Ruth says, "reasonably scientifically grouped" according to the Dana system, and is presently being re-catalogued.

She is donating 1000 specimens to the University immediately. They are what she calls, "good student working material".

"Students can jump on them, chew them, eat them, do what they like," she says.

Her collection consists of minerals gathered personally or by trading, from

throughout Australia and the world. It is very strong on Broken Hill material but there are pieces also from as far away as Mexico, Madagascar, Brazil and Britain.

Ruth's scientific appreciation of minerals — gained chiefly through self-motivated study — springs from a refreshingly emotional source.

She says: "I love their color and texture. My father was an artist. I have no artistic ability but I think I have inherited his love of color."

"In minerals I find a dream world." "I can be exhausted, frustrated, sick to death with things, but when I get amongst my minerals and play with them, pet them, I unwind totally."

### 'Like gardening'

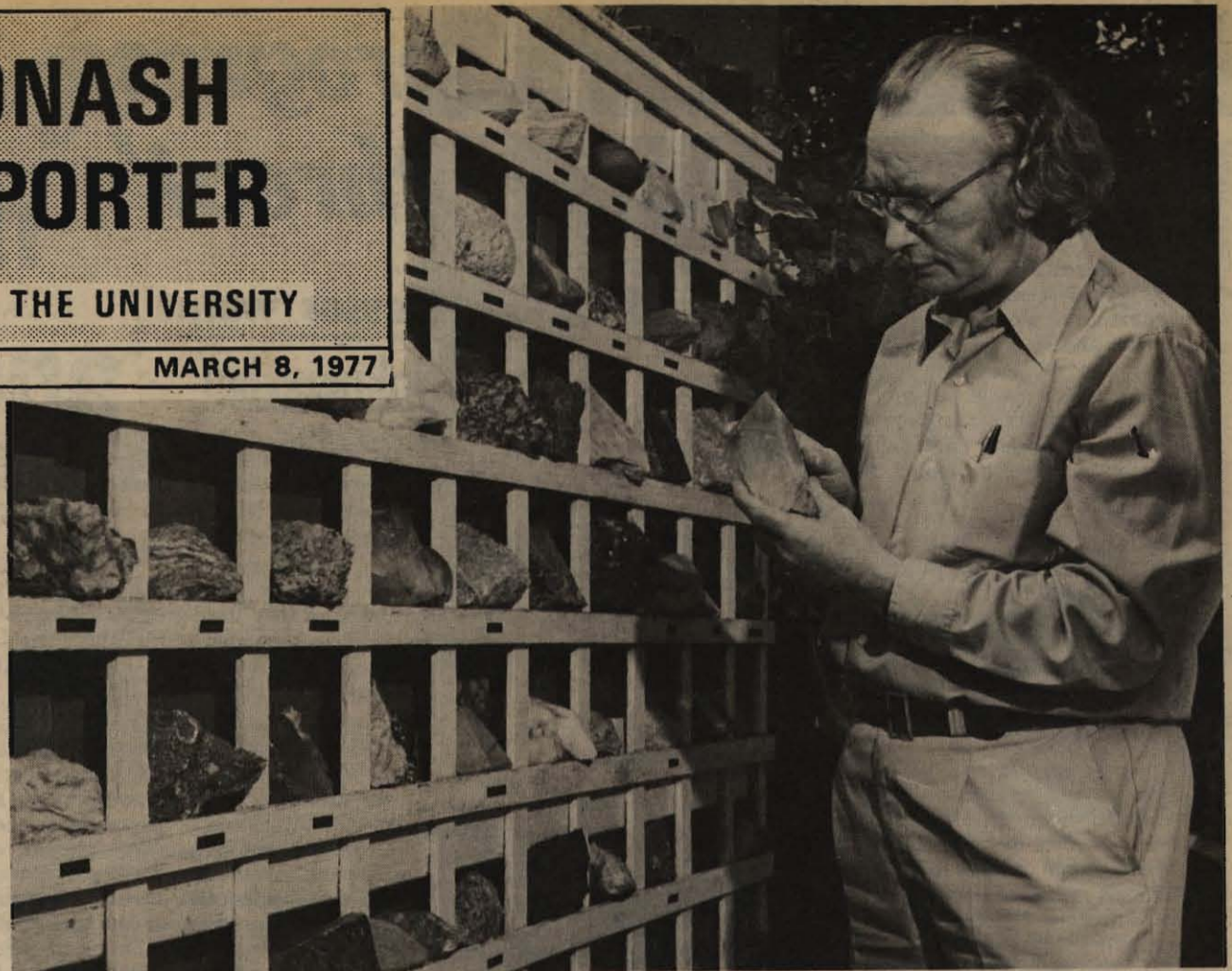
"It's like the gardener who relaxes merely by having his fingers in the soil".

She supports her interest in minerals with a study of the history of Australian mining.

Ruth started her collection when, as a 10-year-old grade six pupil, she found a "wonderful green piece" in the playground of Flemington State School, No. 250.

It was identified by the Assay Office as no more than furnace slag but she was compensated for her interest with a gift of 20 to 30 specimens kept on the family breakfast tray, "much to my mother's consternation."

Her collecting was aided in younger



Senior technical officer in the earth sciences department, **Karl Weber**, examines mineral specimens in **Ruth Coulsell's** collection. — Pictures: **Herve Alloaume**.



A colorful specimen from the donation.

years by two apprentices in her father's engineering business, also interested in rocks. She had greater opportunity for personal collecting when she shifted to the country as a teacher in 1939.

Ruth is believed to have been one of few female collectors until recently and admits to having encountered some rather bemused males through the years.

"Collecting rocks was considered just a little unladylike," she smiles.

"I can remember my father, and I loved him dearly, deciding that a book on birds would be better suited to a girl than a book on mineralogy which I had set my heart on as a birthday present," she says.

In a bid to prompt other private collectors to leave their collections to the University also, Ruth (an exceptionally modest person: "No photographs please") said: "I can't think of a better way to link an interest to service. To know that the collection will go on being used after I am gone simply delights me."

## Sir Mark Oliphant to give Monash lecture

Former South Australian Governor and eminent scientist, **Sir Mark Oliphant**, will deliver the fifth **Oscar Mendelsohn Lecture** at Monash University this month.

The title of Sir Mark's address is "The Arms Race and Morality". He will deliver it in the Alexander Theatre on Wednesday, March 16 at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman for the evening will be the University's new Vice-Chancellor, **Professor R. L. Martin**.

The vote of thanks will be moved by **Emeritus Professor D. H. Monro**, foundation professor of the philosophy department who retired at the end of last year.

Chairman of the Oscar Mendelsohn Lectures Committee is **Professor Peter Singer**, who last month took up a new chair in the department of philosophy.

The Lectures are funded by an endowment made to Monash University by Mr O. A. Mendelsohn with the aim of "promoting the study of humanism, materialism, positivism, and other effects of the application of the scientific attitude to human affairs and thought generally."

Admission to the lecture is free and open to the public.

## NEW V-C STRESSES NEED FOR COMMUNICATION

Monash University has reached a size where a special effort must be made to keep open the internal lines of communication, the new Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Ray Martin**, said this week.

"There is a real danger that groups could become isolated and, in particular, that the administration could appear to become more and more

remote from the other sections of the University," he explained.

**Professor Martin** was discussing his approach to his new job.

Efforts to avoid a communication gap must extend right up to his own office, he said.

"In the early stages of a developing university such as Monash, where the number of staff and students is small, there is a tremendous feeling of in-

volvement as they solve the various problems that arise," he explained.

"In that situation, I think, there is a sense of being and a sense of single-mindedness which of course gets harder to maintain as the University becomes larger.

"Despite this, however, there remain well-defined lines of communication which should not only be kept open,

but which should just as importantly be used.

"While it would be a great pity if a Vice-Chancellor became submerged in personal discussions with everyone who had an issue to raise, I nevertheless believe it is important that he remain reasonably accessible.

"If someone feels it necessary that  
*continued page 8*

# 'Why scientific progress has become a threat'

The laissez-faire era of science was over and it may be time for moratoria on work in certain dangerous areas, Professor C. G. Weeramantry of Monash University's Law Faculty said recently.

Professor Weeramantry was delivering an address titled "Will Law Retreat Before Science" to a seminar on Science, Technology and the Law held on campus.

He warned of the danger posed to traditional legal principles by the progress of science.

"A whole body of traditional law built on the supposition that something was impossible becomes completely inapplicable the moment technology shows that it is possible," he said.

Professor Weeramantry said that a "brink situation" arose in practically every scientific field. "Brink situation" is the term used to describe the stage reached where two or three more steps may take all mankind over the brink into a universal and irreversible catastrophe. He mentioned, particularly, dangerous areas in atomic

## Monash professor warns against brinkmanship

energy research, molecular genetics and genetic manipulation, manipulation of the human brain and the release of substances such as fluorocarbons and lead into the atmosphere.

He said: "If we are uncertain of the effect of any further progress in certain particular danger areas, is it not wise to apply the brakes, halt for a little while, assess our progress, make sure in what direction we are going and take our steps forward only when we are masters of the situation?"

Professor Weeramantry called for collaboration among the scientific, legal and lay communities to "put their wisdom together and evolve something which would be in the best interests of the community."

He said: "It is not the scientist alone who can decide this. His vision, granted the completest dedication to

his subject, may still be insufficient by itself to guide the community. The lawyer by himself cannot guide the community because he needs the expertise of the scientist.

"The lawyer and the scientist together cannot guide the community because they need feedback from the layman, and that is why there is this special importance in a getting together of these three elements."

Later Professor Weeramantry said "The layman would of course need to depend very heavily upon the scientist for information, but eventually in a democratic form of government the decision must be his. His money is to be spent, his life is to be affected, and existing mechanisms are not adequate to carry his voice to the point of decision."

Peter Weeramantry said it could

be argued that the scientist was as much a human being as anybody else and would not consciously imperil the human future.

He added: "Undoubtedly the scientist is a concerned and dedicated human being, but there is a weakness to which all of us are prone and that is, that when we are involved in some particular field of expert research, the lure of the chase takes us further and further.

"The scientist involved in some particular sphere of activity would no doubt also be victim to this human failing, and it is necessary for him to be assisted in some way through an external assessment of the human and social impact of his work."

Professor Weeramantry spoke of the inadequacy of current legal mechanisms in handling "even the science that we now have."

As one example he quoted Professor Peter Brett's writings in saying that the law generally functioned on the basis of precedent.

"Yesterday's authority is today's law. But in science, yesterday's truth is today's error. And if we proceed on the basis that we must follow the decisions that were given before, we may well be heading along a path that has been proved to be wrong," he said.

Professor Weeramantry said that the legal machinery needed to be overhauled.

"Here again it is a matter for lawyers, scientists and community to get together," he added.

He said: "There are many ideas that need to be discussed. The refashioning of legal procedures, of court structures, of governmental institutions needs debate and discussion. Perhaps an ombudsman for science needs to be set up, empowered to hear disputes of a scientific nature which at present have no forum for their airing.

"Scientists are very often called upon to continue some line of research which does not have their complete moral approval. They may be servants of a corporation or servants of a government department, involved against their will in a line of research which runs against their grain.

"Should there not be some tribunal to which they can take their disputes, somebody like an ombudsman who can give a ruling upon the matter?"

"Is there not a possibility of more international collaboration, seeing that science has now spilt over national borders, and whatever is done in country A must necessarily affect country B? There have been sessions of international bodies to try to work out treaties like the law of the sea treaty. Might there not be an international cybernetics treaty, an international sonic boom treaty, an international genetic experiments treaty, and that kind of thing?"

"And might there not also be international boards of assessment that can survey the developments that have taken place in various spheres of science and assess them for their impact upon the international community? These are all ideas that need consideration.

"In particular there is a practical idea that was sponsored by U.S. Congressman Daddario who was in the forefront of this movement. He put forward the notion of technology assessment boards. These technology assessment boards would function with the assistance of lawyers, laymen and scientists. Their main function would be an examination in advance of the impact of technology before it was permitted."

## O-WEEK CELEBRATIONS:

### Buy a slave ... and learn where to slave

A slave auction, wargames and ballroom dancing ...

They're not the staple diet of life at Monash, perhaps. But, along with dozens of other such activities planned for Orientation Week, they will give new students insight into the possibilities to be explored on campus later in the year.

Orientation 'Week' starts on Wednesday, March 9, and runs until Friday, with a special part-time students' orientation on Saturday.

Although there'll be ample lashings of the 'fun of the fair,' the emphasis in the program has been placed on academic orientation.

Monash's new Vice-Chancellor, Professor R.L. Martin, will launch the program on Wednesday at 10.30 a.m., with an address to new students in the main dining room or forum area, depending on the weather.

Students will be invited then to hive off into faculty groupings for introductions, followed by more informal coffee sessions. There will be a further breakdown in introductions, to department level, and, at different times during the three main days of Orientation, new enrollees will be invited to meet departmental staff on a casual basis.

The Monash libraries will be extending a welcoming hand, too, at all times. For those who would like an instructed first acquaintance, guided tours of the Main Library will be conducted at 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m., on each Orientation day, and there will be tours of the Hargrave Library at 10 a.m. and 2.15 p.m.

University clubs and societies have organised a strong program of specialist interest activities, films, discussions and the like. They'll be enticing students to 'feel the quality with no obligation,' concerning future membership.

Strictly speaking, though, 'quality' isn't always what the clubs are about. A sports carnival starting at 1 p.m. on Friday and featuring 'new games' will aim to show that active sports participation need not always be serious minded.

On the dramatic side, it'll be 'open house' rather than 'full house' at the Alexander Theatre on Thursday and Friday at noon when theatre staff will show interested people over the auditorium.

From Wednesday to Friday at 1 p.m. the Monash Players will perform the Australian play, 'White with Wire Wheels' in the Union Theatre. The Australian Performing Group will be on campus on Thursday with their 'Soap Box Circus.'

A contraception forum will be held

in Robert Blackwood Hall on Thursday at 10 a.m.

Anyone a little bewildered by the goings-on will be able to receive mini-orientation — at least in the right direction — from information booths which will be set up around the lawns.

While part-time students will be welcome on any Orientation day, a special part-timers orientation will be held on Saturday. A guided tour of the campus will leave from the Union Building at 11 a.m., to be followed by a barbecue at the rear of the building at 12.30 p.m.

And for those people who just happen to list their interests as slave auctions, wargames and ballroom dancing — the yellow Orientation Program holds details on the when and where of all activities.

### Plus the best bangs in town

The Orientation Week fireworks display this year will go off with a bigger bang than the official Moomba spectacular.

This will be mainly due to the use of 12 six-inch "shells" which are designed to explode once on the ground then zoom to a height of more than 200 metres (over 600ft.) and explode again.

"They are louder and more powerful than anything in the official Moomba display," says former MAS chairperson David Birch, who is organising the Monash display.

The Monash pyrotechnics will be staged on Thursday, March 10, starting at 9.30 p.m. and lasting for more than half an hour.

Launching area will be the soccer field at the rear of the Union building.

Special viewing areas around the field will be roped off for spectators.

Members of the public are invited to watch the show and last year the crowd on fireworks night was estimated at more than 3000.

Besides the six-inch boomers, the display will include 100 smaller shells of four and five inch "calibre".

"But it will be the six-inch ones that steal the show," says David Birch. "When they explode on takeoff, the ground literally shakes. And you seem to feel the reverberations when they go off again at the top of their flight."

To ensure adequate safety precautions are taken during the display, arrangements will be inspected by a Government explosives expert.

And to add to the atmosphere, background music will be supplied by "Tom's Mobile Disco" — a one-man electronic band which, says David, "Blasts out thousands of watts of sound."

# Monash gets a Roman 'tombstone'

A marble plaque commemorating three children who died in infancy in first century A.D. Rome has been acquired recently by the department of classical studies, with the financial help of the Monash University Parents' Group.

The inscribed block, which measures 12in. x 18in. x 2in., has its front surface cut to resemble a depressed wooden panel surrounded by a shallow lamb's tongue mould and border. The lettering of the text is particularly easy to read and its form enables it to be dated to the first half of the first century A.D.

Costing £Stg450, the inscription was bought from the London dealer, Charles Ede. Since being excavated about 270 years ago it has been in Italian and English private collections. It travelled to England with the second Earl of Bessborough as a rather fashionable souvenir of his Grand Tour of Europe.

Its original location, however, was what has been described as 'a prime piece of sepulchral real estate, on the junction of the two main roads leading south from Rome, the Via Appia and the Via Latina.

In first century Rome it was forbidden to bury a corpse within city walls for fear of ghosts returning to visit their



earthly remains and upsetting the living. With a rather touching sympathy for the dead, however, the Romans didn't wish to banish them from contact with the living altogether, so tombs were erected alongside busy roads.

Something similar happened with ashes from a cremation, an acceptable option to burial at the time, favored by some relatives, perhaps, because it was cheaper. Ashes were placed in a brass urn which was put in a wall niche of a columbarium, a special chamber for storing funerary urns. The niches in a columbarium wall were identified by plaques set either in front or beneath.

The inscription now at Monash is such a plaque. The Latin text, with abbreviations supplemented in brackets, runs:

DIS MAN(ibus) SACR(um) TRAVSIA ASIATICAE VIXIT AN(nos) II DI(es) XXX TRAVSIVS PVDENS VIXIT MENS(es) IIII DI(es) XXIII CC. TRAVSI PVDENS ET ASIATICVS ET CAESIA VENERIA NATIS CARISSIMIS FECERVNT TRAVSIA ASIATICAE V(ixit) M(enses) VI D(ies) XI NAT(a) C(ara) P(udentis) S(ecunda)

Or, if you prefer the English translation:  
Sacred to the Divine Shades.

Trausia Asiaticae lived two years thirty days. Trausius Pudens lived four months twenty four days. Gaius Trausius Pudens and Gaius Trausius Asiaticus and Caesia Veneria erected this for their very dear children. Trausia Asiaticae lived six months eleven days, the second dear daughter of Pudens.

The plaque was set up by three people, Gaius Trausius Pudens, his wife Caesia Veneria, and Gaius Trausius Asiaticus who was almost certainly the father of Gaius Trausius Pudens.

Three children born to the married couple died in infancy: first, a daughter named Trausia Attica after the grandfather; a son named Trausius Pudens after his father; and, subsequently, another daughter who must have been born after the death of the first as she was given the same name.

The first line of the inscription is an ancient formula for tombstones and memorial plaques. It reflects an old belief that the dead were minor divine beings with power to influence the living and, as such, had to be placated.

The inscription did not have originally what is now the final line but was set up for Asiaticae and Trausius Pudens only. They may have died about the same time.

When a third child also died, the urn containing her ashes was put in the niche which already housed the ashes of her brother and sister.

To record her death the parents could have erected a separate memorial plaque, but this was not done, perhaps because they thought it apt that the ashes of their three children should share the same niche and there was insufficient space on the wall of the columbarium for another plaque.

Instead, the moulding which formed the lower frame of the inscription was cut away, not very expertly, and the stonemason then had enough space to make the necessary addition. It can easily be seen how the symmetry of the stone was thus spoilt.

The inscription is now on exhibition in the department of classical studies' museum.

**The Credit Union now operates from a new office in the Cellar Room.**

The new office provides additional space for the Credit Union to serve its 1800 members.

(For those unfamiliar with the Union building, the Cellar Room is diagonally to the left when leaving the main wing of the building by the door between the

## MASKING THEIR FEELINGS



THE MASK and Movement Workshop was a big attraction at the recent Monash Summer School. And these pictures go a long way towards explaining its popularity.

Schoolteacher Rosemary Blakey (top) makes a determined effort to compete with one of her creations.

That's her again on the right of the other picture, this time wearing a rather soulful expression. The mask with the wrinkles hides fellow teacher Gerald Canale. Behind them, wearing his own face, is workshop instructor Joe Bolza.



## PART-TIMERS' LOUNGE

A lounge for part-time and mature age students is to be established in the Union building.

The lounge, to be located in the area on the first floor vacated by the Monash University Club, will provide a social contact point for members. It is seen as being particularly important for isolated part-time students, giving them an opportunity to meet like stu-

dents during their limited time on campus.

Two special welcoming activities will be held for part-timers during Orientation Week. These are a staff/student get-together to be held on Wednesday, March 9, from 7.30 p.m. in the Cellar Room, and a barbecue (with food and drink provided) to take place on the lawns near the Union building from 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, March 12.

## Hoist by their own . . .

Who helps the helpers while the helpers help the helpless?

That's a question lecturer in the use of English with the Higher Education and Advisory Research Unit, Gordon Taylor, may well have asked after perusing a recent invitation to a national conference on adult literacy, to be held in Canberra in May.

The invitation reads, in part: "In an endeavour to make a nationally co-

ordinated attack on adult illiteracy, the Australian Council of Adult Literacy has arranged this Conference to enable a rational, organised attack to be launched."

In order to make an attack the conference has been arranged to make an attack. Quite so.

After cycling around that, try the next paragraph: "We feel that it is essential that as many interested persons as possible attend, in order to ensure the administrative and methodological problems that will arise may have the benefit of our collective wisdom."

Does that mean that administrative and methodological problems will only arise if many interested persons attend?

Says Gordon: "How can anyone concerned with 'literacy' sleep peacefully after publicly circulating this kind of English? God help the objects of their concern.

"This is one conference I won't be going to."

## New offices for Credit Union

The Credit Union now operates from a new office in the Cellar Room.

The new office provides additional space for the Credit Union to serve its 1800 members.

(For those unfamiliar with the Union building, the Cellar Room is diagonally to the left when leaving the main wing of the building by the door between the

men's hairdresser and the small cafe.)

The Credit Union soon will begin transferring members' accounts to a new mini-computer. This will save time recording transactions, allowing staff to maintain traditional personal service to a rapidly increasing membership.

The Credit Union's telephone extension (3196) remains unchanged.

# Monash diabetes researcher honored

The diabetes research work carried out over the last 25 years by the professor of biochemistry at Monash University, Professor Joe Bornstein, was honored at a Diabetes Symposium held on campus last week.

Leading researchers in the field from throughout Australia and the world attended the symposium to pay tribute to Prof. Bornstein, and to discuss the development and direction of their work, 50 years since the discovery of insulin.

In the final session, speakers foreshadowed possible treatments of the disease. These included the use of an artificial pancreas to measure glucose in the blood and transmit a signal to a miniaturised computer in the body, similar to the heart pacemaker, to pump insulin into the blood when needed; and the 'biological approach' of transplanting islet cells from healthy donors into diabetics.

Twenty-five years ago the diabetes research picture was far from as sophisticated.

Then, it was commonly believed that all diabetics were people with no insulin. Yet, it was found, only a certain proportion of them responded to the injection of insulin.

Prof. Bornstein was prompted to begin his research because of what he terms 'this obvious anomaly'.

He set about developing a method for measuring insulin activity in the blood.

It was discovered that, while some diabetics had no insulin, others had normal levels and some had huge amounts. Later research has concentrated on the role of growth hormone in antagonising insulin activity.

Prof. Bornstein's work was iconoclastic and, thus, not immediately accepted by many. Time has changed that, however.

He started his research at the Baker Institute in Melbourne after the war and has since pursued it in England, the USA and at Monash, where he has been professor of biochemistry since 1961.

The key speakers at the symposium were Dr R. Levine (Duarte, Calif.), Dr M. E. Krahl (Stanford, Calif.), Dr J. Nerup (Copenhagen) and Dr K. W. Taylor (Sydney).



© CSL Director, Dr N. McCarthy (left), and Chairman, Mr Ross Shelmerdine, present a plaque to Professor Joe Bornstein (right). CSL was a joint organiser of the symposium. Professor Bornstein was also a recent ABC Guest of Honor.

## Careers man says:

# 'DON'T EDUCATE JUST FOR WORK!'

The assumption that the purpose of education is to prepare for work must be discredited.

Rather, education should equip the young person to gain satisfaction outside the job.

Careers and Appointments Officer at Monash University, Mr Warren Mann, made these comments recently.

Writing in his office's publication, *Careers Weekly*, Mr Mann said that while improved economic conditions might reduce the level of graduate unemployment to negligible proportions, there was every reason to believe there would be growing graduate underemployment.

He writes: "Few will get the kinds of jobs which, during almost two decades, could reasonably have been expected by people of similar educational preparation . . ."

"The shattering of the illusions established in young people can have very serious consequences both for the person and for society. Mental illnesses and rising suicide rates have been ascribed to it, as have job dissatisfaction, decreasing economic productivity and increasing class conflict. It is not easy to accept a 'dead-end' job as the culmination of a young lifetime of rosy if nebulous aspirations and expectations. We should not be surprised if the consequences constitute a social problem."

Later, Mr Mann writes: "To emphasise vocationalism and require its espousal by the education system would have other and probably even more serious consequences in terms of misdirected education, obsolescence of skills, rigidity of expectation, and social stratification.

"What is really needed is a substantial change in community attitudes in keeping with the far-reaching changes in education and the work-place which have characterised our recent history, and which can be expected to continue into the foreseeable future.

"One of the changes needed is indicated by the term 'dead-end job'. Someone has wisely remarked that 'there is no such thing as a dead-end

job; there are only dead-end people'.

"A career is a continuum, a dynamic concept, and every job, no matter how mundane, contributes something to personal development and life experience.

"The extent to which it contributes depends on the person concerned, on whether his approach is positive or negative, and on whether his outlook is dynamic or static. And his approach and outlook depend to a very large extent on the attitudes he has absorbed from the community around him."

Mr Mann concludes his article: "Perhaps the problem of underemployment can only be solved through education in the humanities and arts?"

## A TALE BEFORE BED

Once upon a time there was a theory and in the time of this theory the groves of academe were filled with searchers gathering the fruits from the trees of knowledge throughout the summer months. (Of course there was always Simple Simon who couldn't be bothered doing such irrelevant things.) But then there came a time when someone said (but it was never clearly established who) that because there was more light and more time in the summer everyone should stay inside. It was said that it is much easier to do household chores in the extra light. Naturally enough there was less time to gather the fruits. But there were several months, after all, in the summer. But then it was realized that the cleaning and pigeon-holing that was done at the beginning of the summer wouldn't be quite right by the end of the summer. Well, the inference was obvious. One must do such indoor work at both the beginning and the end of the summer.

Cheeky Charlie asked why everyone couldn't do their household chores just at the end of the summer. He said this would mean it only had to be done once. Also the houses would be in order for the long winter when we had to stay inside because there was less radiance from the sun and the groves. But King Louis said that was silly: the summer was the time for house tidying. So they did as he said. And the fruit in the grove began to rot in the summer. And the smell became unpleasant. So unpleasant that when the searchers came back from the groves the others would not go near them because of the smell. But in a few years the supply of fruit dwindled. There came sickness into the land and no-one had the strength to go and pick the fruit. So the smell got worse and eventually everyone fell into a very deep sleep.

Please, Prince Charming, bring a ray of sunshine into this land and waken up the people.  
J. N. Crossley

## Diversity — that's the key to CCE in '77

There is no link between radiation protection and aquariums in schools. Except, that is, that both will be the subject of a conference or workshop to be conducted by Monash University's Centre for Continuing Education in the first half of 1977.

Such contrasting topics serve to illustrate the diverse professional, individual and community needs for which the Centre caters.

Other subjects for examination in short courses, conferences, seminars or

workshops include on-line laboratory computer systems, urban hydrology, efficient reading for business, and computing and the law.

Special professional courses planned for teachers deal with such areas as HSC French and remedial teaching in the classroom, in addition to those aforementioned aquariums. A course for chemistry and biology teachers on the pharmacology of drugs was held late last month.

The first in a series of workshops in librarianship was held in February also. Five more are planned throughout the year.

Adult language classes, conducted by the Language Centre, begin early this month. Chinese, Dutch, Indonesian, Italian, Modern Greek and Russian are being offered at two levels — for beginners and the more advanced.

For further information on the Centre for Continuing Education's activities contact ext. 3716.

## Himalayas from the armchair

For those with a penchant for peaks, three films exploring the Himalayas will be shown at the Alexander Theatre this month.

Screening at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 18, and Saturday, March 19, the films are 'The Living Goddess', 'People of Everest' and 'A Himalayan Journey'. From all descriptions it's highly spectacular 'on the road to . . . fare, minus Crosby and Hope.

# MONASH ON MEDLINE

## We have link to top index

A Medline computer terminal has been installed recently in Monash University's Biomedical Library, giving it access to one of the world's largest information services on biomedical literature.

Medline gives Monash access to MEDLARS, the Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System.

This computer-based system analyses, stores and retrieves, on demand, references to articles published in thousands of journals throughout the world.

The key component of the service, as far as Monash is concerned, is Index Medicus, although it includes dental and nursing literature indexes as well.

A total of 250,000 articles are added to Index Medicus each year by the National Library of Medicine at Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

Access to this impressive source of information by Monash's Biomedical Library cost about \$2000, the price of the Texas Instruments Inc. Silent 700 electronic data terminal, plus the charge of linking phone calls to MEDLARS' base in Canberra.

The service is being provided in this country by the National Library of Australia and the Australian Department of Health. All universities with medical faculties have access to it.



Sandra Russell types a search strategy into the Medline terminal, connected by phone to Medlars' base in Canberra.

Monash makes the service available for use by its staff, researchers, postgraduate students and outside members of the medical profession. To date it has been free but, in future, it is likely that the user will be charged the cost of the Canberra phone call.

Monash uses the retrieval system for six hours a fortnight, each Monday morning and alternate Fridays. In its early days it has been eagerly used and, in fact, a third of the work done by MEDLARS for Australian universities last December was requested by Monash.

The Biomedical Library is now averaging about eight requests a week.

First stage in the retrieval of material is the construction of a 'search strategy.' This is then typed into the terminal, operated by two specially trained staff members, Sandra Russell and Susi Pacher.

When the output is received, the Biomedical Library is able usually to provide one-stop information gathering for the searcher. It has been found that the huge bulk of literature referred to has been readily available in the Library.

## WOMEN SAY 'WELCOME'

An informal luncheon will be held in the Vice-Chancellor's garden on Tuesday, March 15, at 1 p.m. to welcome new staff members and their wives or husbands.

The welcoming luncheon is held annually by the Monash Women's Society. University visitors and their partners are invited also.

Pre-school children are welcome but, on this occasion, the organisers regret that no child minding service will be available.

The organisers hope that as many society members as possible will attend to help the committee entertain.

For further information contact Mrs Isabel Butchart, the honorary secretary (25 1788) or Mrs Ruth Firkin, president (20 4658).

## Top Swiss here

A leading Swiss academic in the field of psychology and education will give a seminar on "Individualising Instruction in Higher Education" at Monash early next month.

He is Professor Marcel Goldschmid, Professor of Psychology and Higher Education at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne.

Professor Goldschmid is in Australia as a Visiting Fellow under the Australian-European Awards Scheme.

The seminar will be held on Friday, April 1, at 2 p.m. in Room G24 of the Education building.



Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson discusses a student research project with Jill De Araugo and Penny Corrigan.

## Being noble as a Nobel 'difficult'

British Nobel Prize-winner, Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson, visited Monash University recently and confided that laurels can rest heavily.

"Once you are awarded a Nobel Prize you're expected to be a prophet," he said.

"It can be difficult".

Sir Geoffrey, in Australia for the recent Royal Australian Chemical In-

stitute conference, visited Monash to address its Chemical Society.

Before doing so he spent several hours on the 'shop floor', talking in the laboratories with students and staff about research projects.

While in Australia Sir Geoffrey has been quoted on the solar energy issue. He believes that solar power is the world's only long-range energy solution.

## Law Faculty looks at taxation, trade practices, family law

Lecture series on taxation and trade practices, and a seminar series on family law are among special activities planned this year by the Faculty of Law.

Recent developments in taxation law and practice will be examined in the Taxation Lecture Series, to be conducted over nine Tuesday evenings from April 26 to June 21. Leading academics, barristers, solicitors and

accountants will participate in the series.

Repeat sessions of the successful workshop seminar on family law for lawyers and court and marriage counsellors, held at the University in January, will be conducted throughout the year.

These seminars are designed to allow small groups to work together intensively and to discover how the two professions approach and deal with family problems. For further information contact Professor H. A. Finlay in the Law Faculty.

### Trade practices series

The Trade Practices Lecture Series will be conducted on Thursdays from May 5 to July 21. Topics to be dealt with include some new dimensions on the administration of the Trade Practices Act, monopolisation and the Act, and the consumer protection provisions.

Further information on either series is available from Professor R. Baxt (ext. 3303) or Jenny Neil (ext. 3365).

### Papers available

A limited number of copies of papers delivered at two seminars held earlier in the year are available for purchase. Papers from the Citizens' Redress, and Law, Science and Technology seminars are available from Professor Baxt's office.

# HOW PROPORTIONAL TAX WO

## MONASH SALARIES CUT BY \$4 MILLION IN '77

### No Retrenchments or Loss of Study Leave!

It sounds incredible but these headlines could become a reality if progressive income tax were to be abolished and replaced with a proportional rate of tax on individuals and companies.

This radical proposal has been widely publicised recently in newspapers and on radio, and the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a seminar on the subject in March. While proponents of the abolition of progressive income tax have been mainly concerned with the exacerbation of wages-prices spirals, reduced productivity, and unemployment produced by our present tax structure, it would be a mistake to assume that the proposal and its implications are of less than vital concern to the economic well-being of universities.

### Profs. v. tutors

Table 1 shows the effects of progressive income tax on two income levels at opposite ends of the academic salaries scale, — i.e., professors and tutors. It can be seen that, while professors cost 3.07 times as much to employ as do tutors, they "pay" 5.87 times as much tax and enjoy 2.26 times as much private spending power. However, we have here a curious anomaly: the community, via the taxes imposed by its elected government, dictates that a professor is worth 2.26 times the value of a tutor, yet it tolerates the absurdity that the budgetary cost of a professor to the community is 3.07 times the cost of a tutor.

On the other hand it would be irrelevant to claim that social justice requires the "wealthy" professor to pay disproportionately more tax than the "poor" tutor, because in fact neither of them pays tax as a conscious act of expenditure. The pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) system of withholding income

While there has been much front-page talk of late about tax cuts, reform and the like, a Monash man has been attracting national attention by promoting what amounts to a tax revolution.

Senior lecturer in physiology, Dr Brian Chapman, and a management consultant colleague, Mr Ken Grenfell-Hoyle, have been urging the replacement of Australia's progressive tax system with a proportional one.

Under the proposed system, if A earns 10 times as much as B then he would pay 10 times the tax; no more, no less.

At present the national average tax rate is 20c in the \$, so it has been suggested that the flat tax rate should be 20 per cent.

In implementing the plan, to keep incomes relative and keep take-home pay the same, higher than average income earners would have their gross income reduced and lower than average income earners would have theirs increased by the government. Company tax — a company being seen as a corporation of individuals — would be taxed at the 20 per cent rate also.

The Federal tax revenue would remain the same. However, in future, if the government wanted to increase this revenue it would have to do so openly by declaration, rather than by stealth as the progressive tax system permits. It has been calculated that in the last 16 years, Australia's cost of living has more than doubled, incomes have trebled, while the amount taken by the Federal Government in tax has risen almost nine-fold.

Dr Chapman and Mr Grenfell-Hoyle claim that introduction of proportional taxation would have several immediate effects: taxpayers would enjoy the restoration of incentive for their effort, secure in the knowledge that no more than 20 per cent of their extra earnings would go in tax; productivity would rise as taxpayers found it worthwhile to work five days a week plus overtime; employment would rise as the economy and entrepreneurs responded to the demand for goods and services created by the new-found confidence; tax avoidance would drop.

They also claim that the present tax system leads to the wage-price spiral, saying that individuals cannot keep abreast of price increases simply by receiving proportional wage increases.

It is two years now since the pair began pressing their case for proportional taxation. It was given a boost early this year when Business Age editor, Graeme McDougall highlighted it in a series of articles, with other newspapers and radio in pursuit.

Attention given the plan has been widely favorable, with criticisms focussing mainly on the political difficulties in implementation.

Curiously, though, economists have been silent on the basic soundness of the plan, considering the impact its proponents are claiming.

In the following article, Dr Chapman looks at the possible consequences for Monash University and higher education of a proportional rate of tax. Perhaps it may provoke comment through these pages.

tax means that the vast majority of Australian workers never get their hands on the tax money in the first place. For most Australians income tax is something that makes its presence felt once a year in the form of a pleasant refund. The only true payers of in-

come tax, in the sense of having to cover for it as a budgetary expenditure item, are either employers of employees, or the self-employed.

When viewed in this light, progressive income tax is seen as a device which places the cost of employing the

most skilled employees disproportionately beyond the means of the poorer "employers" in the community. In this sense it aggravates the difference between what the rich and the poor can afford in terms of goods and services, an effect which works in synergy with selectively high taxes on high items.

We who are advocating replacement of progressive income tax with a proportional system are suggesting that the community should stop deceiving itself in the above ways. The whole range of incomes should be taxed at a uniform rate of 20 cents in the dollar (equal to the present average rate of taxation of all individuals) to ensure that Federal revenue remains unchanged and that taxes are levied in direct proportion to incomes. Since the government will be declaring that the rate of taxation is 20 cents in the dollar for all taxpayers, it must obviously apply the new rate to its own employees in the government sector, including universities. The last column of Table 1 shows how this can be done for professors and tutors without any change in take-home pay. Clearly, under the new system, the "cost" ratio of the two grades will be identical to the "worth" ratio.

### Official figures

The benefits of such a proposal can be appreciated from a study of Tables 2 and 3. The raw figures for Table 2 were kindly made available by Mr B. Amies of the University's Salaries Office and they show the entire cost (gross salaries) of funding the salaries and wages of all University personnel, full or part-time, for successive six-monthly periods commencing July 1974 and ending December 1976. The taxes deducted as shown in Table 2 do not allow for end-of-year refunds and so there are small errors of quantitative detail in what follows; nevertheless one can safely draw some significant qualitative conclusions.

## Maths warning to schools

Monash University's Science Faculty has notified schools that it considers HSC General Mathematics, unless passed at A or B grades, to be an inadequate preparation for successful study of the first year science subject, Mathematical Methods.

Mathematical Methods must be studied concurrently if first year Physics or first year further Mathematics are taken. It is also a prerequisite for study of the second year subjects of Chemistry, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Physics, or any second year mathematical subject.

### CONDUCTOR NEEDED

The re-formed Monash Chapel Singers are looking for a "competent, permanent conductor". Any offers (or suggestions) should be made to Ron Keightley (ext. 2266) or Olive Heley (ext. 2100).

The Faculty believes that to have studied both HSC Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, even if passed at only C or D grades, provides a much more satisfactory foundation for successful study of Mathematical Methods.

It also claims there is strong evidence of a correlation of success in passing first year Chemistry with having studied the two major HSC mathematics subjects, compared with having studied only General Mathematics.

The mathematics department at Monash will produce a mathematics magazine this year for school children in fifth and sixth forms.

As well, the department will launch a lecture series aimed at the same audience. It is planned that one lecture will be held a fortnight for the first and second terms.

The first lecture will be given by Neil Cameron on March 25 at 7 p.m.

in R1. Neil will be speaking on some metric space and topological ideas.

It is envisaged that the lectures will be published in *Function*, the name of the new magazine.

## Two to get hon. degrees

Two distinguished Australians will receive honorary Doctor of Letters degrees from Monash University this year.

The Herald Professor of Fine Arts at Melbourne University, Professor Joseph Burke, will be awarded the D. Litt. (Honoris causa) at the main Arts graduation ceremony to be held on May 20.

Poet Judith Wright McKinney will receive her honorary degree at the Arts/Education graduation ceremony on June 3.

## THEY NEED A SWEAR-BOX FOR THE COMPUTER

Times do change. A few decades ago it was talking horses amazing the world's innocents. These days it's talking computers.

Staff in the Library's acquisitions department have been amused by the civility — or lack of it — of their recently installed Terminet.

The Terminet, used to enter book orders into the computer, greets its operator with a 'hello' and an 'all ok you can now start transmission'. And, when there is a mistake, it gives out a resounding four-letter word — 'damn'. (Quiet in the library, please!).

However, it was learned that seasoned computer users regard these little courtesies of life, oft repeated, as nothing more than a d--n bore.

# COULD HELP MONASH AND YOU

by Dr Brian Chapman

The "cost" of University personnel (gross salaries) has increased partly by expansion but mainly by wage rises. The "worth" of the personnel (disposable income) has also increased but at a significantly slower rate than the "cost". The rate of taxation has increased steadily, despite "tax cuts", until the advent of tax indexation (July-December, 1976). The increased rates of taxation have been brought about by the interaction of progressive income tax with its own offspring, the wages-prices spiral. Tax indexation has done nothing more than stop the rot.

On the other hand, if the above proposal of proportional income tax were implemented, the percentage increases in the last three columns of Table 2 would always be equal: cost, worth, and income tax would always

be tied together in direct proportion. If 20 per cent proportional tax were levied now while maintaining the disposable incomes of all Monash employees at \$14.682 million per 6 months, then the saving in gross salaries would be \$1.97 million, or \$3.94 million over a whole year for this University alone. This should be contrasted with a notional savings of \$15 million per annum currently being mooted if study leave privileges were to be withdrawn from all institutions of tertiary education!

However, the advantages of proportional income tax to universities and the community as a whole are not limited to a single shot benefit in the year of implementation. They continue year after year as shown in Table 3. This table examines what might have happened if proportional income tax

had been implemented on July 1, 1974. The mean taxation rate is estimated to have been 18.7 per cent in that year; in the following year it rose to 20 per cent where it is now pegged by tax indexation. Table 3 is constructed on the basis of two further hypothetical suppositions: (a) the government explicitly announced an increased tax rate of 20 per cent commencing July 1, 1975, and (b) the budgetary increases in gross salaries followed the same percentage rises as in fact occurred according to Table 2. The disposable incomes of Tables 2 and 3 both start at the same level of \$11.009 million. It is evident from Table 3 that the dollar saving in the cost of higher education at Monash relative to Table 2 would have now reached an accumulated total of over \$6 million in the 2½ year period, whereas the employees of Monash would have had an extra \$1.2 million to spend.

## Lasting effects

Now it is not the intention behind this article to advocate that this hypothetical increased spending power of Monash employees should have been created, but the intention is to show that introduction of proportional income tax will have two lasting significant effects much needed today: 1) it will diminish wage costs, particularly the cost of wage rises, and 2) it will reduce the pressure for wage demands. These effects arise from the constant high marginal rate of retention of income (80 per cent) in the hands of all employees under proportional income tax.

The particular advantage for higher education is that because tertiary institutions are "top heavy" relative to the national salary profile, their budgetary cost would be markedly reduced (e.g. \$4 million per annum as of now for Monash alone). In times of economic stress and governmental cut-

backs the political advantage of this can hardly be overstated. True, the budgetary cost of "bottom heavy" government enterprises such as transport and utilities will rise under proportional income tax (i.e., net government revenue and spending will not change), but these enterprises are not such attractive targets for governmental pruning as are universities and the like.

Moreover, it should be realised that the gross incomes requiring upward adjustment on adoption of 20 per cent proportional income tax are those currently below \$8140 per annum. This is a fairly low figure compared with a basic wage of \$6000 and an average full-time adult wage of about \$9500. Large numbers of workers earning less than \$8140 at present are either minors or part-time employees. As neither of these categories involves any enduring social disadvantage it is not clear that they should continue to enjoy disproportionately large disposable incomes relative to their full-time adult colleagues. If progressive income tax was originally devised to tax the rich for the benefit of the poor, it seems now to be taxing the full-time worker for the benefit of the part-time worker.

**The campaign to abolish progressive income tax is steadily growing in strength: university personnel should become aware of the immediate and long-term benefits this proposal will have for that costly political football — higher education!**

Those stirred by the foregoing may be interested to learn that an Australian Tax Reform Association has been formed. It is based at 19 Lansdowne Street, East Melbourne. Phone 662 2277 for details on association aims and membership.

TABLE 1

Grade	Gross Income		Income Tax		Disposable Income	New Gross
	\$	%	\$	%		
Professor	29687		12709	42.8	16978	21223
Tutor	9673		2165	22.4	7508	9385
Prof/Tutor	3.07		5.87	1.91	2.26	2.26

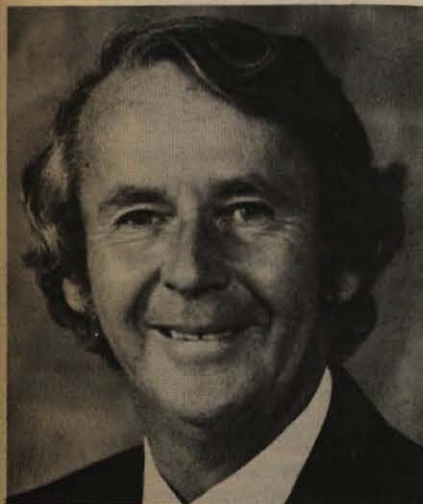
TABLE 2

Period	Gross Salaries \$million	Income Tax		Disposable Income \$million	Percentage Increases		
		\$million	%		Gross	Disposable	Tax
July-Dec 74	14.584	3.540	24.33	11.009	—	—	—
Jan-June 75	16.453	4.240	25.77	12.213	13.1	10.9	19.8
July-Dec 75	17.570	4.673	26.60	12.897	6.8	5.6	10.2
Jan-June 76	18.216	5.013	27.52	13.204	3.7	2.5	7.3
July-Dec 76	20.325	5.643	27.76	14.682	11.6	11.2	12.6

TABLE 3

Period	Gross Salaries \$million	Tax Rate %	Disposable Income \$million	Gross Savings \$million	Disposable Gains \$million
July-Dec 74	13.541	18.7	11.009	1.007	—
Jan-June 75	15.314	18.7	12.450	1.139	0.237
July-Dec 75	16.353	20.0	13.082	1.217	0.186
Jan-June 76	16.955	20.0	13.564	1.262	0.360
July-Dec 76	18.917	20.0	15.134	1.407	0.452
Total Savings and Gains				6.033	1.235

## New CBA manager



Mr R. L. Kerr has been appointed Manager of the Monash University Branch of the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited.

Mr Kerr replaces Mr J. D. Blanton who has been appointed to Special Duties in the Marketing Department of the State Manager's Office of the Bank.

## 'GOOD PROSPECTS FOR STUDENT JOB-HUNTERS'

Prospects for vacation and part-time term employment for students were reasonably good as long as their demands were realistic, Monash University's Student Employment Officer said recently.

He is Ian Mason who is back on the job full-time this year after a part-time year in 1976.

Ian said: "Employment prospects are reasonably good. It seems to be a by-product of general unemployment that many employers will take on temporary employees to get a particular job done, whereas they will not create full-time positions."

During the 1976-77 summer vacation period, the Monash Student Employment Service was notified of about 2000 job vacancies, ranging in duration from a few hours to months. This is about 700 more than for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Ian has planned a full program of interviews throughout the year with personnel managers of firms in the south-eastern suburbs in a bid to find more and interesting work opportunities.

Usual jobs for females are housework, supermarket cashiering, child minding and, for males, laboring. Occasionally though, employment is available in study-related areas.

Ian works from an office near Careers and Appointments in the University Union Building. His service operates on a register system and opportunities are listed on a notice board located in the same area.

He is eager to hear from anyone with "angles on sources of employment, however small" and can be contacted on ext. 3150/1/2.

## Supreme Court Prize awards

The Supreme Court Prizes for Monash's top law graduates last year have been awarded.

Mr A. J. Marks, of Hawthorn, has been awarded the Supreme Court

Prize for the best student in final year of the Bachelor of Laws course in 1976.

The prize for the best final year Bachelor of Jurisprudence student in 1976 went to Miss A. M. Byrne, of Ballarat.

# UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENT

## — A plain man's guide

For those who are new, and for those who never knew, the following is a brief rundown on the government of Monash University.

While the hierarchical setting-out of the structure seems to indicate the degree of power or influence wielded by the bodies and individuals named, it is important to remember one thing:

The decision-making machinery has been devised to ensure that, as far as possible, no one individual or group in the University has the power to act unilaterally or without proper consultation on any matter that affects any other individual or group. The system allows for full co-operation between the "doer" and the "done-to."

The supreme governing body of the University is the Council which is presided over by the Chancellor, currently Sir Richard Eggleston.

The Council derives its powers from the Monash University Act, passed in 1958 but since amended in a number of ways, particularly in relation to membership.

At present, the Act requires that the Council should consist of not more than 39 members (currently we have 36 members), made up as follows:

Nine members appointed by the Governor in Council, of whom — Three shall be members of the Victorian Parliament, and Six shall be appointed covering agricultural, professional, industrial and commercial interests, including one nominated by the Melbourne Trades Hall Council.

Two members (not employees or students of the University) elected by the graduates of the University.

Seven members (again not employees or students) elected by members of the individual Faculties of the University.\*

Four members elected by the professors of the University.

Three members elected from among their number by members of the teaching staff (other than professors) of the University.

One member appointed by the Minister who shall be either the Director-General of Education, or a deputy.

Four members (not employees or students) appointed by co-option by the Council.

Two members — deans of faculties — appointed by co-option.

One member elected from among their number of full-time members of the staff of the University (other than the teaching staff).

Three members elected by the students of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor and the Chancellor are ex-officio members of the Council.

Although it may sound a lofty body, Council does not as a rule initiate changes in the statutes and regulations governing the University's conduct. Rather, it acts on the advice and recommendations of a network of boards, committees and bodies closely tied to the day-to-day running of the institution.

Council depends heavily, too, on the work of its own standing committees covering such areas as finance, buildings, staff and student services.

The Professorial Board is not quite as its name suggests, having a membership, in addition to the

University's professors, of the Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor; the directors of the Centre for Continuing Education, the Computer Centre and the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit, and the Librarian; student representatives; and members of the non-professorial teaching staff.

Like the Council, the Professorial Board is guided principally by other bodies further "down the line" (in this case the faculty boards) and by its own standing and ad hoc committees.

The Professorial Board has the power to discuss and submit to Council an opinion on any matter relating to the University, particularly in relation to studies and examinations, admissions to degrees and discipline.

Responsibility for conducting the academic affairs of each of the University's seven faculties is vested in the appropriate Faculty Board. These boards have varying membership compositions but each ensures the broadest representation of all departments and students.

Faculty boards have responsibility for such matters as course structure and content, assessment procedures and the like. In turn, however, they base their decisions on advice from individual departments. The departments organise their decision-making in a multitude of ways, but all involve full consultation and co-operation.

So just who or what forms that oft-heard-about "administration?"

The "admin." is, in large part, a ser-

vant of the complex decision-making process described. Its main job is in attending to day-to-day functions like paying salaries, keeping records and maintaining grounds; allowing academic areas to get on with what we're here for — teaching and research.

The major "admin." figures are the Vice-Chancellor (Professor R. L. Martin), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor W.A.G. Scott), the Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Professor K. C. Westfold and Professor B. O. West), the Comptroller (Mr F. H. Johnson) and the Academic Registrar (Mr J. D. Butchart).

The Vice-Chancellor has a general superintendence over the educational and administrative affairs of the University and is an ex-officio member of every faculty and of all boards and committees within the University.

The Comptroller is, in a way, the "business manager," looking after financial affairs, buildings, non-academic staff appointments and the like.

The Academic Registrar has responsibility for such things as academic records, the secretarial work of all academic boards and committees and the management and supervision of exams.

Two other important components of the decision-making process at Monash are the Union and the "student government," the Monash Association of Students. The Orientation Handbook gives an outline of the structure and role of these bodies.

## Need for communication

• continued from page 1

they discuss an idea or problem with me personally, and it is appropriate, then I would like to feel that I would be available.

"On this subject of communication, I would like to repeat a comment I made recently at my first Professorial Board meeting at Monash: that I am particularly keen to visit each of the departments and other sections of the University during the next 12 months.

"Unfortunately I think it will take a year to see everyone, although I have already met quite a large proportion of staff in the faculties, the Union and elsewhere.

"It is by meeting people and seeing at first hand the environment in which each works that I will get a more personal feeling for what really IS Monash University.

"My other approach to what is a very large task is that instant and total immersion in the affairs of the University is the most effective and quickest way to acquire familiarity with its current problems.

"The support I have already received from all sections of the University has been more than generous and in particular the assistance of my deputy, Professor Bill Scott, and other senior colleagues has been of inestimable value."

"Instant and total immersion" in Monash affairs has meant Professor Martin abandoning, at least temporarily, his personal interest in chemistry research.

However he remains head of one of the research groups in the Research School of Chemistry in the Institute of Advanced Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra. He was Dean of the School until taking up his Monash appointment.

"I am hoping to maintain regular contact with my group there until it eventually winds down. This will be for another year or two until contracts have been concluded or until the fellowships involved have run out," he said.

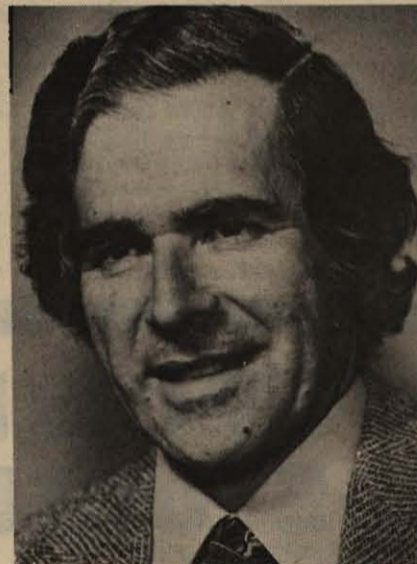
He admits to a twinge of regret at leaving the "shop floor" but adds: "I would like to think that when things settle down a little I could keep a small activity going here.

"In this regard, the head of the chemistry school at Monash, Professor Ron Brown, has generously extended me an offer of accommodation and the prospect of taking advantage of it is very attractive.

"But only time will tell how realistic my hopes are in this direction."

More immediately, Professor Martin is excited by the administrative challenges the job poses.

"Monash is a major and highly-respected University in the Australian educational scene and the job of Vice-Chancellor offers a wonderful opportunity to participate and help determine the contribution that it is going to make to post-secondary education during the next decade," he said.



Professor Martin

"The challenges are very substantial ones but I am hoping that the particular set of experiences I happen to have had will be appropriate to the institution's needs during those years," he said.

How does the Vice-Chancellor see Monash as a university? Unique, he says. "It interests me because, as the first of the new universities, it has had the opportunity to develop its own particular character in a way which is different not only from the established, traditional universities, but also quite different from the ones which followed

"I see it as being more traditional than its recent counterparts, but on to that traditional pattern has been superimposed a real capacity for flexibility and innovation.

While my experiences here are at present limited to the impressions of only a few weeks, I already have had my opinion confirmed that there is a liveliness and a still fairly youthful and vigorous approach to the day-to-day things like course design, the innovative attitude to research programs, and the capacity for bridging the disciplines by the formation of centres such as Southeast Asian Studies and Research into Aboriginal Affairs.

"This University, with others, is now in a 'steady state' situation where, because of the economic stringencies which face us, it is going to be difficult in the immediate future to develop all the desirable new initiatives and innovations.

"But Monash is nevertheless in the fortunate position that it has achieved a size where it can be considered viable as a fully-developed university. Therefore I believe it will be able to absorb these current pressures which will make life much more difficult for the newer institutions.

"I consider myself extremely fortunate to have joined Monash for its exciting journey through the next decade. I have visited the campus on numerous occasions in the past to give departmental lectures and to attend symposia and I have always found it a tremendously stimulating University to be involved with.

"My much closer involvement in the future is made more attractive by the fact that it has become such a beautiful campus — one which I find has a lot of aesthetic appeal.

"I suppose I just feel a sense of affinity."



# IN SEARCH OF THE MURKY METEORITE



● Dr Richard Jago (pictured with the measuring rod), of Monash's materials engineering department, was flown to short-lived Schofield Island in Lake Victoria, Gippsland, by a Melbourne newspaper when it was believed that a meteorite, seen overhead, could have ploughed into the lake, causing the overnight mad upsurge. Dr Jago was among the first to reject this theory, however, and said that the island could have been caused by marsh gases bubbling up through the mud. Photo courtesy The Sun.

## JOURNALISM'S DEBT TO CRABTREE — NEW CLAIM

English poet Joseph Crabtree had exerted a "powerful and pervasive" influence on early Australian journalism, a Melbourne journalist and Crabtree researcher has claimed.

In fact, he attributes the "Olympian heights" of colonial press writing to Crabtree who, he claims to have discovered, was a frequent visitor to the infant settlement.

Mr Keith Bennetts, information officer at Monash University and a former newspaperman of long standing, revealed details of his research in the 1977 Crabtree Oration, delivered to the Australian Chapter of the Crabtree Foundation at Monash recently.

The Crabtree Foundation was established at University College, London, in 1954, to foster research into the life and work of the hitherto little-known poet. Crabtree was born on St. Valentine's Day — February 14 — 1754 and died on St. Valentine's Day, 1854. Each year on the Wednesday closest to St. Valentine's Day, a distinguished scholar is invited to deliver a Crabtree Oration.

Professor Arthur Brown, professor of English at Monash, was the second Orator in the London series and has been instrumental in forming the Australian Chapter.

Mr Bennett's research follows on that of the 1976 Orator, Don Charlwood, who unearthed informa-

tion linking Crabtree with Captain Cook's voyages of discovery. At the time, Mr Charlwood could produce no evidence, however, that Crabtree had actually landed in Australia.

With the help of a fortuitously-met living descendant of the poet, Pastor Barry Crabtree, Mr Bennetts first traced Joseph Crabtree's presence in Australia to a remote settlement in far western Victoria — Lake Charlie-grark, close to Lake Booropki on the southern fringe of the Little Desert.

### MAGPIE MAGIC

Mr Bennetts told the Chapter: "Charlie-grark is, of course, an Aboriginal word meaning 'place of magpies' and, in the awesome stillness of that distant Antipodean wilderness, the evening carolling of magpies can exert a magical influence on the senses.

"Picture, if you will, Joseph Crabtree in that magnificent loneliness. You cannot then avoid the question: Where else but here could Crabtree have composed his memorable 'Ode to a Magpie'?"

"Hail to thee, pied singer!  
A bard may never write  
A poem that could charm the sky  
Like the Bird of Booropki."

Crabtree had travelled widely in Australia, Mr Bennetts contended, contributing to journals in places as far-flung as Kalgoorlie, Sydney and Melbourne.

He said: "While it must be recorded that there was indeed some pretty lusty and uncouth journalism (at the time) — the result, no doubt, of the monumental power struggles between competing proprietors — the papers also contained passages of reportage — in prose and poesy — of outstanding delicacy and beauty.

"In fact, it seemed, no reporter of the time could resist the temptation to record the most mundane events — a ship arrival, a petty court case, the price of vegetables — in elegant, flowing verse.

"Much of this I ascribe to Crabtree's powerful and pervasive influence."

Mr Bennetts quoted the following extract of a Crabtree poem published in the Poet's Corner of John Pascoe Fawcner's *Melbourne Advertiser* as an example of the poet's prescient power.

It is from "Afternoon at Newport", a composition the Orator suggested William Wordsworth was heavily indebted to for his "Yarrow Visited".

"The vapours linger round the heights.

They melt and soon must vanish;  
One hour is theirs, nor more is mine  
Sad thought! which I would banish,  
But that I know, wh'er I go,  
Thy genuine image, Yarra!  
Will dwell with me — to heighten joy,  
And cheer my mind in sorrow."

## Education— a key to Aboriginal problems

As a former school teacher, Colin Bourke has a basic faith in education's role in tackling the problems facing Australian Aborigines.

Colin, at 40, is the new director of Monash University's Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs.

He emphasises, though, that the education is two-pronged: it is as much a matter of education of the white community as that of the Aboriginal.

He believes that, by changing white opinion, Aborigines may be able to build up a much-needed power base.

Towards this educative aim, the Centre will launch a black studies lecture series at Monash later this month. It will allow speakers, mostly Aboriginal, to give up-to-date information and present their viewpoints on a wide range of Aborigine-related issues, such as health, education, welfare, housing and employment.

Colin quotes these figures to illustrate the enormity of problems Aboriginal people face:

Throughout Australia the Aboriginal unemployment rate is between 60 and 70 per cent. With 50 per cent of the Aboriginal population under 14 in some areas, "that means there's very little money to feed a hell of a lot of mouths," he says.

As far as formal education of Aborigines is concerned, Colin believes that few who attain advanced levels are later employed to their full capacity.

In Victoria, he says, there are only four Aboriginal teachers, no doctors, no dentists, no architects... the professional list is long.

Melbourne universities have had only four Aboriginal graduates, Monash two and Melbourne two (Colin is one of them, holding B. Comm. and B. Ed. degrees).

### CHANGES ARE NEEDED

As well as placing faith in education, Colin believes there are some basic structural changes which need to be made.

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs should be replaced by an Aboriginal foundation or commission, composed of Aborigines, with its own budget.

He claims that of the DAA's \$143m. annual budget, \$120m. ends up back in the hands of whites without ever having reached blacks' pockets.

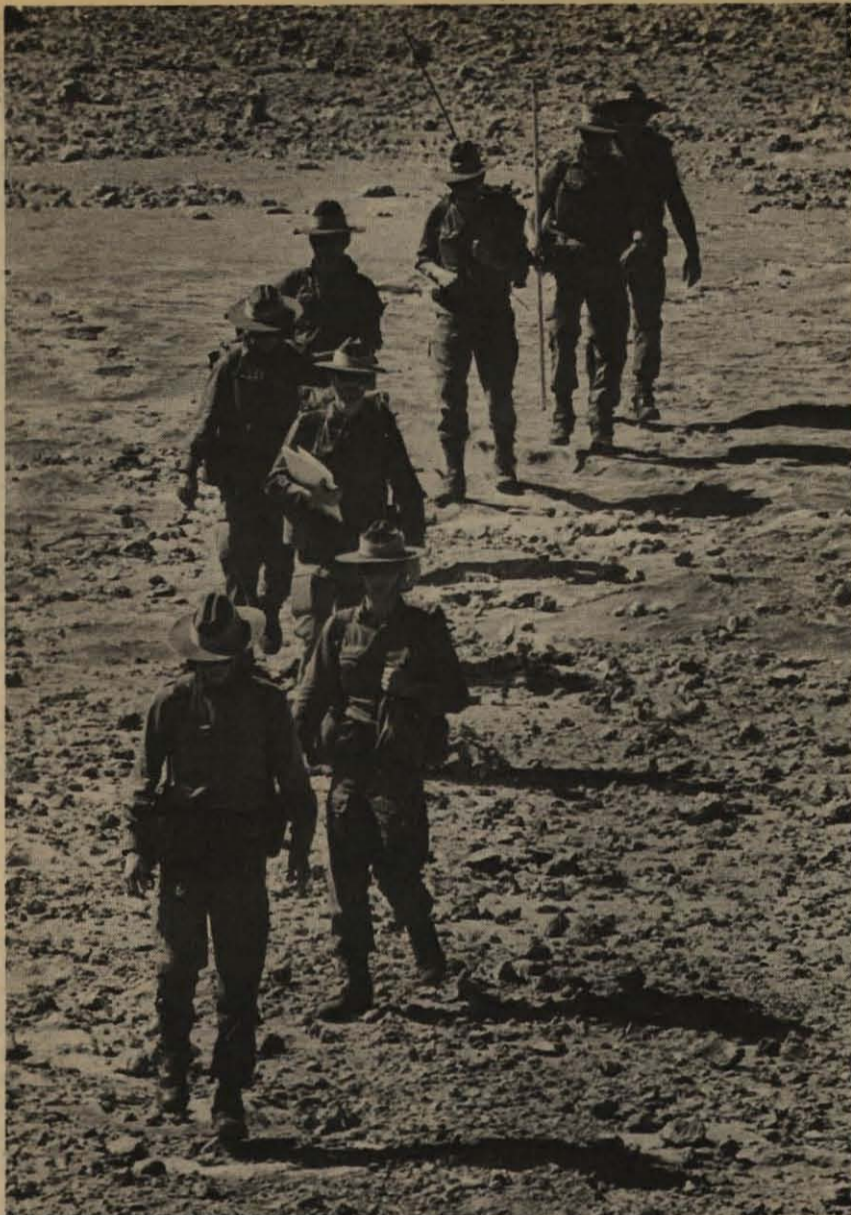
"A lot of it is being spent paying non-Aboriginal people to do jobs they can't do, while competent Aboriginal people are without work," he says.

Colin has been seconded from the Victorian Education Department, for which he has worked for 21 years, to the Centre for an initial term of 12 months.

He was previously vice-principal of Keon Park Primary School.

**Footnote:** The first lecture in the black studies lecture series will be held on March 22 at 6.30 p.m. in R6. The second will be held on March 29 at 6.30 p.m. in R6. For further information contact ext. 3348.

Speaker at the first lecture will be Bruce McGuinness and speaker at the second, David Anderson.



ABOVE: The start of the exercise . . . Regiment members begin their "walk in the sand dunes".  
RIGHT: Private Michael Tevera, 18, probes for crustacean morsels to top off the "survival stew".  
Photos: Australian Army.

# Soldiers march into the past

More than 60 important sites of Aboriginal archaeological significance were recorded along the remote south-west coast of Victoria by the Monash University Regiment during its recent exercise "Mungala Noorai".

"Mungala Noorai" (Aboriginal for "walk in the sand dunes") was conducted in conjunction with the Victorian Archaeological Survey. It formed part of the Regiment's adventure training program.

The information gathered during the exercise will assist the Departments of Conservation, and National Parks and Wildlife in deciding which areas should be set aside from the public and preserved as part of Australia's archaeological heritage.

Field Archaeologist for the Victorian Archaeological Survey, Mr Dan Witter, said that the work of the Regiment had given the Conservation Department a good archaeological picture of the Port Fairy to Nelson stretch of coast.

He said: "This would not have been possible with the resources available to the Survey for several years. The information provided will greatly assist in identifying sites for later exploration."

A total of 55 Regiment members carried out the exercise, with three teams of ten soldiers traversing the coastline and a group of nine female members handling the communications.

One aim of the exercise was to train members in survival techniques. Soldiers hunted, like the Aborigines in the area did hundreds of years ago, for one meal a day, the "survival stew".

It is reliably reported there was no reluctance to return to home cooking at exercise end.



## Campus will get arts, crafts centre

A two level arts and crafts centre will be built on campus this year.

Construction of the centre, according to student activities officer, Neil Wentworth, will mark the end of the 'beg, borrow and steal' methods currently used by arts and crafts classes faced with a severe scarcity of space.

The new building, planned around a series of courtyards, will cover an area of about 1200 sq. m. in the area north

of the Union complex. It will be built in brick to complement the existing buildings.

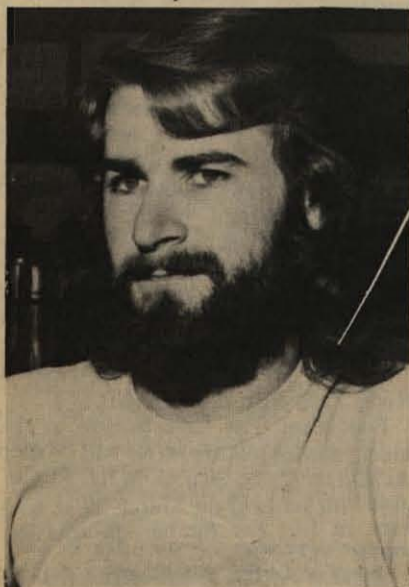
Tenders are being called for construction of the centre which has been designed by James W. Sadler, architect. It is hoped that work on it will start in May and be completed within a year.

Neil said that its construction would allow the expansion of present arts and crafts classes and the addition of others. He said that, unlike now, students would be able to work independently, outside class times.

Some 1800 people are involved in such tuition during the Summer School period, with a further 1000 students during the year. Among the arts and crafts classes they attend are Chinese and Japanese painting, life drawing and painting, pottery, spinning, weaving, jewellery making, leatherwork and stained glass work.

Neil nominated glass work as one of the areas in which new classes could be offered when the centre was completed. He said it was hoped that classes would be offered in such techniques as glass painting and etching.

Other facilities the new centre would provide included exhibition space, for work by students, tutors and visitors, and an area for development as an arts and crafts library.



Neil Wentworth: "no more begging."

## Christina Stead is writer-in-residence

Miss Christina Stead, the celebrated Australian novelist, will be Monash's writer-in-residence for 1977. She will take up her appointment on March 7 and will live and work on the campus for nine weeks.

Miss Stead is best known in Australia for her novels *The Man who Loved Children* and *Seven Poor Men of Sydney* and for her collection of stories *The Salzburg Tales*, but she has published many novels overseas and is widely read in England and the U.S.A.

Her stay with the Monash department of English is jointly sponsored by the Literature Board of the Australia Council and the University.

A previous Monash writer-in-residence was playwright Dorothy Hewett who was on campus from July to September, 1975. Among Ms Hewett's plays are *Chapel Perilous* and *The Golden Oldies* which was recently performed in Melbourne at the Grant Street Theatre.

# Better selection, better students, fewer problems

Better selection processes had produced better students at Monash through the years, with a consequent diminution of certain sorts of psychological problems, the retiring founding medical officer in the University's Health Service believes.

He is **Dr Ian Macdonald**, whose period at Monash just about spans the life of the University itself. At 66, and working on campus since 1962, Dr Macdonald retired officially last December, though he has been relieving here during the early part of this year.

Dr Macdonald made his comments recently while reflecting on his time at Monash, during which the service's physical situation has improved from what he (with just a hint of affection) refers to as a collection of "rooms and dungeons" to its present-day location in the University Union.

Dr Macdonald stressed the counselling side of the Health Service's function as important, if not widely perceived.

He said: "We see ourselves differently from the way our customers see us. 'They see us as a convenient



● Dr Ian Macdonald

medical practice, hopefully respected, and here to be used.

"We see ourselves as that, of course. But we see our chief job as health counselling. We are really health advisers first, rather than 'the doctor' in its narrow sense".

For that reason he prefers "medical

counsellor" or "officer" in describing his job rather than simply "doctor".

Dr Macdonald said that many of the physical problems for which students sought medical aid, stemmed from psychological ones.

He said: "Students face the normal adolescent development crises, exacerbated by the anomaly of being a student — dependent, years later than others, on society, their parents perhaps, and constantly facing assessment in one form or another."

He was quick to point out, though, that while the Health Service had developed considerable expertise in handling such problems, it was not a "divine healer".

"The normal tendency is towards healthy restitution of the individual by himself after a personal struggle. It is rarely that only the godlike figure, by pronouncement, can drag a person through a crisis."

Dr Macdonald said, however, that there was a danger in the future that overwork could "squeeze out" the Health Service's hidden role as a counsellor.

He said that, apart from obvious changes at Monash such as physical growth and the accompanying loss of "cosiness", there had not been extraordinary changes at the University through the years. Although, perhaps now that the campus had reached its maximum size, he suggested, the innate conservatism of such a large institution was asserting itself.

What does the future hold for Dr Macdonald?

He hopes to work only now and then as a relieving medical practitioner "unless smoked out by inflation." Interests to be pursued include reading, gardening, with some travel. And (though he sheepishly admits it; peers tend to be into such things as golf) cricket.

## MARCH DIARY

7: **LANGUAGE CLASSES** — Chinese I, for adult beginners. **Monash Language Centre**. 7.30 p.m. Fee: \$45 per semester. Inquiries: ext. 3718.

7-8: **WORKSHOP** — Introduction to the University. Workshop for mature age students enrolling for the first time, organized by Careers and Appointments and Student Counselling Offices. **Conference Room, Union Building**. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3156/7/8.

7-12: **PLAY** — Open air performance of "As You Like It" by William Shakespeare. Evening performances: 8 p.m. on March 7, 8, 9, 11, 12. Matinees: 2.15 p.m. on March 8, 10, 11. **Gardens west of the Union Building** (alternative arrangements have been made in case of unfavourable weather). Admission: adults \$2.50; students \$1.50; party concessions for groups of 20 or more at \$1.00 with two complimentary. Inquiries: ext. 2131.

10: **LANGUAGE CLASSES** — Indonesian I and Modern Greek II, for adult beginners. **Monash Language Centre**. 7.30 p.m. Fee \$45 per semester. Inquiries: ext. 3718.

12-13: **REVUE** — Mizrahi Aviv presents "The Shady Shushan Showdown". 8.30 p.m. Saturday; 8.00 p.m. Sunday. **RBH**. Admission: adults \$5, youths \$3, children \$2.

14: **SEMINAR** — Open seminar for the Diploma of Migrant Studies. 7.30 p.m. **Rooms 245 and adjoining 250 in Education Faculty Building**. Inquiries: ext. 2872.

16: **LECTURE** — Sir Mark Oliphant, "The Arms Race and Morality," the fifth Oscar Mendelsohn Lecture. 8.15 p.m. **Alexander Theatre**. Admission free.

18-19: **FILM** — Himalayan Film Festival featuring "People of Everest", "A Himalayan Journey" and "The Living Goddess of Kathmandu". 8 p.m. **Alexander Theatre**. Admission: adults \$2.50, students, children \$1.50.

19: **CONCERT** — Musica Viva presents Collegium Vocale Cologne. Program will include works by Dufay, de la Rue, Stravinsky and Monteverdi. 8.15 p.m. **RBH**. Admission: A. Res. \$5, B. Res. \$4, students \$2.

20: **PARENT ORIENTATION** — Parents of first year students meet the Vice-Chancellor, Professor R. L. Martin, and deans; tour the University from **RBH**. 11 a.m. Inquiries: Mrs Joan Maries, 439 7391.

21: **SEMINAR** — Open seminar for the Diploma of Migrant Studies. 7.30 p.m. **Rooms 245 and adjoining 250 in Education Faculty Building**. Inquiries: ext. 2872.

21: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Program will include works by Berlioz, Schubert, Shostakovich and Kodaly. 1.15 p.m. **RBH**. Admission free.

22: **LECTURE** — Black Studies lecture organized by Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs. 6.30 p.m. **Lecture Theatre R6**. Inquiries: ext. 3348.

28: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — Diana Weekes — piano. Program will include works by Schumann and Sitsky. 1.15 p.m. **RBH**. Admission free.

29: **LECTURE** — Black Studies lecture organized by Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs. 1 p.m. **Lecture Theatre R6**. Inquiries: ext. 3348.

30: **PARENTS' GROUP** — Morning coffee. Guest speaker: Mr Graeme Sweeney, Warden of the Union. 10.30 a.m. **RBH**. Admission free.

## A LITTLE SIC JOKE

The following, received recently by a keen-eyed Trustee of the Trivia, is (to use that convenient 'they not I' indicator) 'sic':

'Dear Sir,

Permit me to introduce the unusual arrangement for your library.

We, experience, capable to renovated various kinds of books, with high quantity of materials, excellence production and only spend a small money, then those valuable books can renew as before.

Please do not hesitate to have a try on our create re-production. We can guarantee that you will find a miracle and assuring you of our best attention at all times.

Yours sincerely,

Silex Enterprise & Co.

Silex is not, by the way, a proofreading outfit of sic or near sic specialists operating from, say, the Monash Club.

Rather, those skilled in cryptic cross-words believe, it is a book restoration firm in Kowloon.

## MONASH VISITORS

The following academics are expected to visit Monash during the first term of this year:

### ARTS

**Anthropology and Sociology:** Professor J. W. Bardo, Wichita State University, Kansas, U.S.A. March — October.

**English:** Professor Anthony Abbott, Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina, U.S.A. March — August.

Christina Stead, Fellow in Creative Arts, Australian National University. Nine weeks from early March.

Mrs Puangpen Intaraprawat, junior lecturer, Srinakharinwirot University, Sonokhla, Thailand. March — June.

**German:** Professor L. L. Albertsen, Aarhus, Denmark. April.

Professor K. D. Erdmann, Christian-Albrechts Universität, Kiel, Germany. March.

### ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

**Accounting and Finance:** Dr K. Ferris, North Western University, Illinois, U.S.A. March — June.

Dr G. Hayes, University of British Columbia, Canada. March — June.

**Economics:** Professor T. N. Srinivasan, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi, India. May for one week.

### EDUCATION

Professor A. Hearn, University of Oregon, Oregon, U.S.A. Visiting lecturer. March — June.

Professor V. Pecjak, University of Ljubljana, Yugoslavia. Visiting lecturer. February — May.

Dr Margaret L. Somers, Tompkins

Cortland Community College, Dryden, New York, U.S.A. February — June.

### ENGINEERING

**Chemical Engineering:** Professor Benjamin C. Y. Lu, University of Ottawa, Canada. March 14 for six weeks.

**Civil Engineering:** Professor Georg Thierauf, Universität Essen, Germany. February 15 — September 15.

**Mechanical Engineering:** Professor J. L. Duncan, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Mid-March — mid-August.

Mr Russ Henke, Director, Institute for Fluid Power Education, Wisconsin, U.S.A. During first term.

### MEDICINE

**Obstetrics and Gynaecology:** Professor Sinnathuray, University of Malaya and University Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. January 1 — March 31.

**Surgery:** Professor Ivan Johnston, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, England. May 8-20.

### SCIENCE

**Applied Mathematics:** Mr W. D. Halford, Massey University, New Zealand. January — June.

**Pure Mathematics:** Dr J. C. Robson, University of Leeds, England. March — May.

**Psychology:** Associate Professor June A. Adam, University of Calgary, Canada. May.

**Zoology:** Dr D. M. Stoddart, King's College, London. July 1976 — July 1977.

## Theme is steady state

'Higher Education in a Steady State' will be the theme of the third annual conference of the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia, to be held at **Basser College in the University of NSW from May 14 to 17**.

Delegates will discuss the implications for tertiary institutions of the ending of the rapid growth in recent years of funding, staff, students, new academic developments and the like.

The format of this year's HERDSA conference has been devised to allow the delegates maximum freedom to pursue topics of interest.

In addition to two guest lectures and a symposium on 'The Future of Higher Education', there will be study groups to consider policy issues arising from the conference theme, and workshops dealing with 'bread and butter' topics of general interest, such as audio-tutorials, course evaluation and computer aided instruction.

'Poster sessions' have been planned also to provide an opportunity for people with similar interests to exchange ideas and information.

## MONASH REPORTER

The next issue of **Monash Reporter** will be published in the first week of April. Copy deadline is Monday, March 28.

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

# A gloomy year at the Alex?

## — Yes, but not on stage

The Alexander Theatre will be the setting for the age-old dramatic conflict between the forces of Light and Dark in more than one regard this year. And the Prince of Shadows is odds-on favourite to win at least one of the battles.

In a bid to eliminate the cement box feeling of the theatre, and to create intimacy and warmth, the auditorium will be repainted in darker and richer colors before the first major 'adult' production (as opposed to the highly successful children's pantomime, 'The Little Tin Soldier' which ran throughout January) opens after Easter.

As Alexander Theatre manager, Mr Philip A'Vard, says: "Turn on one light in the auditorium as it is, and the whole place is ablaze."

Other modifications will be made to the theatre for specific productions during the year to enhance the hopefully new-found intimacy.

In all, there will be three major plays mounted during 1977. As well, the popular Saturday Club enters its fourth year and there is the possibility of two more children's shows.

First up is the Victorian Shakespeare Company's production of 'Romeo and Juliet,' scheduled for April 13 to 30.

The man behind the production is former drama director with the Council of Adult Education, Harold Baigent.

Baigent, as his theatrical colleagues know him, has conceived 'Romeo and Juliet' in a manner sure to outrage Shakespearean traditionalists, but equally sure to be immediately graspable by a young Australian audience.

The Montagues and Capulets will represent opposing sides of national politics, with the star-crossed lovers presumably being the 'Don't knows' of the opinion polls. Setting for the Liberal-Labor clash will be an Australian country town celebrating a festival, such as Bathurst or Rutherglen.

### Students take Sunset Trip

While most people were considering the best way to take the sting out of summer, 25 people spent their touring Gippsland attempting to inject a little more sting — in the most enjoyable of ways.

They were members of the Monash Summer Theatre Tour, students at the University, who last week completed what they termed their '77 Sunset Trip. It was the group's first visit to Gippsland in four years of travelling.

The group met its audience on home ground — in the schools, pubs and factories — and had in its repertoire four shows specially tailored for different audiences.

The programs presented were 'Up the Right Channels', 'The Education of Skinny Spew', 'Rubbished' and 'Zearth in the Year Zen Thousand'.

Funding for the Monash Summer Theatre Tour came from the Victorian Ministry for the Arts, Monash University and private enterprise.



● Two drama directors working at the Alexander this year, Harold Baigent (left) and Peter Oysten.

Baigent intends using both professional actors and students in the production. He has worked previously at the Alexander on 'Puckoon,' adapted from the Spike Milligan book.

#### Resident company season

The Alexander Theatre Company's 1977 season will consist of two plays to be presented from June 29 to August 20. They are Arthur Miller's 'The Crucible' and Anton Chekhov's 'The Cherry Orchard,' both HSC texts.

Director of the \$60,000 season will be Peter Oysten, a 'prodigal son' of Australian theatre, who, among other things, set up his own professional theatre company in the UK before returning to Australia to take up a position as Dean of the Faculty of Drama at the Victorian College of the Arts.

Oysten directed 'Waiting for Godot' at the Alexander last year.

Says Mr A'Vard: "Oysten is one of the most dynamic and exciting forces in Australian theatre today. He is a realist. He knows that it's theatre of survival. But, while he has an eye for economy, he is ultimately conscious of the need for good performances."

He will use a cast of 12 professional actors including, it is believed, some top names.

The front four rows of the theatre will be removed for the season, with seats placed on two sides of the enlarged jut stage to enhance the theatre's intimacy.

The subscription series Saturday Club will be conducted at the Alexander Theatre again this year. Last year 1500 children, in two age groupings, were introduced to 'as wide a sampling of the performing arts as possible' by the club's activities.

Mr A'Vard sees the Australian commercial theatre as being at a point of real crisis and he'll be going all-out to sell every seat at all performances.

What makes or breaks a show? 'The theatre critics' reviews, he believes, are the major determining factor. Perhaps in the case of the political 'Romeo and Juliet' that should read 'parliamentary reporters.'



### Subs save students silver

There's money to be saved by students planning their cultural outings ahead.

That's the message from Robert Blackwood Hall where subscriptions for three concert series to be held there this year have just opened.

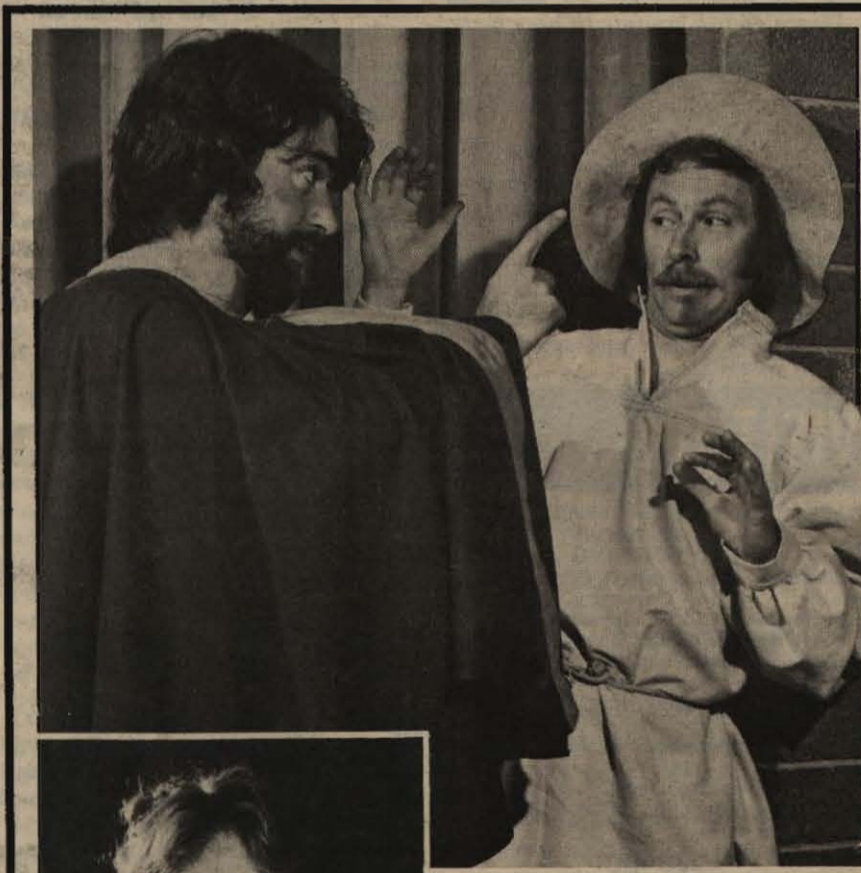
The three series are the ABC Gold, the Melbourne Chorale and the Musica Viva.

For the ABC Gold Series, students can subscribe to six concerts for \$11, less than \$2 a concert.

The Musica Viva series subscription is \$12 for eight concerts.

The Melbourne Chorale subscription is \$6.50 for three concerts. That represents a saving of the best part of a dollar on the single seat student rate of \$3 a concert.

Full details on the series can be obtained in brochures available at Robert Blackwood Hall. The box office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



● Garry Kinnane as Willem (left) drives home a subtle point to Chris McInerney as Touchstone.

## 'As You Like It' on the lawn



● Peter Fitzpatrick as Duke Frederick.

The Monash grounds directly west of the Union (take your compass) will become Shakespeare's Arden Forest this week.

Arden Forest is the setting for As You Like It and west of the union is where an English Department staff/student production of the play is being performed until March 12.

Scaffolding, holding up to 250 people, has been erected for the production.

Senior lecturer in the department,

Richard Pannell, is directing the play which is particularly suited to outdoor presentation because of its pastoral nature.

There are 20 members in the cast. The production was premiered last Saturday in the Alexandra Gardens as part of Monash University's contribution to Moomba.

Tickets (bookable on 541 2131) are \$2.50 for adults, and \$1.50 for students and children. Performances start at 8 p.m. on March 8, 9, 11 and 12, and 2.15 p.m. on March 8, 10 and 11.



● Second year student Julie Houghton plays Rosalind.