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Governing Bodies



Problems currently affecting university-government relations in Australia were given a thorough airing at a Conference of University Governing Bodies at the University of Melbourne last month.

The conference was organised by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and attracted more than 130 participants — from the universities, the Federal and State Parliaments, government departments and instrumentalities and other institutions.

It was held, in the words of the AVCC Chairman, Professor David Caro, against a "background of financial stringency brought about by reductions in Government grants . . . and at a time when it appears to the universities that the Government is eroding their traditional autonomy — through such actions as forced amalgamations, discontinuation of courses, and unnecessary interference in their day-to-day activities."

Professor Caro's words brought a sharp reaction from the Federal Minister for Education, Senator Peter Baume, who in opening the conference suggested that universities should "consider whether their selection criteria, their conduct of courses, their range of options and other factors are responsive to Australia's needs during the last two decades of the 20th century".

Senator Baume maintained strongly that, far from reducing grants to the universities, the Government had steadily increased funding in real terms over the past seven years.

And he suggested: "If universities are to avoid having dramatic changes imposed on them by governments through control of the purse strings, they should embrace fully the principle and practice of 'continuous assessment' and review of their role, structure and function to achieve internally controlled evolutionary changes within the constraints of public funding and public expectation."

A number of speakers urged the universities to look to the manner in which they were making their works known to the public. Media chief Mr Ronald Macdonald said that universities generally had not used the media well. "Universities shackle their public affairs units at their peril," he warned.

Monash University was represented at the conference by the Chancellor, Sir Richard Eggleston; the Deputy Chancellor, Dr J. E. Isaac; the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin; and Council members Dr Keith Farrer and Dr Patricia Hutson.

On pages 4, 5 and 6, Monash Reporter summarises a number of the papers presented at the Conference.



Photo: Julie Fraser.

● The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kevin Westfold, welcomes the Dalai Lama to Monash.

At Monash 'to learn'

His Holiness the Dalai Lama, spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people, visited Monash last month to attend a seminar specially arranged by the University's Centre for Human Bioethics.

In the words of Professor John Swan, Dean of Science, the Dalai Lama is a man "known throughout the world as an advocate of tolerance, co-operation and responsibility and as a man of peace. He is also a scholar and a product of a rigorous academic tradition."

The seminar, chaired by Professor Swan, had as its participants some 35 leading scientists, doctors, lawyers, philosophers and others from the University and outside.

They explored three areas of ethical concern arising from advances in medical science. The Dalai Lama attended "to learn" and to contribute ideas from the Buddhist perspective.

The topics under discussion were:

- The treatment of human infertility by the method of in vitro fertilisation and embryo transfer.
- The medical care and the right-to-life of defective newborn children.
- Euthanasia and the termination of life or its prolongation by extraordinary technologies.

Ethical questions raised by each issue were canvassed in brief presentations by three speakers before general discussion. Professor Carl Wood, Chairman of the Monash department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Queen Victoria Medical Centre, introduced the topic of IVF; Dr Bernard Neal, Dean of Postgraduate Studies at the Royal Children's Hospital, the rights of defective newborns; and Professor Peter Singer, of the Philosophy department, euthanasia.

"Monash Reporter" attended the 1½ hour seminar and presents a report of proceedings on pages 6 and 7.

AVCC Chairman warns on damaging forces at work

"The notion that universities can live from day to day on what may be given them is destructive to the idea of a university . . .

"In the long run it is the nation which stands to lose by its inability to resolve a policy and to create an environment for the future of its universities. From them in the past has come the creativity and vitality of thought which has led society to a better world — whether it be by the technological revolution, the recent amazing advances in biology and medicine, or through a greater understanding of the social sciences."

Professor David Caro, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne and Chairman of the AVCC, made these points in a wide-ranging and forceful address to the Governing Bodies Conference.

His paper was entitled "University-Government Relations: The Institutional Experience."

Professor Caro said that universities were being forced to resort to short term

planning when, because of their very nature, they should be looking to the future.

He blamed this state of affairs on "the bewildering complexity of the higher education advisory machinery, the lack of a national education policy, the present economic uncertainties and the recently imposed funding system".

"The relations between universities and government are not as they should be," he said. "On the one hand, universities are concerned about apparent inroads into their autonomy and a lack of understanding of their problems and function. On the other hand, governments and parts of the community are critical of the responsiveness of universities to the apparent needs of society."

"Wherever the truth may lie, it is urgent that relationships should be improved before serious damage is done."

Professor Caro said that both State and Commonwealth governments had set up a web of co-ordinating and discussion groups of such complexity that it was possible for the Commonwealth Minister to receive advice from at least five different sources (see diagram), apart from such groups as the AVCC and professional bodies and from individuals.

Outlining the procedure whereby universities dealt primarily with the Universities Council, which reported to the Minister through the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission (CTEC), Professor Caro said this arrangement worked 'fairly well'.

"There is, however, a growing concern that the Government may make decisions without adequate advice and convey those decisions rapidly and directly to the universities. The procedure leading to the recent wave of amalgamations is an example."

● Continued page 4

Also inside:



Animals and the law

There has been a 'moral awakening' in the community on animal rights, says lawyer Heather Aldred. But there are still serious shortcomings. The story p. 2.

The Union: One Body?

A proposal has been made for Sports & Rec to be re-constituted as a body separate from the Union. The case for and against, p 10.

- Busy conference time . . . 8, 9.
- Diary of coming events . . . 12.

How-to guide for 'the revolution'

At recent count, there were 12,000 people over 23 years old who were starting courses in Australian universities.

Add to them some 9200 starting courses in colleges of advanced education and an unknown number in secondary schools and other colleges and you've got what amounts to an "adult revolution in Australian education," according to Dr Terry Hore and Dr Leo West, of Monash's Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit. Go back 20 years and there were hardly any "mature age" students in universities.

Dr Hore and Dr West have been conducting research on the phenomenon during the last five years. In 1980 they published the monograph, *Mature Age Students in Australian Higher Education*.

Public interest

Public interest in their work — expressed, for example, on numerous radio talkback programs — convinced Dr Hore and Dr West that there was need for a publication aimed at potential mature age students, giving them advice on where and how to return to study and answering some of the questions that frequently crop up.

Their "popular" book, *Back to School: A Guide for Adults Returning to Study* was published last month by Methuen Australia. In a readable format and spiced throughout with illustrations by Herald cartoonist Bill Green (WEG), the 160 page paperback has a recom-

mended retail price of \$4.95.

Dr Hore and Dr West say that in their study they encountered people from all walks of life returning to study for a wide variety of reasons. Generally, however, they had two things in common.

"They had left school before completing their secondary education. And very often, they are now seeking something more in life — greater satisfaction, intellectual stimulation, becoming more interesting and interested people — and they are getting those things from studying."

But the mature age person seldom approaches further study without doubts.

These are just a few of the questions commonly raised and the authors' response:

Are mature age students taking places away from young people? Should they be there?

"The short answers are "No" to the first question and "Yes" to the second.

"Demand for post-secondary education in Australia has declined quite strongly in the last few years. The number of students going directly from secondary school to university or CAE has dropped by 1500 over the past few years. And this was despite an increase in the number of students in final year at



● Co-author Terry Hore (right) and cartoonist Bill Green check the finished product at the launching.

school. Some institutions would have been in trouble if large numbers of adults had not enrolled . . .

"... Those adults who have gone to universities and colleges have performed very well. They have proved themselves. They have earned the right for a place for other adults."

And what of the effect on family and friends of a person returning to study?

The authors say that it is a common assumption that many marriages break up when one partner returns to study.

Their research showed this not to be so. In fact, they found that in many families, study had strengthened the bonds.

In cases where marriages had broken up, returning to study was often the effect

rather than the cause.

"It's when there are already problems that a person seeks personal or professional independence through going back to study. Or people often return to study when they become separated so that they can get the kind of job that will support them in the future as a single parent family."

"The social pressures are not there to the same extent for men because their study is perceived as practical and worthwhile because it is seen as being directed towards a better position — which in turn is seen as benefiting the family."

Some people, Dr West and Dr Hore add, are hostile to anyone "playing intellectual."

'Me' gives way to regard for 'best friends'

Heather Aldred, senior tutor in Law at Monash, calls it a "moral awakening".

One of the issues which has broken through the "me" attitude of recent years is that of justice for animals, says Miss Aldred, a specialist in the law in relation to the care and protection of animals and veterinary practice, and an active campaigner for animal law reform.

And, she says, the response has been more far-reaching than spontaneous emotional reaction to "macabre" episodes in man's treatment of animals like the clubbing to death of seal pups.

There has been an "entirely new awareness" on the part of important sections of the community — policy makers, for example, and scientists. It is an awareness that has led to a review of laws, the adoption by scientists of guidelines on experimentation on animals and the acceptance of peer group review.

Not just 'things'

Miss Aldred says: "More and more scientists involved in animal experimentation have begun considering their moral responsibility to the animals. They are starting to regard them as living creatures with protected rights and not just 'things' on a par with scalpels or other items in the laboratory."

Farmers too, initially suspicious of animal law reformers, are adopting a new outlook, says Miss Aldred. Quite often — as in the case of live exports versus the carcass trade — arguments put forward for the more humane treatment of animals also make better economic sense.

What are the concrete gains of the "new awareness"?

In 1978, the National Health and Medical Research Council and the CSIRO adopted a set of guidelines which gave direction on the use of animals in experiments, for voluntary application in research institutions. These have been widely observed.

There is an increasing number of bodies concerned with animal welfare. At Monash, as at other institutions, a committee on ethics in animal experimentation has been operating for some time. Miss Aldred is a member of that committee. She is a member too of the committee to review work on animal experiments of the Department of Agriculture and has worked through the animal and wildlife protection committee of the environmental law section of the Law Institute, and the law reform section of the RSPCA.

On the legal front, Miss Aldred says that there have been several "landmark" cases in recent years which have affected, for example, methods of transporting animals, and killing animals pursuant to the issue of permits.

Perhaps the major step forward, however, will come with anticipated changes to the Protection of Animals Act which is currently under review by the State Government. One significant change could see guidelines similar to those in the NH&MRC/CSIRO voluntary code adopted as law.

A new awareness there may be and some achievements have been made or are in sight, but there are still great shortcomings. Miss Aldred catalogued many in an interview with Reporter; here are just a few:

- While peer group review and the voluntary guidelines have been adopted widely in research in public institutions involving animals, research in the private sector is still very much a closed book. "We have just no way of knowing what is going on in some company laboratories," she says.
- The right (or lack of it) of entry remains a handicap to officers of the RSPCA investigating suspected cases of cruelty. "Health inspectors and MMBW officers have better right of access to property," Miss Aldred observes.

- The hardy perennial problem of unwanted cats is likely to remain as long as cats have no legal status. Miss Aldred says that a Companion Animals Act extending to cats the legal recognition enjoyed by dogs could see a registration system, greater owner responsibility and hence some check on cat numbers.
- Perhaps the biggest problem, however, lies with the lack of uniformity between States on legislation affecting animals. The ideal, she says, would be for States to refer their powers on this matter to the Commonwealth which could then legislate nationally.

'Innocence' can cost vets

As a professional group, veterinary surgeons tend not to be litigious minded.

It is an "innocence" that can cost individual vets huge sums of money — and their practices. There is an urgent need, says Heather Aldred, for a "law for vets" component to be taught as part of veterinary science courses.

Not only vets can find themselves in legal hot water over the care of animals — individual researchers or consultants who give advice do so frequently without realising the legal implications.

Increasingly, negligence cases are being brought against vets and the courts are showing a willingness to grant hefty damages. Among the laws being used is that of trespass to property in cases, say, of the removal of a wrong organ in an operation.

While negligence by a vet might result in heartache for the owner of a domestic

pet, it is unlikely that he will seek compensation in law.

For others, however, the keeping of animals is business.

The upsurge in factory farming in recent years has produced new legal problems. Now the vet — in attempting, say, to control disease in a huge shed of hens — is dealing with what amounts to a very expensive commercial production unit.

The same applies to the treatment of prize livestock and racing animals — both horses and greyhounds.

Other areas where veterinary practice rubs shoulders with the law — often without the vet knowing it — are in the reporting of diseases, and State and local government regulations on such things as health and noise control.

Mapping the story of a State

*In this atlas
even footy
scores a map!*

An Atlas of Victoria, edited by a Monash geographer and with contributions from a number of the University's academics, will be launched later this month.

The launching by Premier John Cain has been set for Nationwide Map Week in late September. The Atlas, the first of its kind in this State, is being published by the Victorian Government Printer.

The editor of the handsome 256-page volume, a product of the Projects Division of the Premier's Department, is Dr Stuart Duncan, senior lecturer in Geography. He has co-ordinated the work of some 40 academics and public servants.

For those whose concept of an Atlas harks back to school days — and who see such a work as being as informative as a telephone book but about as exciting — this new volume, which features some 150 maps and 200 photographs (mostly in colour), will be an eye-opener.

In its 40 chapters, the Atlas explores in maps and text nearly as many themes. Many of the aspects covered and distributions mapped are quite new. Among them are maps on groundwater, land types, vegetation, land vertebrates and rural production. Some of the more novel maps show distributions of earthquake epicentres, major bushfires since 1939, average farm size, gold mines, hospitals, TV stations and electorates (coloured for the 1982 election results).

Clue to breadth

The contribution by Monash academics gives a clue to the breadth of topics. Dr Duncan, as well as writing the introduction, has covered relief, regions and history. Also from the Geography department, Dr Joe Powell has written on history, Mr John McKay on population, Dr Chris Maher on Melbourne, Dr Kevin O'Connor on employment and Dr David Mercer on sport and recreation. Dr Ken Ogden, from Civil Engineering, has written on transport and Professor Peter Boss, from Social Work, has contributed a chapter on community welfare.

In addition, contributions have come from staff of government areas such as Minerals and Energy, the Forests Commission, Town and Country Planning and Lands. Well-known political analyst, Dr Victor Prescott, of the University of Melbourne, has contributed a chapter on electoral geography.

Even (or perhaps most importantly) football kicks its way on to a map which locates country football clubs and traces the links they make for games with rival teams — an interesting perspective on people's concepts of "region" and regional loyalty, says the editor. The map also shows the Big 12's "spheres of interest" over the State in drawing star country players to their sides.

The publication, as comprehensive as it is, could add up to a definitive geography of Victoria. The editor disagrees.

"The maps are paramount — the text



● Stuart Duncan, seated, shows page proofs of the Atlas to Chris Maher (left) who wrote the chapter on Melbourne, Gary Swinton, who drew some of the maps, and Betty Duncan, a contributor and 'backroom co-editor'. Photo: Tony Miller.

is of a supporting, explanatory nature. But the project, in bringing together such maps, provides the base from which a geography can now be written."

Some 20 maps of Victoria are at the 1:2,000,000 scale, printed across two pages of the Atlas, which measures 30cm by 40cm. There are some larger scale maps of the Melbourne area and of provincial cities and seven topographical

maps covering the State at the 1:1,000,000 scale.

The Atlas, says Dr Duncan, has been planned for the reader who is seeking solid, encyclopaedia-type information on a subject without, perhaps, the expert's detail.

"In other words, its audience is the 'intelligent layman'. Students in universities and senior forms of high schools,

planners and administrators should find it of use and it should also find a place in 'bookish homes' — the type of house where the tea tray has to go on the floor because the coffee table is littered with books," he says.

The Atlas will have a first edition run of 15,000 and a recommended retail price of \$39.95. It will be available from bookshops, the Government printer and the RACV.

Dr Duncan is hopeful that the Atlas will be seen "as so useful that it must be kept in being". He believes a strong case could be made for updating it every five to 10 years.

The project's birth

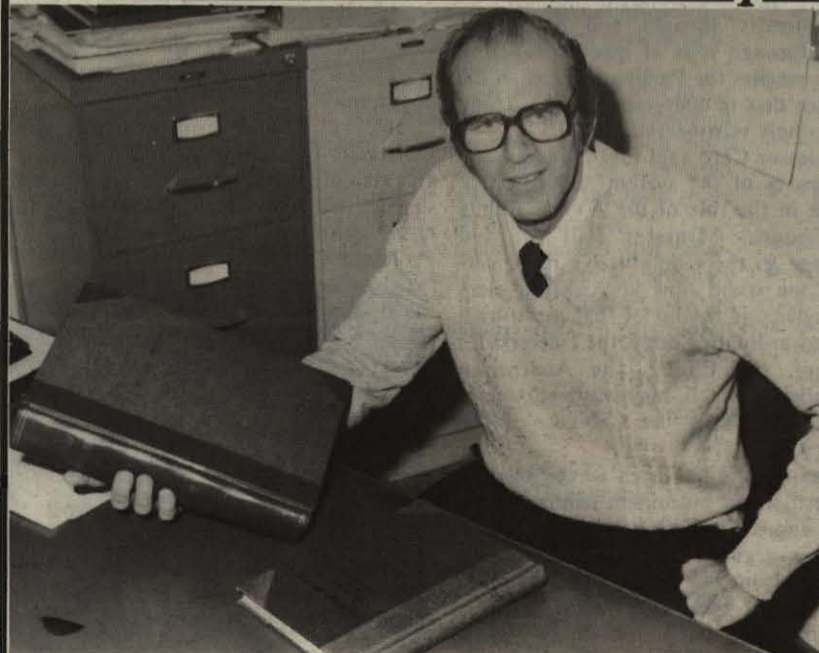
It was back in 1975 that the idea for such a publication was born among Monash geographers. The intention then was to produce a State "handbook" for participants at the ANZAAS '77 Congress held at Melbourne University. The State Government liked the idea but by the time of final approval the Congress deadline could not be met. A committee appointed by the Premier has since guided the project.

The Atlas of Victoria joins an Atlas of Tasmania and an Atlas of Human Endeavour in Western Australia. South Australia and New South Wales have similar projects planned and Queensland has a rather more publicity-oriented atlas of resources.

Needless to say, a little civic pride has crept into Victoria's Atlas: its striking page one map shows the hemisphere centred on Melbourne!

But, as the editor says: "Anyone living on the surface of a sphere is entitled to believe that where he lives is the centre of the world. Wherever he lives he's wrong — but he is no more wrong than anyone else!"

We're bound to be proud of this!



Ever wondered what top academics do in their spare time?

Dr David Collins, for one, has a rewarding hobby — book-binding. Here, Dr Collins — a Reader in the Dean's Establishment, Faculty of Science — shows samples of his work: a beautifully bound set of the first 10 years of *Monash Reporter* in its present format (1971-1980) and a set of *Monash Review* (1969-1980).

MONASH REPORTER
A MAGAZINE FOR THE UNIVERSITY

What a way to start a year!

ORIENTATION WEEK — 1971

About 3500 new students join Monash University for the first time today.

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW ON MESSA?

The Information Office, which produces both, was so impressed it wants to commission further volumes. But there's a problem: we are desperately short of copies of three early issues of *Reporter* — Nos. 2, 3 and 9 of 1971.

Any reader who can turn up copies of those editions (in good condition) will be welcomed with open arms.

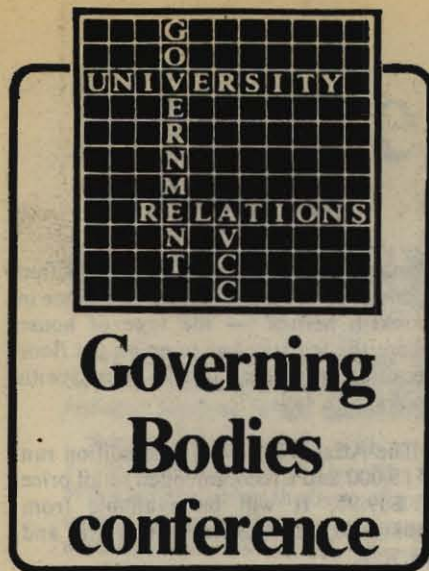
If you're curious about how we started life — that's page 1 of Vol. 1, issue 1 (March 1, 1971) above.

Another symposium

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Caution on 'tailoring to need'

Professor Noel Dunbar, chairman of the Universities Council of the CTEC, urged caution in trying to tailor university teaching and research programs to the "national need".

"Many people see the national need as requiring some degree of manpower forecasting or planning, with important consequences for universities," he said.

"There can, however, be considerable dangers in this view if it is pushed too far, and the CTEC has an important role to play in seeking a balance between the legitimate needs and expectations of the universities on the one hand and the community on the other.

"It is sometimes suggested that universities should be more relevant in their teaching and research. Frequently students claim that their courses do not adequately address the problems of the present day.

"On other occasions, industrialists and politicians call for research more closely related to current national needs. That no doubt sounds eminently sensible, but if such a policy had prevailed in, say, 1900 what would universities have been studying?

- Breeding horses appropriate to local conditions
- Design of river boats
- Production of telegraph wires, etc.

"Nothing would have been done on aeronautics, or electronics or the radiations which eventually led to the atomic age. I suggest that we need to approach the question of relevance with very great caution."

Professor Dunbar added:

"To paraphrase a statement made originally about Canada:

"Australia in the 19th Century lived largely by its muscle; in the 20th Century it has relied mainly on its resources; if Australia is to find a place for itself in the 21st Century we must between now and then, learn to live by our wits. In that struggle our universities can be our most powerful weapon."

On the question of independence and autonomy, Professor Dunbar said he agreed with Professor P. H. Partridge who maintained that independence meant the "universities ought to develop their own views about their role in the national system of education, and about their proper functions and their social roles; and they ought to be prepared to assert and defend their views with strength and obstinacy".

SEPTEMBER 1982

● From front page

'Complex web' mars relationship

Professor Caro went on: "Alongside the Commonwealth machinery there is now a co-ordinating body in each State. While most of these organisations were originally set up to co-ordinate a network of colleges, some at least now involve universities. With a reduction in the number of colleges, the temptation to co-ordinate universities must be almost overwhelming.

"Chairmen of State co-ordinating bodies have found it desirable to meet in conference to co-ordinate their own affairs and the CTEC has found it helpful to hold regular consultative meetings with the State Chairmen.

"The State and Commonwealth Ministers and their advisers meet on the Australian Education Council, a 50-year-old body which has been rejuvenated. It communicates with CTEC through the Commission Chairman.

"Except for the Universities Council, not one of these bodies has a university representative or someone working in a university among its membership.

"As far as I am aware, there is no other country in the world which has invented such an involved co-ordinating and advisory apparatus. The move from a reasonably simple arrangement of one Commonwealth Commission to the present organisational shambles has been incredibly rapid."

Professor Caro said the procedures were further complicated by the need for universities to deal at various times with the Departments of Education, Science and Technology, and Foreign Affairs, as well as Commonwealth and State Departments of Health.

"What have these complex changes done to University-Government relationships?", he asked. "The ill-defined lines of communication inevitably lead to misunderstandings.

"University thought and opinion is sieved through veils of ignorance before ever it reaches the Parliament, and so the real position of universities is becoming increasingly misunderstood."

Professor Caro said that the increased complexity of the system had forced a change in the role of the AVCC. While the Federal Minister still granted audience to the Committee's representatives, he could now very easily reject their advice in favour of that given by a state co-ordinating body, the Universities Council, the CTEC, the Australian Education Council, his own department, a State Minister, the Cabinet, or the Razor Gang.

"The AVCC has been forced to play an increasingly prominent role as a lobbying and co-ordinating group.

"It is argued that, by presenting a common front, the Universities are more likely to get their case heard. That is probably true, but in obtaining a consensus, there is an inevitable sacrifice in the variety of views which might otherwise be held in universities.

"Thus attempts by the AVCC to protect the universities may result in greater and perhaps undesirable uniformity."

Autonomy and academic freedom

Professor Caro said he did not doubt that university autonomy had been reduced. The question was whether the reduction was important.

"Once a university is set up under an Act of Parliament, and once it accepts government funding, autonomy is a matter of degree," he said.

Australian universities still retained an important degree of autonomy with regard to the appointment of staff, and the right of universities to determine promotions was not in doubt.

"The question of tenure is now the subject of discussion by a Senate committee of inquiry.

"Study leave, or whatever it should now be called, was the subject of an inquiry a few years ago . . .

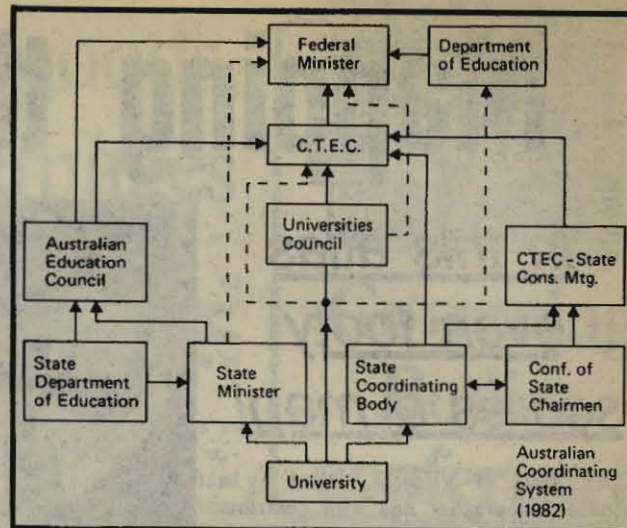
"The fact that the suggestions from the Universities Council were fairly gentle does not disguise the fact that an important inroad was made into autonomy.

"It was not then judged to be sufficient to warrant a stand by the governing bodies. The time may come when we shall have to consider our response to this kind of proposition very carefully."

Professor Caro said that Christopher Puplick, one-time Senator and chairman of a committee on Education, Science and the Environment, had written recently: "... the universities have developed a degree of inflexibility which has hindered their capacity to adapt to rapid shifts in political, social, cultural and economic values."

Puplick had suggested that as a result the universities "have virtually no protection, and their cries for mercy have struck few responsive chords in the wider community."

"It is a sad commentary on University-Government relations that an articulate ex-politician can even suggest that universities should adapt to rapid shifts in political values," said Professor Caro.



● The 'complex web' of State-Commonwealth co-ordinating and discussion groups. The Federal Minister can receive advice from at least five different sources.

"Should governing bodies really insist on new attitudes in universities each time a government changes? That would indeed be an inroad into academic freedom.

"It is all too obvious that universities must adjust to economic changes and of course they will respond to changes in social and cultural values — if they have not themselves produced them.

"But is it the role of the universities to respond to rapid shifts or should they remain apart for a while and therefore be able to criticise community whims?"

Professor Caro said the Victorian Post-Secondary Education Act was probably the most dangerous threat of all. It now required universities to refer to the Victorian Post-Secondary Education Commission all communications with federal funding bodies.

"Fortunately, the Act is administered with understanding by the present Chairman of VPSEC. Potentially, it limits drastically the autonomy of the Victorian universities.

"There is little doubt that there have been substantial inroads into autonomy in the last few years. There remains a number of questions. For example:

(1) Have governing bodies acted as they should as a shield to university autonomy while ensuring, as they must, that universities are efficient and responsible?

(2) How many of the incursions into autonomy result from direct government decisions and how many result from the behaviour of State or Federal co-ordinating bodies acting in good faith but perhaps remote from university thought because of the complexity of the existing lines of power?

"And perhaps most important . . . (3) How much have the universities themselves invited interference by failing to act co-operatively or to respond to reasonable community demands?"

"I have to say that I do not think all our houses are in order," Professor Caro said.



● Professor Don Stranks, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, makes a point from the floor during the conference. Photos: University of Melbourne.

MONASH REPORTER

Baume slams criticisms



Sen. Peter Baume

The goods, not images

Universities should be wary of mounting 'public relations campaigns' aimed at improving their 'image', Professor Peter Karmel told the final session of the Governing Bodies Conference.

"There is a picture of universities as comprising a very high proportion of lay-about bludgers who don't work very hard and, when they do work, don't do it very well," he said.

"Undoubtedly there are a few such people around the universities — there are in every walk of life. The only reason they are picked out in the universities is because of a general antipathy and hostility — at the moment — to higher education.

"The answer to this is a positive one: it's a matter largely of delivering the goods . . . of being judged by your works. It is not a matter merely of responding to community needs — and here we must be careful, anyway, since the demands put upon institutions are often short-term demands. We must, then, be responsive but not too responsive because there are longer-term considerations.

"It is a matter of producing the goods and conveying to the public that we are producing the goods.

"Now if 'public relations' means providing that kind of information and getting it into the right places, I'm all for it. But if it's a matter of building 'images', I don't know. At the moment our 'image' is being built in a way that is not very acceptable.

"One has to be very cautious about accepting that if only we ran a public relations campaign the whole thing would be solved. I think that is a load of rubbish."

In his opening address to the Conference, the Minister for Education, Senator Peter Baume, vigorously rejected charges that the Government had reduced funding to the universities, or was eroding their traditional autonomy.

Senator Baume quoted, with approval, a statement in 1979 by Sir Bruce Williams describing the best safeguard of autonomy as "effective performance in terms of university values and a capacity to establish it".

"I endorse, too, the comments of Professors Birt and Clarke: 'The institutional health and future viability of universities as autonomously governed organisations whose employees enjoy freedom in their teaching and research, is largely dependent upon their reacting in a responsible and constructive way to public demands for accountability, flexibility, efficiency, relevance and co-ordination in the use of their human, financial and physical resources . . .'"

Senator Baume said the Government expected to receive in September the results of a CTEC study on the declining participation rate of young Australians in higher education.

"We shall examine the outcome to see the extent to which government policies, priorities and programs may need to be reviewed.

"Tertiary institutions may also wish to use it to consider whether their selection criteria, their conduct of courses, their range of options and other factors are responsive to Australia's needs during the last two decades of the 20th century.

"Is this, to quote, a threat to autonomy? Is this, to quote, an unnecessary interference in the day-to-day activities of universities?"

Senator Baume quoted a paper produced in the UK for the OECD Program on Institutional Management in Higher Education that made the point that a university may choose to admit whomever it wishes to, but if the students cannot be financed because the government intervenes or fails to intervene, then effective autonomy is 'severely reduced' and autonomy becomes a relative term.

"Turning the question around, the universities may thus, one deduces, regard Government intervention (through the provision of funds) as a vital element of their autonomy."

Senator Baume concluded:

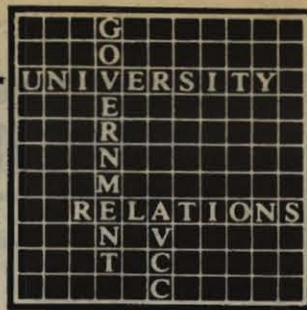
"As a Government, we do not seek to reduce university autonomy. In Malcolm Fraser's terms we wish to preserve it to the maximum extent possible.

"We seek the continuation of a tradition of research and scholarship; we seek better education outcomes.

"We do not seek to interfere unnecessarily in your day-to-day affairs, but we do not expect you then to try to escape from accepting responsibility for your management decisions by blaming them on us.

"While you are funded as you are, you can demand no blank financial cheque which ignores other priorities and needs — some immediate and grievous.

"You cannot dismiss the changing needs of a society which you serve and which, in its turn, sustains and accepts you."



Governing Bodies conference

Professor Karmel, who recently took up the Vice-Chancellorship of the Australian National University, said that in the '60s there had been very strong support for higher education.

At the time there had been a "happy coincidence" between student demand for university places and the prevailing shortage of skilled manpower. This stimulated public support and encouraged governments to put more funds into the universities and later the CAEs.

"Since 1975, the situation has been quite different," he said. "In some ways, I think, we have been too successful: we've produced large numbers of graduates . . . and it's not surprising that the earlier shortages of skilled manpower have largely disappeared. Now we see a coincidence of student indifference and excesses, rather than shortages, of certain kinds of manpower. This has been associated with a general hostility and criticism on the part of the public."

Professor Karmel said: "It may be that the period of support we enjoyed in the '60s and up to the mid-'70s was an aberration and that the normal state of affairs is either an apathy or a hostility to higher education."

Autonomy: reasons for concern

While there was reason for much satisfaction about the development of government-university relations in the past 26 years, there had recently been some very disturbing developments, said Professor Sir Bruce Williams.

Sir Bruce, Director of the Technical Change Centre, London, and formerly Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney and Chairman of the Committee of Inquiry into Education and Training, was giving an "analysis of Australian developments over two decades".

On the 'difficult' subject of university autonomy, Sir Bruce said that particularly disturbing had been the willingness of the Government to act directly on the report of the Lynch Committee without a published comment from the TEC and without opportunity for comment from universities.

So, too, had been the developments in Queensland, where amalgamation of James Cook University and the Townsville CAE had resulted in changes to the James Cook University Act opening the way for the Queensland Minister for Education to decide matters of dispute between the University Council and the Board of Advanced Education or the Board of Teacher Education.

"This is an unhappy outcome of the Commonwealth decision to use its financial power as a bludgeon," he said.

Sir Bruce recalled that the Murray Committee on Australian Universities had written that "university autonomy would be meaningless if each university were not left to 'subdivide its allocation according to what it considered to be its greatest advantage . . .'"

He went on:

"According to its Sixth Report, the AUC was committed to university autonomy not simply from a desire to reflect the formal status of the universities but

from a conviction that 'society was better served if the universities are allowed a wide freedom to determine the manner in which they should develop their activities and carry out their tasks. In a free society, universities are not expected to bend all their energies to meeting so-called national objectives which, if not those of a monolithic society, are usually themselves ill-defined or subject to controversy and change'."

In his conclusion, Sir Bruce Williams said that in the 26 years since the Murray Committee, recurrent income for universities had become 'very much more adequate', access to university education had been extended (but allowed to fall back in the past seven years) and funds for research had increased.

"Governing and chief academic bodies still determine selection and curricula, examinations, appointments and the majority of the decisions on the allocation of resources, including research programs.

Climate not favourable

"There is however reason for concern:

- The climate of opinion is not favourable to the universities — there has been a fall in age participation rates that is not entirely due to the reduction in financial support for students, and few Government Ministers or senior civil servants admit to much admiration of the universities and their works.
- The amendments to the States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Acts implied a change in attitude to one less supportive of autonomy and the distinctive role of universities.
- Legislation in Victoria to establish a Post-Secondary Commission created the basis for a considerable reduction in university autonomy, and

likewise the revision of the James Cook University Act to give the Minister power to over-rule the University Council in the interests of the Board of Advanced Education or the Board of Teacher Education.

- There would be cause for very great concern if the Lynch Committee Review exercise and the Government response to it were to be repeated.
- The move away from joint Commonwealth/State funding of the universities has reduced the role of the TEC and increased that of the less well informed Departments.
- The ending of the indexation of grants on very unsound grounds has restored methods of finance that were tried in the past and found wanting.
- Although, apart from the implications of the decision to cast indexation aside, the level of grants per EFTS (as corrected by the indexes of salary rates and materials) has held up well, the grants do not provide for the increased costs of ageing staff brought about by the ending of growth.

"It may be that the Commonwealth Government and the TEC will take the view that the necessary measures of rationalisation have now been taken.

"There was an earlier period — in the run up to and the period following the Fourth Report — when the universities had to emphasise to Governments and, sadly, to the AUC the importance of university autonomy. In the following three triennia there was a much greater respect for university autonomy.

"Maybe the present desire to push the universities round or into a different shape will soon pass as it did in the earlier period. I hope so.

"But respect for university interests and procedures is much more likely to revive and grow if the universities show that they can manage their academic and financial affairs well. It is unfortunate that they do not always convey that impression to outsiders."

Governing Bodies

Media man urges a bolder message

Universities should reassess their attitudes about "publicity-seekers" and encourage their members to "speak out, to show intellectual courage, to challenge, to keep alive rational discussion . . ."

This was the view put by Mr Ranald Macdonald, managing director of David Syme, in a paper entitled "A Community Perspective".

Mr Macdonald said there were clearly plenty of people within the universities who could express the philosophic principles which had underpinned universities for centuries, and who were capable of keeping rational discussion going where it threatened to break down.

But the message was not being heard.

Many would put the lion's share of the blame on the mass media, Mr Macdonald said, but there was the possibility that universities in this country had not used the media well.

"There are many specific skills of marketing and image-building now available," he said. "Universities, by and large, have not really utilised them.

"Certainly, the student unrest of the '60s had a valuable spin-off in that information offices were set up and staffed by communications professionals. But, as with public relations in many other areas, the whole exercise remains defensive.

"The information or public relations personnel are still seen as a fairly low branch on the institutional tree and are charged with disseminating the good news and avoiding the bad. It makes it hard for them to give the best professional advice.

"Yet communication professionalism is essential if the university message is to be heard above the hubbub of competing messages. Most other institutions are using the best communications skills available to ensure a sympathetic environment for their operations.

At their peril

"Universities shackle their public affairs units at their peril."

Mr Macdonald said there appeared to be a "certain suspicion in university circles of those academics who are perceived by colleagues to be showmen".

"It is still regarded as unseemly, despite the fact that we know that securing a place in the public's attention can have political and financial rewards.

"The university men and women who get the best press are those who make themselves available, who can be relied on to make clear and concise contributions to the subject under discussion.

"In order to get an adequate share of the mass media, there should be a deliberate effort to encourage excellence and stand up for intellectual courage.

"While it is true that Australians have a rather ambivalent attitude towards tall poppies and like chopping their heads off when they grow too tall — perhaps out of a misguided notion of what egalitarianism really means — it is intellectually dishonest for universities to pander to the desire to prune high fliers.

"Universities are about excellence, about nurturing people's full potential. Unless you fight for that, you deserve to lose the battle."

Earlier, Mr Macdonald spoke of "the

vexed question of the degree to which universities should be required to provide job skills rather than their traditional role of helping students in the getting of wisdom".

"In the short term, accommodation to the prevailing political pressure to train for jobs will ease the distress of confrontation," he said. "In the long term, I doubt whether it would restore the fading reputation of universities in this country, unless university planners can second-guess, in a way which they have so far shown they cannot, political decisions about economic and manpower planning.

"It is unrealistic to believe it is possible to rearrange university structures so they respond to the will of the wisp of political pragmatism. If universities have got any wisdom from the unemployed graduate back-lash of the past few years, it must be that they should resist resolutely any attempts to manoeuvre them into the same corner again."

Productivity: concept for universities

"Universities must learn to use their resources more cost effectively to raise their productivity."

Mr John Ralph, Deputy Managing Director of CRA Ltd., said this in an address comparing the responses of the business world and the universities to the challenges of the present "tough times".

Mr Ralph, now better known for his chairmanship of the recent Commonwealth Inquiry into Management Education, said that the Australian economy had been performing very poorly for decades, particularly in terms of exports and per capita income, and its position relative to the rest of the world continued to decline.

This raised a number of challenges, to which business was responding in a number of ways.

"The immediate business response revolves around cost effectiveness," he said. "Businessmen throughout Australia are taking a hard look at their operations, their structures, their resources. Old concepts are having to be examined thoroughly to ensure that they will be adequate to meet conditions in the '80s and '90s."

Mr Ralph said the pressures for change affecting the business sector applied equally to universities. In urging universities to use their resources more cost effectively, he said:

"It may seem offensive to many educators to talk of productivity within universities, but I believe there will be greater questioning of how well resources are being used as their scarcity becomes better recognised."

The seminar format:

Three main issues were discussed at the August 13 seminar organised by the Centre for Human Bioethics and attended by the Dalai Lama. These were: **In vitro fertilisation, the right to life of defective newborns and euthanasia.** The first issue was introduced by Professor Carl Wood, the second by Dr Bernard Neal, and the third by Professor Peter Singer. Discussion was then open to the 36 participants.

Issue 1: IVF

In vitro fertilisation, while an exciting medical development, had aroused a host of ethical issues currently being debated in Australia and elsewhere, Professor Carl Wood told the seminar.

Professor Wood, of the Monash department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology based at Queen Victoria Medical Centre and leader of the world's most successful IVF team, raised some of those questions in his presentation.

Among them were the following:

● The moral and legal position of the embryo.

Some people, Professor Wood said, believed that the embryo merited the same moral consideration as the foetus, the newborn child or the adult.

However, the embryo had no organs like a heart or brain and no feeling. Others thus argued that there should be a graded consideration of the embryo, foetus and baby according to each stage of development.

● Waste of embryos.

Professor Wood said that an argument against IVF was that embryos were wasted in the procedure.

He said that most of the embryos that were lost were abnormal "and therefore wouldn't be human beings".

He pointed out that in the natural system of conception there was also embryo wastage which, reproductive biologists believed, acted as a screen for genetic and chromosomal abnormalities. It also enabled some spacing of pregnancies. In humans, he said, it took couples, on average, four months of sexual activity to conceive; conception in other species occurred fairly predictably in one or two months.

● Interfering with nature.

Professor Wood said that it had been argued that IVF was wrong because it interfered with reproduction which was a sacred process.

"But to someone in medicine it probably is no more sacred than interfering with the dying process. They are both important natural events in one's life.

"Another point of debate is that what is done in the test tube procedure is unnatural. Again, from a medical viewpoint, we consider that part of our job is to challenge, fight or interfere with nature to try to improve life for human beings."

He said that different religions held different views on what was or was not "God's will".

● The effect on the children.

Whether knowledge of being conceived in an unusual manner or the effect of the unusual manner on the parents may in turn affect the child's nature had yet to be determined.

"Follow up of the babies will occur," Professor Wood said.

To date, 75 test tube babies had been born in the world and within a few years there could be "many thousands", he said.

"Obviously it will only be at such a future date that we could get a clear picture of the effects of the procedure on the offspring."

Issue 2: Euthanasia

A doctor has two aims: one to save or prolong life, the other to relieve suffering.

Normally these two aims are compatible but at times they can be in conflict.

Professor Peter Singer, of the Philosophy department, in his presentation said that in some cases perhaps the only way to relieve suffering effectively was to end life.

This might be so "if life has reached the stage at which it consists only or principally of suffering or the amount of suffering in a person's life outweighs the other redeeming factors — perhaps because suffering could only be relieved by drugs which would have the effect of suppressing consciousness to the degree at which it ceased to be at a fully human level".

Professor Singer said that thus the problem of euthanasia arose: "I think as a consequence of adopting a standard of compassion".

Two traditions in Western society were in conflict over the issue of voluntary euthanasia, he said — the liberal and the religious traditions.

On the one hand, the liberal tradition emphasised the freedom of the individual to decide what to do with his life.

"And that freedom should include, among other rights, a right to die if the individual decides that his or her life is no longer worth living.

"And if the person, as often happens in a state of illness, is physically unable to take his own life then the same liberal tradition would suggest, in the view of many people, that someone else should be empowered to help — that a doctor upon request should be empowered to give the drugs or injection that will end that person's life."

Professor Singer said that against this view was the one that a person's life was not only a matter for the person.

In this tradition, now mostly associated with Christianity and in particular the Roman Catholic Church, it was believed that man was put on earth by a higher being, God.

"And just as God has put us here so we are not free to take ourselves away. Socrates likened it to being sentinels on duty. We are put here on duty and it's not up to us to decide when our duty is over."

Professor Singer acknowledged that there were also some non-religious opponents of voluntary euthanasia, many concerned with guarding against abuses.

He said that between these opposing views was what amounted to a compromise situation, "which says that life does not always have to be prolonged but on the other hand it should not be actively taken".

This seemed to be the most widely held view among the medical profession, he added.

But it also raised a problem: A person who wished to die rapidly might still have to die over a period of some days because of the reluctance of doctors to take active steps.

The question arose: Once it has been decided that a patient is not to be kept alive by all possible means is it a further, morally different step to say that that person should be given assistance to die?

Issue 3: Defective newborns

Between the vast majority of newborns today who will live and the very small number with gross disorders who will inevitably die, there is a significant number who have serious defects but whose life may be saved by modern medical treatment.

Many seem to be destined for a miserable existence should they survive.

Dr Bernard Neal, Dean of Postgraduate Studies at the Royal Children's Hospital, raised in his paper ethical questions about the right to life of such defective infants.

Dr Neal said that some would argue that the sanctity of human life was an absolute value. This view had been challenged by many ethicists and was probably held, at least in its extreme form, by relatively few people.

Debate on the subject, he said, led to consideration of whether a distinction should be made between human life as judged by some biological criteria and "personhood" as indicated by such criteria as minimal intelligence, self-awareness, a sense of time and a capability to relate to others.

Neal asked: "In addition to the potential personhood of the defective infant should we also take account of the cost of preserving life — 'cost' being interpreted very broadly to include not only the allocation to his care of scarce resources of personnel and money, but also the potential for great anxiety to parents leading to emotional illness and marital breakdown; financial hardship; disruption of family life with tragic consequences to siblings; and continuing suffering for the individual?"

The central questions, then, were these: Should the defective infant's life be preserved or should it not? How is the question to be answered — by whom, in whose interests and by what means?

By whom?

Leaving such a decision to the doctors may have been acceptable once, said Dr Neal, but today society was better in-



● The Dalai Lama listens to seminar chairman, Professor John Swan, introduce the issues to be discussed.

formed and determined to limit the so-called "discretionary space" available to the experts; medical paternalism was under attack.

On the other hand, he asked, was it fair to leave such a decision to the parents at a time when they were likely to be overwhelmed by feelings of shock, fear and guilt? Would their decision simply reflect their own disturbed emotional state combined with the biases of the medical staff?

Dr Neal said: "Given a caring medical staff, appropriate psychological support to the stricken parents and the elimination as far as possible of medical bias, cannot doctors and parents acting in consultation reach a wise decision?"

"In all the circumstances this in my view is probably the best that we can do."

What of outside bodies such as medical ethics committees in hospitals or the community and courts of law?

"Many would feel that committees do not serve as a useful resource in this context but in fact complicate the decision-making process by multiplying the number of opinions; and certainly the record of judicial intervention to date would suggest that the intrusion of the

law leads to obfuscation rather than clarification.

"Does this mean that we want more and better laws, or does it mean that the legal pathway is a misconceived direction to take?"

In whose interests?

Dr Neal said that the best interests of the child alone should determine the decision — not the interests of doctors, science, society or even, ultimately, the parents.

"But is the child's only right the right to life, may he not have a right to death? If the future life of a child is likely to be 'demonstrably awful' does not this justify letting the child die? Is there a difference between letting die and killing?"

"It is intriguing to speculate what the infant would say were he able to speak for himself. We will never know, but a most important study in the US polled a number of teenagers suffering from myelomeningocele. The researchers did not ask 'Do you want to go on living?' but rather 'Should your doctor have had the right to let you die as a baby, and if so, do you wish he had exercised that right?'"

Dalai Lama discusses matters of life — and death

"Seventy per cent said they wished their doctor had let them die as an infant."

By what means?

How, Dr Neal asked, were the questions to be answered? By appeal to authority (religious or lay) or by philosophic inquiry?

"We should remember," he said, "that decisions are not made entirely on the basis of philosophic conviction. When the decision has been made that it is in the best interests of the child that he should not live we shrink from actively killing him because of strong feelings of repugnance; fear of giving scandal; fear of entering on a 'slippery slope'; and fear of acting in a way not socially acceptable."

He suggested that what was needed was a careful examination of the present situation and an analysis of where procedures were unsatisfactory. Only then could prudent consideration be given as to whether possible changes would lead to better decision-making by those confronted with "these awesome and agonising problems".

Buddhist perspective on the issues

The Dalai Lama came to Monash, in his own words, to learn.

The topics discussed at the seminar were complex ones, the Dalai Lama said, but he had gathered "important, interesting" ideas to work on from a Buddhist perspective.

"I am deeply impressed to see your concern for human welfare," he told participants.

He said that there was a danger that doctors and scientists could begin to regard human beings with whom they were dealing much like old cars in for repair.

A person, however, was not just a physical body. The human being was very valuable and should be treated by professionals with "warm-hearted feeling".

The Dalai Lama contributed to the seminar discussion, giving the Buddhist point of view on several topics. He spoke both through an interpreter, Professor John Hopkins, professor of Tibetan Language and Religion at the University of Virginia, and in English.

On many ethical aspects raised by the issues under discussion — IVF, defective newborns and euthanasia — the Dalai Lama said that it was difficult to adopt a general position. Many considerations had to be weighed in each particular case.

These were some of the topics on which he spoke:

● On "consciousness" and levels of life

The Buddhist tradition held that at the point of conception consciousness entered a being. The time in the womb was divided into five periods during which the

being was regarded as a "human in forming" but not a human.

To destroy the living being while it was in the womb would be a "sin" or non-virtuous deed of killing. But just as Buddhist tradition drew a distinction in "levels of life", between killing a human and killing an animal, so too was a distinction made between killing a being that was still forming as a human and one that had formed.

Decisions on, say, the fate of the unborn child depended on the specific circumstances of the situation that one was facing.

● On the defective newborn

The Buddhist point of view was that a child who was in a difficult situation was in that position because of his or her former actions. The person sooner or later must undergo the effects of those earlier actions. Thus, comparatively speaking, the being who was born in difficult circumstances as a human would be better off, because someone could look after him, than that born as a different form of life.

Consideration of the child's interests came first, but what also had to be considered were the interests of the parents — particularly the mother — and society.

Saving one handicapped child might mean a loss in some other area. One had to weigh the competing interests and contemplate where the greater benefit lay.

The process of "divination" could confirm a decision.

● On the prolongation of life

One of the pivotal considerations on this issue was the individual's consciousness.

If that could remain clear and useful, that was one situation. But if there were no power of thought, if one's intellect became useless, that was another.

In the second case, where there was no value to the life, pain was just something extra being added on uselessly.

But, here again, in deciding what action should be taken in the prolongation of life, individual circumstances were important: if, for example, a person believed in a next life then it was better to die naturally. It may be that one had to face up to suffering.

The Dalai Lama explained the process accepted in Buddhist tradition of "transferring consciousness" whereby one could meditate over a period of time to cause one's own consciousness to exit from the body.

This was permissible only in cases in which it was quite obvious that a person was going to die of a particular disease, say, and would undergo tremendous pain which would affect his mind.

● On the purpose of religion

The purpose of religion was to further the independence of the individual. Central to the Buddhist belief was the sense of "I" or self which propelled a person toward happiness and away from suffering.

Whether one practised religion depended on one's own will. A person's destiny was in his own hands not in the Lama's or religious teacher's.

Conferences

The vacation it may have been. But Monash was far from vacant. The University hosted several conferences during August — including no fewer than three 'internationals'. On these pages, a round-up of conference reports.

Monash clones interferon genes

Using recombinant DNA (genetic engineering techniques), a Monash research group, led by Professor Anthony Linnane and Dr Graeme Woodrow, has succeeded in cloning three interferon genes.

Interferon is a key to the body's natural defence against virus infections.

The Monash success was announced on the eve of a three year trial by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories of interferon as a treatment of multiple sclerosis, which may be a viral disease.

The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories are using "a mixture of partially purified interferons" in their trials.

The Monash work, which is being jointly supported by the CSL and Monash University, opens the way for the eventual large-scale production of "purified, defined" interferon species, which could be much more effective as an anti-viral agent.

Professor Linnane says interferon has also been shown to slow the growth of tumor cells and may be of use in the treatment of cancer.

However, there are believed to be at least 16 types of human interferon, and cancer trials so far have used only unpurified interferons. The results have been inconclusive.

Professor Linnane believes the inconclusive results may be due to the fact that the right interferon is not being used.

Other members of the Monash team are Dr Gabrielle McMullen, Dr Mark Murphy and Dr Paul Hertzog.

Vice-Chancellor warns of biotechnology problems

Molecular biology is going to have a great impact on society through applications in medicine, agriculture and industry.

But it will be essential that basic research continues hand in hand with the applied aspects so that this potential is fully realised, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin said in opening the international conference on Manipulation and Expression of Genes in Eukaryotes at Monash last month.

Professor Martin said that the desire of universities, governments and private corporations to exploit developments in biotechnology was leading to a number of "heady" problems.

One of them centred on commercial links being formed between university research departments and private corporations, the subject of an investigation in the US by a Congressional Committee on Science Technology.

The Committee has estimated that private companies have already invested some \$200m. in university research on biotechnology — a small sum compared with Government funding, "yet large enough to give private industry an important voice in the direction of academic research in an area of medical and ethical importance."

Professor Martin said: "The concern is that the proliferation of such agreements will distort the nature of the universities and deprive the nation of independent scientists able to give disinterested guidance about the dangers as well as the promise of the exotic new biotechnologies.

"On the other side of the coin, with university research budgets under great pressure, private funding has become the only way for many universities to maintain or increase their volume of basic

research."

He said that private investment was seen by many as an efficient way to transfer technology from academic laboratory to the market place.

But it was also believed by some that there was a danger of selling academic research know-how to private industry too cheaply "and that even great and independent universities have surrendered enormous influence over academic policy to commercial sponsors."

He said: "Harvard's \$70m. deal with the West German chemical manufacturer, Hoechst AG, for example, makes the company the exclusive paymaster and commercial client for the intellectual output of an entirely new department of Molecular Biology."

Professor Martin said that another

aspect of the new molecular biology which was beginning to receive media exposure was the immense ethical problems raised by genetic engineering.

"The success which has already been achieved in cloning mice and frogs can readily be extrapolated to human cloning and this is seen by some as a grim reminder of Hitler's philosophy of the master race."

He told the delegates: "While the fundamental advances which are occurring at the frontiers of recombinant DNA technology will properly be the prime focus of your discussions, it is also clear that each of you must be involved in various ways with the philosophical and ethical problems which inevitably will emerge from the application of your fundamental research."

Molecular biologists meet



Members of the organising committee of the conference: (from left) Dr Phillip Nagley (Monash), Dr Jim Peacock (CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, Canberra), Professor Anthony Linnane (Monash) and Professor John Pateman (Research School of Biological Sciences, ANU).

Some 200 molecular biologists, including 20 from overseas, attended an International Conference on Manipulation and Expression of Genes in Eukaryotes at Monash last month.

The conference was a satellite meeting of the 12th International Conference of Biochemistry — the first in Australia — held in Perth the following week.

The Monash conference was organised by the Biochemistry department (Dr Phillip Nagley and Professor Anthony Linnane) with the co-operation of the CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, Canberra, and the Research School of Biological Sciences, ANU.

Molecular biology is a relatively new discipline which includes aspects of chemistry, biochemistry and genetics. A particularly important aspect is recombinant DNA technology which permits the rearrangement of DNA molecules, the joining up of different genes and the transplantation of genes from one organism to another.

The Monash conference covered basic research into the structure and manipulation of genes focusing on the broad sub-

division of complex living organisms termed eukaryotes which includes animals, fungi and plants.

Papers covered genes in mammals that determine the structure of individual hormones, the analysis and manipulation of genes in yeasts and other single cell organisms, and genes which are responsible for storage proteins in the seeds of plants.

Other research discussed included that on genes which multiply themselves during particular stages of growth of cells, genes which move within chromosomes, genes which exist in cells outside the nucleus and are involved in the process of respiration and photo-synthesis, genes which facilitate transfer of DNA from one cell to another or from one organism to another, and genes which function to repair damage to other genes.

Says Dr Nagley: "This research relates directly to a variety of important problems including cancer research, inherited diseases in man, parasitology, immunology, agriculture, plant diseases, and biotechnology."

Econometrics society may be formed

The Australian Econometrics Study Group, which held its first meeting at Monash from August 26-28, has set up an interim committee to investigate the formation of either an Australasian branch of The Econometric Society, or an Australasian Econometric Society.

Chairman of the seven-man committee is Professor E. J. Hannan, of the ANU. The secretary is Dr M. L. King, of the Monash department of Econometrics and Operations Research.

Other members of the committee are Professor David Giles, of Monash; Dr Ray Byron, of ANU; Professor Alan Powell, of the University of Melbourne; Professor Alan Woodland, of the University of Sydney; and Dr Adrian Pagan, of ANU.

Dr King says the committee will first of all approach the international body, The Econometric Society. If agree-

ment cannot be reached with that body to form an Australasian branch, he says, an Australasian Econometric Society will be formed.

Twenty-six papers were presented at the inaugural meeting of the Australian Econometrics Study Group. Among them were papers by international econometricians, Dr R. W. Farebrother, of Manchester University, who is currently visiting Monash, and Professor G. Mizon, of the University of Southampton, who is currently visiting the ANU.

Papers presented at the Study Group's meeting discussed issues ranging from causal relationships between wages and prices and labour market econometrics through to very theoretical problems such as non-nested testing.

The next meeting of the Australian Econometrics Study Group will be held at the ANU in August next year.

Economists discuss taxation reform

Six of the world's leading taxation economists joined local specialists in the field for the first international conference on Australian taxation issues which was held at Monash last month.

The conference, organised by Professor John Head of Economics, was sponsored by the Centre of Policy Studies.

Among the participants were economists whose contribution to the literature on taxation has spanned 40 years and Australian identities like Russell Matthews who, through inquiries for government, have earned wide public recognition for their expertise on the issue.

The overseas visitors included Emeritus Professor Carl Shoup (Columbia University), Professor Richard Musgrave and his wife Professor Peggy Musgrave (University of California at Santa Cruz), Professor Peter Mieszkowski (Rice University), Professor Charles McLure (Hoover Institution, Stanford) and Professor Sijbren Cnossen (University of Rotterdam).

Joining academics from several Australian universities were Dr David Morgan, of Treasury, Mr Daryl Dixon, of the Social Welfare Policy Secretariat,

and Professor Geoffrey Brennan, a former student of Professor Head, now at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

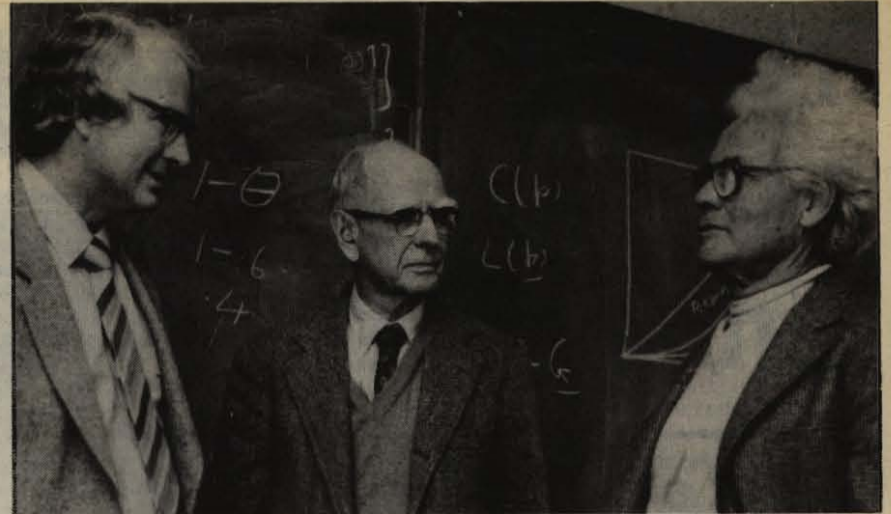
Professor Head said that the conference was structured to give a connected and comprehensive treatment of Australian tax reform issues. The proceedings, when published, will make a volume of unparalleled breadth and depth on the topic.

The conference, which was held over 2½ days, began with a "scene-setting" paper by Professor Head on Australian tax policy.

Discussion moved to issues in direct personal taxation including that levied on income and consumption bases. After consideration of the general questions in this area, three of the major problem areas were examined — taxation of income from capital with regard to housing, superannuation and capital gains.

Two other topics very much in the news were examined — tax indexation and wealth taxes.

Australia, the conference was told, stood alone in having neither a wealth tax imposed at a point of transfer (as in gift or death duty) or annually.



● Professor John Head (left) and Emeritus Professor Carl Shoup (centre) discuss taxation issues with Professor Richard Musgrave. Photo: Rick Crompton.

Another paper assessed the benefits of integration of the Australian tax and social security system by a linear income tax.

Also under review were integration and the company income tax, the taxing of international income flows, and issues of taxation in relation to Australia's natural resources.

The other major area which was reviewed during the conference was that of indirect taxation.

Here an assessment was made of three forms of tax: the value added tax (as applied in Common Market countries), retail sales tax (as levied by individual

states in the US) and wholesale tax (Australia's "sales tax"). The argument was made that the first two types of taxation have less distorting effects than the last.

Criticism was also made of the present situation in Australia with its three rates of tax applying to different commodity classes — along with extensive exemptions.

Another paper was delivered on the welfare cost of Australian excise taxes.

To bring proceedings to a close, Monash lawyer Yuri Grbich tackled the thorny issue of which daily headlines are made: tax avoidance.

Monash hosts big metals conference



● Professor Ian Polmear (second from right) and Mrs Polmear greet Mike Duesbury, of the National Research Council, Canada, at the State reception for delegates to the ICSMA conference. Left: the Premier and Mrs Cain. Photo: Julie Fraser.

Monash last month hosted the Sixth International Conference on the Strength of Metals and Alloys (ICSMA 6) — the largest meeting in the field of physical metallurgy to have been held in Australia.

The Conference was sponsored by the Monash department of Materials Engineering, the Australasian Institute of Metals and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences. It attracted about 180 delegates including 90 from some 24 overseas countries.

Chairman of the organising committee was Professor Ian Polmear, of Materials Engineering, who, with Dr Brendon Parker, made representations for the selection of Melbourne as a venue following ICSMA 5 in West Germany in 1979. Previous conferences, which are held every three years, have been in France, England, the US and Japan.

Professor Polmear says: "Their purpose is to provide a forum for discussing advances in understanding the mechanical behaviour of metals and alloys.

"Topics considered at ICSMA 6 included: the atomic processes associated with plastic deformation of metals and alloys; advances in developing new steels and non-ferrous alloys; metal fatigue; behaviour of metals and alloys at high temperatures; and future directions for research in metals and alloys."

Professor Polmear says that Melbourne was seen as an appropriate location for the Conference for two reasons. The city has been the traditional centre for Australian research in physical metallurgy and Victoria is the centre of manufacturing industry.

Where appropriate, papers emphasised the practical relevance of research.



● Victoria's Minister for Conservation and Planning, Mr Evan Walker.

Maintaining a balance in urban planning

Q. How do you start a small business in the UK?

A. Start a large one first.

Given Australia's bleak economic outlook, Victoria's Minister for Conservation and Planning, Mr Evan Walker, took a risk in telling that joke at a "Business Lunch" at Monash last month.

But Mr Walker emphasised the new Government's appreciation of the private sector's role in the economy and a commitment to its health.

There may be some sections of his party who would see otherwise but their approach was not policy, he said.

The lunch was part of the Centre for Continuing Education's UPDATE program designed for people in business, particularly those around Monash.

Mr Walker's topic was "Urban Planning and Regional Shopping Centres" although he spent more than half his time taking questions from the floor. Representatives of both large and small business attended, as well as others from local government.

Mr Walker said that the Government was not only interested in large development. "We are equally concerned for the small businesses that are a driving force in our economy. They provide a major source of new employment and business innovation and are strong supporters of the local community."

He said that there had to be a balance between large and small business and it was in this context that the Government's actions on regional shopping centres should be seen.

"The big ones like Myer and K-Mart do not act in isolation. No trader does. What they do will affect the livelihood of all businesses around them.

"The balance between large and small traders will determine the type and distribution of future shopping in Melbourne."

Mr Walker said that his Government had a firm commitment to streamlining the approvals and permit processes.

"There are procedures that have to be worked through for the common benefit before projects can be given the go-ahead. But that is not to say that we can't speed and rationalise the process," he said.

He said that clear guidelines and regulations were being developed "to give certainty and positive direction to developers."

The Government was also in the process of rewriting the Town and Country Planning Act.

The Monash Union -

Should Monash's Sports and Recreation Association be reconstituted as an organisation independent of other segments of the Union?

A proposal for this separation — submitted by the President of the Sports and Recreation Association, Alan Farley — came before Council at its August meeting.

Because of the far-reaching ramifications of the proposal, Council decided to refer the matter initially to the Union Board and to have the issues widely canvassed in order to gain University-wide reaction.

Before Council at the time was a resolution passed by the Union Board on August 5 which read: "That this Union Board, recognising that the separation of Sports and Recreation Association will have dramatic repercussions for the entire Union and that the proposal presented to the Board on August 5 is far too superficial, recommends that University Council refer the matter of the proposal for the separation of the Union and Sports and Recreation Association back to the Union Board so that Board members can consider the matter and have some input into it."

On this page we present arguments for and against the separation of Sports and Rec. from the Union. The "for" case is as argued by Mr Farley in his original proposal; "against" is argued by Martin Foley, chairperson of the Monash Association of Students.

One body?

'Secession' case

After 21 years, the Sports and Recreation believes that it has developed to the stage where the arrangements under which it exists as a body should be reviewed, says Alan Farley, President of the Association, in his submission to Council.

At present it comes under the aegis of the Union as one of the bodies associated with the Union.

However, it is virtually independent of the Union, says Mr Farley, except for the major area of finance:

- Geographically, the Union building and the Sports and Recreation Centre are not within sight of each other.

- Administratively — apart from the executive officer's dual role as Deputy Warden of the Union and the service provided by the Union Finance Officer — there is no overlap between the two groups.

- And, if Council approves, the Association will become a separate legal entity as soon as this is possible under the new Victorian Associations Incorporation Act.

Financially, though, Sports and Rec. has been completely dependent on decisions of the Union Board, except for the right of appeal to Council as provided under clause 6.2 of the Statute.

Says Mr Farley: "The Association has been concerned for some years that this dependence does not provide the framework which is essential if it is to continue as a stable body capable of planning and implementing continuing commitments to its members and the general community within which most of its affiliates operate. This heavy involvement of member clubs with outside organisations imposes a greater need for stability upon the Association than is the case for most other segments of the Union.

"The Association further believes that it has now developed to the stage where it must harness all the resources of its committees and staff to the task of ensuring that the Association continues to operate effectively. This concentration is necessary to try to keep the fees charged to students at a reasonable level by constant attention to costs and to methods of obtaining income other than from fees.

"The present arrangements are wasteful because key members of the Association spend a disproportionate amount of their time trying to overcome what can only be regarded as attempts by some segments of the Union to reduce the capacity of the Association to service its members. While some degree of conflict is positive and necessary, the negative aspects are unavoidable under the existing arrangements because the composition of the Union Board is heavily weighted against bodies such as the Association which seek to provide ser-

vices of a recreational rather than political nature.

"The Association therefore wishes to be in a position to devote all of its energies and resources to providing what it believes are worthwhile and much used services for all members of the University.

"It believes that the proposal submitted will — if approved — ensure that the Association is able to continue to make positive responses to changing student needs and desires. The proposed arrangements would also make it more directly responsible to its members and to Council."

Among the recommendations that the submission makes for implementing the proposal are these:

- The administrative body of each organisation — that is, the Union Board and the executive committee of the S & A Association — should make independent submissions to Council regarding the appropriate annual fee for each organisation.

- The fee for each organisation should be split into two components — recurrent and capital development — with the second being a fixed proportion of the fee for each organisation (not necessarily the same percentage for both).

- Initially, the appropriate fee for each organisation should be determined on the basis of its existing recurrent expenditure plus a proportion of the Union Development Fund income based on its historical percentage of UDF expenditure.

- Neither organisation should be involved in the administration of the other, except for a representative of MAS on the S & A executive committee.

- The S & A Association executive committee should be enlarged to provide wider representation of members of the Association, a representative of Council and representation of members not involved directly with sporting clubs.

- The executive officer of the Association to have no administrative commitments to the Union.

The case against

Recently the Executive of the Sports and Recreation Association submitted a proposal to University Council calling for the "re-constitution", or rather the secession, of the Sports & Rec. Association from the rest of the Union.

Such an item would have to be, if not the most important, then certainly one of the more important items concerning the Union that Council has had before it. Yet Council was asked to consider a matter which could have drastic repercussions throughout the entire University community on the basis of a minor "introductory" document. This was superficial to the point where it partly consisted of a thinly-veiled attack on the current structure and membership of the Union Board.

Council quite properly referred the matter back to the Union Board for consideration. This is where the submission should have been directed in the first place seeing that it is the Union which the proposal aims to cut up.

The proposal presented to Council was the initial step towards secession — one which would show Council its intentions, while by-passing the Union for discussion and comment. Such a step, coupled with the tone of the submission, makes quite clear the contempt that the Sports and Recreation Assoc. executive feels for the Union Board.

Without having a full, detailed copy of the executive's plans, I find it difficult to comment on the ramifications for the Union if the secession takes place.

If, however, we can approach the matter from a more holistic viewpoint we

may be able to understand the context in which the submission was presented.

The Union's current structure is not all that it could, or indeed should, be. No one denies this. Students, who provide finance and membership, have little control over the affairs of what I see as the body in which they should be taking the major role in administration and policy. Rather, we have a situation where University-appointed administrators have all the real power, all the resources and all the information, while students have been forced to be content with only nominal control of about 20 per cent of the fee.

The Union Board is, no doubt about it, a place where conflict between different groups takes place. That is the idea behind the Board, with its make-up of quite different sections of the Union. The Board is, in many ways, a forum where different views, different perspectives, different policies, are presented and argued.

As an example — one of the more important issues to come before the Board recently has been the setting of a level for the Union Development Fund. The long-running debate on the issue revealed some deep-seated divisions within the Board. Yet a policy was finally agreed upon, a policy which all sections of the Union have agreed to work under (NB: S & R policy was agreed upon).

Concept of union

No section of the Union, because it feels uncomfortable with the way the Board works, should try and destroy the very concept of a Union — a body made up of heterogeneous elements working towards the common benefit of its membership.

As I have said, the nature of the document presented leaves a good many questions unanswered. In the major area of finance (which, quite properly, is the only real area where Sports & Rec. does not have autonomy) we are informed that:

"... the appropriate fee for each organisation is to be determined on the basis of their existing recurrent expenditure plus a proportion of the UDF income based upon their historical percentage of UDF expenditure."

How such a broad and nebulous proposal as this can be given proper consideration by the Board is difficult to imagine. Only with a list of firm proposals for change can a decision on the merits of the Sports & Rec. submission be made.

The Union's aim is to provide students with the best possible, co-ordinated service, at the lowest cost. Hiving off such a substantial section makes it difficult to continue to believe in the concept of the Union as a package for all members.

Changes in the Union are no doubt necessary but the Sports & Rec. proposals seek a change for the wrong reason and in the wrong direction.

Martin Foley

MONASH REPORTER



A Sports & Rec. profile

The Sports and Recreation Association provides an extensive range of physical recreation, sports and fitness services to all members of the University.

It has been estimated that some 5500 members use the facilities regularly. In addition, community groups and individuals are permitted use at times when there is no conflict with members' interest.

The Association's facilities include the indoor sports centre (which contains 13 squash courts, a recreation hall, games hall, gymnasium, weight training room, swimming pool, table tennis room, coffee lounge, meeting rooms and the sports medicine room); 12 outdoor tennis courts and 35 acres of playing fields with four associated

pavilions; and the Mt Buller alpine lodge. The present day value of assets is some \$5.3m. The Association's recurrent activities are financed from two sources:

- An annual allocation from the Union Board and a small subsidy — if needed — for recreational services. In 1981 this was \$322,000 — about \$23 per head. Pool income and expenditure will be significant additional items from 1983.

- Hire of facilities to members and non-members. In 1981 income from these sources was \$161,000.

Total expenditure was \$483,000, of which \$315,000 (or 65 per cent of income) was expended on operating and maintaining facilities.

Monash man advises Arab Emirates on admin. course

A Monash senior lecturer in Administrative Studies is helping establish in the United Arab Emirates an Institute of Administration, to train better public servants.

He is Mr Peter Bowden who spent three weeks in the UAE during August advising on the course to be offered by the Institute and its staffing and recruiting requirements.

His work in the oil-producing federation, located on the south-east tip of the Arabian peninsula and not far from the Iran-Iraq border war, is at the invitation of the Emirate government and is being supported by the United Nations Development Program. It follows two earlier visits to the UAE — one in 1977 when Mr Bowden advised on central planning; and the other in 1979 when he made recommendations on the management and development of federal Civil Service staff.

It was in this second report that Mr Bowden suggested establishment of an Institute to provide training for the occupational and supervisory skills required by public servants and to provide research and consulting services on behalf of the Civil Service.

In the report Mr Bowden emphasised the importance of an effective machinery of government in the country's development.

"This effectiveness depends on many factors — not least of which is the quality of the people within the Service and of the systems and procedures which they use to organise and manage their activities."

Formed in '71

Once known as the Trucial States, the United Arab Emirates was formed in 1971 by the union of six independent Sheikdoms — Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm-al-Qaiwain and Fujairah — all of which were British protectorates. Ras-al-Khaimah joined as the seventh Emirate in the following year.

Exploration for oil in the area began in the mid-'30s with the first discovery and exports some 25 years later. Only two of the Emirates are significant oil producers — Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the former being by far the more important.

Like other Arab OPEC countries, the UAE's development in recent years has been particularly rapid, shaped by a "deadline" imposed by finite oil resources (estimates of UAE reserves vary from 25 to 75 years).

"In many countries awareness of the limit of resources has created a strong desire to use the current surplus as effectively as possible in building an economy independent of oil," says Mr Bowden.

"It has also created an unexpectedly strong commitment to central government planning in countries where it could be reasonably argued that the commitment to laissez-faire capitalism is extremely strong.

"This, of course, places special importance on the need for a civil service staffed by top-flight professionals whose decisions now are shaping their country's future."

The UAE faces problems in its rapid urbanisation and industrialisation in common with other States in the region undergoing a similar transformation.

One of the major ones is born of a native population which is small in number and inexperienced for the task at hand. Thus there has been the need to "import" a workforce — sheer numbers for the labouring tasks in construction and the new industries, as well as those with special skills for decision-making jobs.

Of a total population in 1978 of 850,000, only some 100,000 people were citizens of the United Arab Emirates. Positions at the top end of the labour market, in administration, tend to be dominated by Egyptians and Palestinians, and at the lower end by Yemenis and Pakistanis.

Of serious concern is the impact that such high levels of immigration could have on national security, on the future social and industrial fabric of the country, and on the erosion of traditional cultural values.

The temptation has been to promote Emirate citizens to strategic positions within administration before they have acquired the necessary experience.

A further brake on the quality of decision-making in UAE administration comes from the country's loose federal structure.

It has a federal Civil Service, supported almost entirely by the oil producing Emirates and particularly Abu Dhabi. In addition, Abu Dhabi has its own civil service. In the other Emirates, civil administration is managed by the Ruler's court.

The Emirs have guarded jealously their independence, sometimes acting in the interests of their own territories at the expense of those of the country. There are examples of excessive industrial and infrastructure investments and Emirate rivalries have militated against the adoption of common policies on the two most vital resources — oil and water.

The remedy to some of these problems over time, Mr Bowden says, lies with a better quality public servant — the product of the proposed Institute of Administration.

Among some of the ideas on the Institute Mr Bowden took to the UAE last month were these:

- It should offer a course structured similarly to the one at Monash leading to the Master of Administration degree.

As at Monash, the course should cover administration in the private as well as the public sector.

He says: "The combined public sector/private sector teaching at Monash seems to have evolved from pure Australian pragmatism: We attract more students that way. We are now starting to examine the difficulties that this approach has. While these may exist, there can be very large benefits too.

"Civil servants should understand industry. In all countries, governments have a very strong influence on industrial development; in States such as the UAE the government itself is doing much of that development."

- Co-operation among other Gulf



● Peter Bowden

States, such as Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait, should be pursued in the development of a strong Institute. These States face similar problems in managing their civil services.

- Affiliation with the UAE's fledgling university could have advantages particularly in attracting better quality teachers. As a semi-independent body the Institute would also have a stronger capacity for critical analysis.

Scholarships & prizes

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

Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Scholarships in Law and Medicine

Open to graduates under 36 years old Tenable normally for up to two years at either Oxford, Cambridge, St. Andrews or Edinburgh.

Benefits include: £280 per month living allowance, with additional allowances for dependent spouse and children; return air fares for scholar and dependants; £100 p.a. internal travel allowance; tuition, examination and other fees; books and equipment allowance of £200 in first year and £100 in later years; up to £100 for typing and binding of thesis.

Emoluments will be revised from time to time to reflect the cost of fees and other expenses.

Applications close in Melbourne on September 30.

Frank Knox Fellowships 1983-1984

Open to recent graduates who are British subjects and Australian citizens. Tenable at

Harvard University, renewable for a second year, and available in most fields of study. The award includes tuition fees and a stipend of \$US5,600 p.a. Applications close with the Graduate Scholarships Officer on October 15.

Woman graduate

Applications are currently being invited for the Caltex Woman Graduate of the Year Scholarship for 1982.

The competition is open to women (who are Australian citizens or who have resided in Australia continuously for seven years) who this year will qualify for a degree in an Australian tertiary institution or who, being already graduates, will qualify for a diploma.

The Scholarship is tenable for a maximum of two years at a tertiary institution abroad and provides:

- Reimbursement of travel costs up to \$1000.
- A living allowance of \$4500 pa.
- An allowance of \$3000 pa to meet approved tuition costs.

Students completing their degree with some distinction who are considering applying should, in the first instance, contact the Academic Services Officer, Mrs J. Dawson (ext. 3011).

Calif. dreaming?

Under an exchange scheme negotiated between the Monash University Council and the Regents of the University of California earlier this year an opportunity exists for up to five Monash students, undergraduate or graduate, to continue their academic work in the University of California for one academic year starting in the Spring Term (March 1983) without payment of tuition fees.

A Monash student who participates in the scheme will continue to be a candidate for a Monash University degree. His or her courses of study at the University of California will be developed in consultation with the appropriate Monash department/faculty.

Each student will be responsible for his or her own travel, living and incidental expenses. Inquiries may be made to the Academic Services Officer (Mrs. J. Dawson), Registrar's Office (ext. 3011), who also holds copies of the catalogues of the nine campuses of the University of California (Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz). Applications close on September 30.

Failure in reply

An open letter to Russell Blackford.

Dear Russell,

I have just received the examiner's report on your letter (Reporter 6-82) and it goes as follows:

1. Literary style — 99%.
2. Originality — 99%
3. Analysis of Central Character — 99%
4. Relevance to Topic — 1%
5. Content — 5% (for quotation).

Despite your magnificent results in classes 1, 2 and 3, because you failed to address yourself to the question at hand, but rather chose to attack the writer of the letter and the way he wrote it, we have no option but to fail you.

Your approach is very similar to what C. S. Lewis calls "Bulverism," which



consists of either attacking the opponent and his characteristics, or in showing that the opponent's beliefs are caused in some way, and hence, supposedly, false.

It is a sad thing indeed when people choose to play games, however sophisticated, but lose sight of the questions which they once addressed, and the truth or otherwise of truly important issues.

Perhaps this approach is not uncommon in our modern university.

Yours sincerely
The Real Charger
Brian Steer.



MUSIC

Mooncake festival

The Monash University Chong Hua Cultural Club has organised a concert in the Alexander Theatre to celebrate the Mooncake Festival.

The concert, which will feature exotic Chinese dances, Kung Fu displays, a Chinese Lion dance, and a piano recital, will take place at 8.30 pm on Wednesday, September 22.

Admission price: students \$3.50, adults \$5.

For further information, contact Greg Craanen 544 2726, or by note to the club letterbox.

Ars Nova to stage 'Carmina burana'

There will be a strong Monash contribution to what is believed to be the most ambitious production of "Carmina burana" attempted in Australia.

Ars Nova, under the direction of Bevan Leviston, will be staging the production in the Melbourne Concert Hall on Thursday, September 30 at 8 p.m. "Carmina burana" is an arrangement of medieval popular songs for choir, three soloists, two pianos and symphony orchestra with extra percussion.

Involved from Monash are members of the Modern Dance Group, the Choral Society and University Orchestra. The production is receiving funding from the Clubs and Societies' Council and technical help from the Alexander Theatre.

Ars Nova last produced "Carmina burana" four years ago with original music, medieval costumes and instru-

ments, and dancers. Music critics highly praised the performance with The Sun's Gordon Williams saying: "I shall remember the evening as one of the most exciting for 1978".

This one larger

The new production will involve more than 170 performers including professional soloists, a larger choir and orchestra and more dancers.

Tickets cost \$9.50 and \$7 and are available from BASS agencies.

And for full-time Monash students under 25 there's a rather exciting concession — any seat in the house will cost only \$4. These tickets are available through the Student Theatre Office in the Union.

Hillary to speak at Monash

Everest conqueror Sir Edmund Hillary will speak in Robert Blackwood Hall on Monday, September 13 at 8 p.m.

As well as giving a lecture illustrated with slides and film, Sir Edmund will answer questions from his audience and then meet members informally in the foyer afterwards. The film "Beyond Everest" — which features some of the recent activities of Sir Edmund and his son Peter in the Everest region — will also be screened.

The evening will cover many of the achievements of Sir Edmund's remarkable life including his 1953 Everest climb, yeti hunting and school house expeditions in the Himalayas, his journey to the South Pole in converted farm tractors and to the headwaters of the River Ganges in jetboats, and his recent journey through Tibet with an American expedition attempting the formidable Kangshung face of Everest.

Tickets, available from the Hall or BASS agencies, cost \$9 (\$7.50 for students and pensioners). Part of the proceeds will go towards the Himalayan Trust's school building and other activities in Nepal.

Student hosts needed

Organisers of the Monash Host Scheme need about 150 students to act as hosts for 1983.

Aim of the scheme is to introduce first year students to campus life and help them meet each other before lectures begin.

Co-ordinators, Terry Roche and Sahra Potts, say hosts are needed from all faculties and areas of residence. Each host looks after about 10-12 first year stu-

dents.

"Hosts get to meet each other, develop new friends, restore old friendships, have fun and actually find out things they did not know about Monash," the co-ordinators say.

Terry Roche and Sahra Potts can be contacted in the Union foyer at lunchtime on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday, or on ext. 3373.

MONASH REPORTER

The next issue will be published in the first week of October, 1982.

Copy deadline is Friday, September 24. Early copy is much appreciated.

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

ANZSES expedition

The Australian and New Zealand Scientific Exploration Society (ANZSES) is offering places in its next expedition to south-west Tasmania beginning in early January, 1983.

The invitation is directed to scientifically-minded young men and women between 17 and 23 who enjoy living under taxing conditions and are prepared to travel extensively on foot in a remote environment.

The five-week expedition will operate under experienced scientific and field leadership.

For a fee not exceeding \$625, expeditioners will be able to take part in worthwhile projects encompassing the earth and life sciences.

ANZSES emphasises that intending expeditioners must be physically fit and able to swim. They must have had previous bushwalking or tramping experience and proven qualities of vitality and determination.

The scientific phase of the expedition will involve projects in the Franklin-Gordon catchment region generally, while the adventure phase will offer possibilities of rafting or boating in any one of the number of streams and exploring other significant features of the region.

Applications for places must reach ANZSES no later than November 30, 1982. Application forms and further information may be obtained from: The Executive Officer, ANZSES P.O. Box 174, Albert Park, 3206. (Phone 529 3783).

Awards and Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan Awards.

* If a subject or unit is not discontinued by September 20, or 27 as the case may be, and the examination is not attempted or assignment work is not completed, it will be classified as failed. In exceptional circumstances the Dean may approve the classification of a subject or unit as discontinued between the appropriate date above and the end of the appropriate teaching period.

SEPTEMBER DIARY

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

9: ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURE — "Aboriginal Languages and Communicating with Aborigines", by Ms E. Fesl. 16: "Aborigines and Education", by Mr E. West. 23: "Aboriginal Art", by Dr N. Zika. 30: "Anthropology and Anthropologists", by Dr G. Silberbauer. All lectures at 1 p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3335.

1982 ELWYN MOREY MEMORIAL LECTURE — "Person and Intellect in the Development of Gifted Children", by Dr Maurice F. Freehill, Educational Psychology Department, University of Washington. 8 p.m. Lecture Theatre R4. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3011.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE — "The Study of Greek Inscriptions", by Dr M. J. Osborne, University of Lancaster. Pres. by department of Classical Studies. 8.15 p.m. Lecture Theatre R3. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3250.

11: CONCERT — The Sri Lanka Dance Ensemble presented by the Sri Lanka Club of Victoria. 2.30 p.m. and 8 p.m. RBH. Further information and tickets: Dr Perera. 797 7896.

12: HSC LECTURES IN ECONOMICS including "Causes and Consequences of Economic Growth in Australia", by Dr M. Watts; and "Role of the Market in the Australian Economy", by Prof. M. Brunt. 9.45 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. RBH. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2308.

13: ILLUSTRATED LECTURE by Sir Edmund Hillary, featuring many of his past adventures, plus the premiere of "Beyond Everest". 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$9, students and pensioners \$7.50. Tickets available at all BASS agencies.

14: CONCERT — 1982 Syndal Technical School Music Night, featuring an 80 piece orchestra and guest artists. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$3, children \$1.

15&16: LECTURE — "From Simple Vectors to the Design of Structures" or "How to design a bridge using string and balsawood", by Prof. N. Murray. Of interest to Year 4, 5 & 6 students. Pres. by department of Civil Engineering. 7.30 p.m. Lecture Theatre E1. Admission free (tickets must be obtained by ringing Ms L. Maher, ext. 3450).

16: PADDY'S MARKET — Arranged by Monash University Parents Group. 9 a.m. Union Building. CONCERT — ABC Monash Series No. 5: The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra conducted by Hiroyuki Iwaki, Michele Campanella — piano. Works by Schoenberg, Mozart, Borodin. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults A.Res. \$10.60, B.Res. \$8.60, C.Res. \$6.60; students and pensioners A.Res. \$8.60, B.Res. \$6.60, C.Res. \$5.60.

17-18: MUSICAL — "The Gondoliers", presented by Babirra Players. 8 p.m. Matinee Sunday, Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. Alex. Theatre. Admission: adults \$7, concessions \$4, children under 15 \$2.50. Performances also September 23, 24 & 25.

18: SATURDAY CLUB (Blue Series, 8-12 year-olds) — "Small Change", Murray River Performing Group trained circus troupe. 2.30 p.m. Alex. Theatre. Admission: adults \$4.50, children \$3.50.

21: CONCERT — The Monash University Orchestra presenting works by Malcolm Arnold, Corelli, Tchaikovsky and Haydn. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$4; students and pensioners \$2.

22: CONCERT — Uniting Church — Nepean Presbyterian presents Music for the Presbytery by the Melbourne Singers

and associate artists. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$4; students and pensioners \$2.

25: CONCERT — Word Records Australia present the "Resurrection Band". 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$7.90; students and pensioners \$6.90.

26: SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT — featuring the Chamber Strings of Melbourne. Works by Barber, Mozart, Nielsen and Holst. 2.30 p.m. RBH. Admission free.

29: LECTURE — "Jobs and the Curriculum", by Michael Norman, Monash Faculty of Education. First in a series on "Change in Education" organised by Eastern Metropolitan Regional In-Service Education Committee. 8 p.m. Lecture Theatre R1. Admission free. Inquiries: 277 7466.

Important dates

The Registrar advises the following important dates for students in September:

- 13: Third term begins for Medicine IV.
- 20: Third teaching round begins, Dip.Ed. Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in the second half year for it to be classified as discontinued (excluding Dip.Ed.Psych., B.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., M.Ed., M.Ed.St., and Medicine IV, V and VI)*
- 25: Third term ends for Medicine V.
- 27: Last day for discontinuance of a subject or unit taught and assessed in the second half year in Dip.Ed.Psych., B.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., M.Ed. and M.Ed.St. for it to be classified as discontinued.*
- 30: Closing date for applications for Commonwealth Postgraduate Course and