



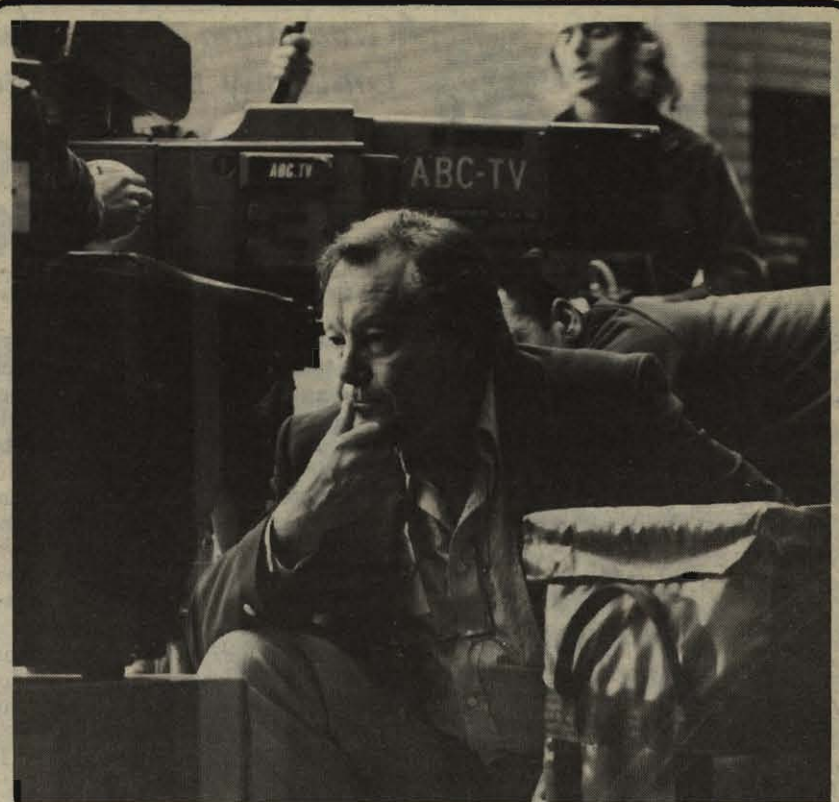
# MONASH REPORTER

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Right: Producer Bud Tingwell checks progress on a TV monitor while shooting proceeds in the Union. Below: Lecturer (George Mallaby) and mature student (Robyn Nevin) in an informal discussion — presumably about the course. Below right: Student extras mix with professional cast members and crew between takes in R7. Photos: Tony Miller.

## 'On location' at Monash

There were some well-known faces around Monash last week when the ABC Television Drama Unit moved in to shoot some scenes for a proposed new series "Degrees of Change".

If the pilot episode now in production gets the nod from the ABC, "Degrees of Change" will become a six or 10-part series, built around the lives of two students — one, a mature-aged woman seeking a new dimension to her life, the other her teenage daughter.

Jill, the mother, is played by Robyn Nevin, widely acclaimed for her role in "Water under the Bridge", and Louise, the daughter, by Adelaide actress Nina Landris.

Bud Tingwell is the producer, and George Mallaby, well known to "Cop Shop" fans, plays the part of a politics lecturer.

Locations used so far include the Union foyer and grill room, Rotunda theatre R7, physiology lab, manager Jeff Robinson's office, and a Medicine tutorial room.

All being well, the series should be seen on the small screen in about 12 months.



## The 'Razor Gang' proposals:

# 'A serious threat to research': V-C

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, yesterday strongly criticised proposals on education recommended in the Federal Government's Razor Gang Report.

In the occasional address delivered at an Arts graduation ceremony, Professor Martin said that the proposed introduction of fees for some newly-enrolling higher or second degree and diploma students "poses a serious threat to the Australian research effort at the very time when the Government is ostensibly seeking to foster and expand research, at least of the kind that can be seen to be furthering Australia's national goals."

Following the introduction of such fees Professor Martin predicted that "a significant proportion" of the next generation of the nation's brightest undergraduates will not receive postgraduate training in research — "training which is important for social and technological development in Australia".

He said: "Looking at the critical decisions that will have to be made, at all levels in all areas of human endeavour in the coming years, I

*'We can well afford to pull ourselves clear of the shoals of ignorance and prejudice'*

believe we will find ourselves grievously ill-prepared if, for the sake of questionable short-term economic savings, we accept financial cutbacks that will further reduce the flow of university-trained minds that can give an intellectual edge to decision-making in so many important ventures."

Professor Martin set his remarks against the background of the occasional address delivered by the Prince of Wales at Monash on April 16 in which he warned of the dangers of ignorance and prejudice.

The Vice-Chancellor said: "We cannot afford to fall further behind when, with the vast wealth of our natural resources still waiting to be tapped, we can well afford to pull ourselves clear of the shoals of ignorance and prejudice of which Prince Charles warned."

Professor Martin used the occasion to further criticise the

media for its "misleading coverage" of Prince Charles's graduation — the nature of the "demonstration" and the inflated estimates of those participating in it, and the total absence of reporting on the body of the Prince's speech.

On this topic he said: "The misleading media coverage had its predictable, and perhaps intended, effect. Loose, inaccurate, sensational reporting of this kind inevitably gives the host institution an undeservedly bad name.

"It is a tragedy that the research achievements of our staff, who earn such unqualified praise overseas, and the well-recognised quality of our graduates becomes — for a time at least — debased in the eyes of the regional community who, for the most part, must rely on the catchy headline and the emotive phrase for their view of the world and local events.

"They have neither the time nor the

inclination (nor, indeed, the facts) on which to form a proper judgement based on critical thought. In these circumstances, then, ignorance and prejudice must win the day.

"The damage caused to tertiary institutions and higher education generally by irresponsible reporting such as this is incalculable."

On the Razor Gang Report, Professor Martin contrasted recent Ministerial statements supporting the expansion of research with the decision to introduce postgraduate fees.

He said: "In November 1979, the then Minister for Education, Senator Carrick, spelt out the Government's response to the recommendations of the Williams Committee in its Report on Education, Training and Employment. He announced that the Government's 'policy objective' would be that of 'strengthening and concentrating research in universities'.

"The imposition of fees on some postgraduate students on the one hand, and of income tax on holders of Commonwealth Postgraduate Awards

Continued page 5.



◀ Graduation day — but not all students make it this far. How can the University help? A study on drop-outs and discontinuers has found —

## No value in exit interviews

A study conducted by the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit has concluded that a program of "exit interviews" of students withdrawing from courses would be of "little relevance or value".

A proposal for exit interviews at Monash has been raised at different times over the years. Such interviews, it has been suggested, would serve two purposes: as a method of data collection to monitor students' movements in terms of withdrawal and return; and as a source of aid for students in need, having the "therapeutic value" of demonstrating to students that the institution is interested in their welfare.

### Recent suggestions

Most recently, the Deputy Warden of the Union, Mr Doug Ellis, discussed the concept in an outside studies report and it was again mentioned in an interim report of a joint Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee — Universities Council working party on student attrition.

The HEARU study, conducted by Mr Nigel Lawler, was of two groups of students withdrawing from their courses: those discontinuing and notifying the faculty officially and those "dropping out" without notice. Students in the second category risk exclusion from the University and receive no refund on their Union fees. A representative sample of 1980 first year Arts students in each group was surveyed by telephone between December and March.

The study set out chiefly to gather information on these students' motives for leaving as a first step in assessing whether exit interviews would be appropriate.

This is what the HEARU report concludes: "The students who are discontinuing through official channels leave predominantly for non-academic reasons and many return to study although not necessarily to Monash.

"Students who are dropping out begin the process in general from the beginning of the year. Exit interviews appear to be too late for them and of little value to Monash as lack of personal interest is the prime factor."

The report recommends that an action of greater value to potential drop outs would be tutors emphasising the importance of formally discontinuing — in terms of eligibility for re-entering Monash — and the date by which this should be done (August 31).

### Wasted opportunity

The report says: "All students heading for inevitable failure seem to exhibit a detachment from their situation which is both a symptom and cause of their predicament.

"They seem to need to be made more aware of what they have to lose (in terms of a permanent fail on their academic record and formal exclusion), and that while to discontinue may 'waste the time already spent', it will prevent wasting any further opportunities to try again.

"Possibly tutors could be encouraged to discuss the matter briefly in early August to exhort the students to consider their situation across all their subjects and encourage them to consult faculty advisers and student counsellors.

"An additional preventive measure for these students would require that tutors give attention to early absences, for this concern expressed early in the year may have a significant effect."

The study of "official discontinuers" was conducted with a sample of 24 students — 10 per cent of the total number who discontinued first year Arts in 1980.

It was a representative sample and these significant features emerged:

- There were more mature age and part-time students than is proportional with total enrolments.
- A half discontinued in the beginning of the year, before May.

The major reasons for discontinuance were clearly non-academic and were the result of responsibilities and pressures outside the influence of the University: sickness 7 (29%); marital/family 5 (20%); academic dissatisfaction 5; financial/travel 3 (12%); change of preference 2 (8%); employment 2.

### Intention to return

Of those who listed "academic dissatisfaction" as their reason for discontinuing, no more than four — and possibly only one — had the classic "lack of interest — no work — inevitable fail" progression.

Up to 80 per cent of respondents indicated an intention to return to tertiary study in the future, with 58 per cent saying they were returning to study immediately (at another institution) or would do so in the following year.

The study of students who dropped out without notice was conducted on a sample of eight, representing 10 per cent of the total number of failed students in first year Arts in 1978.

Six of the respondents listed "academic difficulty and dissatisfaction" as the major reason for dropping out; the other two nominated "sickness/personal pressure".

Seven of the drop-outs exhibited the following characteristics:

- Difficulty from the beginning of the year.
- Inability to settle in to the University community.
- A personal inability to confront the situation.

These students had no constructive criticisms to offer of Monash.

The eighth student was a "successful drop out". She consciously rejected the University experience as being too narrowing, personally unfulfilling and not living up to her high intellectual ideals.

Five of the drop outs indicated an intention to return to study; two hoped to return specifically to Monash.

## \$100 prize for savings design

The Energy Conservation Committee is offering a \$100 prize for the best design for a notice encouraging people using University buildings to save energy.

The winning design will be used for a sticker to be placed adjacent to light and power switches around the campus, taking the place of Saintly Sid who, for the past one and a half years, has been imploring passers-by to "switch off and save". The Committee believes that Sid has been heeded but that, like all old notices, he may now be becoming "part of the furniture", so to speak, or have even peeled off.

In seeking a striking new approach, the Committee does not want Monash to lose the momentum in savings on the consumption of electricity and gas that has been achieved since 1978. Further savings are possible, it believes, as more people become conscious of waste.

Entries in the competition may be submitted at rough sketch stage. Entrants are asked to keep in mind a format suitable for a discreetly-sized sticker. The message should be directly stated and clearly visible, and the use of colour may be suggested.

Entries — carrying a name and address — should be with Mr Kevin Grace, University engineer and secretary of the Energy Conservation Committee, by Monday, July 20. The Committee will form the judging panel and results will be announced in Reporter.

## Monash to establish Neurosciences Group

Monash University is establishing a Neurosciences Group, which will co-ordinate the considerable body of research on the nervous system being done in a number of departments at the University.

The new group will be formally launched with a luncheon and seminar at Monash on Saturday, June 13.

The luncheon, which will be free of charge, will be held in the Physiology staff room. The seminar will be held in Lecture Theatre M2.

The neurosciences are concerned with understanding how the brain and nervous system function, and have practical applications in relation to problems such as mental illness, drug dependence, traffic injuries, alcoholism and neurological disorders.

Dr Lawrie Austin, reader in Biochemistry, who is organising the new group, says members will be drawn from a number of areas including Medicine, Physiology, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Psychology, Pharmacology, and departments such as Electrical Engineering where related work on bio-engineering is being done.

The seminar will be officially opened by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, and speakers will include:

Dr R. Westerman: "A neuroscientist's view of asthma."

Dr J. Pettigrew: "Visual-cortical plasticity."

Dr P. L. Jeffrey: "The role of glycoproteins in neuronal plasticity."

Dr G. Smith: "Psychoneuroendocrinology."

The seminar will be the first of a regular series which will be held every second Wednesday during term alternating between Monash and the Alfred Hospital.

Dr Austin says the group hopes later to organise graduate courses, graduate teaching programs and public lectures, as part of a community education program.

"The neurosciences form one of the most important and most rapidly expanding areas of research in Australia," he says.

"We believe that Monash is unsurpassed in the quality and experience of the investigators in this area and in the wide diversity of skills that already extend across so many departments and faculties."

Disabled people at Monash seek —

# Full participation and equality

Equality and full participation of disabled people was the theme of a symposium held at Monash late last month.

More than 80 participants — from Monash and outside — attended the symposium which was of relevance to both the disabled and able-bodied.

For the disabled a number of speakers made the message clear: "equality and full participation" will be achieved by disabled people making known their needs and representing themselves when their welfare is being decided.

For those without disabilities, speakers emphasised the need for a heightened sensitivity to the needs of the disabled. The advice: "It is quite easy to help; don't be shy or afraid that your action will be misinterpreted."

The day's topics ranged over a wide area — from discussion on the concept of a UN-declared International Year of Disabled Persons to specific Monash concerns. In one session participants with impairments spoke of personal experiences at the University, cataloguing hardships they had encountered and, in many cases, overcome, and describing the attitudes they faced — from helpfulness to apathy, even antagonism.

**A report on a recent symposium on 'Access, Attitudes and Awareness' organised by the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee for People with Handicaps.**



● Assoc. Professor Lawrence McCredie, sub-dean in law, talks to Dr Pat Hutson, who currently chairs the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee for People with Handicaps, and Sue Shaw, a Monash graduate. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ray Martin, in his introductory remarks, said that a 'charming letter' from Sue in 1977 convinced him of the need to establish his advisory committee.

## Role of committee

Most of the Monash speakers agreed that, on balance, physical access to the campus for the disabled person was superior to that in the community generally. Many improvements have resulted from the work of the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee for People with Handicaps established by Professor Ray Martin in 1977 to encourage disabled members of the University community to make known their needs, and take action to meet those needs. The Committee organised the symposium. It was opened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor W. A. G. Scott, standing in for Professor Martin at the last minute.

## Old buildings' deficiency

The founding chairman of the Committee, Dr Ian Langlands, spoke of some of the achievements at Monash — provision of ramps, levelling of entrances, installation of sliding doors, making available technical aids for those with hearing difficulties, installation of audio signals at pedestrian crossings and the like.

But Dr Langlands said that a major deficiency remained in the lack of lifts in the older two level buildings designed at a time when architects were not attuned to the needs of the disabled.

## Independence 'compromised'

A research fellow in the department of Biochemistry, Dr Elizabeth Cartwright, described the difficulties she had in gaining access in her wheelchair to one such building, the Biomedical Library.

"Everytime I have to ask for help I feel that my independence is being compromised," she said.

Dr Cartwright, injured in an accident several years ago, spoke of the experience of coming to grips with a new dependence on others.

"I have had to learn to accept and refuse help graciously," she said. "On the whole, I accept offers of help. For every time there is an offer to open a door or whatever there will be 99 other times when there won't be. I figure I won't get out of practice!"

Ron McCallum, senior lecturer in law and blind since birth, said that he was conscious of using the services of support staff more than other members of his faculty.

"The onus is one to be careful with resources and to work rationally and in an orderly fashion," he said.

Mr McCallum said that it was a fact of life that it cost more to employ a disabled person than an able-bodied one.

"Employers are not philanthropists, therefore we must try to be 'above average' to survive."

(Mr McCallum, who was Monash's first totally blind graduate, was recently seconded to the Industrial Relations Bureau. He recalled his welcome there: "We've never had a blind person here before... we've never even had an academic!")

## IYDP significance

A counsellor at La Trobe University, Elizabeth Hastings, who is a member of the Victorian State IYDP Committee, told the symposium how a simple change of preposition in the UN Year's title aptly symbolised the Year's significance.

Originally it was proposed that the title be International Year for Disabled Persons. But the "for" had been replaced by "of"—a signal of "a new experience in which disabled people are legitimately speaking for themselves and making their demands known".

Ms Hastings said that the Victorian committee was working on eight portfolios: access and mobility; income security, accommodation; recreation; education; public involvement; prevention; and representation.

"Representation," she said, was her particular concern — "creating mechanisms for disabled people to represent themselves". For too long, parents or "experts" had filled this role.

Ms Hastings pointed out, however, that income security was still the greatest need of a majority of disabled people. The tertiary-educated and professionals at the symposium formed a minority, she said.

"Disabled people are basically poor people."

The chief librarian of Prahran CAE, Mr Don Schauder, told the symposium that figures suggested that disabled people had eight times less chance of gaining a higher education than others in the community.

Mr Schauder, who is doing postgraduate research into policy issues affecting the participation of disabled people in higher education, spoke of the need for universities to formulate sound admissions policies which would give disabled people a security of expectation and freedom of choice in education.

(While participation rates of disabled people in higher education might be low compared with other members of the community, Mr McCallum pointed out that Victoria has one of the highest percentages of blind students in tertiary institutions in the world — in fact, in numbers, more than in all of the tertiary institutions in Japan.)

Steven Hurd, a law student and partially sighted, said that students with disabilities faced great problems at secondary school — dealing with enormous physical and emotional odds.

"What we have to do is train our minds to concentrate on people prepared to show love and understanding," he said.

Mr Hurd said there was merit in a proposal to form a national disabled students' union, involving students and interested teachers and academics.

## Hearing impairments

Dr Pierre Gorman, an Associate of the Education faculty who is profoundly deaf, described the experience of learning speech "not through the ear but through the eye." Dr Gorman said that lip reading was difficult when lighting was poor, when the speaker moved his head or when he mumbled. Every communication had to be approached on a trial and error basis.

Dr Gorman pointed out that studies had shown that up to 90 per cent of hearing-impaired people could benefit from a hearing aid.

Not all impairments are obvious, as law student Rob Hitchcock told the symposium. Mr Hitchcock is a diabetic and he described the difficulties encountered in lining up the strict regulation of diet to which a diabetic must adhere with the



*We must be 'above average' to survive*

Ron McCallum

*'Deficiency in old two-level buildings'*



Ian Langlands

University timetable, especially when lectures and seminars ran overtime.

The diabetic tends to be stubborn about his condition, Mr Hitchcock said, and usually faces great psychological problems in revealing it. Hence, erratic behaviour — the result of a diabetic reaction — can often be misunderstood.

## Liaison person

Caroline Piesse, assistant to the Warden of the Union, spoke on the role of a liaison person for disabled students (a task she performs at Monash).

Such a person, she said, had to have continuing, informal contact with disabled people, be accessible and be the sort of person with whom problems could be openly raised.

Miss Piesse said that she also liaised with members of staff teaching disabled students and often found "embarrassment and awkwardness."

Along with other speakers, she emphasised that there was no need to feel tense in dealing with a disabled person, no need to modify language (deleting reference to "seeing" when talking to a blind person, for instance), no reason to shout at a hearing-impaired person and so on.

## Misplaced compassion

Associate Professor Lawrence McCredie, sub-dean in Law, also talked of the difficulties which can arise between staff and disabled students, particularly the problem a staff member without a disability faces in assessing the degree to which the work of a student may have been affected by a disability.

Professor McCredie is blind, has only one hand and is partially deaf. He is chairman of the national committee of non-government organisations for IYDP.

In an address entitled "Disability and Misplaced Compassion", Professor McCredie said that the disabled student had two objectives — to have the chance to participate on an equal footing with other students and to graduate with a degree of equal worth.

In aiding these objectives academic staff could find themselves in the position of "having to be cruel to be kind".

Professor McCredie said that in requests, say, for extra time in examinations for disabled students, each case had to be assessed individually. Such aspects as the nature of disability, the complexity of the exam and the method of answering had to be evaluated.



## Monash at ANZAAS

The University of Queensland last month was host to more than 2300 delegates to the 51st ANZAAS Congress — the scientific community's principal avenue of communication with the lay public.

Several Monash identities made the trip north for the occasion — and a small selection of their contributions is published in these pages. Many more, however, have had to be held over until next month.

Among the Monash contributors were:

● Professor Michael Porter, Director of the Centre of Policy Studies, who gave the 1981 Giblin Lecture — an annual event recognising the speaker's contribution to economics, public administration or government.

● Emeritus Professor Ron Taft, who gave the presidential address to the Psychology Section of ANZAAS.

● Dr Alan Roberts and Mr Max Teichmann, who were among the principal speakers at the major symposium associated with the Congress.

● Dr J. E. Isaac, Deputy President of the Arbitration & Conciliation Commission and Deputy Chancellor of Monash, who gave the keynote address to the Economics and Industrial Relations Sections.

## Swedish expert to lecture at Monash

A noted Swedish authority on energy will give two public addresses at Monash later this month on alternative energy prospects.

He is Dr Thomas Johansson, a consultant to the Swedish Energy Research and Development Commission and head of a research team of energy consultants at the University of Lund.

Dr Johansson, who delivered a paper at the recent ANZAAS Congress, has been invited to Monash by the Graduate School of Environmental Science.

He will speak first at one of the School's regular weekly forums on Wednesday, June 24, on the topic: "Sweden Beyond Oil — The Options: Nuclear or Solar". This will be held in the Environmental Science seminar room between 5 p.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Then, on Tuesday, June 30, Dr Johansson will address a public meeting on the subject: "Solar Sweden — Alternative Energy Sources in a Cold Climate". This will be held also in the seminar room, between 12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.

# 'Military-security' view is no longer appropriate

Traditionally, Australia had viewed the Western Pacific region largely from a military-security perspective, protected by "great and powerful friends", Mr Andrew Farran told the recent ANZAAS Congress in Brisbane.

But that perspective was no longer adequate or appropriate, he said.

Mr Farran, a senior lecturer in law at Monash, presented his paper at a symposium on energy resources and Pacific Basin development.

Stressing the growing importance of the Western Pacific to Australian interests, he pointed out that Australia's exports to the region had increased from 47 per cent to more than 60 per cent since the mid-1960s and some three-quarters of our total cumulative overseas direct investment was in the region.

Australia's trading relationship with Japan was fundamental to both countries, as was Japan's relationship with the United States.

Mr Farran said the combined share of world gross national product held by the Western Pacific countries was increasing more rapidly than for any other region.

## Growth in Japan, China

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) had estimated that by the year 2000 the aggregate output of Japan and China would equal that of the United States.

According to these estimates, he said, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and, perhaps, the Philippines would probably "have lost their remaining features of underdevelopment" by then.

"Although China will not have become a developed nation, the eastern part of the country should, on the OECD assessment, be a significant industrial region," he said.

"And if its agriculture and demographic problems have, by then, been brought under control, China should also be a considerably more substantial political and economic power.

"Notwithstanding the recent chess-like manoeuvres over loans and contracts, the economic link being formed between Japan and China is expected to be another of the more substantial and politically significant developments within the region over the next 20 years."

Mr Farran told the congress that however much Australians might "wish to retreat into a less complicated world of moderate self-sufficiency", the external economic environment would catch us up.

## Responding to reality

"We may ignore the ideological politics, as they are now largely irrelevant to the issues of regional order," he said. "But we must be responsive to the prevailing political and economic realities."

If we resisted or ignored these regional political and economic forces, he said, we would be left behind in terms of economic and technological standards.

He added that if we were to advance technologically and culturally, we would need increasing contact with and exposure to situations and developments within the Asian-Pacific region.

One way of doing this would be to set up a "relatively low-key informational and consultative structure" in the region, which could act as a catalyst.

He believed that "outward looking, positive and sensitive responses from an imaginative Australian government" was an indispensable step in that direction.

Discussing energy problems in the region, Mr Farran said the oil bill of regional non-oil states, as a percentage of GNP, had increased from 2.9 per cent to 5.2 per cent since the 1979-80 price escalation.

He added: "The additional financial surpluses generated for the oil producers by this increase must be adequately re-cycled into the non-oil developing economies, including those of the region, if many of them are to avoid almost irreparable dislocations, and if major defaulting on international loans, particularly in the private sector, is to be averted.

"Any significant defaults on such loans could trigger off a collapse more devastating to the international economy than the once predicted political collapse of the Southeast Asian nations, as postulated by the domino theory."

On paper the contingency plans of the international financial institutions, and national central bank authorities, might look adequate, he said.

## Economic collapse a danger

But if a major financial crisis were to coincide with or result from a serious political or military crisis (for example, another Arab-Israeli war, or severe conflict in the Persian Gulf) we could be headed for a collapse of the international economic system as we know it.

He said the Japanese — almost alone among the OECD nations — recognised the seriousness of the present situation and the fundamental role being played by the principal international financial institutions, especially the IMF and the World Bank.

This was reflected in the kind of economic support they were giving to these institutions, in contrast to "the niggardly approaches being taken to them by the United States and other Western nations".

Referring to strategic questions, Mr Farran said the retention of anything like the status quo in the North-west Pacific required:

● A continued, credible US nuclear commitment to Japan.

● Policies and diplomatic action involving China, Japan and the US which were not overtly hostile and disruptive to vital Soviet national interests, including Soviet security.

● The development of capable Japanese conventional defence forces, to handle armed intrusions and threats within its own offshore jurisdictional limits.

## Limits to antagonism

With Vietnam, he said, there were limits probably to how far China could and would go with military antagonism. And "even if China is minded to teach Vietnam further 'lessons', Vietnam was unlikely to regard a nuclear capability as an appropriate response, given that Vietnam would always be more vulnerable than China to nuclear weapons.

He added: "The Vietnamese may not retain, and may not wish to retain, Soviet patronage indefinitely, and once the political balance in Indo-China is settled — which may not be far off now — the regimes there, whatever their professed ideology, will be preoccupied with economic development issues for a long time to come."

Mr Farran predicted that in all major political matters Laos and Kampuchea would continue under the dominant influence of Vietnam, but he did not foresee the Vietnamese "seeking actively to intrude themselves deeply into the affairs of the ASEAN states or attempting to destabilise those societies."

"There are elements of instability in each of the ASEAN nations generated from within, not fomented from outside — and the Vietnamese may interest themselves in these situations," he said.

"But if the ASEAN countries can now live more comfortably with China in this regard (though Indonesia continues to have reservations), then they should be able to do so with Vietnam."

A strong, independent Vietnam between the ASEAN countries and China, he said, would seem "more conducive to long-term regional security than an over-dominant China right in their midst."

# There's hope still for Abbotts Booby

On the opening day of the Congress, Monash zoologist Professor Mike Cullen was able to sound a note of hope in the ongoing saga of conservation-mining confrontation.

He gave an up-to-date account of the embattled Abbotts Booby's chances of survival against the encroachments of the phosphate miners on Christmas Island.

Christmas Island is the only breeding place in the world for Abbotts Booby, a seabird numbering only a few thousand, Professor Cullen says.

The bird is listed in the international Red Book of endangered species, and its survival had been thought to be in jeopardy because its jungle nesting habitat was being cleared for the mining of high grade phosphate.

The situation seemed to represent, in stark form, the classical conflict between conservation and exploitation, Professor Cullen told his audience.

However, he went on, "in 1979 a moratorium was declared on mining in the areas where the boobies nest while a survey was made. The bird's status was far from clear in spite of the alarm that had been expressed. This was because the trackless rainforest made it difficult to determine accurately the number of nests or their whereabouts."

The problem had lessened in 1967 when The British Phosphate Commissioners (BPC) drove a grid of tracks across the island to map the distribution of quality of ore.

"In 1974, the BPC showed awareness of the possible hazard to the species by appointing as 'Conservator' the best naturalist on the island to advise on the clearing of forest so as to minimise the danger to young birds still in the nest.

"Following the moratorium the Conservator has now completed the survey of booby sites showing where the nesting trees are and how these are located in relation to the blocks of land which the mining company wishes to clear."

Prof. Cullen went on: "There proves to be less incompatibility between the two interests than had been expected, with only 8% of the sites at risk, provided that the mining company keeps strictly to its proposals.

"Although the situation is less alarming than had been thought there is still cause for concern. It is not known how many nests have been lost to mining over the years and the species is ill adapted to replenish its numbers. On average it only lays one egg every two years, and the majority of chicks hatched perish before reaching maturity."

Professor Cullen says that present phosphate reserves on the island will permit less than seven years' further mining at the present rate of production.

"The government must then decide between the conservation interest, the mining industry and, not least, the implications of a restriction of mining for the 3000 inhabitants of the island



● Professor Cullen

some of whom have been living and depending on the mining industry for more than a generation, and for whom no alternative local employment seems likely. A decision is expected in the next month."

## New call for tax reform

In a paper calling for "fundamental reform" of the Australian tax system, economist Professor John Head said that the tax system and the taxpayer attitudes that go with it should be viewed as "public capital".

"If the tax structure is equitable and neutral and enjoys general public acceptance, sensible decision-making on public expenditure is promoted," he said.

"Our tax system bristles with outrageous design deficiencies and, as a result of decades of neglect, a major public asset in the form of taxpayer compliance and community acceptance has finally been disastrously eroded."

Professor Head said that "quite sensible" recommendations of the Asprey and Mathews Committees in the mid-1970s had been essentially ignored.

"Perhaps only a truly comprehensive Royal Commission exercise could provide the framework we need to promote serious and responsible discussion and public understanding of the real issues in taxation policy."

Earlier, Professor Head had emphasised the long-term nature of major tax reform decisions.

"The single-minded pursuit of short-term political gain or sectional interest under a system of majority voting will not produce meaningful or durable long-term reform," he said.

"As the recent debates have illustrated yet again, public understanding and appreciation of tax policy issues is minimal, and there is an overwhelming tendency to view potential changes in terms of short-term gain or loss."



● Bud Tingwell, Robyn Nevin and Nina Landris discussing a coffee-break scene during filming for "Degrees of Change" in the Union Grill Room.

## The young and talented 'singled out' to pay fees

● From page 1.

on the other, are strange methods of implementing such a fundamental and clearly-stated 'policy objective'. The recruitment of talented individuals into research and advanced study could not be discouraged more effectively."

More recently, Professor Martin continued, the Minister for Science and Technology, Mr David Thomson, tabled in the House a statement on science and technology which laid emphasis on their role in underwriting Australia's future economic and social development.

Professor Martin said: "Under the heading 'Basic Research', the Minister made a number of assertions which I am sure we would all be pleased to accept as orthodox dogma.

"His five tenets were:

- 'Basic research must not be ignored.'
- 'It is a paradox that, in order to apply science more directly and effectively to problems, we must extend our knowledge of basic science.'
- 'Without this foundation successful technology transfer will not be possible.'
- 'Basic research must be funded at a realistic level without necessarily being measured against short-term application.'
- 'The need of man to constantly

extend his knowledge of himself and the universe is an undeniable argument for the funding of basic research.'

"These are encouraging sentiments, but they lead us to ask: where is the pool of human resources so vitally necessary to fulfil these objectives? Who are the highly skilled and talented intellects who will perform the basic research, apply science, extend our knowledge, and effect the technology transfer referred to in the Minister's statement?

"We cannot hope to import such specialists from overseas for they will be needed to undertake such tasks in their own countries. The plain fact is that the young and talented Australians who represent this country's investment for the future, and who are acquiring the knowledge and skills to advance the welfare of the Australian people, are the ones singled out by the Razor Gang to pay tuition fees. It is their access to advanced study and research training which will be seriously inhibited by the imposition of tuition fees."

Professor Martin said that "this deliberate act of discouragement" raised doubts about the commitment of the Prime Minister to his opening statement to Parliament when presenting the Razor Gang's Review of Commonwealth Functions. In it Mr Fraser said: "The Review's starting point is that Australia's greatest resource is the Australian people and that the role of government is to enable people to exercise their abilities, their skills, their imagination and their enterprise."

Professor Martin said: "The young honours graduate who has survived the academic challenges of university and proved his outstanding ability, skill, imagination and enterprise, will find cold comfort in the Prime Minister's rhetoric. Rather than further burdening their families with the new tuition fee, many will abandon ambitions of undertaking Masters or Doctoral training, preferring to enter the work force prematurely, thereby gaining financial independence."

The Razor Gang's actions would have damaging effects on the humanities and social sciences as well as the sciences, he said.



## Neville Wran to give 1981 Calwell Lecture

The Premier of New South Wales, Mr Neville Wran, will deliver the 1981 A. A. Calwell Memorial Lecture in Robert Blackwood Hall on Monday, July 27 at 8 p.m.

This is the seventh Calwell Lecture which is organised annually by the Monash ALP Club. Mr Wran will be introduced by the Leader of the Opposition in Victoria, Mr Frank Wilkes.

# Bioethics Centre starts its work

As the anthropologist Kluckhohn put it: "Science provides only a car and a chauffeur for us. It cannot, as science, tell us where to drive."

The car, however, has started to roll while the passengers have barely begun to think about the direction in which they want to go.

The pace of recent scientific development in the medical and biological sciences, for instance, has far outstripped our ability to achieve consensus on proper use of the new knowledge. Many of the implications of medical research affect the quality of our lives and will affect the lives of future generations.

Making a contribution to the study of problems — ethical, social and legal — arising from medical and biological research is the **Centre for Human Bioethics** established by Monash last year as the first such group in Australia.

Headed by a steering committee representing scientists, doctors, philosophers, educators and lawyers, the Centre now employs two research fellows — **Ms Helga Kuhse** and **Mr Alan Rassaby**.

## Diverse groups

The multidisciplinary mix of the Centre's steering committee reflects its basic aim — to bring together diverse professionals, scholars and interested members of the general public to discuss problems which cut across the boundaries of traditional disciplines.

The Centre's establishment has been funded by the University but its continued existence and growth will depend on its ability to attract private funds.

Ms Kuhse explains the basis of the Centre's work: "What we will be aiming to do is promote the study of ethical issues raised by new advances in the biomedical sciences. We also hope to become a resources and advisory centre for various groups and we hope to reach some conclusions on selected topics — conclusions that are defensible on ethical and rational grounds."

"While we cannot hope to find all the answers we will at least be able to act as a catalyst in raising lots of questions. After all, how can we hope to find answers if we don't know the questions?"

The Centre's first project is on the ethical and legal aspects of in vitro fertilisation — a pertinent topic considering the world prominence in this field of a Monash-Queen Victoria Medical Centre team led by **Professor Carl Wood**.

A second project, in its planning stage, is on ethical issues as they are raised by the births of seriously defective infants.

The Centre's work on the issue of in vitro fertilisation is being funded in part by an \$8000 grant from the Myer Foundation. Plans are to produce a publication to which a number of scholars will contribute.

In examining the law in relation to in vitro fertilisation the research fellows have found the same "uncharted territory" **Mr Justice Asche**, a senior judge of the Family Court of Australia, described in a discussion on the law and the process of artificial insemination by donor. They will be seeking to make recommendations on what legislation may be needed.

Among the ethical questions they will be considering are ones on the selection of participants for in vitro programs, the moral status of the embryo, and the allocation of scarce medical resources.

Ms Kuhse and Mr Rassaby will be aided in their deliberations by some overseas studies. In the US — even though no medical team there has to date achieved a "test-tube" baby success — the Ethics Advisory Board to the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare has examined the issue and in its report, released in May 1979, described the medical procedure as "ethically acceptable" within defined limits.

As a preliminary step in the study on seriously defective infants, the research fellows have been seeking

## Two issues under examination

The ethical and legal aspects raised by:

- In vitro fertilisation programs
- Birth of seriously defective babies

information from obstetricians on what practice they follow in the case, say, of respiratory aid for a seriously defective infant with breathing difficulties at birth.

## Life and death

Ms Kuhse says: "Some of the problems we are considering are those raised by infants who have only a limited life expectancy, who will be dead before they are, say, three years old — unhappy years for both the child and parents. We want to find out what action is being taken to give or deny aid for survival and whether that action can be defended ethically."

Ms Kuhse describes early responses to a questionnaire sent to obstetricians in Victoria as helpfully candid.

Such an issue, she says, dramatises the potential conflict of a doctor's dual duties — to preserve life and to alleviate suffering.

Consideration of such topics necessarily brings the Centre's work to matters of life and death and an appreciation that medical technology has made the distinction between life and death no longer clear cut.

Ms Kuhse suggests that a connected treatment of issues in this area — including abortion and euthanasia — might be helped by a re-appraisal of the "value" of human life.

"The commonly held position has been that all human life is sacred from the moment of birth — even the moment of conception — to death. No distinction has been made between forms of life: life with consciousness and life without consciousness, for example."

She says that in recent years it has become widely accepted — including in religious circles — that in certain

cases it is justifiable to "pull the plug" on machines which artificially maintain the heartbeat and respiratory activity of a patient long after all electrical activity of the brain has ceased. The defence for this action is that the machine is playing an "extraordinary" role.

Ms Kuhse says: "The fact is that the patient on such a machine is not 'dead'. In my view, the real reason why 'pulling the plug' should be accepted lies in an acknowledgement that the patient's biological life is no longer of any value to him. To be permanently unconscious is, from the patient's point of view, the same as being dead."

"If we can make the distinction between mere biological life and personal existence at the end of life, this approach may also be helpful at the beginning of life — with regard to the abortion debate."

Ms Kuhse says that what, in effect, is valued about human life is the sense of being "a person" — possessing such characteristics as self-consciousness and rationality.

While the Centre for Human Bioethics is the first of its kind in this country, similar centres exist overseas. Perhaps the best known is the Institute for Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences at Hastings-on-Hudson, New York. Established little more than a decade ago with a staff of two, the Hastings Centre, as it is more commonly known, has grown considerably and now tackles a wide range of issues stimulating debate that is helpful in clarifying the problems.

The Centre for Human Bioethics is planning to build an association of friends, scholars and citizens both within and outside the University and also seeks private funds for research. For further information contact Ms Kuhse on ext. 3266.



## The Centre's two research fellows

● **Helga Kuhse describes herself as a "late starter" in the education stakes.**

Born in Hamburg, she worked as a secretary in West Germany and then later in Australia after migrating here in the early 1960s.

Seeking "something more rewarding in life", Ms Kuhse enrolled at Monash in 1975 intending to study economics so that she could pursue a career in management. She developed an interest in politics and ethics, however, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts honours degree in 1978.

In 1979 she returned to work as an administrative secretary — for the Dean of Medicine at Monash. During her year in that job Ms Kuhse's interest in medical ethics was fanned — not least by the many lively discussions with members of the faculty. Last year she did a year's work full-time towards a Ph.D. Her topic: the justifiable termination of life in medicine. She is continuing this on a part-time basis.

Supervising the work is **Professor Peter Singer** of the Philosophy department, a member of the steering committee of the Centre for Human Bioethics.

● **Mr Alan Rassaby, an Arts/Law graduate of the University of New South Wales, is a barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. His research background has been on the law in relation to the intellectually handicapped — a topic he pursued full-time last year at the University of New South Wales.**

## Law changes

Mr Rassaby moved to Melbourne this year to take up his appointment in the Centre for Human Bioethics. He also serves as a member of, and is research officer to, a committee set up by the Victorian Health Minister to inquire into changes to the law affecting intellectually handicapped people.

In his work for the Centre for Human Bioethics, Mr Rassaby has been examining the legal and ethical questions raised by in vitro fertilisation. Central to his study has been consideration of the question, "When does life begin?", with the answer having an obvious bearing on, say, what should be

done with excess embryos produced by the program.

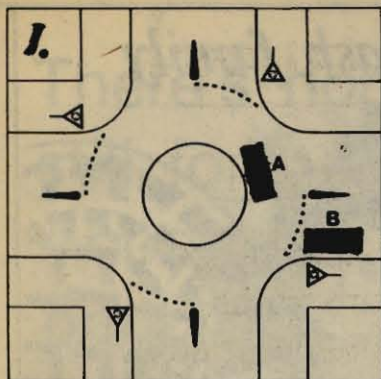
Questions arise too of property — who "owns" the embryo? — with a possible conflict of interest between doctor and patient and even husband and wife.

"Banking" techniques allow embryos to be frozen and stored for a number of years (theoretically up to 400). Mr Rassaby puts forward for consideration this case: if there is a delay of several years between the production of an embryo and its proposed implantation and in those years there has been marital discord, does the woman, if she desires to conceive, have sole rights over the embryo?

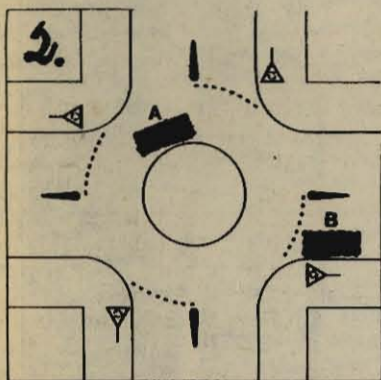
What, if anything, should the law do about the possibility of "bringing to life" a 20th century embryo in the 21st century?

Another aspect of Mr Rassaby's work has been on surrogate or "incubator" motherhood where the woman giving birth has no genetic relationship to the child. Can — and should — a contract be entered into which the woman in such a contract enters with the other "parents" be legally enforced?

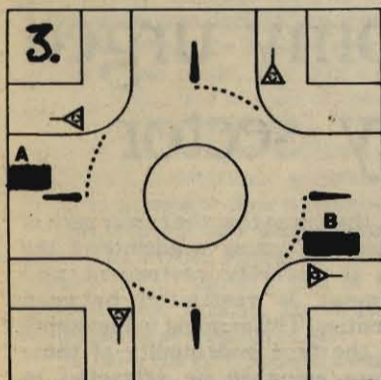
# Some advice on 'Who goes first?' traffic problems



Vehicle "B" must "give way" as it cannot enter the roundabout without danger of a collision with Vehicle "A."



Even though Vehicle "A" has entered the roundabout and is on the right of Vehicle "B," Vehicle "B" may enter the roundabout if there is no danger of a collision with "A."



Vehicle "A" is not within the intersection in this diagram. Therefore Vehicle "B" may proceed.

● Illustrations courtesy RACV

Following recent changes to the Road Traffic Regulations, the University's Legal Officer, Mr John Pilley, has prepared this article to clarify the position on campus. He deals too with correct procedures at two "trouble spots" that have caused more than one motorist concern: "Education corner" (where Ring Roads East and South meet) and the Normanby Road-Ring Road East-Howleys Road intersection. Incidentally, the University is currently seeking advice from ROSTA as to the best way of dealing with traffic congestion at Education corner near the University's main gates.

## 1. GENERAL

On University roads and car parks, the Road Traffic Act and Road Traffic Regulations apply. Thus parking and traffic movement within the University are governed in the same way as on public roads and car parks. The only exception is that the University has imposed a 40 kilometre an hour speed limit on its roads.

## 2. CAR PARKS

Traffic movement within car parks is governed in the same way as movement on roadways generally. Thus, inside a car park area, at intersecting laneways creating a cross-road, give-way-to-the-right rule would apply. On the other hand, where the laneway forms a T-junction with another laneway, those vehicles on the bar of the T have right of way whether they are on the left or right of the vehicle leaving the stem of the T. Vehicles moving out of the actual parking bays must, of course, give way to all traffic.

There is a popular misconception that vehicles leaving car park areas to enter University roads must give way to all vehicles. This is not strictly correct. The exits to car park areas fall into three categories:

- If there is a give-way sign or stop sign at the exit, the vehicle leaving the car park must of course observe the sign and the give-way rules consequent on that sign.
- If the exit in effect forms a T-junction with the University road and there is no sign facing the driver, the driver must treat the intersection as a normal T junction and give way to all vehicles on the University road.
- If the exit from the car park forms the fourth road of a normal cross road and has no give-way or stop sign, then it becomes part of an ordinary cross road. This situation applies at "Education corner".

## 3. EDUCATION CORNER

This intersection is presently an unrestricted cross-road with an exit from the south east car park forming the fourth carriageway of the cross-road. All vehicles therefore crossing the intersection or turning to the right at the intersection must observe the give-way-to-the-right rule. Left turning vehicles, of course, must give way to all other traffic.

Thus (excluding left turning traffic), a vehicle proceeding south in Ring Road East must give way to other vehicles on their right leaving Ring Road South. Vehicles leaving Ring Road South must give way to other vehicles on their right proceeding north on Ring Road East.

Vehicles proceeding north on Ring Road East must give way to other vehicles on their right leaving the south east car park exit and vehicles leaving the south east car park exit must give way to other vehicles on their right proceeding south on Ring Road East.

## 4. ROUNDABOUTS

The diagrams adjacent illustrate the situation concerning the obligation to give way at roundabouts within the University.

It is observed that drivers are frequently guilty of 'lane hopping' when entering roundabouts. Where the entrances are divided into two lanes, the vehicle 'A' in the first illustration should approach the roundabout from the outside of the two lanes. In the same illustration, vehicle 'B' should only be in the kerbside lane if turning immediately left. Vehicle 'B', if intending to proceed around the roundabout to leave by the road opposite or the road on its right, should enter the roundabout from the offside lane rather than the kerbside lane.

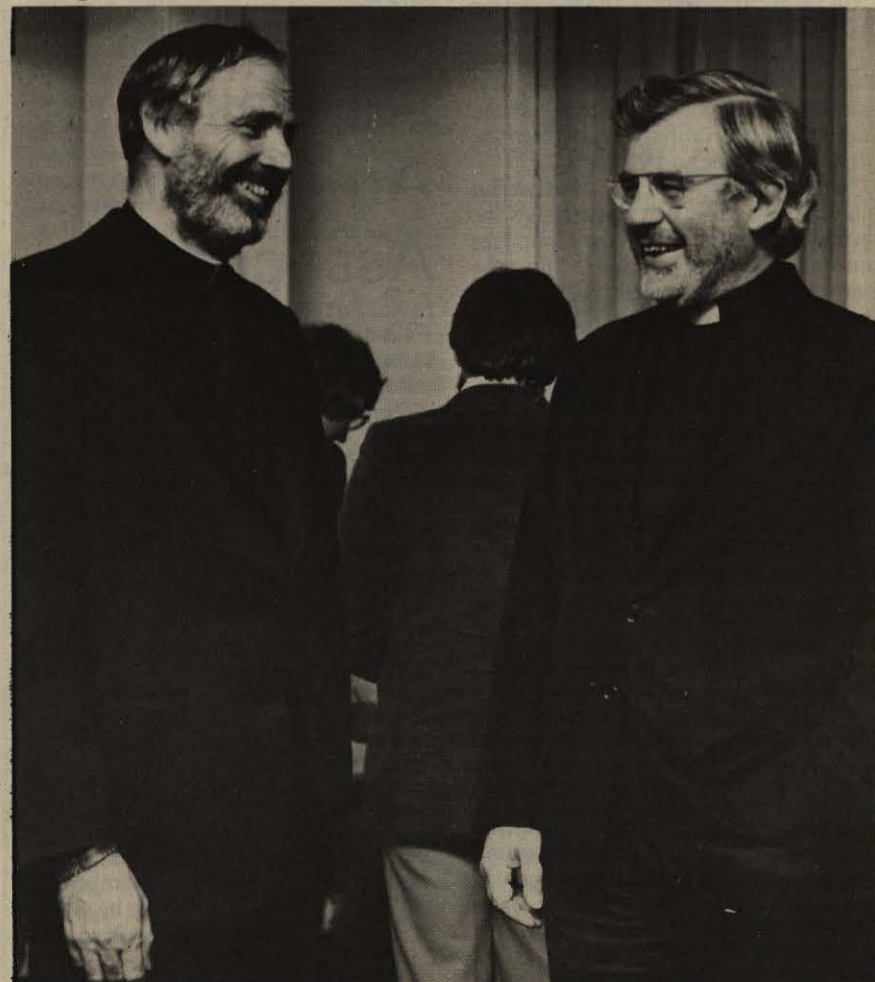
## 5. NORMANBY ROAD — RING ROAD EAST — HOWLEYS ROAD INTERSECTION

This intersection poses considerable difficulties because vehicles leaving the University face only a give-way sign, whilst vehicles leaving Howleys Road face a stop sign. The difficulty is caused when vehicles leaving Ring Road East turn right into Normanby Road. It is mistakenly supposed that these vehicles have right-of-way over vehicles leaving Howleys Road to travel into Ring Road East. No doubt the error is caused by the fact that vehicles in Howleys Road have to stop before proceeding.

The obligation of vehicles turning right is to give way to oncoming vehicles if there is a danger of collision. If, for instance, a vehicle leaving Howleys Road failed to stop and an accident occurred with a vehicle turning right out of Ring Road East, the driver of the latter vehicle would still commit the offence that he failed to give way to an oncoming vehicle. The other driver would also have committed the offence of failing to stop at a stop sign. The fact that he failed to stop does not exculpate the other driver turning right.

So far as civil liability is concerned, in the above example, both drivers would clearly be at fault, the respective degrees of fault depending on the circumstances.

## A farewell . . . and a welcome



● A joint farewell to Father Peter Knowles (left) and welcome to Father David Halstead (right) was held in the Union early last month. But Fr Knowles isn't going far — he is the new Master of Mannix College, replacing Father L. P. Fitzgerald who earlier this year took up appointment as Regent of Studies for the Dominican Order for Australia, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands. Fr Halstead replaces Fr Knowles as Roman Catholic Chaplain to the University.



# School peace in new industrial system?

An industrial relations system proposed for the Victorian teaching service could bring "a new province for law and order."

A Reader in Education at Monash, Dr Andrew Spaul, said this while delivering the occasional address at a Burwood State College graduation ceremony in May.

Dr Spaul endorsed the recommendations for a new industrial relations system made by a working party established by the State Education Minister, Mr Alan Hunt. He urged Cabinet to adopt the recommendations and teachers to ratify the proposals when they came before their unions.

## Direct negotiation

The proposed new system places heavy reliance on direct negotiations between the Education Department and teachers. When negotiations break down the normal processes of conciliation and voluntary arbitration will occur, carried out by a five-person judicial body to be called the Teaching Service Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

Similar conciliatory machinery will come into force to bring those in dispute to the conference table when grievances arise at the divisional or school level over breaches in the existing agreement.

Dr Spaul said the new system would have significant advantages over the present one.

He said: "It will force the Education Department to become accountable in its dealings with teachers' unions over teachers' conditions. It will improve procedures for salaries determination. And it will establish machinery to settle grievances and disputes.

"Of course, like any industrial relations system it will not remove the source of conflict or even stoppages from the school calendar, but the character and incidence of stoppages may well change. It will not prevent the 'wild-cat' strikes, but it will force the unions to work hard at seeing that their local members honor the agreements."

## 'Unworkable' system

Dr Spaul said that Victoria had been "plagued by an inadequate and at times unworkable industrial relations system." The Teachers' Tribunal, established 35 years ago, had not provided "realistic or progressive" methods of industrial relations.

"From the start, it has been denied appellant powers as well as machinery for the resolution of teacher union disputes. Perhaps just as significantly the Teachers' Tribunal has been defective in the processes of collective bargaining," he said.

Dr Spaul said that the Victorian Government in recent years was forced to acknowledge that there had been a breakdown in employer-employee relations in the Education

Department, especially in the post-primary divisions. Strikes in the State's schools now accounted for about 75 per cent of all teacher strikes in Australia.

Dr Spaul said that Mr Hunt had identified the source of the problem in a speech to the Australian College of Education late last year. That source was the Department's frequent failure to consult with teacher unions on matters affecting the long-term interests of their members.

Dr Spaul said that introducing direct negotiation in to the education system would not be without its difficulties. There was the question, for instance, of whether the Education Department's present leadership was capable of acting as negotiator in bargaining processes.

"They have not been trained in this field, unlike several of the unions' representatives," he said.

There was also need for a change in a "state of mind."

"Direct negotiations require not only a philosophical commitment to negotiations in good faith but also that the parties participate from a reasonably even power basis," he said.

"Some departmental leaders do not believe in negotiating with teachers, in a way almost reminiscent of a Director of Education who told the Queensland Teachers' Union in 1898: 'Teachers will have to be told plainly, to mind their own business — manage their schools well and let those who are charged with it manage the Department.' Fortunately in Victoria there is only a minority of inspectors who would cling to such 19th century virtues."

## Australian American Association

The Australian American Association is seeking to make itself better known at Monash.

The Association, founded in Victoria in 1941, states as its objectives: "to maintain and develop closer friendship, mutual understanding and active co-operation between the peoples of Australia and the United States of America for their advancement and strength in the interests of freedom and world peace."

There are three major groups in the Association: men's, women's and juniors (under 35). Each group organises a busy calendar of events including luncheons, sporting events, film outings and the like. Many functions are addressed by guest speakers and the Association would like to hear particularly from people who might fill this role — members of staff or students who might be doing interesting work on Australian American affairs.

The Association publishes a monthly news sheet and a bi-monthly journal *Pacific Neighbors*.

For further information contact Robin Rozes on 870 4750.

## All in the Monash family



Mrs Babs Bergin and her family have a strong Monash connection. Mrs Bergin, secretary to Professor Ross Parish in Economics, has worked at the University for about 10 years. And last month she saw her daughter, Lisa, graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree. That means all of Mrs Bergin's children are Monash graduates — sons Michael and Peter in Medicine and Anthony in Arts/Law. Anthony was the first to graduate in 1977 and they've come (almost) one a year since.

## Greater autonomy urged for university sector

Restructuring of universities is essential if they are to meet the changes that the economy and society are undergoing.

Professor R. R. Officer, of the department of Accounting and Finance, said this while delivering the occasional address at an Economics and Politics graduation ceremony early in May.

He said that what is needed in the university sector — rather than more money — is a greater degree of autonomy for each institution, particularly in the setting of salary levels and terms of appointment of staff.

Professor Officer advocated a system similar to that of the private universities in the United States. He said that institutions need more flexibility to align rewards (not necessarily financial) to value.

He said that it is "absurd" to believe that the system is being well-served now by uniformity.

"Nor is it egalitarian since it so clearly discriminates against the young and the transient," he added.

"The expansion of the university sector during the 1960s meant there was a place for good young graduates who were intent on an academic career. Moreover, the career path was attractive since there was room for expansion and therefore plenty of opportunities for advancement.

"However, things have changed dramatically — the sector is no longer expanding and it is likely to contract. Many of those young men of the 1960s have achieved their ambitions and reached the top or near to it of a static or even contracting profession.

"With 20 to 30 years of academic life still in front of them there is little room

left at the top so that the career path of any aspiring young academic of the 1980s is severely restrained and movement is restricted between universities. This is going to inevitably affect the type and quality of those who are going to be attracted to academic careers.

"The problem is further compounded by the rigidity in salary and terms of appointment. Automatic salary increments within a grade, cost of living adjustments and irregular but across-the-board relativity and work value adjustments are not the sort of thing that is an incentive to output. I am not saying academics do not produce. What I am saying is that the incentive systems that operate are not as well designed as they could be.

"A more flexible system where rewards were more closely aligned to value, not necessarily in monetary terms, would certainly assist and perhaps prevent a decline in the usefulness and prestige of universities.

"An obvious question is: How are the complex attributes of different academics going to be assessed?"

"I believe there are sufficient universities, colleges of advanced education and the like to ensure salaries would be set in a responsible manner. Those who paid excessively would find themselves with less funds to employ new staff and conduct their activities. They would be forced to contract. Those who did not offer sufficient salaries would find themselves without competent or sufficient staff.

"Hopefully, overall, we would finish up with a system that approaches private universities in the US. It is not by chance they are among the leading academic institutions in the world."



# Monash needs new gallery — art expert

A proposal for a Monash Gallery — to house the University's considerable art collection — has been put forward by Joseph Brown, art collector and dealer.

Dr Brown was delivering the occasional address at an Arts graduation ceremony. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the ceremony on May 20.

At the moment, Monash has an exhibition gallery in the Menzies building which hosts changing exhibitions. Works in its permanent collection are scattered in buildings throughout the campus.

## Funds sources

Dr Brown proposed that a new gallery could be funded from four sources: parents of undergraduates, industrial and commercial corporations (particularly employers of Monash graduates) and government.

Such a project, he said, would provide educational and cultural services to Monash students and act as a cultural bond between the University and the community.

Dr Brown said: "A University gallery is a place where students and members of the academic staff will be given the opportunity to enjoy and become more familiar with the University's collection and where they can go to be refreshed after a stint of hard study."

## Further gifts

He suggested that the establishment of a gallery might attract further gifts of work from artists and from donors.

Dr Brown proposed that such a gallery could function with the involvement of final year undergraduates aided by the staff of the Fine Arts department.

He further suggested that the University give thought to inaugurating the first post-graduate course in art curatorial management.

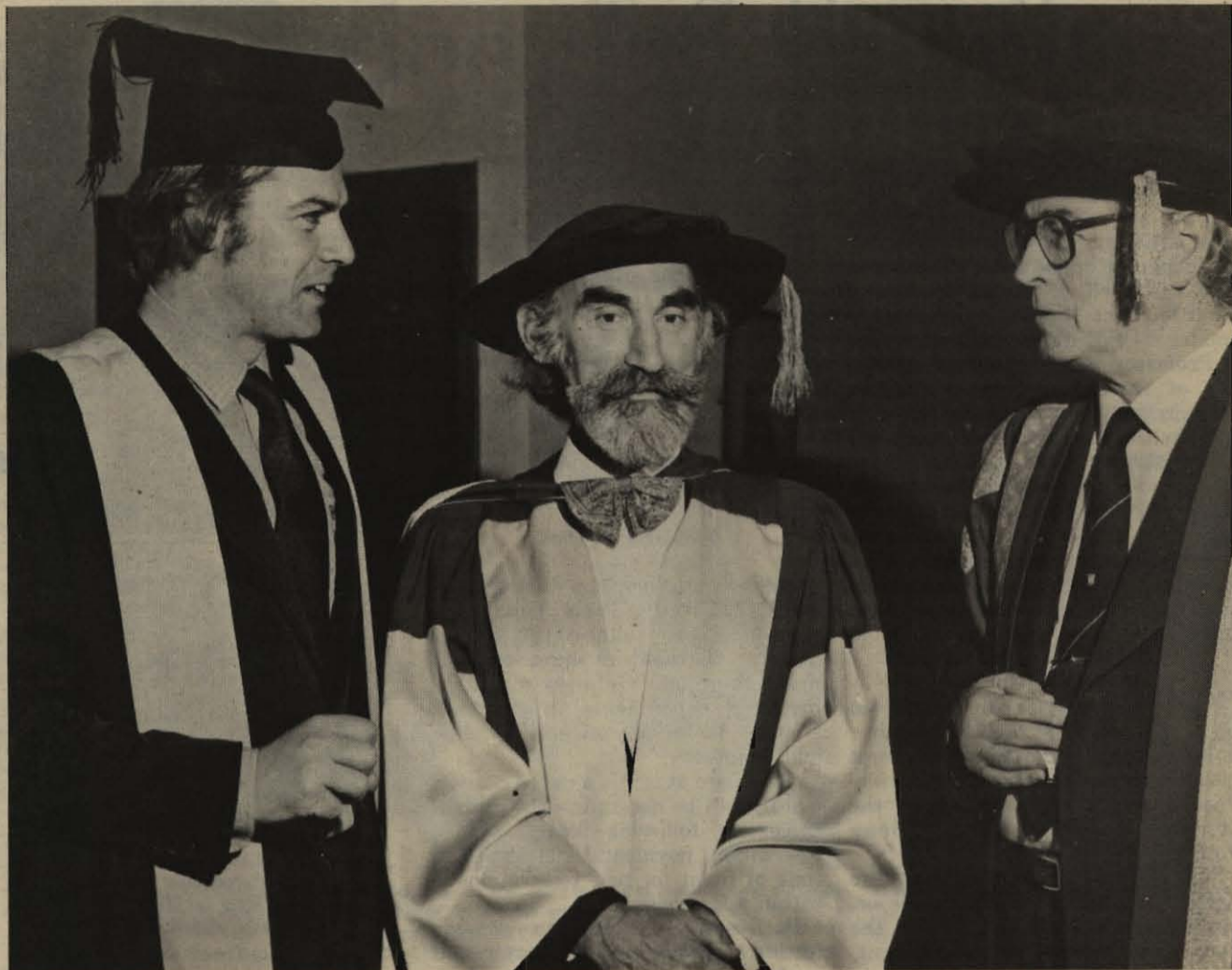
"What better practical experience for those who aspire to positions in State and provincial galleries?" he asked.

"Undergraduates could become more mindful of the responsibility to works of art themselves with less of the historian's concern with theory and dates."

In his address Dr Brown attacked detractors of the sculpture by Ron Robertson-Swann in Melbourne's City Square.

He said: "It seems that those responsible (in the City Council) did not have the perception to visualise the final dimension of the sculpture from the scale model which was selected by them from entries submitted by invited artists. When finally confronted with its unsuitability for an already over-cluttered mini City Square, a group of councillors set upon its denigration, helped by some sections of the art world whose notions about what is art were upset by this sculpture, and made every effort to enlist public sympathy for their shocked senses."

He described as vandals "those who



● Art benefactor Joseph Brown (centre) with Professor Patrick McCaughey (left) and the Chancellor, Sir Richard Eggleston. Photo: Rick Crompton.

were so loudly advocating its removal".

"Never mind the enormous costs in moving the sculpture! Never mind the risk of damage and mutilation to it! Never mind the artist's feelings and artistic integrity!"

Dr Brown continued: "Art will continue to prosper only when we learn not to begrudge the artist his full freedom of expression, and when the public in turn is free to criticise, to like, or dislike, within a framework of tolerance."

Art could not be blamed for the malaise of our times, he said. "It is the reverse that is probably true."

"Art has long been felt to be one of the means whereby man seeks to redeem a world from its violence, chaos and stupidity. If man's nature is such that he cannot act rightly and nobly by instinct alone then at least let us try to create such a life by establishing aesthetic and ethical criteria, and above all by exercising our free will.

"In the end, the art of living is the most important art of all."

## Meeting

The southern suburbs group of the Australian Federation of University Women (Victoria) will hold a meeting for new members on Friday, June 12 at 7.45 p.m. in the Vice-Chancellor's residence.

Senior lecturer in English, Mrs Jennifer Strauss, will give a poetry reading and talk on the subject "Will Academia Kill Your Creativity?"

Membership of AFUW is open to all women graduates. Those intending to attend the meeting should contact Dr Marian Aveling in the History department on ext. 2176 by Friday, June 5.

## Tribute to art benefactor

Joseph Brown had a distinguished record of service and benefaction to the arts and the community.

Professor Patrick McCaughey, chairman of Visual Arts, said this in the citation for the conferring of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Dr Brown at an Arts graduation ceremony last month.

Professor McCaughey said that Dr Brown, who arrived in Melbourne from Poland in 1933 at the age of 15 unable to speak a word of English, had shown an "indefatigable enthusiasm" for Australian art.

He said that for the last 15 years the Joseph Brown Gallery had provided a steady flow of major survey exhibitions of Australian art.

"Each survey brought forth new and unfamiliar examples of the work of established and familiar figures as well as bringing to light artists whose contributions had been overlooked or neglected," Professor McCaughey said. "Every major museum and many provincial galleries in this country have benefited from Joseph Brown's industry in unearthing major examples of Australian art and bringing them into the public domain."

Professor McCaughey said that, as an art dealer, Dr Brown had made another major contribution to general understanding and appreciation of Australian art: "He has brought back to Australia works by Australians who had spent extended periods abroad and whose work was barely known or represented in Australian collections." John Peter Russell and Roy de Maistre were two such cases.

Professor McCaughey described Dr Brown's personal collection as "the most

complete survey of Australian art, from its very beginnings in those artists who accompanied the first explorers to the most recent developments in Australian painting and sculpture, ever assembled privately in this country." It had been the subject of a major book, *Outlines of Australian Art*.

He said that Dr Brown, through all his activities as an art dealer, had sought to benefit the wider art audience and to increase public awareness and understanding. He had been a generous donor to public institutions "not least Monash University".

Professor McCaughey thanked Dr Brown for the promised gift of his library to Monash.

"It is a gift of the greatest magnitude and will go a long way to creating at Monash University a centre for the study of Australian art, a centre which does not exist anywhere in Australia at present."

## Symposium

A symposium on "Human Development in the '80s", organised by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, is to be held in the private dining room of the Union on June 4 and 5.

The symposium will involve representatives from the business sector, government departments and agencies, voluntary services and local communities.

For further information contact Barry L. Oakley on 531 3467.

# 'Do-it-yourself' space projects with Shuttle

An opportunity exists to conduct your own space experiments from America's Space Shuttle under a recently-announced "Getaway Special" program offered by NASA.

The scheme offers academic institutions, businesses and individuals the opportunity to fly small, self-contained payloads on future Shuttle flights at a cost of approximately \$US50 a pound.

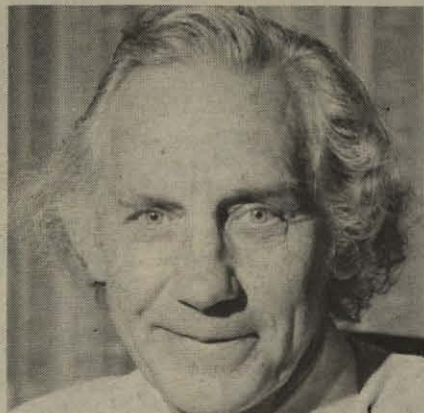
Professor Kevin Westfold, professor of astronomy, says that this bargain price is possible because the large scheduled Spacelab experiments will essentially meet the costs of each flight, but these will not occupy the whole of the room available in the craft.

The payloads now being offered are contained in cylindrical aluminium canisters of three specific sizes: 200lb (for a total cost of \$US10,000), 100lb (\$US5000) and 60lb (\$US3000).

Professor Westfold says:

"Any such canister can be reserved by sending \$US500 to NASA with a letter stating that the cheque is earnest money for a flight in the Getaway Special program. Space within the canister may be shared among different experiments.

"It is only necessary that the payload not be hazardous to the orbiter and its crew and be for the purpose of research or development. Its nature need not be disclosed.



● Professor Westfold

"However, it appears that already some 225 individuals (including students) and organisations in a number of countries have reserved more than 320 Getaway Specials, involving experiments in materials science, biological science, physics, and astronomy.

"The date at which a user's canister will fly will be determined by a flight agreement following receipt of the reservation payment. The expected time of flight for new reservations is within a few years."

Professor Westfold can provide further information to those interested in this opportunity.



The weighty considerations of experimental venture with the Space Shuttle were far from the minds of these youthful vacation visitors to the campus. They found release from everyday care in much more serene pursuits.

## Managing the oceans

University of Pittsburgh professor of environmental health engineering, Professor Maurice Shapiro, will be keynote speaker at the Marine Environment Barrier Reef Conference to be held at James Cook University, Townsville, from July 8 to 10.

Professor Shapiro, foundation director of the Westernport Bay Environmental Study and visiting member of the Science faculty at Monash and Melbourne universities in 1973-74, is currently researching the effects of energy conversion systems and alternative technologies on human health. His other mainstream research interests have been in the field of physiological aspects of water quality,

the social and economic determinants of environmental planning, and quality and health aspects of energy policy.

His Townsville address will be on "The Interdisciplinary Foundation of Managing the Aquatic Environment".

The conference is being organised by the National Committee on Environmental Engineering of The Institution of Engineers, Australia. It is the seventh in a series of national conferences with an environmental engineering topic.

For further information contact Mrs Mary Williams, conference secretary, The Institution of Engineers, Aust., 11 National Circuit, Barton, A.C.T. 2600 (062) 73 3633.



## Important dates

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

- 8: Queen's Birthday holiday.
- 12: Applications for discontinuation of all studies in undergraduate courses in the faculty of Engineering with a request to resume studies in 1982 will not normally be considered after this date. First half year ends for B.Ed., B.Sp.Ed., Dip.Ed.Psych. and M.Ed.St.
- 15: Closing date for mid-year applications for higher degrees — faculty of Education.
- 19: Lectures in subjects and units taught in the first half-year for B.Ec., and M.Admin. end.
- 22: Second teaching round begins, Dip.Ed.
- 26: First half-year topics in Mathematics end.
- 27: First half-year ends for LL.M. by coursework. Second term ends for Medicine V.
- 29: Applications open for entry to Bachelor of Social Work. Mid-year break begins for B.Juris. and LL.B.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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

### Harkness Fellowships — 1982 Awards

Four Fellowships for study and travel in the United States, tenable for between 12 and 21 months. Open to persons over 21 years and preferably under 36 years of age. Awards include return fares to the US, living and family allowances, travel allowance and research expenses. Further information can be obtained from Mr D. J. Kelly (ext. 2009). Applications close at Monash on August 31.

A 1980 honours student in the department of Electrical Engineering has won a State prize with his final year project.

Ian Butler, who has now joined the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, won the Institution of Radio and Electronics Engineers Australia (Melbourne Division) student prize for the best final year project in Victoria. His project will be considered now for a national award.

Ian designed and built an electronic instrument to measure the efficiency of a solar collector designed and built previously in the department.

The project was supervised by Mr P. Hession, a senior tutor in Electrical Engineering, and was part of a larger solar energy project supervised by Associate Professor W. J. Bonwick and supported by a grant from the National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Council.

Ian is pictured here with the efficiency measuring instrument which compares the amount of energy extracted as heat from the solar collector with the total solar energy received. The solar collector is pictured behind. Photo: Peter Herforth.

## London house

Off to London between August this year and January '82?

An academic planning to visit Australia over that period is offering his three-bedroom house for rent to a member of staff. The house, in a pleasant area of south-west London, is close to transport, shops and schools. It is fully furnished and equipped. The owner is seeking about 70 pounds a week although the rent can be negotiated.

For further information contact Mr or Mrs Harrison in Melbourne on 592 1510 or write to M. Gaita, 58 Marney Road, London SW 11.

## Death of Professor Pat Higgins

Professor Pat Higgins, who was the first Reader to be appointed in the Monash Law school, died on May 6, 1981. He was aged 68.

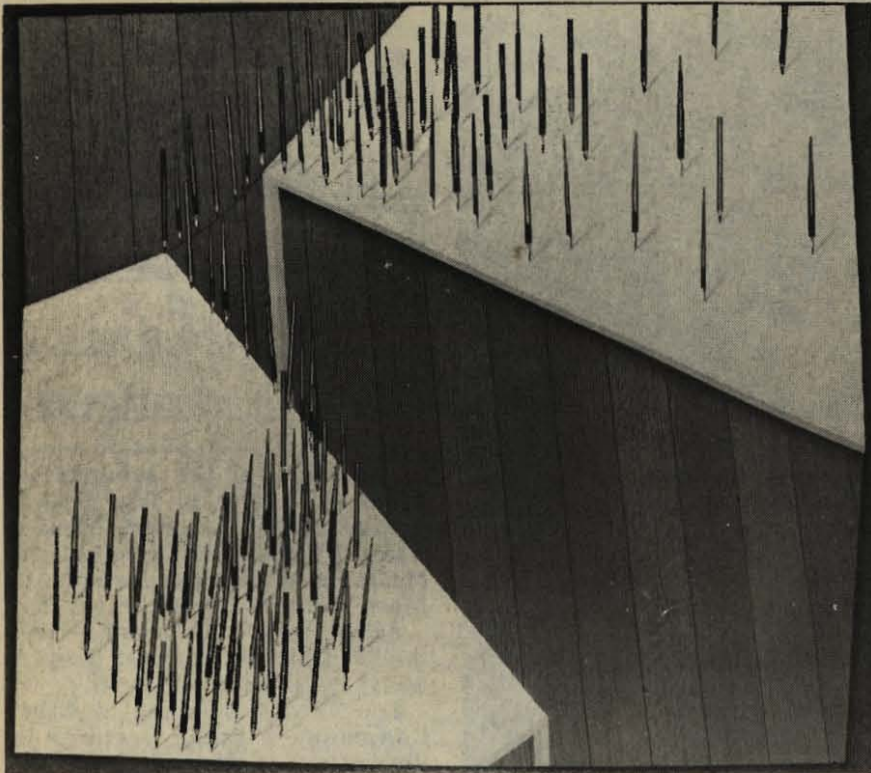
In his three years as a member of the full-time staff from 1968 to 1970 Pat won the affection and high regard of his colleagues and of his students. While at the University he completed the second Australian edition of Cheshire and Fifoot's *Law of Contract* and wrote *Elements of Torts in Australia*. In the preface to the latter

he made generous reference to the support and encouragement he had received here.

In 1971 Pat joined the Department of Law at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology. He was appointed to a Chair there in 1977 and retired at the end of 1980.

Pat is survived by his wife Rosalie whose address is: "Willow Cottage", 35 Mill Street, Caerleon, Gwent, UK.

Professor Louis Waller  
Law



## The graphic work of John Brack

An exhibition of drawings by the important Australian artist, John Brack, will be held in the Exhibition Gallery at Monash from June 10 to July 10.

The exhibition, drawn from a number of sources, will feature a wide range of the artist's graphic work completed over the last 40 years. It is to be opened by Professor Emeritus Sir Joseph Burke, former head of the Fine Arts department at Melbourne University.

John Brack, born in 1920, studied at the National Gallery Art School from 1938-40 and 20 years later became head of that School.

His first one-man exhibition was held in Melbourne in 1953 and many more have followed — at the Rudy Komon Gallery in Sydney, the

Australian Galleries and Joseph Brown Gallery in Melbourne, and in Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide. Overseas he has also been represented in many notable exhibitions.

Brack is represented in all State galleries and in the Australian National Gallery collection as well as overseas collections. There are several of his works in the Monash collection, including the controversial painting "Crossing" of 1978 (pictured above).

Brack, an author himself, was the subject of a monograph by Ronald Millar, published in 1971.

The Exhibition Gallery is located in the Visual Arts department on the seventh floor of the Menzies building. It is open Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## This month's exhibitions



An exhibition of books by two early Australian children's authors, Ethel Turner and Mary Grant Bruce, is being held currently in the Main Library.

The exhibition, titled *Seven Little Billabongs*, will be on until June 28 in the exhibition space adjacent to the rare book room.

The exhibition takes its name from a book published in 1979 on the two authors by a senior lecturer in English at Monash, Miss Brenda Niall.

Books in the display have been donated to the Monash Library by a Friend of the Library, Mr Lindsay Shaw. Many of the works in the two collections of the authors' writings are in first editions. In the case of Mary Grant Bruce, Mr Shaw has donated a complete set of her fiction.

He has formed the collections over the last 10 years and, after publication of Miss Niall's book and demonstration of a scholarly interest in the authors at Monash, decided that they would be appropriately housed in the Library here.

● Lindsay Shaw, Brenda Niall (right) and Susan Radvansky, rare books librarian, peruse books in the exhibition.

## JUNE 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.

4-6: **COMEDY** — "Same Time Next Year", presented by the Victorian Arts Council and Alexander Theatre. 8 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults \$9.50; students and pensioners \$6.50. Party concessions available.

4-28: **BOOK EXHIBITION** — "Seven Little Billabongs", works by Ethel Turner and Mary Grant Bruce. Rare Book Room, Main Library. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission free.

5: **CONCERT** — State University of California, Long Beach Choir with associate artists, Kew Citizens' Band. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$6.70; pensioners, students, children \$3.70. Tickets from BASS outlets or Ian Mathers, 878 3132.

6: **SATURDAY CLUB** — (Blue Series, 8-13 year-olds) — "Switchover", presented by Kooka Puppets Company. 2.30 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults \$4, children \$3. Blue Series subscriptions still available.

9: **LECTURE** — "The Whys and Wherefores of Human Nutrition", by Dr M. L. Wahlqvist, Deakin University. Pres. by Pantry Co-op. 8 p.m. Lecture Theatre R7. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3195.

10: **CONCERT** — ABC Monash Series No. 2: The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra conducted by Hiroyuki Iwaki,

Melisande Chauveau — piano. Works by Ishii, Rachmaninov, Bartok. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults A. Res. \$9.50, B. Res. \$7.70, C. Res. \$5.70; students and pensioners A. Res. \$7.70, B. Res. \$5.70, C. Res. \$4.80.

10-30: **EXHIBITION** — John Brack Drawings, works from the 1940s to 1980. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Exhibition Gallery, Menzies Building. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2117.

11: **ABORIGINAL STUDIES LECTURE** — "20th Century Australian History from an Aboriginal Perspective", by Narida Blair, Watsonia Community Welfare Training Institute. 18: "Racism in Australia", by Al Grassby, Commissioner for Human Relations. 25: "A Personal Experience of Racism", by Marcia Langton, Aust. Institute for Aboriginal Studies. All lectures at 1 p.m. Lecture Theatre R6. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3335. (All lectures repeated at 5.30 p.m., Hercus Lecture Theatre, University of Melbourne).

11-13: **MUSICAL** — "Can Can", presented by Monash University Musical Theatre Company. 8 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults \$4.50; students and pensioners \$2.50. Party concessions available. Performances also June 17-20, gala supper on June 12 & 17.

12: **AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN** — meeting, talk and poetry reading, followed by champagne supper. Guest speaker, Jenny Strauss: "Will Academia Kill Your Creativity?" 7.45 p.m. Vice-Chancellor's Residence. Admission: \$2. New members welcome. Inquiries: ext. 2176.

13: **SATURDAY CLUB** — (Red Series, 5-8 year-olds) — "The Dragon and the Mandarin", presented by the Victorian State Opera. 2.30 p.m. Alex Theatre. Admission: adults \$4, children \$3. Red Series subscriptions still available.

**CONCERT** — Melbourne Youth Music Council presents the Percy Grainger Youth Orchestra conducted by Bruce Worland, John Antill Youth Band conducted by Robert Butcher, the Junior Strings conducted by John Hopkins and the Secondary Stringers conducted by Sue Pierotti. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$3, concession \$1. Tickets available at the door.

15: **MIGRANT STUDIES SEMINAR**: — "Cultural Awareness Training for Professionals", by Mr Peter Fotiades, Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. 29: "Ethnic Schools: are they the solution to children's accommodation to Australia?", by Dr Brian Bullivant, faculty of Education. All seminars at 7.30 p.m. Lecture Theatre R3. Admission free. Inquiries: exts. 2825/2925.

**LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — organ recital by Glenys March, Victorian College of the Arts. 1.15 p.m. RBH. Admission free.

19: **CONCERT** — "The Story of Rara Mendut", a traditional Javanese story presented in dance, drama, puppetry and gamelan music led by Poedijono. Presented by department of Music. 8 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults \$3; students and pensioners \$2.50; children \$1.50. Tickets at RBH.

22: **LUNCHTIME CONCERT** — organ recital by Terry Norman, Ballarat Institute of Catholic Education. 1.15 p.m. RBH. Admission free.

24: **CONCERT** — The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra conducted by Hiroyuki Iwaki presents a Special 20th Century Concert. Works by Schoenberg, Bartok, Lutoslawski, Barry Conyngham, Ligeti. 8 p.m. RBH. Adults A. Res. \$9.50, B. Res. \$7.70, C. Res. \$5.70; students and pensioners A. Res. \$7.70, B. Res. \$5.70, C. Res. \$4.80.

**SEMINAR** — "Preparing for Leasing: Accounting for Leases; the US Experience; Financing Effects", pres. by department of Accounting and Finance. Registration fee: \$65 (includes dinner, papers). Further information: Mrs L. McCusker, ext. 2324.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM** — "Sweden Beyond Oil — The Options: Nuclear or Solar", by Dr Thomas B. Johansson, consultant to Swedish Energy Research and Development Commission. 5 p.m. Room 137, First Year Physics Building. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3839.

25: **CONCERT** — Monash University Evangelical Union presents the US group "Liberated Wailing Wall" who will perform Jewish music about the Messiah. 1 p.m. RBH. Admission free.

25-26: **RED CROSS MOBILE BLOOD BANK** will be visiting Monash University. 9.45 a.m.-3 p.m. Arts Assembly Rooms SG01-SG04. Appointments must be made at the Union Desk. Inquiries: ext. 3143.

30: **LECTURE** — "Solar Sweden — Alternative Energy Sources in a Cold Climate", by Dr Thomas B. Johansson. Pres. by Monash Graduate School of Environmental Science. 12.30 p.m. Room 137, First Year Physics Building. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3839.



● The female members of the Can Can dance ensemble ... in rehearsal for opening night, June 11.

## Cole's 'Can Can' kicks in

Cole Porter's musical comedy "Can Can" will have a season at the Alexander Theatre this month.

Presented by the Monash University Musical Theatre Company — MUMCO — "Can Can" will play at 8 p.m. on June 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 and 20 with a matinee on the last day at 2 p.m.

The musical is being directed by a leading Melbourne theatrical figure **Graeme Bent** who has had a long association with the show dating from its original Melbourne production in which he had a major role. He also mounted a production of "Can Can" for the Festival Theatre Company. Mr Bent has worked with J. C. Williamson's, HSV 7, the Grundy Organisation and established the Crawford School of Film and Television.

Students from nearly every faculty have been involved in the production. The lead roles are being taken by **David McLean**, a fourth year English student, and **Angela Nocera**, a drama student at Rusden. Earlier this year David played Berowne in "Love's Labour's Lost" and has also had roles in other English department productions. Angela has been involved in many Rusden productions and took a lead role in the 1979 MUMCO show, "Dracula Baby".

"Can Can", which includes such memorable tunes as "I Love Paris", is set in Montmartre, Paris, in 1893 during the "era of the Moulin Rouge". La Mome Pistache runs the Bal du

Paradis, the only cafe in which the "real" — and illegal — Can Can is performed. Aristide Forestier, a new, naive and letter-of-the-law judge is determined to stop the illegal performances; Pistache is equally determined to protect her livelihood.

In the form of romantic comedy, Cole Porter challenges several of the moral strictures of the day taking a serve at legal corruption, bribery, hypocrisy and sexual mores.

Tickets can be obtained through BASS or by phoning the Alexander Theatre on 543 2828. Group concessions are available. Gala supper tickets are available for Friday, June 12 and Wednesday, June 17.

## Indian song and dance



Performers of the Bangra: (from left) Dr Preet Singh, Balbir Singh, Autar Singh and Kerpai Singh.

The Monash University Indian Association will hold a cultural night on Sunday, June 14 at 7.30 p.m. in the Alexander Theatre.

Included in the diverse program of Indian song and dance will be performances of the Bangra, a North Indian folk dance, classical and folk dances from southern India, Marathi folk songs and the Kawali.

To complement the program, Indian snacks and refreshments will be available at interval.

Ticket cost \$4 (\$3 concession) and proceeds will go to charities. Bookings may be made at the Alexander Theatre (543 2828), or with **Bajan Singh** (543 5108) or **John McRae** (527 2419).

### MONASH REPORTER

The next issue of **Monash Reporter** will be published in the first week of July 1981.

Copy deadline is Friday, June 26.

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



## THEATRE

### Trio Victoria venue changed

The venue of the subscription series to be given by Trio Victoria (Reporter 2/81) has been changed from the Camberwell Civic Centre to Melba Hall at the Conservatorium of Music in Royal Parade, Parkville.

Subscribers may change their tickets at any BASS outlet (there is one at the Alexander Theatre).

Trio Victoria is formed by **Brian Chapman**, a senior lecturer in Physiology at Monash, and two Melbourne Symphony Orchestra musicians, **Michael Kisin** and **Steven Finnerty**.

Their concerts are on June 9, July 27 and September 24 and feature works by Smetana, Martinu, Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Mendelssohn, Brahms and Beethoven.

## Odds and

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS** mounted a display of its titles during the recent ANZAAS Congress at Queensland University.

As occasionally happens, a few customers found themselves short of reading matter, money — and principle.

One such impecunious bookworm satisfied his thirst for enlightenment — with a free copy of **Peter Singer's** "Practical Ethics".

**JOSEPH BROWN**, distinguished art collector, dealer and consultant and a University benefactor, has no quarrel with the younger generation.

"Indeed, the only thing that depresses me about it is that I am not part of it," Dr Brown told graduates while delivering the occasional address at a recent graduation ceremony.

**STUDYING PART-TIME** has its rewards but it can also have its peculiar difficulties — particularly when commitments of work or family limit the time that can be devoted to study and especially the time the student has to join in other aspects of university life.

A part-time student who decided to defer when the pressures became too great, contacted for a Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit study on the worth of exit interviews (see separate story), described the frustrations rather graphically:

"Studying part-time is like seeing a dirty movie," he said. "All you can do is watch."

## ... ends.