

MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS

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Scientists keep an ear to the ground

By DAVID BRUCE

In 40 carefully selected paddocks across 40,000 square kilometres of Western Victoria, under a protective green tarpaulin, extraordinarily sensitive microphones lie buried under a metre of soil.

Twenty times every second, over a four-month period, the microphones listen for the distant rumble of earthquakes occurring along the fault lines in the south-western Pacific Ocean.

Earth scientists from Monash University, together with colleagues from the University of Adelaide, have begun a three-year project to map the sub-surface structure of the earth's crust (the upper 40 km) and upper mantle (to 400 km) beneath western Victoria and south-eastern South Australia.

The scientists are in search of the elusive Tasman Line. Long, long ago, the Paleozoic (545-251 million) Lachlan Fold belt of Victoria joined up with older, pre-Cambrian (pre-545 million) Adelaide Fold belt. This join – the Tasman line – marks a major geological boundary of the Australian continent – the divide between the old and new Australia.

"It has become a hot issue in recent years. Where exactly does the Tasman Line lie? Where do the new and the old Australia meet?" said Dr Greg Houseman of Monash's Department of Earth Sciences.

"The generally held view is that it lies deep under the Murray Basin, through western Victoria. Other people think it may lie further west,

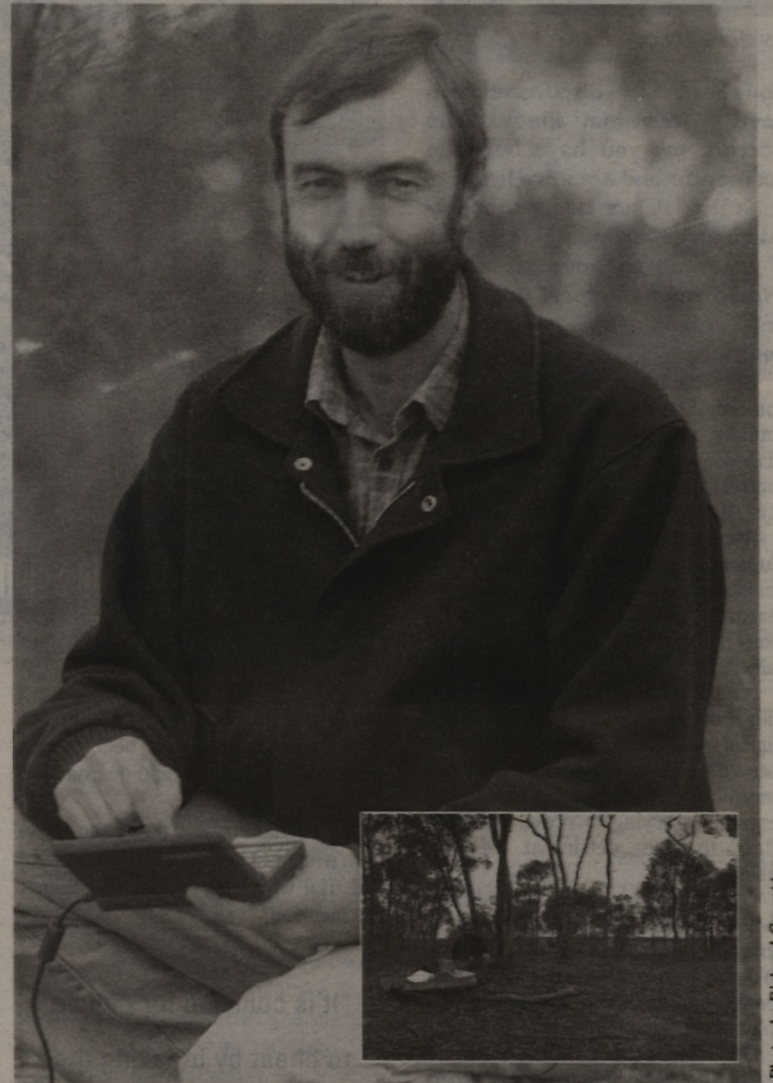
towards Adelaide. With this research we hope to conclusively show where it is.

"Australia, in geological terms, is often said to be an old continent but we are really referring to its western half and the centre. The east is not old at all, in relative terms. So while the western half was still attached to Antarctica, the eastern half was most likely under an ocean and being built up by volcanic activity."

In the southern part of Australia, the Tasman Line is hidden by the extensive sediment cover of the Murray Basin. Dr Houseman and his colleagues are using seismic technology in their search for this inaccessible geological boundary.

The researchers have set up 40 listening stations along four grid lines stretching from the outskirts of Melbourne to the South Australian border. The data comes from recording the very small ground motions that result from distant earthquakes. Over the four months they expect to record around 150 earthquakes from Indonesia to Fiji in the north, to New Zealand in the east and as far south as Macquarie Island.

Measurements of the small differences in arrival time of the seismic waves at the listening stations allow the researchers to infer that the sound path to a particular recorder was either slow or fast, and therefore whether it travelled through dense and very old continental lithosphere (the outer 200 kilometres) typical of western Australia or, through softer, oceanic lithosphere typical of the newer eastern half. By collecting data from all the listening stations after an earthquake and comparing it with data



Photos by Richard Crompton.

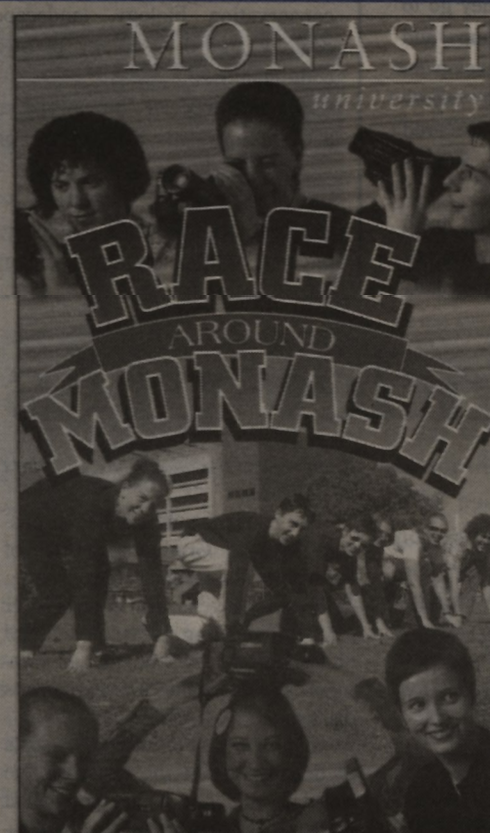
Dr Greg Houseman in the field.

from earthquakes emanating from different directions, the researchers will be able to construct a 3-D map of the slow and fast – the old and new – areas deep below the surface.

The first part of the Australian Research Council three-year project is

now under way. During the next two years, the 40 listening stations will be moved to new locations further to the north and west.

The project aims to provide a unique insight into the geological history of the Australian continent.



By JULIE RYAN

Monash University has launched its latest tool in an effort to ease students' transition from secondary school to university.

Six current Monash students were given a video camera, a week and the task of telling their story and sharing their experiences and feelings about studying, working and playing at uni.

The resulting 55-minute video, *Race Around Monash*, shows the good days, the bad days, the fun, the disappointments and the triumphs of university life.

Monash's transition program coordinator, Dr Mark Peel, says the video is one part of the university's commitment to helping prospective students make informed decisions about their university choices.

"Coming to university is a daunting experience and many new students have unrealistic expectations," he said. "Apart from students having to cope in a very different environment, about one in 10

Tests, lectures and video tapes

experience significant problems because the course they have enrolled in is not what they expected or wanted.

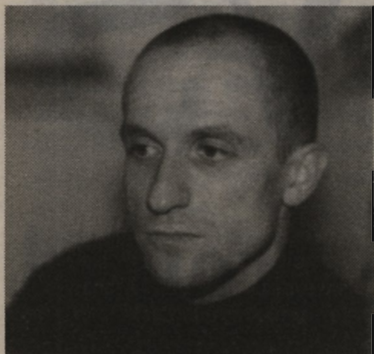
"However, a number of studies into transition issues conducted by Monash have consistently discovered that secondary school students preparing to begin university are really interested in hearing from current students about their experiences."

Race Around Monash provides a first-hand view of student life in the 1990s, including balancing a part-time job with study, being separated from school friends, and facing a dramatically different learning environment to secondary school.

The new video will be sent to all Victorian secondary schools for use during class time, at information evenings and for students to take home and watch with their parents.

For further details on *Race Around Monash* and other transition research at Monash, contact Dr Peel on (03) 9905 2178.

Drug access examined



BY JULIE RYAN

You have just discovered you have a terminal illness. The doctors say you have between six months and a year to live. But clinical trials are being conducted on an experimental drug that is relevant to your situation. Would you volunteer? Anything, you might say, to prolong your life.

But what if you were then told that you only had a 50 per cent chance of actually receiving the drug being trialled and that you could be in the control group and receive no treatment at all?

According to Monash's Centre for Human Bioethics lecturer Dr Udo Schüklenk, the medical and scientific research professions often have a "paternalistic" attitude towards terminally ill patients.

"Often the only hope that people with terminal illnesses have is to join a clinical trial," he explains. "But once in these groups, these people's lives are controlled by scientists and medical researchers trying to prove a theory, often to the detriment of the patients' lives."

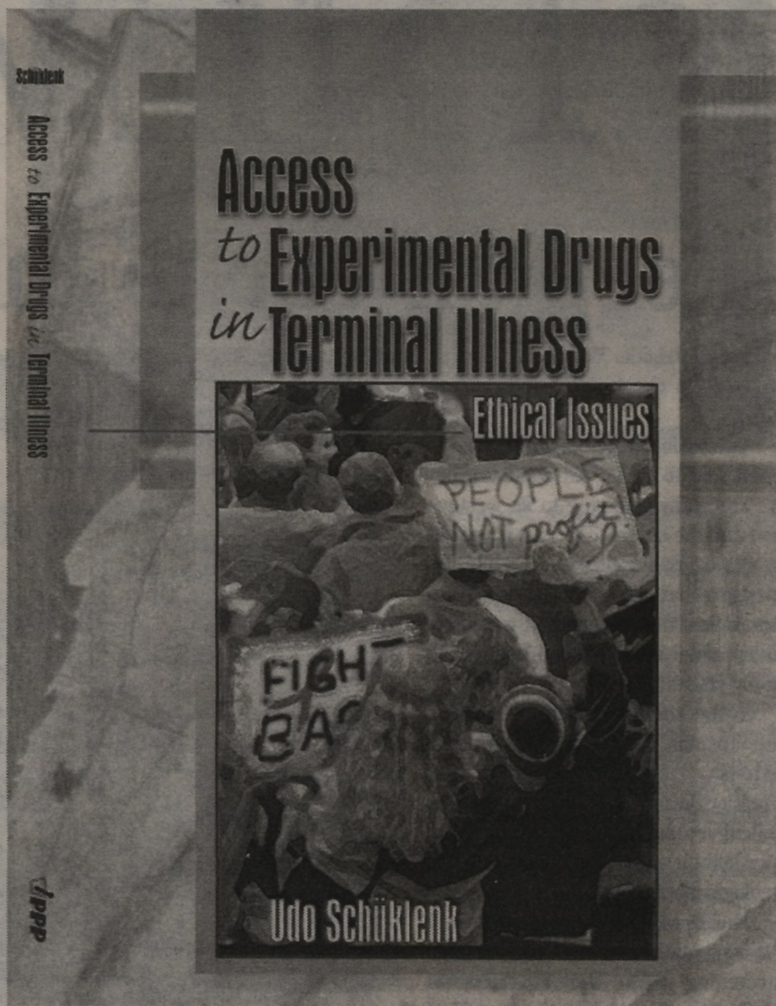
Dr Schüklenk's recently published book, *Access to Experimental Drugs in Terminal Illness*, which is based on his PhD research, explores the issues that people with terminal illnesses, especially AIDS, have to face.

He believes those with terminal illnesses should be able to access experimental drugs without having to join a clinical trial if there are no alternative treatments available.

"The main argument for clinical trials is that without sufficient testing and knowledge, experimental drugs may harm patients," Dr Schüklenk says. "While this is a strong argument because most experimental agents are unlikely to work, for terminally ill patients it can be more rational to try an experimental agent than to join a clinical trial where they might have no treatment at all."

Dr Schüklenk argues that patients with terminal illnesses have voted with their feet in recent times. Major research clinical AIDS trials suffered from a 75 to 80 per cent non-compliance rate.

"The predictive value of such trials is close to zero because it is common



for people to cheat by breaking the drug protocol they have been placed on due to desperation and despair," he says.

Dr Schüklenk also poses the question: when is it acceptable to stop a clinical trial where terminally ill patients are involved?

"It is common for people to cheat by breaking the drug protocol they have been placed on due to desperation and despair."

He says there have been many instances where scientific research has neglected the survival interests of participants in clinical trials.

"In trials of the drug AZT for AIDS patients, a large number of participants from both the placebo and active agent group died unnecessarily due to pneumonia – a symptom stemming from AIDS which is treatable – because they were not permitted to receive the treatment," he says.

The answer, Dr Schüklenk says, is to allow people with terminal illnesses to access experimental drugs without having to join a clinical trial.

"If scientists and medical researchers cannot encourage true volunteers – people who have an option between accessing an experimental agent or joining a clinical trial – to become involved, then researchers must convince these people, or change their research methods."

Dr Schüklenk says if terminally ill patients are not prepared to risk volunteering for clinical trials, opportunities still exist for researchers in terms of following the progress of those who choose to access experimental drugs.

"My research indicates that people with terminal illnesses conduct a fair amount of their own research about their condition," he says. "They go to doctors, join community groups and activist groups, and they develop an informed opinion. Given that, experimental agents could be administered by certified GPs where the patients progress could be monitored."

The book can be ordered from Dr Schüklenk's homepage at www.arts.monash.edu.au/bioethics/udospage.htm

Global exposure



Monash University international student Komathi Pakirisamy, on a farm excursion with Traralgon South Primary School students.

A group of international students from Monash University's Gippsland campus has been working with local primary and secondary school students as part of a cultural enhancement program.

Among the 28 students is Komathi Pakirisamy, a second-year Computing Systems Development student from Singapore, who has spent two hours each week at the Traralgon South Primary School over the last six weeks as part of the Monash University Peer Tutoring Program.

During her time at the school, Ms Pakirisamy has worked with teacher Paula Landy in a program aimed at exposing the children to the culture and language of other countries.

Monash's Gippsland campus director Professor John Anderson said that international students brought a wealth of knowledge and culture to the university.

"While they are studying in Australia, many of these students are seeking new experiences that will further strengthen their spoken and written skills," Professor Anderson said. "Studying and living on campus can often mean that international students have limited interaction with the local community."

Professor Anderson said local primary and secondary schools had been interested in extending their language and cultural programs, and through the involvement of Monash's international students, new relationships had been forged.

Monash does it again

A Monash University scientist has won a national award for research.

Dr Ralph MacNally, of the Department of Biological Sciences, was awarded the David Syme Research Prize for his research on conservation biology, landscape ecology and the ecology of bird communities.

He will receive his award at a ceremony in Melbourne on 9 October.

The Syme prize is awarded for the best original work in biology, physics, chemistry or geology

produced in Australia in the preceding two years.

Much of Dr MacNally's work centres on evaluating the impact of habitat loss on native birds, mammals and reptiles, and the development of customised monitoring methods for species, especially rare and mobile ones.

Dr MacNally was also recently awarded a travelling fellowship from the Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation to work with researchers at California's Stanford University on the development of monitoring programs.

Executives talk shop

Australian retail executives will be brought up to date with international developments at an annual briefing on 13 November.

The executive director of the Monash-based Australian Centre for Retail Studies, Dr Alan Treadgold, said the one-day executive briefing would expose senior executives to key trends in the world's major retail markets.

"The last 12 months have been a tumultuous time in retailing around the world," Dr Treadgold said. "It's become increasingly evident that Australian retailing is inextricably integrated into a global retail industry."

This year's themes cover the Asian crisis and its implications for Australian

retailers, insights into the strategies and operations of some of the world's leading retailers, and a comprehensive review of major development trends shaping retailing in Europe, Asia and North America.

"The best way to understand international retailing trends of course, is to visit overseas markets and talk to the retailers in the countries themselves," Dr Treadgold said. "But the briefing offers those executives unable to visit these countries way of keeping up with developments."

For more details contact Ms Alicia Saldo on (03) 9903 2527, fax (03) 9903 2099 or email alicia.saldo@buseco.monash.edu.au

Under pressure

The direction of environmental debate will be discussed at a forum at Monash University on 26 October.

'Priorities in Ecophilosophy: Ecological Thinkers in Discussion' will feature philosophers Emeritus Professor Padmasiri De Silva, from Monash, La Trobe academics Dr Freya Matthews and Associate Professor David Tacey, as well as Professor Sam Lake from Monash's Biological Sciences department.

Professor De Silva will use the occasion to launch his new book,

Environmental Philosophy and Ethics in Buddhism.

The public forum has been organised by the Graduate School of Environmental Science at Monash.

Forum convenor Mr Frank Fisher said the meeting of scientific and philosophical views on the environment should make for a vigorous discussion.

"It's important to have these sorts of debates, given the pressure the world is under, not just population pressure but the pressure of misdirected affluence," Mr Fisher said.

"The number of people really taking responsibility for the major factors

causing destruction of the environment is virtually zero. Very few people, proportionately, are doing what the majority of us know we might do."

Mr Fisher said Monash students studying for a Masters of Environmental Science were required to spend over a third of their course examining broad social and political issues related to the environment.

For more details on the forum, contact Mr Fisher on (03) 9905 4618 or email frank.fisher@arts.monash.edu.au

On the road to better safety

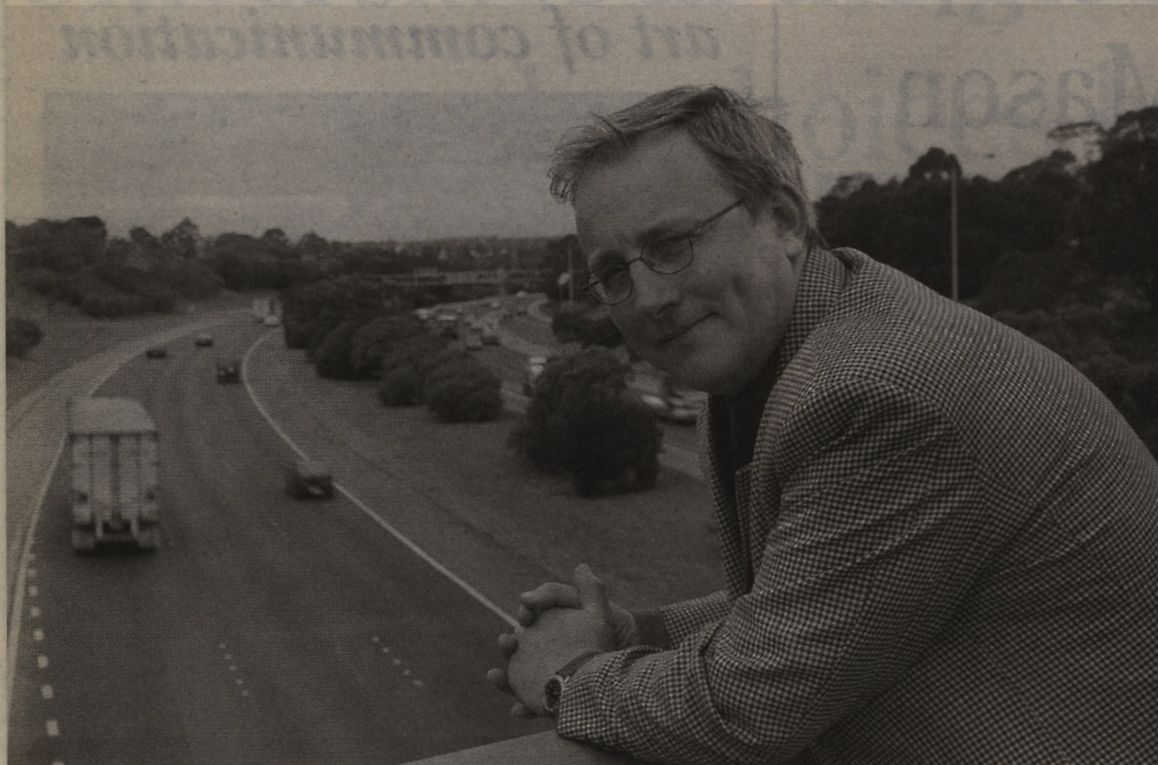


Photo by Rhonda Joyce

Eyeing the road ahead: Professor Claes Tingvall is aiming for cultural as well as regulatory change to improve road safety.

BY DAVID BRUCE

If you plan to drive a car on an Australian road over the next few years, you will be affected in some way by the work of Professor Claes Tingvall.

Like his predecessor at the Monash University Accident Research Centre – the recently retired Professor Peter Vulcan – Professor Tingvall is set to make an enormous impact on the daily lives of the motoring public.

Professor Tingvall has been recruited from Sweden after an international search for a director of the centre. Previously, he was head of Folksam Insurance research in traffic safety (1994) and director of traffic safety at the Swedish National Road Administration (1995-98). He is a statistician with a PhD in medical science and a professor in injury epidemiology.

Professor Tingvall has taken a leading role in the development of road safety policy in Sweden. His Vision Zero initiative – which has the ultimate

aim of no fatalities or severe injuries through road accidents – was adopted by the Swedish Parliament in 1997. He is a recognised world authority on road safety with a distinguished research career in accident investigation, vehicle safety research and the safety of the road system.

“Road safety is a global problem and this is an international research centre.”

“Road safety is a global problem and this is an international research centre,” Professor Tingvall said. “Australia is one of the top five countries for research and implementation of traffic safety, so injury prevention measures have a good chance of success here.”

Few road systems in the world have been designed primarily for safety, Professor Tingvall believes. The best

examples, he says, are the Formula One racing tracks.

“Here you have a road system with no speed limits and virtually no injuries. Why? Because the authorities designed a system around the assumption that most cars would crash unless the best safety measures were put in place.

“Effective road barriers are installed, the road surface is smoothed, drivers wear protective suits and helmets, seat belt use is not an option, there are no intersections and everyone travels in the same direction.”

Professor Tingvall says that while these features are not possible on our roads, we are still buying cars capable of speeds up to 200 km/h and driving on three-metre wide roads just inches from vehicles travelling in the opposite direction. “It’s ridiculous. Maybe we cannot have a completely foolproof road system, but we can design one for safety.”

Continued on page 4

Keeping track of the atmosphere

BY BRENDA HARKNESS

A Monash scientist is contributing to an international research effort to monitor the long-term health of the Earth’s atmosphere.

Dr Don McNaughton, a researcher in Monash University’s Chemistry department, is using a high-resolution infra-red spectroscopy technique for profiling concentrations of chemical pollutants in the atmosphere.

The results are being fed into research by a worldwide scientific network studying the long-term effects of harmful gases as they travel over time through the Earth’s atmosphere to its upper limits and the ozone layer.

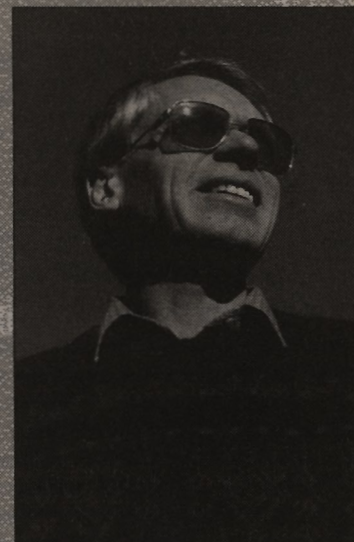
In particular, the network is tracking the long-term impact of the ozone-depleting gases Chloro Fluoro Carbons (CFCs), banned under the recent Montreal Protocol, and Hydro Carbon Fluoro Carbons (HCFCs), the approved interim replacement for CFCs, and Hydro Fluoro Carbons (HFCs), the longer term replacements.

Dr McNaughton said the network’s research could assist in assessing the long-term effectiveness of the current policies, under the Montreal Protocol, to protect the ozone layer. It could also help predict potential problems emerging from other pollutants.

CFCs have an estimated life-span of greater than 60 years, three times that of HCFCs and HFCs. According to Dr McNaughton, although less harmful to the ozone layer than CFCs, HCFCs will, in time, reach the Earth’s upper atmosphere and irreversibly alter the ozone layer in the same way as CFCs.

“While less damaging than CFCs, HCFCs are still harmful to the upper atmosphere, whilst HFCs, with a long lifetime in the lower atmosphere, have a significant global warming potential,” he said.

“Because of their long atmospheric lifetimes, there is a need for the continued monitoring of HCFCs and



Dr Don McNaughton.

HFCs as they move upwards during their lifespan through the Earth’s atmosphere,” he said. “At the same time, the research is keeping track of the CFCs remaining in the atmosphere since they were banned under the international treaty.”

In his Monash laboratory, Dr McNaughton uses a supersonic jet expansion technique to analyse samples such as HCFCs.

“These gases are decanted and blasted through a pinhole into a vacuum at supersonic speeds in a process which cools the gas molecules to between 20 and 30 degrees absolute.

“This technique enables us to see the spectra, also known as a fingerprint, given off by the molecules in different temperatures and pressures which simulate different regions of the atmosphere.

“This fingerprint looks different at every pressure and temperature, and we can model it to analyse the concentrations of gases over time within the atmosphere.”

This modelled data is then compared with data developed by the international network of scientists from the results of atmospheric sampling at five stations throughout the world in order to extract the concentration profiles.

Biomedicine reaches new heights

BY JOSIE GIBSON

A high-altitude oxygen simulator developed by a Monash University masters student is to be used in a clinical trial of patients suffering chronic fatigue syndrome.

The Portable Device for High-Altitude Simulation has been developed by biomedical engineering student Mr Oleg Bassovitch, who hopes to market the unit commercially.

The Monash Medical School at Melbourne’s Alfred Hospital plans to use the device in treating up to 20 patients over a four-week period, with other groups receiving conventional treatment or placebo treatment.

Mr Bassovitch’s unit is exciting interest in both medical and elite sporting circles for its potential to treat conditions including chronic fatigue syndrome, hypertension and asthma, and to prepare athletes for high-altitude competition.

The treatment regime involves people intermittently breathing air with a reduced oxygen concentration, but at normal atmospheric pressure, simulating the effect of high-altitude exercise.

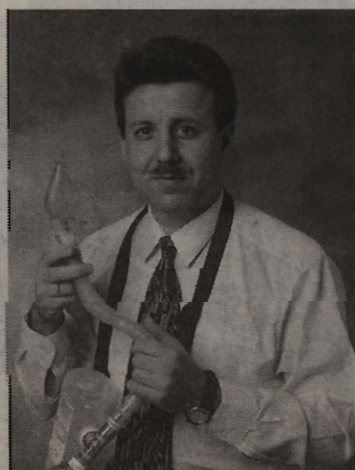


Photo by Rhonda Joyce

Mr Oleg Bassovitch.

Such exertion stimulates the body to make more anti-oxidants to counter the effect of damaging free radicals produced during exercise. While free radicals are not necessarily bad, protecting the body against viral infections and inflammation, they can cause damage if their numbers are not balanced by equal quantities of anti-oxidants.

Hypoxic stimulation, as the medical process is known, mimics the effects of high-altitude exertion and tricks the body into producing more anti-oxidants.

“I’ve compared the physiological responses to exercise and to hypoxic conditioning, and have found that the physiological alterations are virtually the same,” Mr Bassovitch said.

The technique has been used effectively in Russia and other former Soviet states for at least two decades to train athletes and treat various medical conditions, including countering the damaging effects of radiotherapy.

A biomedical engineer with 12 years’ experience, Mr Bassovitch is trying to develop his unit commercially through his company, Biomedtech.

He says that while he knows of several other techniques for simulation, including portable devices, there are no professionally designed units like his that are commercially available and affordable for a wide range of users.

Mr Bassovitch has also received expressions of interest from the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra, which currently uses its Altitude House for altitude-conditioning athletes.

For more information about Mr Bassovitch’s unit, call Biomedtech on (03) 9934 5524.

Targeting kidney disease

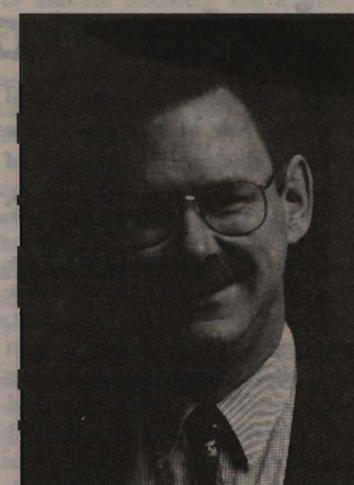
A Monash University academic is leading a major study into the high rate of kidney disease among Aboriginal Australians.

Professor John Bertram, who joined Monash’s Medicine faculty as head of the Anatomy department in September, is collaborating with Dr Wendy Hoy, principal research fellow at the Menzies School of Public Health, NT, on the three-year research project.

The aim is to quantify kidney structure and function among Aboriginal Australians to better understand their high rate of renal disease, reportedly 20 times greater than that of non-Aboriginal Australians.

The key findings will be incorporated into an international investigation into kidney disease in other indigenous communities.

Australian company Janssen-Cilag recently announced funding for the project, which has been praised by the Federal Health Minister Dr Michael Wooldridge.



Professor John Bertram.

In a stereology unit being set up at Monash, Professor Bertram will measure the number and size of glomeruli, or filtering units, in small kidney samples collected from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people during routine autopsy.

Bill of Rights will help combat racism: Mason

BY BRENDA HARKNESS

Australia needs a Bill of Rights to protect groups such as Aboriginals and Asians from the growing climate of racism that has emerged with Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party, according to a former chief justice of the High Court.

Sir Anthony Mason, one of Australia's most distinguished jurists, made the comments in a recent address to law students at Monash University. As a guest of Monash's Law faculty, Sir Anthony presented a series of lectures for Monash students, staff, public law lecturers and the business community.

Sir Anthony, who favours a Bill of Rights similar to New Zealand's, said the principal argument for a Bill of Rights was that it protected minority and individual rights against discrimination and racism.

In Australia, he said, the need for this type of protection arose due to the racist attitudes reflected in electoral support for Pauline Hanson and given voice through her One Nation Party.

This racist undertone, according to Sir Anthony, indicated Australia may be faced with the possibility of increased racial intolerance and discrimination in future.

"... adequate protection of minority groups such as Aboriginal people and people of Asian backgrounds may well require a Bill of Rights to ensure that discriminatory policies and practices are not pursued," he said.

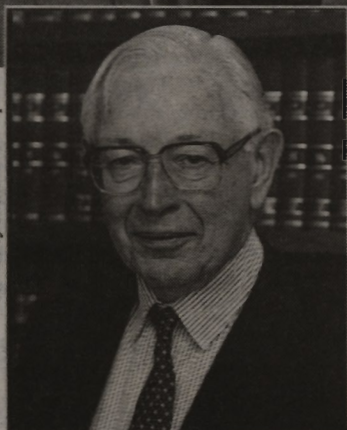
Sir Anthony said the prevailing philosophy of economic rationalism, "at the expense of individual welfare", increased the need for a Bill of Rights.

"Uncritical-adherence to economic rationalism, with its obsessive and exclusive emphasis on economic efficiency, constitutes a challenge to a culture which calls for respect for human and individual rights, even the rule of law."

Sir Anthony told the students that although he supported the introduction of a Bill of Rights, over the years his "mind had fluctuated".



Photos by Richard Crompton.



Sir Anthony Mason.

"At the end of the day, however, I favour a Bill of Rights, though one which is fairly confined in its subject matter. For example, I would be in favour of the rights enumerated in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990; (but) I would be against any significant extension of those rights.

"The experience in both Canada and New Zealand appears to have been satisfactory. In neither country has human rights jurisprudence turned the world upside down."

Sir Anthony said, however, in the ultimate analysis it was not for judges to decide the question of whether Australia needed a Bill of Rights.

He said the issue would be better resolved through the political process. A legislature made up of 100 or more members was better equipped to decide the question than a court of seven or nine judges "who are lawyers, not politicians or political scientists".

"On the other hand - and for me this tips the scales, but only just - we are now faced with the possibility, perhaps even the probability, of racial intolerance, even worse discrimination and authoritarian government. Authoritarian government may well be prepared to exercise majoritarian power to wind back rights which are fundamental, such as access to the courts for the vindication of legal rights.

"We are now faced with the possibility, perhaps even the probability, of racial intolerance, even worse discrimination and authoritarian government."

"Add to that lack of integrity and lack of public confidence in the political process and you have a sufficient case for a Bill of Rights."

One qualification, on a judicially enforceable Bill of Rights, however, was that it should exclude those issues better resolved by the political process, Sir Anthony said. "The problem is that it is very difficult to identify those issues."

Business grads learn the art of communication



Ms Glenda Crosling and Associate Professor Ian Ward.

BY JOSIE GIBSON

Graduates' oral communication skills are being scrutinised in a Monash University research program aimed at improving their workplace performance.

Ms Glenda Crosling, a lecturer with the Language and Learning Services Unit, and Associate Professor Ian Ward, from the Faculty of Business and Economics, are trying to pinpoint problem areas and how these can be overcome with more targeted teaching.

Funded by a faculty grant, the project is focusing on Monash accounting and economics graduates in their first or second years of employment.

According to Ms Crosling, it is not uncommon for employers to criticise the oral skills of their graduate employees.

"Spoken communication is much more than just giving a presentation," Ms Crosling said. "Graduates need to

be able to communicate in team situations, to take part in negotiations and to communicate over the telephone. We know that employers are interested in this issue and that there's a need for solutions."

The researchers are surveying a range of employers to find out what types of oral communication skills are necessary and where graduates are deficient. They are also surveying faculty staff and a random sample of graduate employees. Based on these findings, they will report to the faculty on ways to improve training in oral communication skills.

"A lot of students are well-trained with good technical and written skills, but they are not very articulate," Dr Ward said. "Although we are focusing on our faculty for this project, the findings will be relevant to other sections of the university."

The researchers expect to present their findings early in the new year.

Asian businesses target international students

The second International Careers Fair at Monash was a success despite the impact of the Asian financial crisis, according to its organisers.

Held recently at the Clayton campus, the fair attracted major companies from the Asia-Pacific region, including Andersen Consulting from Malaysia, Goldman Sachs from Hong Kong, Schlumberger Oilfield Services (Malaysia and Singapore) and Contact Singapore.

The event is organised annually by the Monash Student Employment and Careers Service (MONSEACS) and Monash Unicomm, a company established by the university to manage University Union services.

According to MONSEACS acting manager Ms Irmgard Good, the fair aims to give international

students the opportunity to meet prospective employers from their home countries and to provide participants with appropriate recruitment opportunities.

International students from other institutions in Victoria and South Australia were also invited to attend.

Ms Good and Monash Unicomm's chief executive, Mr Joe Curtis, made two trips to Asia to promote the fair, which attracted a good number of employers despite the regional financial crunch.

Ms Good said the response from participating companies was very positive.

"They were pleased to see so many students attending, and some indicated that they would probably be able to recruit most of the graduates they needed from the fair," she said.



Ms Kate Ringrose from Goldman Sachs (Hong Kong), right, outlines opportunities for graduates in her company.



On the road to better safety

Continued from page 3

According to Professor Tingvall, not all safety measures are led by regulation or road design and with this in mind, he encouraged cultural change at the Swedish National Road Administration.

"You cannot regulate on the size of cars people should own. You need large organisations to change the market demand," he explained. "We decided that we would only buy or rent vehicles that met set requirements for safety and fuel consumption. That eliminated the smallest and the largest vehicles, but created a strong demand for certain mid-sized vehicles.

"Now other organisations are doing the same. Half the new cars bought each year are by fleet buyers and eventually all these vehicles end up on the second-hand market for the public. So this type of organisational change can make a lasting impact."

Professor Tingvall believes this is the way of the future. "You need to think rationally, not emotionally, about buying cars. The industry will not be against it if this is what the market demands."

The Monash University Accident Research Centre also conducts studies into other types of accidents around the home, in the workplace, and on the sporting field.

Universities in the global environment – the choices before us

In the high time of post-war nation-building in Australia, the university and government were closely joined. Now the university, a cornerstone of modern nation-building, is under growing pressure both financially and philosophically. Dr Simon Marginson argues that the most effective strategy for surviving and developing in a globalised environment is not to imitate American universities, but to develop a distinctly Australian contribution. He believes that intrinsic to that is a new alliance with government.

In Australia, as in many other nations, universities in the post-war era were seen as a principal tool of nation-building. Policy was grounded in the notion of 'investment in human capital'. The population was seen as a national resource to be harboured and enriched through the acquisition of scientific and professional capabilities.

Investment in the universities was also a means of offering the national population a promise of betterment that was within the gift of government to give. A broad national consensus on the expansion of universities was maintained for more than three decades. As a result, we are so much richer in educational resources today.

It is evident that this long-standing government project – that of the national-building Australian university – is now undergoing a deepening crisis. This crisis is both particular to the modern university as an institution, and also particular to Australia – and perhaps New Zealand and Canada, where the same issues are often played out.

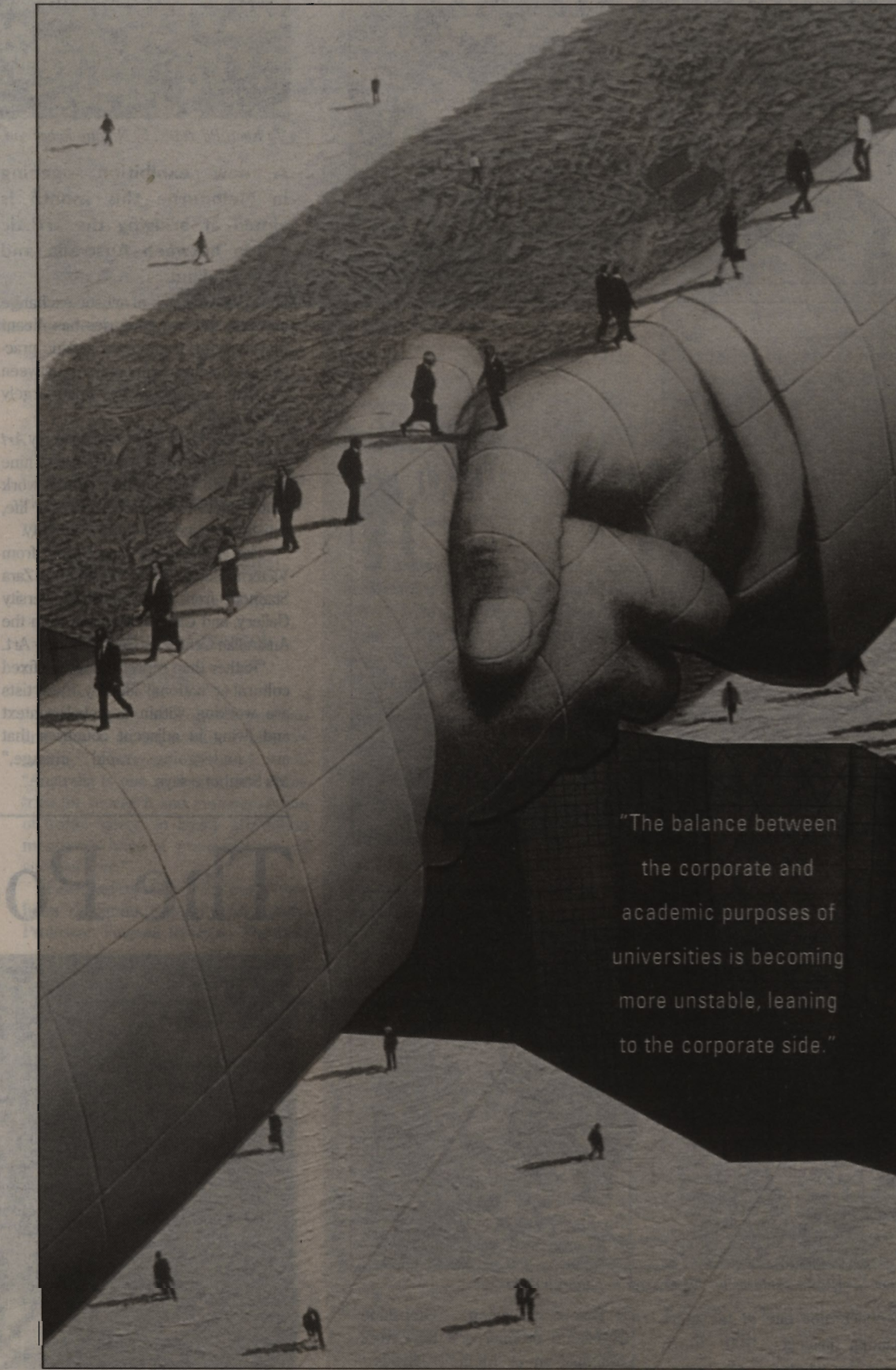
"Other nations that are active players in globalisation – for example, France, Germany and Japan – are not winding down their nation-building institutions."

The crisis began to show itself at the end of the 1980s, and has become more apparent in the last five years or so. Its main elements, mutually reinforcing but individually distinct, include:

- the resource crisis brought on by a decline in government funding, linked to a declining commitment to the nation-building role of universities;
- the identity crisis brought on by the corporatisation of internal university systems and cultures; and
- the crisis of global strategy: how do Australian universities make their way in a globalising university environment?

One cause of the resource crisis is the dominance of 'small government' policies which took root after the collapse of Keynesian national economic management in 1970s. However, 'small government' policies are common to most of the OECD and by themselves do not explain the decline in public funding.

Rather, Australian governmental support for nation-building itself has faltered. 'Good government' seems aimed at undermining and undoing the nation-building projects of the previous period. There is strong external pressure from international regulators, and some neo-classical economists; and corporate leaders, to weaken or dismantle those elements specific to Australia and different from the American model – not only in education, but in public hospitals, industrial arbitration, the



"The balance between the corporate and academic purposes of universities is becoming more unstable, leaning to the corporate side."

national telecommunications system, the ABC and publicly owned utilities.

This cannot be explained away by globalisation, any more than it can be attributed simply to market liberalism. Other nations that are active players in globalisation – for example, France, Germany and Japan – are not winding down their nation-building institutions. In the global era, national identity changes, but it remains important.

The crisis of the nation-building Australian university is also shaped by an unequal and destructive standoff between academic and corporate cultures within the universities themselves. The stand-off is more apparent in some universities than others, but is

present everywhere. We are all caught up in the effects.

Throughout their history, universities have habitually taken features of organisations (outside them), reworking themselves in new hybrid forms. However the particular traditions of the university in Australia now seem to be less robust. The models driving organisational change tend to be derivative, less sympathetic to the academic mission – teaching, learning, scholarship and research – where universities make their distinctive social contributions. The balance between the corporate and academic purposes of universities is becoming more unstable, leaning to the corporate side.

This has led to changes in organisational form. One is the emergence of a new kind of executive leadership, with more power than before but less room to manoeuvre amid external constraints. Management orthodoxy regards the CEO as a strategic director and agent of change, obliged to reinvent the university, its management structures, its internal culture, and sometimes its core business, at ever-shortening intervals.

Corporatisation is inevitable if the requirements of accountability, efficiency and non-government income raising are to be met. But in the absence of a distinctive model of the Australian university/corporation, being useful to business is often inter-

preted simply as being like business. Having a good reputation in the global university environment is subsumed under the rubric of becoming a 'Harvard of the Antipodes'. The desire to excel is redefined as a struggle to compete and as a rush to imitate.

The danger in current developments is that by becoming a corporation, the university is ceasing to be a university. Too often the relationship between corporate practice and academic practice is operating as a zero-sum relationship – so that when there is more of one there must be less of the other.

"The danger in current developments is that by becoming a corporation, the university is ceasing to be a university."

In universities, the corporate and the academic do not have to be mutually exclusive. It should be possible to be both university and corporation, to redesign the university to enhance its particular character in a knowledge economy. Such a redesign is not occurring. Yet it is essential to the long term health of universities in Australia.

Globalisation has brought this sharply into focus. The orthodox strategy of turning Australian universities into a corporatised version of American universities cannot lead to front-rank global institutions here. The strengths of American universities are local American attributes, grounded in American economy, society and culture.

What we should do instead is identify sources of potential Australian strength in the future global environment, and encourage vigorous investment in those areas, from both government and non-government sources. Realistically, public funding would be the key element. Universities' individual efforts would be underpinned by national resources and a shared global strategy.

It is not a question of the global versus the national, but of both together. What is important is getting the mix right.

If Australian universities do not fully engage in the global, they will not be able to contribute either to nation-building, or to the maximisation of their own potential. Xenophobia is not an option. The world can no longer be kept out.

At the same time, the failure of national will and confidence is not an option either. National identity is not given, but constructed. Unless the nation and the university enter the global environment with heads high and committed to each other, national identity will falter. And the long-term prospects for the university will falter with it.

Dr Simon Marginson is a reader in the Monash Centre for Research in International Education. This is an edited version of a paper he delivered last month at the University of South Australia.

Art confronts inequality



'1001 Earth Humans': a powerful representation of human disposition.

BY JOSIE GIBSON

For Indonesian sculptor and performance artist Dadang Christanto, medium and message are inherently – sometimes shockingly – linked.

Heavy with themes of oppression, inequality and violence, his works feature human representations pierced with arrows, body parts being barbecued, clay heads being smashed.

"I want to touch the audience," Christanto explains. "I want to show the sadism of violence."

In a coup for Monash University students and staff, this highly regarded artist recently spent a four-week residency at the university's Gippsland campus, developing new work and sharing his experiences with the university and local arts community.

Despite the strong messages he pushes, Christanto has managed to continue working within Indonesia's uncertain political climate. He probably escaped censure, he says, because his art deals with universal themes of suffering and social justice which transcend national boundaries and cultures.

At the age of 41, he has been feted by the Western art world, exhibiting as far afield as the US, Canada, Cuba, Germany, Seoul, Singapore, Japan and Australia.

Christanto likes to do things on a grand scale, a tool he employs to



Dadang Christanto explains his latest work to Gippsland students.

great effect. For one of his more spectacular projects, '1001 Earth Humans', he planted more than a thousand clay figurines at a Jakarta

"I want to touch the audience,...I want to show the sadism of violence."

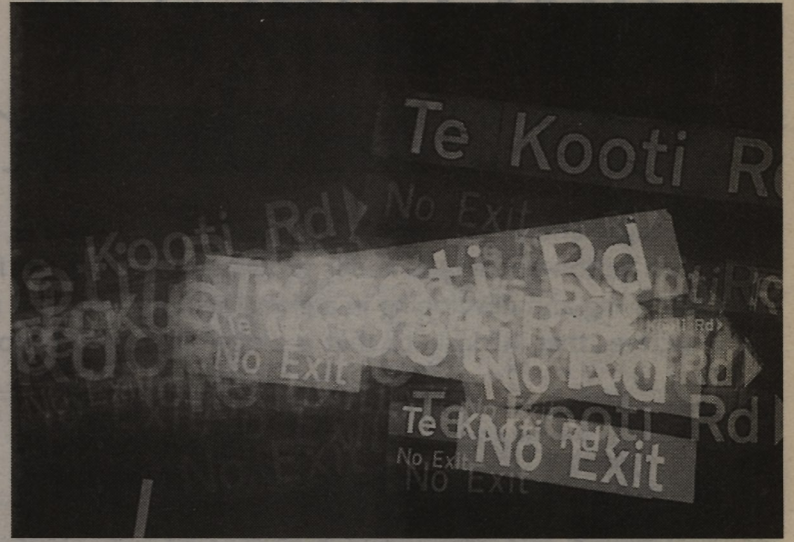
beach to symbolise the dispossession of people forced off their land. In 'For Those Who Have Been Killed', the clay-covered artist smashes a line of terracotta heads, underlining the shock and terror of random acts of violence:

Before leaving Gippsland, Christanto premiered a new work, 'Cannibalism or Memoir Jakarta – Solo May 13 14 15, 1998', a homage to those who died in the unrest leading to the resignation of former President Soeharto in May.

For Julie Adams, head of the Gippsland Centre for Art & Design, the 'burning flesh' on skewers, the symbolic cannibalism of the powerful eating the powerless, was confronting and moving.

"Dadang's work is relevant to us all," she says. "It reminds us of our fragile human state, and makes us feel the suffering and pain in Indonesia and many other countries. It reminds us that we must act in favour of life and growth, not death and destruction."

Only an ocean away



'Te Kooti Rd 1998', by Natalie Robertson, one of the artists on show in Close Quarters.

A new exhibition opening in Melbourne this month is aimed at bridging the artistic divide between Australia and New Zealand.

A previous lack of artistic exchange between the two countries has meant that a strong tradition of artistic practice and cultural connections between the near neighbours has gone largely uncelebrated.

In *Close Quarters: Contemporary Art from Australia and New Zealand*, nine artists from each country exhibit work that reflect on issues of everyday life, artistic practice and cultural identity.

The curators are Tina Barton from Victoria University in Wellington, Zara Stanhope from the Monash University Gallery, and Clare Williamson from the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.

"Rather than representing any fixed cultural or 'national' identity, the artists are working within a global context and living in adjacent countries that are undergoing rapid change," Ms Stanhope says.

"The exhibition reflects how the two nations each embrace a mix of indigenous and migrant peoples, and share much in terms of their desires and needs to redefine and orient their economic, political and cultural realities."

According to Ms Stanhope, the artwork on show reflects the artists' personal concerns – current events, mass culture, everyday materials and interests such as fashion, sport and music – as well as the processes of art-making.

The exhibition opens in Melbourne at the Monash University Gallery and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art before touring Australia and New Zealand.

What: *Close Quarters: Contemporary Art from Australia and New Zealand*
Where: Monash University Gallery and the Australia Centre for Contemporary Art
When: 9 October – 22 November
Who: Contact the Monash University Gallery on (03) 9905 4217.

The Poe Show



The Poe Show by the Monash Student Association's Student Theatre Department deals with psychological and physical extremes.

The production is a distillation of two of Edgar Allan Poe's spine-chilling tales, *The Pit and the Pendulum* and *The Masque of the Red Death*, adapted for the stage by co-artistic directors of the Student Theatre Department John Britton and Hilary Elliott.

"Poe's *Pit and the Pendulum* explores the limits of mental endurance," says Britton. "In contrast, *The Masque of the Red Death* is a rich and decadent joy-ride through the

panic and denial which accompanies a deadly epidemic."

The directors, who are in their first year of residence at Monash, say that in their production they have concentrated on the clarity of the storytelling through a combination of the spoken word, physical imagery and ensemble expression.

What: *The Poe Show*
Where: Student Theatre Space, Union building, Monash University, Clayton.
When: 8 pm, 7, 10, 13 and 16 October.
Who: Contact the Monash University Student Theatre, on (03) 9905 3108.

A rare taste of French drama

The Monash Rare Book Collection is presenting an exhibition drawn from its extensive holdings of early French books.

The exhibition, entitled *French Drama*, emphasises the work of French dramatists.

On display will be early editions of Moliere, Corneille, Racine and many other 17th and 18th-century writers. As well, there will be examples of first editions of many of the notable names of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Rare books librarian Mr Richard Overell said the exhibition included engravings of 18th-century stage machinery. Visitors will also be able to see the interiors of some early French playhouses featured in plate volumes accompanying the library's first edition of the *French Encyclopedie of D'Alembert and Diderot* and in other rare plate books.

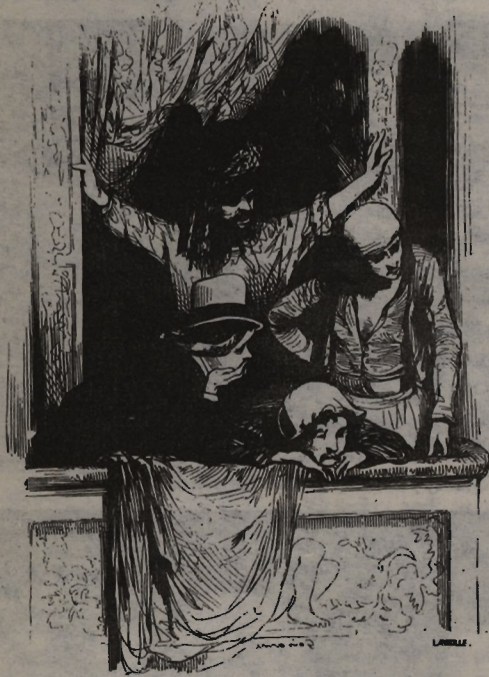
"Material from our travel collection will also be featured," says Mr Overell. "Everyone who ever visited Paris went to the theatre, and our catalogue for the exhibition will be enlivened by accounts of the experiences of many of those visitors."

What: French Dramatists, Rare Books Exhibition.

Where: Rare Books Collection, Monash University Library, Clayton.

When: 7 October to February 1999.

Who: Contact the Rare Books Library on (03) 9905 2689.



The Herbal Bed

Sydney Theatre Company's acclaimed production of the intriguing moral thriller, *The Herbal Bed*, comes to Monash University's Alexander Theatre this month for its only Melbourne season.

Set in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1613, Peter Whelan's historical/fictional play traces the fascinating court case of William Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna.

Susanna, played by Josephine Byrnes, has married well to the respected, puritanical Dr John Hall (Ivar Kants), whose herbal garden provides remedies for the local community.

When Susanna is publicly slandered by Jack Lane (Colin Moody), who claims she has been adulterous with a family friend, her husband brings charges of defamation against him.

What ensues is a fascinating court case and moral thriller with a courtroom climax reminiscent of *The Crucible*.

What: *The Herbal Bed*

Where: Alexander Theatre, Monash University, Clayton.

When: 27 - 31 October

Who: For bookings, contact the Monash Box Office on (03) 9905 1111.

MONASH HIGHLIGHTS October '98

Art exhibitions

9 October - 28 November

'Close Quarters'

Contemporary works by artists from Australia and Aotearoa in New Zealand have been brought together in a visual dialogue between neighbouring countries. A collaborative project with the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art. Curators: Tina Barton, Zara Stanhope and Clare Williamson. Floor talks: 7 October, 1.30 pm. Monash University Gallery, building 55, Clayton campus, Tuesdays to Fridays, 10 am to 5 pm; Saturdays, 2 pm to 5 pm. Inquiries: 9905 4217.

Theatre

9 October

'Vinegar Tom' by Caryl Churchill

'Vinegar Tom' is powerful, innovative and confronting music theatre. Director Lisa Dyson's new production compares and contrasts a story of the persecution of 'witches' in Middle Ages England with the experiences of contemporary Australians. Presented by Monash University Musical Theatre Company, Monash Student Theatre and Monash Players as part of the 1998 Melbourne Fringe Festival. Outside Engineering building 60, Clayton campus, 8 pm. Tickets: \$15 (\$10 concession/fringe members). Bookings and inquiries: 9905 3108.

From 6 October

'Rising Fish Prayer' by Adam May

Winner of the 1997 Asialink Playwriting Award, 'Rising Fish Prayer' is a thrilling tale of the dangers of mining in a third-world country. Sardonic and confronting, it marks the emergence of a remarkable Melbourne writer in a tragic-comedy of colonial mayhem. Directed by Aubrey Mellor and in association with the National Performing Arts Troupe of Papua New Guinea. Alexander Theatre, Clayton campus. Bookings: 9905 1111.

7-16 October

The Poe Show - 'The Pit and The Pendulum' and 'The Masque of the Red Death'

Monash University's Student Theatre performs two of Edgar Allan Poe's juiciest tales, adapted for the stage by John Britton and directed by Hilary Elliott. 'The Pit and The Pendulum' explores the limits of mental endurance, with Elliott's directorial style emphasising the collision of physical and psychological extremes. In contrast, 'The Masque of the Red Death' is a rich and decadent joy-ride through the panic and denial which accompanies a deadly epidemic. Student Theatre Space, Union building, Clayton campus, 8 pm. Tickets: \$12 (\$9 concession). Bookings and inquiries: 9905 3108.

From 27 October

'The Herbal Bed' by Peter Whelan

A new production from Sydney Theatre Company by arrangement with the Royal Shakespeare Company. This intriguing new play combines history and fiction in tracing the fascinating court case of William Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna. Directed by Marion Potts in its only Melbourne season. Alexander Theatre, Clayton campus. Bookings: 9905 1111.

Comedy

14 October

Merrick and Rosso

Comedy night featuring the hilarious Melbourne comedians Merrick and Rosso. Tickets: \$8 (\$6 Monash staff and students). Cellar Rooms, Union building, Clayton campus, 8 pm to 11 pm. Infoline: 9905 4139. Credit card bookings: 9905 1111.

Music

Free Lunchtime Concert Series

Gippsland, Peninsula and Caulfield campuses

5-7 October

Chord on Blue

Popular chamber jazz band Chord on Blue, with Bridgid Burke on clarinet, Megan Kenny on flute and Ian Wilmore on double bass, performs works from Bach to Bossa Nova in this dazzling display of classical jazz styles. Monday 5 October, 1.10 pm to 2 pm, Hexagon, Gippsland campus. Inquiries: 9902 6237.

Tuesday 6 October, 1.10 pm to 2 pm, George Jenkins Theatre, Peninsula campus. Inquiries: 9904 4214.

Wednesday 7 October, 1.10 pm to 2 pm, Clayfield Room, Caulfield campus. Inquiries: 9903 2071.

Renewable energy technologies

15 October

'Renewable Energy' - Technical Presentation and Demonstration

Presented by IEEE, Monash University and ANZSES, this seminar investigates current viable renewable energy technologies and the central role of science and technology in creating an environmentally sound energy future for Australia. Lecture theatre B2.22, Caulfield campus 5.30 pm for 6 pm start. Inquiries: Dr Ahmad Zahedi, 9903 2095.

High-achieving Year 11 students

13 and 14 October

Information Evenings for High-Achieving Year 11 Students and their Parents

Monash's Enhancement Studies Program involves Year 12 students completing a first-year university subject in lieu of a sixth VCE study. An information evening about the program, including subjects available, location of classes, study modes and costs, will be held at Gippsland campus on Tuesday 13 October at 7.30 pm and at Clayton campus on Wednesday 14 October at 7.30 pm. Inquiries and registration: Prospective Student Office, 9905 5859.

Career development

5 November

Information Evening - 1999 Graduate and CLE Program

An information evening for the 1999 Graduate and Continuing Education in Law Program and the launch of the new Graduate Diploma in Banking & Finance Law will be held at The Snail and Bottle, Law Institute of Victoria, 470 Bourke Street, Melbourne, 6 pm. Inquiries: Kaye Wilson, 9905 3338.

Asia seminars

Presented by the centres of the Monash Asia Institute

The following seminars will be held in room SG02, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, at 11.15 am:

- 8 October: 'Setting up Asia: ABC Foreign Correspondents, 1956-1959', by John Tebbutt, Journalism, Monash University; former ABC journalist.
- 15 October: 'Perspectives on the Green Revolution', by Gale Dixon, Geography and Environmental Science, Monash University.
- 22 October: 'Surviving in the Kampungs of Jakarta Today: Chaos or Community Renewal?', by Lea Jellinek, writer and consultant on poverty in Indonesia, School of Architecture, University of Melbourne.
- 29 October: 'Indonesian Art and Performance of the Crisis and Reformasi - Making a Difference', by Barbara Hatley, Asian Languages and Studies, Monash University.

The following seminars will be held in room S007, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, from 4 pm to 5.30 pm:

- 8 October: 'Chinese Health: How Much Depends on Food?', by Professor Mark Wahlqvist and Dr Bridget Hau-Hage, Department of Medicine, Monash Medical Centre and Asia Pacific Health Department Centre.
- 22 October: 'Reforming China's State-Owned Enterprises', by Dr Dennis Woodward, Department of Politics, Monash University.

The following seminar will be held in Room SG02, Menzies building (11), Clayton campus, from 1 pm to 2 pm:

- 28 October: 'Long Range Exchange Rate Behaviour in ASEAN with Special Emphasis on Malaysia', by Professor Mohamed Arif, Professor of Finance, Monash Mt Eliza Learning Resources. Inquiries: Anne Nichol, 9905 5280, email anne.nichol@arts.monash.edu.au

Berwick campus: Clyde Road, Berwick.
Caulfield campus: 900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield East.
Clayton campus: Wellington Road, Clayton.
Gippsland campus: Switchback Road, Churchill.
Parkville campus: 381 Royal Parade, Parkville.
Peninsula campus: McMahons Road, Frankston.

INPRINT

The Oxford Companion to Australian History

Edited by Graeme Davison, John Hirst and Stuart Macintyre

Oxford University Press
(RRP \$79.95)

It profiles such famous Australians as Don Bradman, Ned Kelly, John Curtin, Joan Sutherland and Patrick White, and looks at a range of politicians, colonisers, visionaries, industrialists, writers, artists and scientists. There are also entries on the states, key institutions, prominent families, significant events and other important facets of national life.

Edited by Monash University professor of history Graeme Davison, La Trobe University's John Hirst, and Melbourne University's Stuart Macintyre, and with contributions from more than 300 scholars and writers from around Australia, *The Oxford Companion to Australian History* has been described as "entertaining and readable".

The Primary School in Changing Times: The Australian Experience

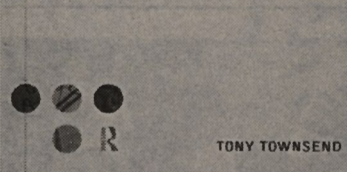
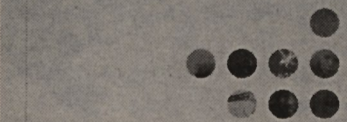
Edited by Tony Townsend

Routledge
(RRP \$49.95)

The trend towards self-managing or self-governing public schools has perhaps been the most powerful influence on the management of education over the past two decades.

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN CHANGING TIMES

THE AUSTRALIAN EXPERIENCE



The Primary School in Changing Times looks at the impact of this change on Australian primary schools and on the people who are involved with them. It also provides a comprehensive review of the critical issues for the restructured primary school, including building a school culture, curriculum development, assessment and the impact of computer technology.

The editor, Tony Townsend, is an associate professor in Monash's Faculty of Education and director of the university's South Pacific Centre for School and Community Development.

THE OXFORD COMPANION TO AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Edited by GRAEME DAVISON, JOHN HIRST, STUART MACINTYRE

All books featured in 'Inprint' are available, or can be ordered, at one of Monash University's four on-campus bookshops. Some on-line ordering facilities are available. Check with your nearest bookshop.

• CITSU (Caulfield), telephone (03) 9529 4753 or email deni@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au

- Clayton, telephone (03) 9905 3111 or email bookshop@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au
- Gippsland, telephone (03) 5122 1771 or email ros@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au
- Peninsula, telephone (03) 9783 6932 or email deni@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au

Uni games: the thrills, spills ... the guts and glory

By KRETZER MASON

From a spectacular start on 27 September, the Australian University Games provided a high-charged week of sports action, records, thrills and spills for thousands of young Australian athletes in Melbourne.

Victorian premier Mr Jeff Kennett officially launched the games - one of the nation's biggest sporting events - at Melbourne's Glasshouse at a spectacular opening ceremony featuring lights, sound, acrobats, dancers, drummers, musicians, and other live performers.

1998 AUG chair and director of Monash University's Caulfield and Peninsula campuses, Mr John White, said the opening ceremony was obviously enjoyed by all.

"Despite the difficulties which stemmed from the recent gas crisis, competitors maintained skill and enthusiasm throughout the day," he said.

Monash University won the this year's games, with an overall point score of 320. The University of Melbourne came in second (298 points) and the University of Sydney took third place with 273 points. The Doug Ellis Trophy was won by the University of Ballarat. Elite Australian



Photo by Christopher Alexander.

Professor Alan Gilbert, Professor David Robinson and Mr Kennett at the games opening.

athletes, including Steve Moneghetti, Liz Taverner and Graham Porteous, showed their support for the games, attending a luncheon hosted by 1998 games' hosts Monash University and the University of Melbourne on 29 September.

More than 5300 competitors, including 440 from Monash, converged on Melbourne to pit their skills in some 20 team and individual sports during the week-long event held from 28 September to 2 October.

During the games, elite athletes, including members of the Singapore hockey team, Commonwealth Games competitors and AFL star Wayne

Campbell, showed what they were made of.

Records were smashed in athletics, the pool and field sports. Outstanding efforts included the 5000-metre track winner, Kelly Moring of Deakin University, who lapped her competitors twice, and Monash's Evette Cordy, who raced to gold in the hurdles. Cordy has had much success in the hurdles, coming eighth at the World Cup. She has won the Victorian State Championship for the last four years.

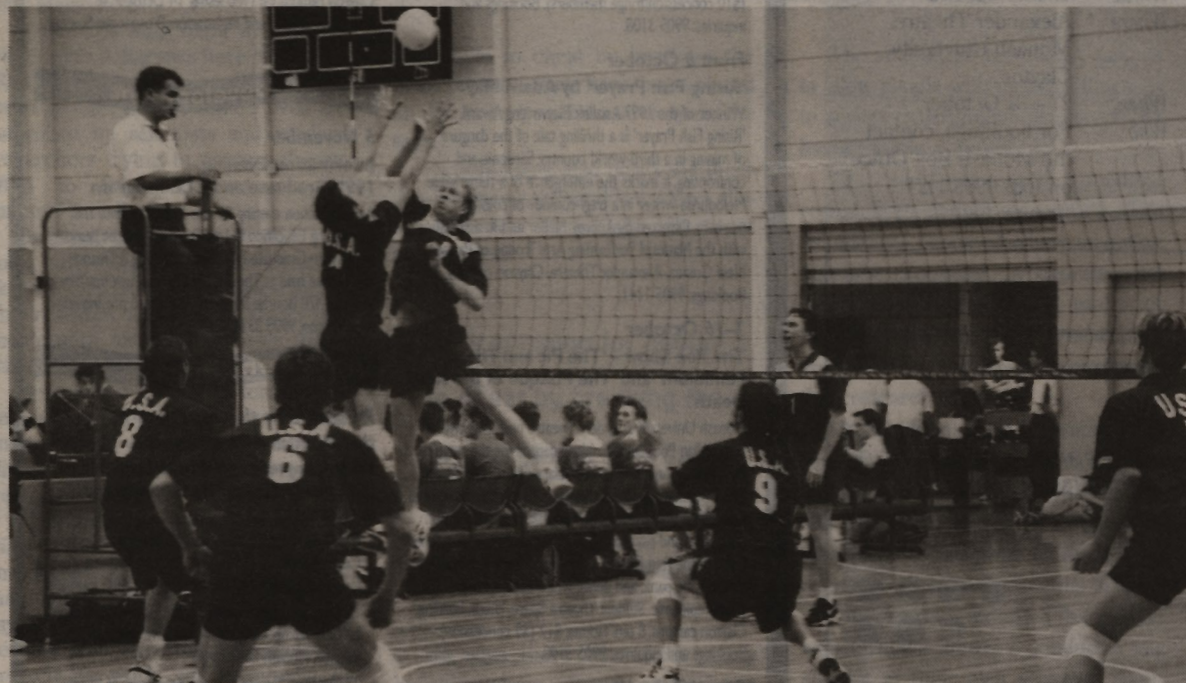
In keeping with the social side of the games, competitors flocked to surrounding nightclubs and bars which hosted special theme nights and discount events each night.



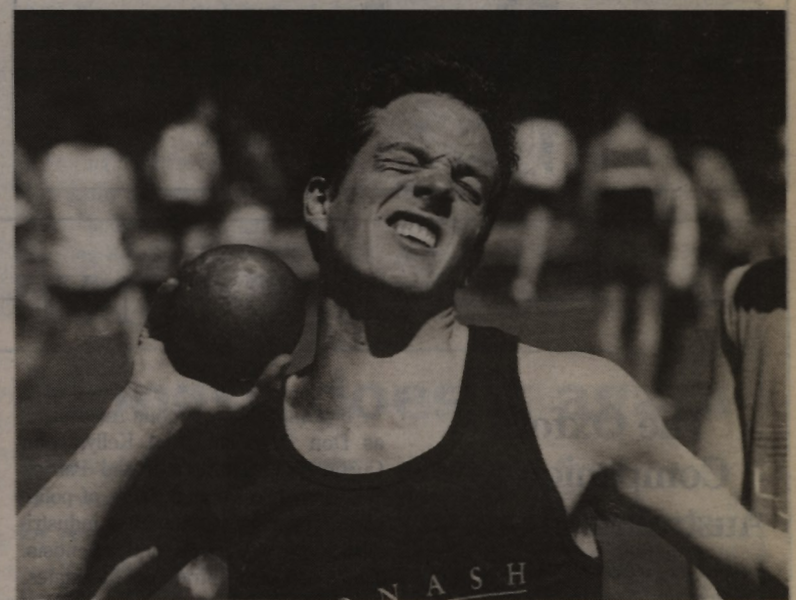
Legendary lunch: From left, marathon runner Steve Moneghetti, Australian netballer Liz Taverner, and Australian University Games chairman, Mr John White.



The University of Sydney picked up gold in the athletics.



Men's volleyball: Gold for Canberra Uni while Monash took silver.



Shotput: Many games records were broken.



Women's soccer: Putting the best foot forward.

Pedal power

When David Collopy finished a marathon bike ride from Melbourne to Adelaide in early September, it was more than just his calf muscles that ached with the effort.

Collopy, gym manager at the Monash Sports and Recreation Centre, made the trek with three other high-profile riders to raise money for the Trevor Barker Foundation, which assists people with cancer and their families.

"Sheepskin covers don't do anything to help, so we didn't bother," Collopy explained, recalling the stress endured by his body's main point of contact with the bike. "And we had head winds the whole way."

The other key riders were Hawthorn Football Club players Shane Crawford and Mark Graham, and



From left: Shane Crawford, Gary Neiwand, Mark Graham and David Collopy.

Olympic cycling silver medallist and world champion Gary Neiwand.

The group raised about \$7000 for the foundation, stopping at primary schools and hotels along the 900-kilometre route.

Collopy said the cyclists were given a small reception on arrival at

Adelaide's Rundle Mall, then retired to their hotels for long, hot baths.

"The worst thing was that I had to take the indoor cycling class the next Monday," he laughed. "But after cycling 900 kilometres, 40 minutes was nothing."

MONASH UNIVERSITY NEWS

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Edited by Josie Gibson (03) 9905 2085, fax (03) 9905.2097

or email josie.gibson@adm.monash.edu.au

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