

# Congress speakers condemn threats to independence

Australian newspaper articles on the controversies surrounding the Dawkins Green Paper aroused a sense of *deja vu* in British delegates to the 14th Commonwealth Universities Congress in Perth last month.

Many commented on the almost uncanny parallel between the measures proposed in the UK Education Reform Bill currently before the British parliament and those suggested by the Green Paper.

And while there was mutual condemnation of plans in both countries to eliminate the "buffer" bodies between government and universities (Australia's Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission and Britain's University Grants Committee), there was a divergence of opinion as to the seriousness of the threat to university autonomy and research posed by the two sets of legislation.

In his keynote address, Mr Justice Gordon Samuels, Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, said the Green Paper proposals did not involve any direct interference with the independence of the universities, "although they will exert considerable pressure to conform to the pattern which the governments intend to establish".

"The banner of autonomy is to be proudly unfurled in the defence of great issues," Mr Justice Samuels said. "Excessive exposure tarnishes its lustre. I do not think, on balance, that it has a legitimate place in this controversy . . . I can see no valid objection to the funding body deploying available money in accordance with its own plan."

In response, Lord Flowers, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London and deputy chairman of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, vowed to oppose the Education Reform Bill when it came before the House of Lords unless its threat to autonomy was blunted.

"In seeking to establish ministerial control over the teaching and research of universities — and therefore over the interpretation of their missions — it is as well to remind ministers that they should rely less on clairvoyants and more on consultation with those best qualified to express an opinion," Lord Flowers said.

"I am, for instance, greatly encouraged that senior industrialists in Britain are now speaking with alarm of the weakening of the basic research of the universities due to continuing government insistence that we concentrate more effort on applications. I wish the government would listen and understand.

"The question is whether this new (British) legislation, and equivalent processes taking place elsewhere, threatens university autonomy or not.

"Mr Justice Samuels has concluded that on balance it does not. I am sorry to say that here I do not agree with him, and I shall shortly be appealing to Parliament itself — if not for a reversal of this verdict, at least for a handsome remission of the sentence.

"The British Government clearly intends to take powers which would enable it, if it so chose, itself to control the manner in which individual courses are given and particular researches pursued.

"That it is beyond the capacity of government to do anything of the kind across the board is undeniable; but that it has already tried unsuccessfully to do

so in the past in a few cases which have caused it political vexation or other inconveniences, leave us in no doubt of the general intentions and of the consequent threat to university autonomy.

"Without that autonomy we shall be unable to make so readily or so effectively the new contributions that the community expects of us."

Mr Justice Samuels said there were plausible academic objections to some of the Green Paper proposals.

"Academics fear their potential to dislocate traditional institutional balance, the likely diminution in the influence and importance of humane studies and, in particular, the rejection of the concept that the university ought to provide the fundamentals of a general, liberal education. They argue that the shifts in the deployment of resources necessary to engage urgent but perhaps short-term problems may have long-lasting and detrimental effects upon the systematic regulation of teaching and research.

## MONASH



# REPORTER

A MAGAZINE FOR THE UNIVERSITY

Registered by Australia Post — publication No. VBG0435

NUMBER 1-88 MARCH 9, 1988

"Moreover any bias away from basic research to applied research combined with a diversion of available funds will not only reduce the knowledge base indispensable to further mission-oriented and applied advances but will disrupt the essential link between teaching and research with predictable damage to the teaching function."

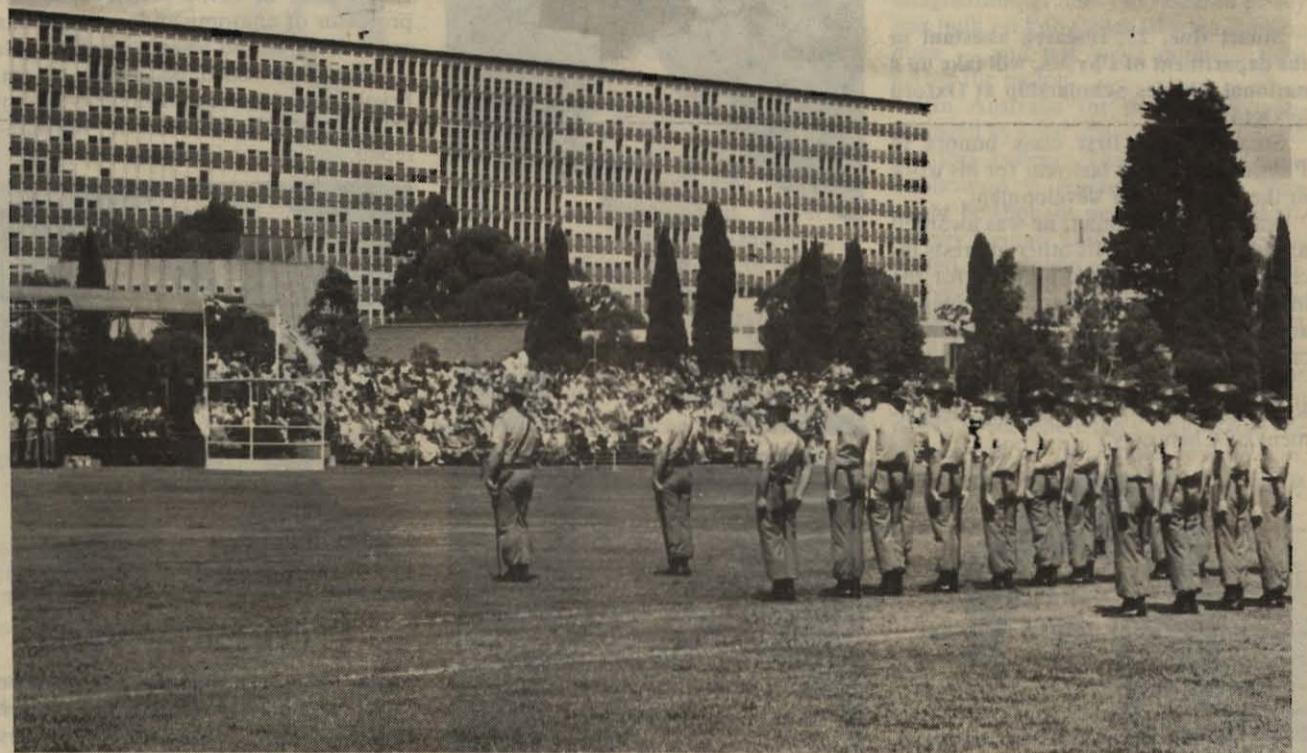
Mr Justice Samuels went on: ". . . it may well be an act of unsound judgment to upset the academic equilibrium so profoundly as these recent initiatives appear to propose. Certainly, the Australian discussion paper includes ritual genuflections towards preservation of humane studies.

"But what is one to make of a formal

response by the CTEC to a report of a review of Australian Law Schools which contains this observation: 'For the time being, therefore, it is likely that, given present Commonwealth priorities, any research funds provided to advanced education institutions will continue to be for applied research activities in areas relevant to national development rather than in disciplines such as law.'

"The message was twice repeated. I am not making a specific case for law. I indicate simply that it is easy to see how humanities, widely categorised, may now be not merely permitted but encouraged to wither."

• More congress stories page 13



• More than 3000 visitors were at the Monash rugby field on a Sunday morning in late January to see the re-enactment of a military ceremony which dates back to the Middle Ages. Four field guns were positioned to "hold the ground" for the Presentation of Colors Parade which marked the coming-of-age of the Monash University Regiment. See photos and story, centre pages.

# Aussies tarred with Dundee brush

It's no use trying to persuade linguistic students from overseas that we don't all sound like Paul Hogan:



• Andreas Kotza and Maria Wodziak

Nor is it any use trying to escape the fact that it was *Crocodile Dundee* that put us on the world map, at least as far as young people are concerned.

Certainly two students involved this year in exchanges from Germany and the United States were lured by the Paul Hogan image.

Andreas Kotza says it is "quite trendy" in Germany to look at anything Australian.

"I was always interested in Australia, but only because it was so far away.

"I spent a year in England and was fascinated by Fosters advertisements. Then I saw *Crocodile Dundee* and I had to come (to Australia)," he said.

A keen student of linguistics, he won't be persuaded that there are substantial regional variations in the Australian way of speaking.

He allows that there are some minor speech differences between groups of Australians, but puts these down to social factors rather than regional ones — and he can hear shades of Paul Hogan in all of us.

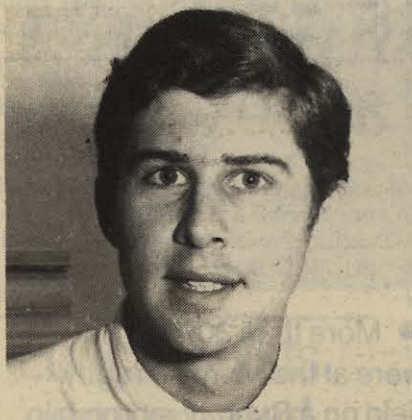
## Rhodes award for physicist

Stuart Rae, 22, research assistant in the department of Physics, will take up a national Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford in October.

Stuart gained first class honors in Physics at Monash last year for his work in the area of laser development.

An active sportsman, he was awarded a Blue in baseball. His other interests include music (he played alto sax for the informal Monash Big Band), languages, and the organisation of youth adventure camps.

Stuart, below, is the son of Dr Ian Rae, Associate Professor in the department of Chemistry.



## Zoologists unleashed

Zoology lost two of its best-known and longest-serving members at the end of 1987 with the retirement of senior lecturer Ian Hiscock and lab manager Jim Guthrie.

Both joined the university in its founding year, 1961, and have served ever since.

Dr Hiscock was also for many years director of Robert Blackwood Hall and played a leading role in procuring the magnificent Jurgen Ahrend organ that commemorates Sir Louis Matheson's service to the university as founding Vice-Chancellor.

Bruce Fuhrer's pictures, below, show Ian and Jim at a joint farewell in the department just before Christmas.



## Graduate post

Monash graduate, Bryan Toole, above right, an internationally recognised expert in cellular and developmental biology, has been appointed to the George A. Bates chair of Histology at Tufts University, Boston.

Dr Toole was awarded a B.Sc from Melbourne University in 1962. He enrolled at Monash for his M.Sc (award-

# PEOPLE

Andreas is a student at the Freie Universitat, Berlin. While at Monash, he will study modern linguistics and the dialects of English, as well as undertaking a course in Australian literature.

Polish-born Maria Wodziak from Chicago is majoring in linguistics at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

She developed an interest in Australia through meeting an exchange student from Rusden who was doing his Ph.D at her home university.

"I started to like that accent," she said. "We went to see *Crocodile Dundee* — and here I am."

She made a careful study of the

opportunities available, and found Monash had a language program very well suited to her purposes.

She will also do some study in Russian, and in Australian geography and history, as well as looking at Aboriginal languages.

Maria hopes to pursue a multilingual career or to find a niche in the world of international business. She believes the Australian exchange visit will help to prepare her for this.

Monash students who would be interested in taking part in an exchange program should contact the Academic Services Officer on ext. 2061.

## Swapping problems

When Peggy LeVine and her family arrived in Australia for the first time on January 2, all they had with them were clothes.

Yet within days Dr LeVine was at work in a familiar role in the Monash University Counselling Service and the family was thoroughly at home in an

inner-city suburb.

"We did a total exchange, right down to our cars," says Dr LeVine, clinical psychologist at the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington State.

The house, car and position she is occupying all belong to Tele Triggs, psychologist in the Monash Counselling Service, who arranged the exchange so she could get some work experience in an American university.

The arrangement was timely for Mrs Triggs, whose husband, Tom, a senior lecturer in the department of Psychology, is spending a year in the United States on study leave.

The exchange is believed to be the first for university counsellors, and it took quite a bit of organising, says Dr LeVine.

One of the attractions for her was the prospect of working in another cultural environment, particularly one like Monash where students come from a lot of different backgrounds.

"There is not nearly so much diversity at home, not even in the Eastern States," she says.

While here, she is taking advantage of the different short-term courses available. She did a two-week intensive language course at the Japanese Studies Centre, and hopes to build on this with the help of staff in the department of Japanese.

"The centre is a wonderful resource," she says.

"I've studied Japanese therapies in Japan and my writings include Morita psychotherapy and Naikan; I decided it was time I learned the language."

ed in 1965) and Ph.D in Biochemistry (1968).

He joined the staff of Harvard Medical School in 1968 as a research fellow and, in 1975, became associate professor of anatomy and medicine. An active lecturer and researcher, Dr Toole is widely published on topics of embryology and development. His current research includes cell behavior in wound repair and tumor formation.



## Physics win

The Physics Department has won two prizes for posters displaying research results at the Australian Bicentenary Congress of Physicists held in Sydney in late January.

The two posters, now on display in the department, presented projects of very different character.

In a poster on superconductors, Dr Trevor Finlayson, Mr Jim Fraser, Dr Trevor Hicks, Mr Bob Mair and Professor Fred Smith from Physics and Dr Gillian Heintze and Associate Professor Reg McPherson from Materials Engineering showed that within changing magnetic fields, new superconductors behave in a way which might make it difficult to use them with alternating current.

The other poster, by Dr Trevor Finlayson and Professor Fred Smith of Physics and Mr John Miles of the CSIRO Division of Applied Physics, dealt with understanding the magnetic behavior of an iron-manganese-silicon compound which changes its solid structure with temperature.



• Dr Peggy LeVine

# Cuts in research would put future at risk

Australia's future as a civilised nation would be at risk unless the Federal Government maintained a commitment to balanced research funding, said Professor Alec Lazenby, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania.

Professor Lazenby was speaking in the session The University as a Knowledge Factory at the Commonwealth Universities Congress in Perth.

"Humanities and social science research is not an indulgence, but is as essential for a civilised community as research in scientific and technological areas," he said.

Professor Lazenby, who is chairman of the Standing Committee on Research of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, was speaking on the topic "Academic leadership and the management of research".

He said that while he welcomed many of the government's initiatives as outlined in the Green Paper, there were serious concerns about the future funding of research. He endorsed the government's view that universities must play a bigger role in national develop-

ment and that they should be funded on the basis of their achievements.

"But the government must not have complete say in the kind of research pursued by the institutions, even though it holds the purse strings.

"I don't accept the proposition that he who pays the piper calls the tune. But I do feel that a government which is democratically elected has a right to choose at least some of the music."

However, Professor Lazenby warned, the government must win the support of the nation's 20 universities if it was to implement its ambitious package of changes to higher education.

The government's decision to abolish the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission, the independent advisory body on higher education, posed dangers for the institutions, he said.

Professor Lazenby said that the changes posed problems, but also presented a great challenge to the universities and the AVCC. "We have never had a better chance to exercise leadership and to become the authoritative source of advice to the government."

More than 1000 delegates and guests from 243 universities around the world attended the 14th Commonwealth Universities Congress held at the University of Western Australia last month.

Working sessions of the congress covered seven major topics:

- *The University as a Critic*
- *The University as a Knowledge Factory*
- *Universities and Continuing Education*
- *Universities and National Administration*
- *Universities and Culture*
- *Universities and the Social Impact of Technology*
- *Universities and Rural Development*

For the first time at an ACU Congress, all sessions (including questions) were recorded. Cassettes are available at \$6 each (plus 90c per tape postage).

(A copy of the program may be perused in the Information Office. Cassette order forms are also available.)

Monash was represented at the Congress by the Chancellor, Sir George Lush, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan, the Registrar, Mr Tony Pritchard, and Professor Bruce West.

## Message of hope: Aitkin

"A sensible ordering of priorities in research is not beyond the wit of man, and I have no doubt that we will achieve one in Australia before very long . . ."

This was the message of hope that Professor Don Aitkin offered to the ACU Congress in a paper entitled *The establishment of research priorities*.

Professor Aitkin, who is interim chairman of the newly-established Australian Research Council, said that the "understandable urge" by governments to set research priorities had been met with reluctance and even hostility on the part of universities.

"In Australia, as in Britain, the hostility has been exacerbated because of the fact that the universities' funding includes a large but not precisely identified element for research. Discussions about research priorities, when the university world is involved, quickly become discussions about university funding and university management.

"University people tend to take up intransigent positions on these matters: teaching cannot be separated from research, even conceptually . . . performance indicators for research are hopelessly flawed . . . national priorities require national goals and national goals are intrinsically vacuous . . . if priorities are to be set the mechanism must be 'bottom-up' because only researchers

know where the possibilities lie . . .

"The consistent message is 'touch me not'.

"Yet touched the universities are, and will continue to be, so long as they depend on the government for the greater part of their income."

Professor Aitkin said that no university could unilaterally adapt itself to national research priorities by an act of imagination. A national research policy was built on knowledge of what is being done — and not being done — right across the nation.

"In Australia the problem is compounded by great distances and a federal political system. There will be more duplication in research activities than might be thought necessary in a small, unitary nation, and that should be accepted rather than resisted.

"Nevertheless, universities need to emphasise their particular strengths rather than endeavor to be excellent at everything. Only then will it be possible for those developing a national research policy to see where the strengths and the weaknesses of the whole country are, and propose policies to build on the first and overcome the second."



• Monash IEAust members Sam Lau (president), Michael Short (committee) and Susan Hancy (secretary-treasurer).

## Image boost for engineers

T-shirts, orientation displays, social activities and guest lectures are part of a push to lift the image of engineers on campus.

The newly-formed Monash Chapter of the Institution of Engineers Australia is behind the moves.

It organised orientation displays including solar and rally cars, commissioned a special T-shirt (designed by Engineering student, Michael Jarvis) and has plans for many other activities during the year.

## Educationists commended

The Commonwealth Schools Commission has commended Dr Shirley Sampson and Dr Gilah Leder of the Education Faculty for their sponsorship of a recent conference titled *The Education of Girls — Research and Beyond*.

"The conference provided a rare opportunity to bring together university researchers and those working in schools in projects and innovations for girls," said Ms Eileen Duhs of the commission's Education of Girls Unit.

Speakers at the conference included university and college researchers, and Ministry of Education officials from Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and Victoria.

The IEAust chapter is one of eight in Victoria, and the first in Australia to be run by students.

The chairman, Sam Lau, says membership is open to anyone, and is free to members of the institution. (Membership of the institution is free to students for the first six months.)

Among the activities planned for this month are a social barbecue on Wednesday 16 March at 12 o'clock in the Engineering Courtyard; and a seminar on young engineers becoming entrepreneurs, to be given by Dr John Bailey of the David Syme Business School, Chisholm Institute, at 12 o'clock on Wednesday 23 March in Engineering Lecture Theatre E1.

Secretary-treasurer, Susan Hancy, says the IEAust chapter will also encourage its members to be blood donors.

"We want to help the Mobile Blood Bank obtain its targeted number of donations at Monash," she said.

"We hope the exercise will speak for itself in showing that engineers are caring people working for the good of society."

The institution sponsored six Monash student members to attend the recent Bicentennial National Engineers Conference in Sydney.

Inquiries about the IEAust chapter at Monash should be directed to Sam Lau in the Faculty of Engineering.

## Clinical school at Box Hill

In January, Monash entered into an agreement to establish a clinical school at Box Hill Hospital, expanding the university's facilities for teaching obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, medicine, surgery, community medicine and social and preventive medicine.

Pictured, below, at the signing of the affiliation agreement are (from left): the Comptroller, Mr Peter Wade, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan, the chief executive officer of the hospital, Mr Michael Kirk, and the hospital president, Mr Clive Ward.



# Green Paper has 'right view' of universities

Not the least achievement of the Dawkins Green Paper is its assault on the self-esteem of universities.

Their ability to govern themselves, to manage their affairs in ways which would not be adopted by business and the professions, is at last called in question.

The ideal also, that each should maintain a wide range of intellectual endeavour, and that 'uneconomic' courses should be maintained by their allegedly intrinsic value, is challenged.

Above all, the Paper dramatically indicates that pretensions to rigorous standards for obtaining degrees has seriously weakened Australia's economic competitiveness in the world.

These institutions have been served notice that either they increase their graduation rates or face even further reductions in funding.

At the same time, by re-allocating the resources thus freed, fields of study which can be seen to have practical relevance to 'the economic restructuring' of Australia will be strengthened. Thus, in part, might be achieved the elusive reconciliation between a massively increased supply of graduates and, at best, static overall funding.

The government evidently has no doubts as to the general directions in which change must occur in the system of higher education; it makes clear that universities and CAEs will adopt those directions. This is well and good.

Not just leadership, but direction — who could presume to call it dictation? — from outside, is essential. A government department is more than capable of determining what the role of higher education must be.

Unfortunately, this clarity of vision and intention is a trifle marred by a rare misjudgment in drafting. Frequent statements are made which might tend to perpetuate the delusion that universities especially, and individual scholars, have a responsibility to direct their energies in ways which seem to them most rewarding in terms of the advancement of learning.

Consultation is offered, opinions are to be sought, negotiations will take place, says the Paper. Ought it not to be stated plainly that neither institutional nor individual responsibility has anything more to do with the matter?

There is another area in which more thoroughness would be welcome. The Paper points out that North American and Japanese levels of graduate employ-

ment are very much higher than ours — higher also therefore than those of West Germany or the UK, with which ours compare pretty closely.

What is lacking is a clear indication of the connection between these graduates in the workforce and the economic strength of the countries concerned. The evidence must be readily available to a government department.

As things stand, it could be said that West Germany in particular does not seem to have suffered by what is deemed to be a low employment of graduates; presumably this is accidental, and the fact should be highlighted.

It might also be said that if, until recently at least, Great Britain has not experienced a high rate of economic growth, this might be due to factors quite unconnected with higher education: let it be shown that this is not so.

We are told that the answer for us, at least, lies in adopting a North American pattern. Of course it does. But could we not be given a clear explanation of why the social, demographic and historical differences between us and them are of no consequence?

The Green Paper understandably says hardly anything about disciplines and departments which can lay little if any claim to economically productive enterprises and expertise. But there is a widespread opinion, now encouragingly endorsed by government, that the 'humanities' and some of the 'social sciences' have shared more than adequately in resources allocated to universities from public funds.

The return from such allocation is negligible, and it is a serious question whether such luxury is affordable. Hoity-toity claims about self-knowledge and the transmission of cultural values can be — and are — disregarded.

The Green Paper does not, it is true, indicate any immediate intention to reduce the funding of research and

the educational function of tertiary institutions could best be achieved by the application of business models of management, he said.

Professor Davison, president of the AHA, was one of several Monash historians who attended the conference.

He said the association would approach the Federation of Social Science Associations to arrange a meeting with Mr Dawkins about the implications of the Green Paper.

teaching in philosophy, classics, history, English literature, languages, and the like.

Rather, it gives the rational part of the public some hope that, by leaving these subjects as they are, they will gradually run down and thus consume less of what is needed for other purposes. That is not to say, of course, that they are (with some probable exceptions) dispensable: they account for too many graduates.

Accommodation and equipment for teaching in the humanities need not cost much, as we know. Salaries of staff are the big item.

The Green Paper points the way to a satisfactory rate of reduction in staff, and to an increase in the number of students who not only enrol in Arts faculties but finish their courses.

Research also need not present too much of a problem. Some scholars in the humanities and social sciences profess a need to travel to distant parts of the world to use libraries and archives, to do field work, and to sustain contact with societies connected with their studies.

The real extent of this need — indeed, the 'research' itself — is dubious; more such scholars ought, in any case, to undertake detailed work in local subjects. A great reduction in the funding of humanities research ought thus to be readily achievable. That it is small already is beside the point.

The imaginative approach of the Green Paper is nowhere more evident than in its general proposals for raising the rate of tertiary graduation, and, at the same time, achieving considerable improvement in cost-effectiveness.

The removal of uneconomic courses has already been mentioned. Those that remain will not be permitted to take too long to complete: an obvious economy.

By the same token, between 'diplomas' and 'degrees' is a difference only of nomenclature, and its elimina-

tion will at once provide a source of new graduates. It goes without saying that university and other teachers could, if they exerted themselves, solve drop-out and failure problems.

We are reminded that anyone admitted to a higher education course is presumably capable of completing it, and that there are ways of ensuring that they do.

The time has now come to say bluntly, however, that between CAEs and universities there is only an artificial distinction. In almost an excess of caution, the Green Paper does not say that universities shall forthwith bear the same teaching burdens as CAEs: some time is to elapse for the transition.

But a levelling-down process is to begin at once, and, most significantly, research funding is to be offered to CAEs on exactly the same terms as universities. Thus might end the specious notion that CAEs have from the first exercised a different function from universities.

It is also proposed that some (one trusts all, in due course) of the courses offered by TAFE colleges shall be accepted as the equivalent of first-year university courses.

All in all, this Green Paper — really a statement of policy — stands to be a landmark in Australian higher education comparable with the Murray and Martin reports of years ago.

The new directions are more profoundly revolutionary. They would eliminate once and for all the idea that 'tertiary' education is in some sense 'higher' education, and therefore out of reach of less gifted individuals; and they will ensure that research is carried out in practical areas and by practical scholars, instead of being dispersed in ways which can only be called profligate. Equity, efficiency and productivity are to be in place, supervised, not by academics, but by 'managers'.

There will, of course, be self-interested opposition from some university academics. But their opinions (as the Paper indicates) are of little importance. We must look rather to the whole-hearted co-operation of 'chief executives' to advance what the government identifies as 'national needs'.

Monash can have quiet pride in the fact that it has taken a lead in this process.

Bruce Knox  
History

## Chinese investigate exchange opportunities

Monash was host to two delegations of high-ranking Chinese academics and scientists during the long vacation.

First to arrive were Professor Li Shouqui and Professor Li Wenquan, representing the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Professor Li Shouqui, Deputy Secretary-General of the Academy, and Professor Li Wenquan, Deputy Director of the Academy's Bureau of Foreign Affairs, were here to explore the development of contacts and exchanges between the two countries, particularly the opportunities for Chinese students to do joint PhDs in Australia.

They are pictured here with Dr Y.T. Sun, head of the Monash Association of Chinese Students and Academics (left),

and Ms Jennifer Grant, guide and interpreter.

Next came Professor He Jin-Qiu and Professor You Ke-Wei from Chengdu University of Science and Technology, here to sign a formal exchange agreement between Chengdu and the four Victorian universities.

Professor He, Vice-President of Chengdu, was primarily interested in chemical engineering, environmental engineering/science, air pollution and waste water control. Professor You, who is director of international programs at Chengdu, was interested in the application of control theory to regional planning and socio-economic problems.



# Kuhse's new perspective on life-death dilemma

"When the Nuer, an East African tribe, saw a need to do away with malformed or otherwise defective infants, they did it by classifying these infants as 'hippopotamuses', mistakenly born to human parents. These infants were put into the river, their natural habitat. This was not terminating the lives of Nuer infants, it was doing what was appropriate for young hippopotamuses; and Nuer morality, prohibiting the taking of tribal life, could emerge unscathed.

"When we refrain from preventing the deaths of handicapped infants, comatose patients, and the terminally ill and suffering, by classifying the means necessary for keeping them alive as 'extraordinary', 'not medically indicated', 'disproportionately burdensome', and so on, we are resorting to an equally spurious device in order to preserve our sanctity-of-life ethics unscathed. If we want to go beyond definitional ploys, we must accept responsibility for making life and death decisions on the basis of the quality or kind of life in question: we must drop the 'sanctity-of-life' doctrine and work out a quality-of-life ethic instead."

The Dean of Medicine, Professor Graeme Schofield, had more than a clinical interest in launching Helga Kuhse's book, *The Sanctity-of-Life Doctrine in Medicine: A Critique*, at Monash late last year.

The book evolved from ideas Dr Kuhse had thrashed out with Professor Schofield when she worked as his secretary for a period in the late 1970s, between her honors year and her Ph.D.

As an undergraduate in politics and philosophy, Helga Kuhse had been fascinated by ethical issues. Through her discussions with Professor Schofield she realised "there was a lot of work to be done in medicine".

Consequently her Ph.D was in the area of medical ethics, and the book, published late last year by Oxford University Press, is a rewrite of her thesis.

It is also the first comprehensive critique of the sanctity-of-life doctrine in medicine, and was acclaimed in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* as "a radical and intelligent attempt to grapple with one of the most profound and complex issues in contemporary philosophy.

Dr Kuhse believes few moral convictions are more deeply ingrained than that of the sanctity-of-human-life. In medicine, this term has traditionally stood for the absolute inviolability of human life and its equal value.

She concludes that "the principles espoused by those who subscribe to the sanctity-of-life view are philosophically

"Michael Tooley has provided detailed arguments as to the foundation of what he calls a 'right to life'. For him, the ability to see oneself as existing over time (also, of course, one of Joseph Fletcher's 'indicators of humanhood') is a necessary condition for the possession of a right to life, or the direct wrongness of killing.

"I believe Tooley's argument is basically sound. The underlying principle of his argument is that the wrongness of an action is related to the extent to which the action prevents some interests, desires or preferences from being fulfilled. This basic principle explains both why it is wrong, other things being equal, to inflict pain, and why it is wrong, other things being equal, to kill a being with a desire to go on living. Any being capable of feeling pain can have a desire that the pain cease; but only a being capable of understanding that it has a prospect of future existence can have a desire to go on living, and only a continuing self can have an interest in continued life. Tooley suggests that we reserve the term 'person' for those beings who are capable of understanding that they are continuing selves; and for the remainder of this section I shall be using the term 'person' in this way.

"According to Tooley's analysis, neither human foetuses nor human infants, nor humans with severe mental retardation or brain damage, are persons; and it would not be directly wrong (that is, a wrong done to them) to take their lives. On the other hand, chimpanzees might be persons, and so might be some other non-human animals as well. Thus the notion of a 'person' as employed by Tooley, reflects no arbitrary species-based boundary, but characteristics of obvious relevance to the taking of life and the infliction of pain and suffering.

"A quality-of-life ethic would, in my view, have to take account of principles such as the above. It would entail that the direct wrongness of killing lies not in taking life, but rather in overriding in a most profound way the interests, desires, and preferences of a person who does not want to die. This will have profound implications for decision-making in the practice of medicine."

● From — *The Sanctity-of-Life Doctrine in Medicine: A Critique*, by Helga Kuhse, Oxford University Press Australia (RRP \$55).

flawed and lead to indefensible practical consequences — such as the making of life and death decisions on morally irrelevant grounds".

John Harris, research director of the Centre for Social Ethics and Policy at the University of Manchester, said in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* that the book was "about as good a guide to the problems and pitfalls of deciding just what value to put on which lives as one could hope for".

"The first four chapters are a meticulous examination of morality of killing, letting die, and saving life.

"Here Kuhse is at her best, dissecting complicated arguments and leading us through a very demanding literature

with care and sensitivity.

"She manages to deal with some very abstract philosophical work without losing sight of the health care problems which make that work of more than academic importance," he writes.

"Her book develops and sustains a powerful argument that shows that 'not only is refraining from preventing death always an instance of the intentional termination of life but that the . . . Sanctity-of-life Principle is also based on quality of life criteria whenever the withdrawal or non-employment of life-prolonging means is justified by the implicit or explicit claim that those means would not benefit the patient over and above prolonging her life."

Although Dr Harris takes exception to the brevity of Kuhse's own arguments in the final chapter ("Given the strong opposition she knows she will face, I do not think that Kuhse gives her own arguments enough of a chance by confining them to the last few pages of her book . . ."), he concludes that "the vices of this book are small when set against its virtues".

"It is written in a way that makes it accessible to those seriously interested in just how important life really is."



● Helga Kuhse

## Bid to keep 'arresting' sculptures



JENEPPER DUNCAN, curator of the Monash University Gallery, says there has been an overwhelmingly favorable response to the group of wooden sculptures, titled *May*, which were installed outside the Gallery Building late last year on temporary loan. The university now wants to keep the sculptures.

The five sculptures were hewn by chain saw out of ironbark by Sydney-born artist, Lyn Moore, in her Canberra studio. The sculptures were first exhibited in the Third Australian Sculpture Triennial show, *Sculpture in Wood*, at the National Gallery of Victoria, in October last year.

*May* refers not to the month but to the artist's mother who had died just before the sculptures were begun. The energetic shaping of the wooden forms, their scale, and the interaction between the different pieces, sets up an arresting presence outside the Gallery Building. The installation shows how evocative and versatile wood can be as a sculptural medium. We are reminded that "wood is the mother of matter".

The purchase of the sculptures is now the goal of the Staff Silver Jubilee Gift which has already raised nearly half the purchasing price of \$10,000. We only need another \$5560.

If you would like to help Monash keep the sculptures, just fill in the box below and send it with your donation to the Vice-Chancellor. Donations are tax deductible. Or you may prefer to authorise the Staff Branch to make deductions from your pay.

If the target is reached, the sculptures will be the first outdoor works purchased by the university in 15 years. We hope other outdoor sculptures will follow, since they do so much to personalise the campus spaces. — Jenepper Duncan



To: The Vice-Chancellor,  
University Offices, Monash University

Please find enclosed a donation of \$.....  
payable to Monash University as a donation to the Staff  
Silver Jubilee Gift to the University Art Collection.



## Monash soldiers on parade



The Queen's and Regimental Colors were presented to Monash University Regiment as a ceremonial parade on 31 January by the Governor, Dr Davis McCaughey.

More than 3000 guests, including the Chancellor, Sir George Lush, the Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant-General Laurie O'Donnell, and other dignitaries, watched the re-enactment of ancient traditions which marked the regiment's coming-of-age.

On parade were troops from Monash, Melbourne and Deakin universities.

The ceremony began with the positioning of four 105mm field guns on the outer corners of the rugby field to "hold the ground", a very necessary precaution in ancient times when ceremonial activities made a unit vulnerable to surprise attack.

The troops marched on in four "guards" to the music of the Third Military District Band and, following an inspection by Dr McCaughey, they formed a "hollow square" for the consecration, blessing and dedication of the colors.

The drums of the band were piled

within this square to serve as a centrepiece on which the colors would be placed. (Drums were considered to be a pagan instrument, not to be used in religious ceremonies, so the piling of the drums also ensured they would not be beaten during the service.)

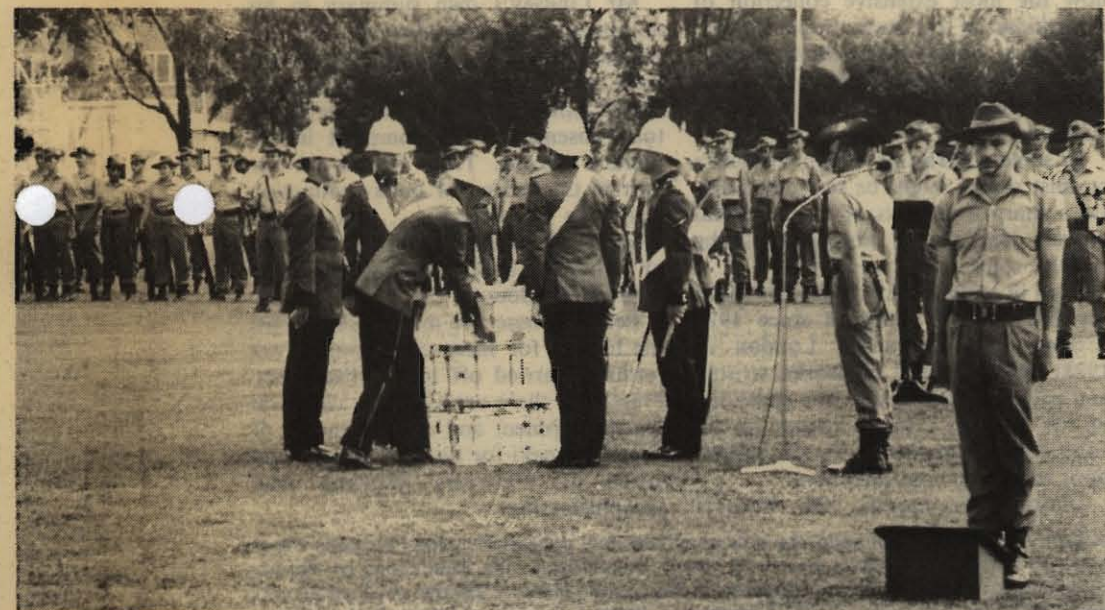
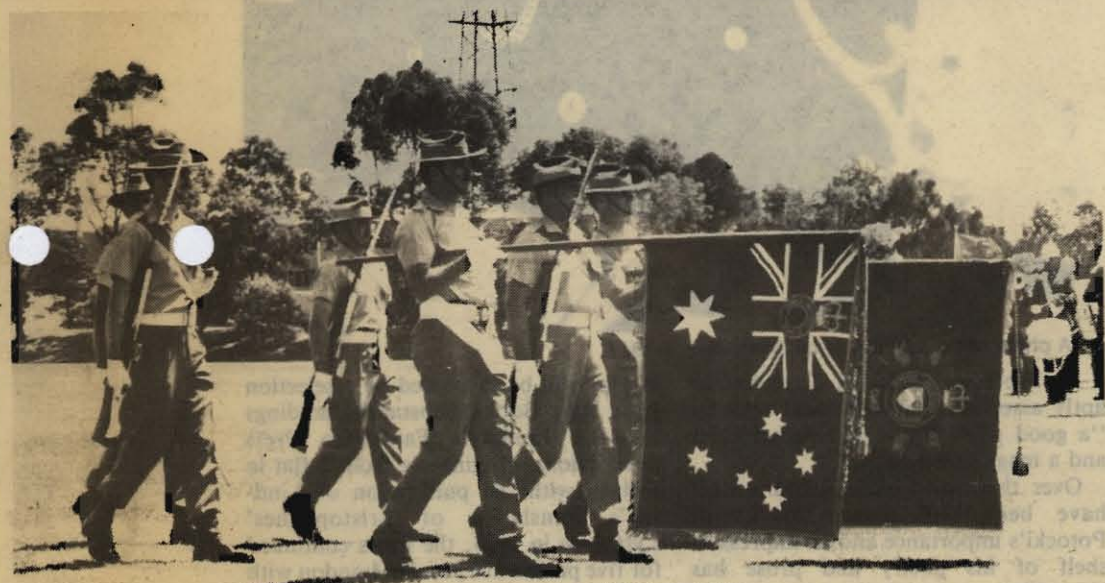
The Principal Chaplains of the Australian Army performed the ceremony and the troops paraded the colors in slow and quick time before marching off.

Among the guests at the parade were the granddaughter and niece of Sir John Monash, Mrs Elizabeth Durre and Mrs Nancy Kirsner, and Mrs Kirsner's husband, Maurice, who reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the Australian army in World War 2.

The regiment is the proud owner of much of Sir John's army memorabilia, which was on display at the parade ground.

● Clockwise from top left: 1. Troops form a hollow square for the presentation ceremony. 2. The Governor, Dr Davis McCaughey, right, with the Honorary Colonel of Monash University Regiment, Colonel Peter Nattrass. 3. The drums are "piled" within the square. 4. Senior Major Bob Hart and Junior Major Harry Gauvin move forward to drape the uncased colors over the drums. 5. The Principal Chaplains of the Australian Army consecrating the colors. 6. Luke, the regiment's mascot, steadfastly looked the other way while the colors were paraded. His young friend, Harley Webster, 5, showed a lot more interest as the four guards marched past in slow and quick time. Photos — Tony Miller.

# The regiment and the colors



The Monash University Regiment had its beginnings in 1966 as a detached Company of Melbourne University Regiment. Two years later it paraded for the first time as Monash University Company. In 1970 it was redesignated as a regiment.

By tradition, infantry battalions (or regiments) carry two colors — the Queen's Color and Regimental Color. Before being presented, the colors are always consecrated, blessed and dedicated at a parade. This dates back to the Battle of the Standard in 1138 when the Yeomen of Yorkshire, fighting the Scots, took with them consecrated banners from York Cathedral. They fought so fiercely to save the banners that they defeated heavy odds.

The colors are highly valued and treated with great respect as they embody the spirit, pride and life of a regiment. Such symbols of unity go back a long way. The most widely known of the early military organisations to adopt some kind of standard was the Roman Army, whose units carried a bronze or silver eagle mounted on a staff.

Through the Middle Ages nobles used their family badges as a rallying point and symbol for the armed bands they brought into the field. More than 30 such standards, each of different shape and color, are depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry. To lose the standard often meant that the leader was lost.

In 1950, the British Army forbade its senior officers to display their own colors. By Royal Charter the army was restricted to two colors: the Queen's (or King's) and the Regimental Colors. The first is a reminder to all ranks of their loyalty and duty to queen and country. The second is a symbol of loyalty to the regiment.

Until 1881, the colors were carried into battle at the head of each regiment by young officers called ensigns. But with the introduction of modern weapons the practice became too dangerous and these days, when a unit departs for active service, the colors are stored for safekeeping.

★ ★ ★

The primary role of the university units is to train and graduate commissioned officers for the Army Reserve. Training is conducted over three years and is tailored to suit each university's academic calendar. As well as providing new skills and a part-time career, membership of the Army Reserve means extra income. Inquiries about the Monash University Regiment should be directed to the depot in Whiton Street, Mt Waverley, telephone 543 6233.

# Adventurous printing from hand-presses

The Main Library is presenting two exhibitions of unusual works printed on hand-presses. The first, *Count Potocki of Montalk, Printer and Publisher*, finishes next week, and the second, *The Fanfrolico Press*, will begin around April 1 and continue until mid-May. Senior lecturer in English, IAN LAURENSEN, describes the exhibitions which he helped to prepare with Special Projects Librarian, Mrs Susan Radvansky.

All users of the Main Library at Monash will be familiar with the massive cast-iron Columbian printing press guarding the entrance.

Its lavish decoration may be seen as symbolic: a rampant eagle in the counterweight above, with talons clutching a cornucopia and an olive branch, rises above the wand and twin serpents of Mercury on each pillar of the press's staple.

In addition, in the Bibliographical Room of the library, there is a fine working example of an Albion hand-press built by Hopkinson and Cope of London in 1857.

Graduate students in Librarianship and from the department of English, together with library staff, find the Albion invaluable both as a bibliographical teaching press and a small jobbing press. By actually setting type, justifying it, imposing and printing out the forme, students are better equipped to understand the working procedures of early printing houses.

The Albion has also been employed by the Ancora Press for some distinguished imprints, most recently for Hector Monro's *The Sonneteer's History of Philosophy*.

It may not be so well known that the Rare Books Room holds some very significant collections of adventurous printing from hand-presses of this kind.

Two of these collections have been prepared for display by Susan Radvansky, Special Projects Librarian, in the mezzanine area of the library.

The first of these displays opened in October of last year and covers a remarkable range of the life and presswork of Geoffrey Wladislas Vaile, Count Potocki of Montalk, Pretender to the Polish throne.

Count Potocki was born in New Zealand in 1903 and has recently returned from France and Switzerland to Hamilton in the Waikato where he continues a lifetime's printing activities with his Melissa Press.

During the preparations for the present display, the count flew to Melbourne and generously assisted with advice and with the loan of some of the fascinating items now on display.



• A photo of Count Potocki by John Male, c.1947.

As Professor Roderick Cave has so aptly asserted, Count Potocki remains "a good poet, a splendid pamphleteer and a magnificent enemy".

Over the years, Main Library staff have been well aware of Count Potocki's importance and an impressive shelf of his poetry and prose has gradually been acquired.

Indeed, Monash may well possess by now the most extensive collection of Potockiana in any institutional library. It is to be hoped that a bibliographer worthy of the opportunity will emerge before long to compile the necessary classifications.

In some contrast to Count Potocki's royalist stance might be set Jack Lindsay's sharp awareness of the historical process and of the mysteries of the creative spirit.

Born in Melbourne in 1900, Mr Lindsay has lived in England since 1926 (Count Potocki reached London in 1928) and has at least 200 works, written and edited, to his credit. The check-list of Mr Lindsay's works drawn up by John Arnold (an adviser for this exhibition) should be consulted here.

During this month, the Potocki

display will be succeeded by a selection from Rare Books' substantial holdings in Jack Lindsay's Fanfrolico Press publications. Originating from a flat in Sydney with the publication of Lindsay's translation of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* in 1925, the Press continued for five productive years in London with its declared policy of printing fine and important editions.

Mr Lindsay's own summary in his autobiography, *Fanfrolico and After*, is characteristically understated: "What have we achieved in the Fanfrolico Press? Nothing, if one is to judge by the total absence of any comment in the literary records. True, we played our part in the raising of book-production standards in general . . . and we did some useful books, such as the edition of Tourneur, as well as stimulating interest in Beddoes."

Between these two major exhibitions, the honors for sheer craftsmanship are certainly carried off by the Fanfrolico Press; but there are few who can rival the commitment and restless energy of Count Potocki for his half century and more of vigorous printing and pamphleteering.

• Left: *The London Aphrodite*, the only periodical ever published by the Fanfrolico Press, was edited by Jack Lindsay and P. R. "Inky" Stephenson, with illustrations by Norman Lindsay and others. The title is a parody of *The London Mercury*. Below: An illustration by New Zealander Hal Collins of *The Parlement of Prattlers*: a series of Elizabethan dialogues and monologues illustrating daily life and the conduct of a Gentleman on the Grand Tour, by John Eliot. The Fanfrolico Press published the work in 1928 with 35 of Collins's illustrations.

## WERE BACH'S ANCESTORS POLISH ?

BY  
COUNT POTOCKI OF MONTALK

The Melissa Press  
Villa Vesoni  
Chemin de St. Martin  
Drummenon (Viv)  
France

MICHUX

• The Monash copy of this interesting pamphlet is No 16 of an unspecified limited edition, signed by the author.



## THE LONDON APHRODITE

A MISCELLANY OF POEMS STORIES AND ESSAYS  
BY VARIOUS HANDS EMINENT OR REBELLIOUS

PUBLISHED IN SIX SECTIONS BETWEEN

AUGUST 1928 AND JUNE 1929

\*\*\*\*\*





# Bruce Dawe launches Martin's book

About 200 people crowded into The Terrace Bookshop, Carlton, on 18 February for the launch of Monash poet Philip Martin's latest volume, *New and Selected Poems*.

The book, published by Longman Cheshire, was launched by one of Australia's best known and most widely-published poets, Bruce Dawe, a former writer-in-residence at Monash and a frequent visitor to the campus.

Melbourne actress, Helen Noonan (a Monash graduate and, at the time, playing the role of Nellie Melba in *Manning Clark's History of Australia — The Musical*) joined Philip in readings from

the book. One of the poems, *Of Bright Hair*, appears below.

It was Philip's second significant appearance in as many nights: on the previous night he had delivered the annual Crabtree Oration at a dinner organised by the Australian Chapter of the Joseph Crabtree Foundation at Monash. The title of his address was *Crabtree: The Erotica*.

## Of Bright Hair

Sweetest love, before we go  
Into our two graves  
To sleep brief night apart,  
Let's steal a trick, a small device, from Donne:  
He will not mind, having given us  
So much heretofore.

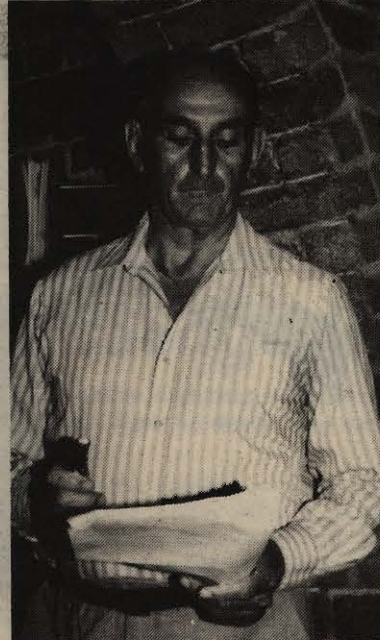
When your hair's long again  
Cut me a lock of it and give it me.  
Let there be five grey hairs among that gold.  
And I'll add to my will:  
'I know what she meant by it, bury it with me.'  
Let it outlive the flesh to which in life  
You clung, the skin your fingers murmured on.  
Let it cleave to the bone  
Of the arm now far from you, that wrote these lines.

And maybe take this paper,  
Enclose it in the thin gold of a locket,  
Hang it about your throat. My lips were there,  
Once. Once? How many times already,  
And will be there again before we die.

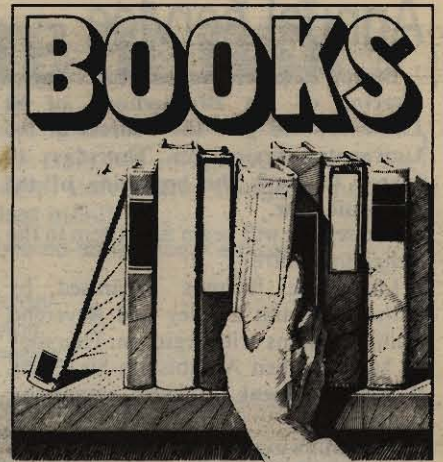
We will not need, and who will read, these signs?  
Nevertheless let's make them,  
Know that until that time  
Past time when both of us, and all,  
Gather ourselves together,  
Each still wears each, a little, in the tomb.



• Philip Martin



• Bruce Dawe



• Helen Noonan

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

*Sustaining Gaia: Contributions to Another World View*

ed. Frank Fisher

Papers from the Environment, Ethics and Ecology II conference held at Monash in late 1984. Contributors include Robyn Williams, Arne Naess, Anna-Marie Cushman, Rob Wats, Elizabeth Somerlad, Joseph Aron and Peter Cock.

*Land Capability Assessment in Victoria.*

*Environmental Report No. 28.*

By P.N. King, W.M.B. Carr, J.F. Allinson and K. Boundy  
ed. Andrea Lindsay

A report on systems developed for determining the capability of land to sustain four land uses: cereal cropping, extractive industries, wildlife conservation and surface water production.

*A Method of Assessing the Recreational Inland Water Bodies in Victoria.*

*Environmental Report No. 29.*

By H. Edmonds, I. Whitford and H. Ford.  
ed. Ian Thomas.

A compilation of a group report which highlights issues involved in recreation, particularly water-related recreation in Australia. The researchers have developed a framework for assessing the recreational value of waterbodies.

These publications are all available from the Graduate School of Environmental Science, Monash University, Clayton, 3168. Telephone 565 4619.

*Journal of Intercultural Studies*  
Vol. 8, No. 2, 1987

ed. Andrew Markus

Contributors for this issue include Gillian Bottomley, Naomi Rosh White, Robert Birrell, Glenda Sluga and Michael Garbutcheon Singh.

The journal is published twice yearly by the Centre for Migrant and Intercultural Studies at Monash University. Subscription \$21 a year. Inquiries should be directed to the centre.

# Doors may close on glasnost

*Glasnost and perestroika are popular notions, but a conference of Slavists at Monash has concluded that the present loosening-up of Soviet society is part of a recurring cycle.*

Dr Marko Pavlyshyn, lecturer in Ukrainian and convener of the two-day conference, *Thaws in Slavic and East European Literatures and Cultures*, said: "We saw the model of the thaw as a liberalisation followed by necessary tightening up — a freeze.

"The system remains authoritarian; the thaw is granted from above and the establishment retains ultimate control so it has the ability to withdraw concessions at any time."

Thirty-five people attended the interdisciplinary conference. Among them were literary scholars, historians, economists, political scientists and specialists in linguistics and the visual arts. They came from Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In her keynote address, Professor Katerina Clark, of the School of Com-

parative literature of Yale, compared the present liberalisation of literary and cultural structures with phenomena in the Khrushchey era.

She concluded that the thaw was similar in many respects to the one which began soon after the death of Stalin in 1953 and lasted for about 10 years.

Dr Pavlyshyn said the conference also made the point that the thaw was a feature of liberalisation and that affected a limited part of society — the intelligentsia.

The conference was organised for the Australian and New Zealand Slavists' Association.



• Pictured at the conference were, from left, Professor Jiri Marvan (Monash), Dr Lyndall Morgan (Queensland), Professor Leslie Bodi, Dr Marko Pavlyshyn, Dr Millicent Vladiv and Dr Ian Cummins (all Monash), and Dr Michael Ulman (New South Wales). Photo — Richard Crompton.

# U3AM gets the public in

Monash University was proud to be associated with the exciting and innovative Third Age Learning scheme, said the Vice-Chancellor Professor Mal Logan.

The program was established worldwide and, for Monash in particular, it had helped to open the university's doors to the community.

Professor Logan was speaking at the opening of a day-long History Seminar in the Rotunda, organised by the University of the Third Age at Monash as a contribution to the bicentenary.

Speakers included Professor Michael Roe from the University of Tasmania, and Monash academics Professor Graeme Davison, Dr John Rickard, Dr Marian Aveling, Dr Tony Dingle and Dr

Andrew Markus.

The Third Age Learning scheme is entering its fourth year at Monash with an extensive course program including such topics as Computers, Amateur Radio, Living Latin, Creative Drama, Mahjongg, Ancient Asian Studies, Literature: the Bronte Sisters, Ballroom Dancing and Archaeology.

There is also a Walking Group, and classes like Fun with Mathematics and English for Fun which help to improve skills in these areas "painlessly".

Inquiries should be directed to Third Age Learning at Monash Incorporated (also known as University of the Third Age at Monash), Normanby House, Monash University, Clayton 3168. Telephone: 565 4706.



• Mr Alf Floyd, convener of the history seminar, welcomes the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Logan.

## Annual service

Bishop Peter Hollingworth, executive director of the Brotherhood of St Laurence, will give the address at the University service on Thursday 10 March to mark the beginning of the academic year.

The service will begin at 1.10pm in the Religious Centre.

Lunchtime lectures organised by Father Ephraim Chifley and Reverend Philip Huggins will begin on Thursday 17 March, when Archbishop Sir Frank Woods will speak on The Communion of Saints.

The following Thursday, Father Ross Collings will talk on Salvation in Christ. There will not be a lecture in Holy Week.

All lectures are given in the Narthex of the Religious Centre, and begin at 1.10pm. Inquiries should be directed to ext. 3160, 3161 or 3162.

## Talk by Kirby

The Centre for Reproductive Biology will present its inaugural occasional address on Wednesday 30 March at Robert Blackwood Hall.

The address, *Sex, Science and Society*, will be given by Justice Michael Kirby, president of the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of NSW. It will cover such issues as in vitro fertilisation, the legal and ethical implications of the AIDS pandemic and the rights of the individual and society.

The address will begin at 8pm. It is free and open to the public.

## Read for blind

Volunteers are required to give up one or two hours a week to read material on tapes for the benefit of students with vision problems.

Those interested should see Mark or Jenny, 1st floor, Main Library, or telephone ext. 2687.

## NT magazine

The latest issue of *Northern Perspective*, featuring winning entries from the 1987 NT Literary Awards, is now available. Authors include Mark O'Connor, Sarah Day and Munganye. The magazine is available by subscription at \$6 a year (two issues). Cheques should be sent to the Subscriptions Editor, *Northern Perspective*, P.O. Box 40146, Casuarina, NT, 5792.

## Courses open

Bookings are now open for the Arts and Crafts Centre's Autumn-Winter program.

Courses are available in pottery, theatre, music, personal and home-based skills, photography, textiles and the visual arts.

Monash fee-paying students and Monash staff are entitled to discounts. For bookings and further information, contact the centre (located just north of the Union Building) ext. 3180.

## Book a site

Buying or selling household items? Book a site from only \$9 at the Monster Garage and Craft Market to be held by Friends of Monash University Inc. on Sunday 20 March, in the Humanities Car Park.

For bookings and further information telephone 570 3337 or 565 4032.

MONASH REPORTER



## Literary tour

The University of Adelaide is offering an Urban History and English Literature Study Tour to England from 12 August to 5 September, 1988.

Tony Denholm of the History department and Tony Slade of the English department will lead the tour which will focus on the history of a number of ancient English towns and on the lives and works of some eminent literary figures associated with them.

The cost based on present exchange rates is \$4500 approximately. Further details and full itinerary may be obtained from Tony Denholm, History department, University of Adelaide, North Terrace, Adelaide, 5001 or Jill Easton, Thomas Cook, 45 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, 5001.

Steve Hoban, left, discusses with second-year Science/Engineering student, Tony Krepp, some of the advantages of working for ICI. Steve was awarded a BA in 1980 and he was one of several Monash graduates who returned to the university in December as a company representative "selling" careers. He was accompanied by Nicole Stransky, ICI's graduate recruitment consultant, who received her Arts degree in 1979. Their "stall" was part of the Employers Contact Centre set up in the foyer of Robert Blackwood Hall to catch the eye of re-enrolling students. It was the second time the Careers and Appointments Service had organised the centre, which is expected to become an annual event. Photo — Allan Colenso.

### JOURNEY TO THE SEA

Clumsy with age, and arthritis,  
he makes his lonely way along the beach,  
stumbling and sliding in the hot loose sand,  
angular and stiff as an old gate.  
In the parsimonious shade  
of a gaily-painted hut,  
he removes his clothes in a slow ritual,  
practised but shaky on the long passing years.  
Beneath the ineffectual screen  
of a tired towel of faded stripes,  
he somehow manages to make  
a transformation, into swimming wear,  
that proves a perfect partner for the towel.  
Who on the beach could take offence  
at the inadvertent glimpse  
of an extinct manhood? No menace there.  
Nor is there in the crossing of the sand,  
a laborious event, for all the world  
like a worn-out explorer approaching home.  
This single ancient bull, no longer of the herd,  
in the cool sea at last, floats on his back  
with a grace and ease not known on land  
for many years,  
rolls and dips, eyes on the wide blue sky;  
one almost expects to see him clap  
two flippers above his grizzled chest.

Bruce Lundgren

From *Poetry Monash* Number 22, edited by Lynette Wilson. Published three times a year by the English department. Yearly subscription \$5 post free. Inquiries to Dennis Davison, department of English, Monash University, Clayton 3168.



## Divorce research

I am a post-graduate student in psychology at the University of Melbourne. I am looking for women to take part in a research study which will commence shortly.

The topic to be explored will be womens' responses to their divorce. I am particularly interested in hearing from women who have been divorced in the last four years, and who are presently single.

If you are interested in taking part, please telephone me on 458 1464 (AH).  
Glenda Bishop

## Legal move

Springvale Legal Service has moved into new offices worth close to \$1 million on its original Osborne Avenue site.

The service, which turned 15 in February, has been working from temporary premises for eight months.

It will share the new building with the Springvale Citizens Advice Bureau.

Monash has a large stake in the service, which employs up to 21 final-year Law students in its clinical program. The university made a \$30,000 donation towards the new building.

## Conference plans

The Australian Academy of Science is inviting proposals for Elizabeth and Frederick White Research Conferences to be held in 1989.

Up to two conferences in the physical and mathematical sciences are organised each year. They are held in the academy's Ellerton Becker Building in Canberra at a date agreed upon by the conference organiser and the academy.

Proposals must be submitted on a form which will be supplied by the Academy Secretariat on request. Closing date is 31 March 1988, but groups intending to submit proposals should notify the academy immediately. Inquiries can be directed to Mrs Hilary Back, GPO Box 783, Canberra, ACT, 2601. Telephone (062) 47 5777.

## Science award

Nominations are invited for the 1989/90 Rudi Lemberg Travelling Fellowship offered by the Australian Academy of Science.

The fellow may be drawn from any field of biology, but special consideration will be given to nominations from the areas of biochemistry, conservation and the Australian flora.

The fellowship is tenable for visits to and within Australia of not less than two weeks and not more than three months. Overseas and local air fares and a daily allowance are provided.

Nomination forms are available from the secretariat, Australian Academy of Science, GPO Box 783, Canberra ACT 2601. Nominations close on 30 April, 1988. Telephone inquiries should be directed to Mrs Hilary Back on (062) 47 5777.

## Monash Reporter

The next issue will be published in the first week of April, 1988.

Copy deadline is Thursday, 24 March, and early copy is much appreciated.

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

# Brits choose 'the Alex' for top-rating show

When Monash opened its doors in 1961, it was claimed that the university lay in a cultural wasteland. Just over a quarter of a century later, the campus's contributions to local culture are being recognised as far away as the United Kingdom.

The voice on the other end of the line was obviously British. "Do you hire out the Alexander Theatre? If so, could we hire it, please?"

It was an executive of the Goldcrest Theatre Associates of London's West End. The act he wanted to book was *Sooty* the little puppet three generations of children have grown up watching on television.

Goldcrest wanted the Alex for *Sooty's* Melbourne run because, he said, the Alex has the children's theatre following in Melbourne.

To theatre manager, Phil A'Vard, this was a delightful confirmation of the value of more than 17 years of working to build up children's theatre at the Alex, and in Melbourne generally.

"Goldcrest could have taken the show to any of the city theatres, most of which have a much bigger capacity," he said.

But *Sooty* and his faithful sidekick, Mathew Corbett, came to Monash, where they played sold-out shows twice daily for nine days.

For many of the 9000 adults and children who came, it was their first contact with the university. And more than 3000 families opted to continue their involvement by putting their names on the theatre's mailing list.

*Sooty's* run at the end of January followed that of *Meg and Mog*, another children's show more typical of the Alex. Mr A'Vard had found a competent young director willing to take on the staging of an English script by David Wood based on a series of books written by Helen Nicoll and illustrated by Jan Pienkowski.

The show was not the runaway success that *Sooty* was, but it clearly delighted the children who saw it — and therein lies one of the great paradoxes of staging children's theatre, because to be successful, children's shows have to appeal not only to children.

They also have to entertain the adults who bring the children along, and impress adult critics who will spread the word of a good show to parents.

In the case of *Meg and Mog*, the critics pointed out that the show had its faults: it was too long and probably too wordy, some of the scenes appeared too contrived, and some of the cast did not seem comfortable in their roles.

None of this mattered to the children in the audience. Most had read Nicoll's books and they loved watching the characters come to life before their eyes: Meg, the scatterbrained witch, Mog, her cat, and Owl, the smart one of the outfit, along with an impressive Stegosaurus, a spaceman and sundry other characters.

"They're only dressed up to look like people," a little boy in the next seat said earnestly. The magic of the theatre works in wondrous ways with an audience that accepts magic as a normal part of life.

According to Mr A'Vard, the way around the difficulty of having to appeal to both children and adults, and the secret of success for the Alex, has been consistency.

"We have an enviable record for a consistent standard of children's theatre," he said. "People have learned to trust the Alex."

He got into children's theatre in 1970 because "there was an enormous need".

"It was also a way to fill the theatre between November and March and it was one area over which we could exercise total control as to what was presented and when."

The mainstay of children's theatre at the Alex is the subscription series known as *The Saturday Club*.

"When we started the club in 1972, there was nothing in children's entertainment on Saturday afternoon," said Mr A'Vard.

"We began by showing films on a subscription basis, but after the first year I came to the conclusion that I wasn't really a film man and I put forward the idea of six live productions a year. We had a complete turnover of audience, but it worked."

There are now about 2500 members of the Saturday Club: 2000 in the under-eight section and the rest in the eight to 12 group.

This guaranteed audience has dovetailed nicely with holiday programs and performances for schools to allow the Alexander Theatre to comb Australia for the highest quality children's theatre productions.

This year, for instance, in the first three weeks of May, the Marionette Theatre of Australia from Sydney will



• Sooty, to whom 'House Full' signs are commonplace, poses with Mathew Corbett in the foyer of the Alexander Theatre.

present its version of *The Magic Pudding*. And in September, the Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia (Canada) will stage its adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's *Just So Stories*.

Children's theatre has also helped the Alex to get around the problem of its out-of-town location. During the 1970s and 1980s the nearby eastern suburbs have been full of young and growing families, and now that the theatre's reputation has been firmly established, people come from all over Victoria.

But while children's theatre gives identity to the Alexander Theatre and contributes to its high occupancy rate of more than 350 performances a year, it is only one of a number of constituencies it serves.

Obviously the theatre was built for the university, and in 1988, nine weeks of the Alex's calendar have been reserved for the university-based productions. This includes performances from the student drama club, The Monash Players, the Monash University Musical Theatre Company (MUMCO), the departments of English and Classical Studies and, for the first time, the Monash Medical Centre review.

There is also strong community use of the theatre throughout the year, and Mr A'Vard brings in professional theatre whenever he can squeeze it in.

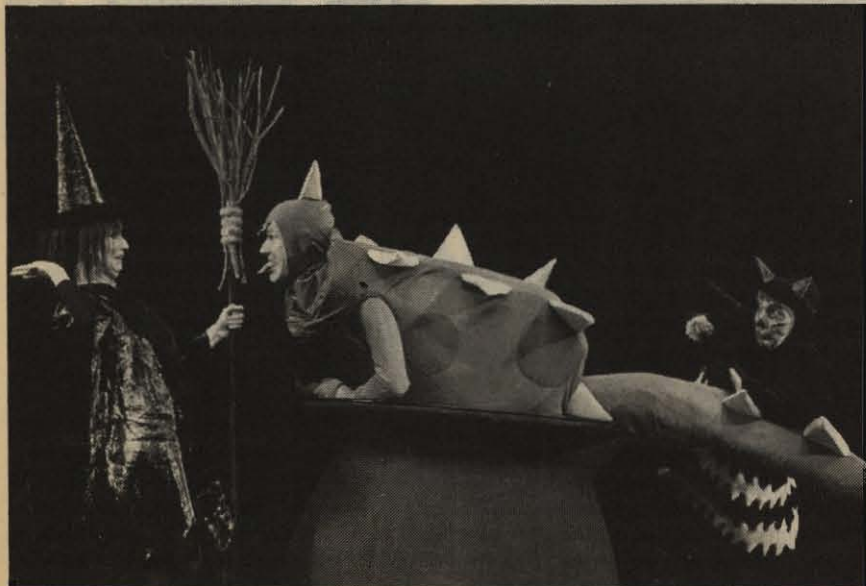
Some productions are bought on a full-risk basis; sometimes the cost is shared with other members of the Victorian Association of the Performing Arts, a group which includes theatres from Gippsland to the Western District.

And this year, the Alex is branching into something different. Comedian Richard Stubbs is bringing his brand of humor to Clayton in March as part of the Melbourne Comedy Festival.

Tim Thwaites



• Bob Hook as the pukka "Tiger" in *Meg and Mog*.



• A spell gone wrong. Instead of breakfast, Meg (Catherine McQuillen) conjures up Steggie the Stegosaurus (Norman Yemm), much to the horror of Mog (David Dodd). Photos — Michael Rayner.

# Exhibition is not only the works on the wall

Monash University Gallery's 1988 program began with an exhibition of contemporary Australian art curated by Gary Sangster under the title, *Sighting References*. The exhibition, which has been seen in New Zealand and Sydney, was opened last week by Monash graduate Paul Taylor, founding editor of *Art & Text* and art critic for the *New York Times*. It will continue until Saturday 16 April. **MERRYNGATES**, the gallery's newly-appointed assistant curator, says the exhibition explores the concept of 'appropriation' in the arts. Here she describes its content.

Six visual artists are represented in the show. **Peter Tyndall's** work deals directly with the problem every viewer has when confronted with a 'viewed' object. He uses a vocabulary of symbols developed by him over a period of several years. With his consistent schema for the viewed object inserted into various situations, a critique of representation is constructed.

Our illusions about the value of 'over-exposed' famous art works are literally shattered in **Maria Kozic's** *Master Pieces*, which she then, with Dada humour, reconstructs as jigsaw puzzles. **Juan Davila's** method of quotation draws upon a diverse range of existing imagery — from pornography, the fine arts and computer coding graphics. Drawn into an unholy dialogue, the usual boundaries by which we separate them are torn away. The artist herself becomes the object of our attention in the works of **Julie Brown-Rrap**. Appropriating images of the female from art history (Rodin, Balthus, Matisse: the writings of Sade and Freud) she imposes her own image in the place of the original nude. It is an action of

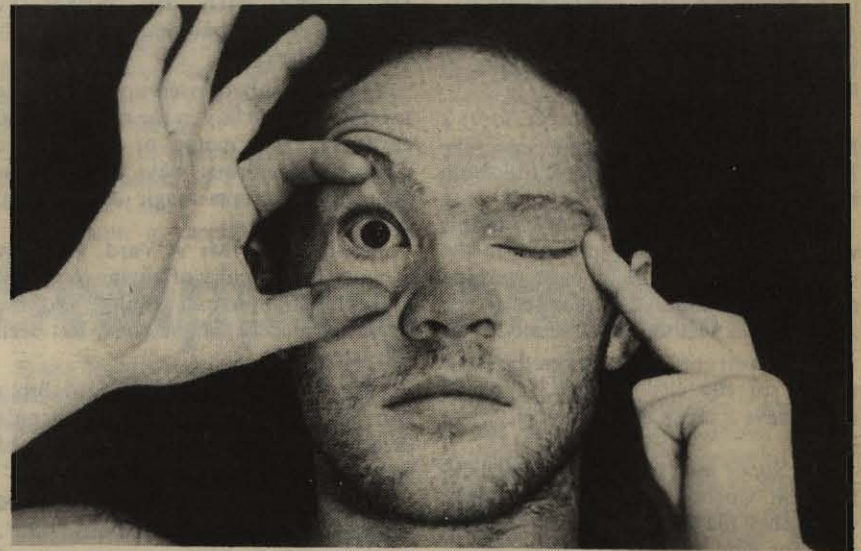
infiltration, and she prefers to call this process 'theft', rather than (politely) reference.

**Tim Johnson's** work attempts to establish a place in contemporary practice for the use of ancient symbols (aboriginal and tantric traditions) where communication has always been intrinsically related to the visual image. The tri-part images of **Richard Dunn** form the shape of the cross, a shape which refers us simultaneously to the heritage of abstract art (Malevich's cross) and the process of addition by which images can narrate. The narrative he leads us into is not the one initially associated with the source material, but depends upon our comprehension of that source for the production of their 'new' meaning.

But the exhibition is not only the works on the wall. Accompanying the visual work is a text, in lieu of the traditional catalogue, containing the writings of four contemporary critics and theorists Michael Carter, Ross Gibson, Elizabeth Grosz and Meaghan Morris. They develop the theme of the exhibition from a variety of methodological and ideological points of view.

## CIPHERS, SYSTEMS AND CODES IN RECENT AUSTRALIAN VISUAL ART

# SIGHTING REFERENCES



• *A Person Looks At A Work Of Art . . .* by Peter Tyndall. 1975.

★ ★ ★

Two public activities will be held in the Gallery Theatre, ground floor, Gallery Building, in conjunction with the *Sighting References* exhibition.

They will be a panel discussion, *Citing Sighting References*, with speakers in-

cluding Juliana Engberg, director of George Paton Gallery, artists Maria Kozic and Peter Tyndall, and curator Gary Sangster, to be held at 7pm on Tuesday 16 March; and a film and video program of works by a number of the artists, to be shown on Wednesday 17 March at 1.15pm and 8.30pm.

## See the Spirit of India

**Celebrated South Indian dancer, Malavika Sarukkai, right, performed at the Alexander Theatre during Orientation Week.**

Malavika, whose specialty is Bharatnatyam dancing, is one of several Indian musicians and dancers brought to Australia for the Adelaide Festival.

Two other members of the "Spirit of India" team, Durga Lal and Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia, will give free lectures and demonstrations at Monash this Friday (March 11).

Durga Lal is a leading exponent of the North Indian Kathak dance, which was patronised by the various courts, particularly in Rajasthan and Lucknow. His lecture and demonstration will take place from 1.15-2pm in the Music department auditorium.

From 3.15-4.15pm at the same venue, Indian folk hero, Pandit Hari Prasad

Chaurasia, will demonstrate his spell-binding skills on the bamboo flute.

The Spirit of India visit to Monash has been sponsored by the Vera Moore Fund.



## Duo-pianists are 'flawless'

**Duo-pianists Marjorie and Wendell Nelson from California will present the first concert this year in Robert Blackwood Hall's free lunchtime series.**

The program begins at 1.15pm on Monday 21 March and features original music for four hands at one piano in a performance which critics have described as "flawless", "sublimely pure".

"The Nelsons played together so closely in spirit that for most of the evening they were one . . . the ensemble was such that it seemed there was only a single performer on stage," said one critic.

The music of Percy Grainger will be featured the following Monday (28 March) in a performance by the Third Military District Band.



**Here's how some people filled in their time during the long vacation . . .**

They're not abseiling. They're doing a serious job of work — cutting away, curing and repairing patches of spalling concrete on the north face of the Menzies Building.

Swaying at 9th floor level are, from left, Leslie Jasinoski, Jaromir Bartos, Geoff Minns and Josef Motycka, all of whom work for Vertitech Pty Ltd under contract to the university's maintenance section.

Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the Forum, Philip Waters, above left, had a much more comfortable perch for his job of cleaning the southern wall of the Union.

With his colleague, Andrew Wall, Philip (also an outside contractor) cut away the grime of many years with a 3500 psi jet of water — with dramatic effect.



"Almost everyone in the business has done a *Neighbors*," the experienced film extra said, and now Monash has "done" a *Neighbors* as well. The area between Microbiology and the back of Physics was used as a hospital facade for three scenes in a forthcoming episode of the top-rating television series. Here, in front of a professionally dispassionate film crew, Lisa Armytage, who plays Dr Beverley Marshall, is involved in animated conversation with Paul Keenan, who plays Des Clarke.