

Monash Reporter

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Professor urges contraceptive reform

Australians are being denied access to new advances in contraception, according to the chairman of the Centre for Reproductive Biology, Professor Roger Short.

He said that new devices, compounds and techniques currently in use in many developed and developing countries were not available here, even though they offered significant benefits for the reproductive health of men and women.

Professor Short said one reason for the non-availability of the latest contraceptives and hormone preparations was Australia's stringent regulatory requirements.

"Australia has become a Fourth World country as far as reproductive health is concerned," Professor Short told a public discussion meeting at the Monash City Centre last month.

The meeting was organised by the Centre for Reproductive Biology in response to community concern that Australians did not have access to the range and quality of treatments available overseas.

A resolution passed by the meeting called on the Federal Minister for Community Services and Health, Mr Brian Howe, to undertake an urgent, independent, external review leading to reform of Australia's drug regulatory procedures.

"Administrative obstacles and consumer ignorance have effectively denied Australians access to many recent safe and effective drug developments in the field of reproductive health, so that they are

seriously disadvantaged with respect to individuals in other countries," the resolution said.

A review was needed "to ensure that in the future Australia can become one of the first to benefit from these new developments, not one of the last."

Speakers from the Monash Medical Centre and Family Planning Association of Victoria outlined innovations in reproductive health that were not available in Australia.

Australia's regulatory requirements for licensing new drugs and devices were presented by a representative from the Drug Evaluation Branch, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Department of Community Services and Health.

"Many international pharmaceutical companies are often reluctant to register their products in Australia because this involves costly additional research and documentation. It may not be worth their while, since Australia represents a small potential market with a limited profit margin," Professor Short said.

"We all want adequate drug regulatory procedures but I think the Australian authority has got a problem. It would help if the Drug Evaluation Branch could take into account the requirements and decisions of other regulatory bodies in developed countries in Europe and

North America, and agree on a common set of standards."

More companies might then apply to have their products registered in Australia, he said. Often, when an application was lodged, the branch's workload and procedures meant long delays before an approval could be granted.

There also was a general lack of public awareness, and hence of consumer demand, for new products. Three new developments highlighted Australia's general backwardness in contraceptive research and development, he said.

These were a new intrauterine device developed in Finland, a plastic condom currently under development in the US, and a "no scalpel" vasectomy procedure developed in China.

"Unless we take active steps to see that these new methods are introduced into Australia, we deserve to remain the Cinderella of contraception," Professor Short said.

Our regulatory procedures were also one of the reasons why Australia had failed to develop its own pharmaceutical industry, or to attract international companies to invest in research and development here. "We need desperately to develop such an industry," he said.

"The Australian biomedical community is denied a local outlet for the commercial development of its basic research, depriving the country of a major potential source of income. Australia needs just such a

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Wheels within wheels

Second-year physiology student Telford Scully is put through the hoops by an AeroTrim, a device that started life as an aid to acrobatic skiers but is now used by several air forces to stimulate the balancing systems of airsick pilots. There was no shortage of potential skiers/pilots during its short tryout last month in the Physiology Department. Picture: RICHARD CROMPTON

On wombats, loos and big taboos

On the trail of euphemisms, authors Keith Allan and Kate Burridge have pondered the question: how is a wombat like a man?

They have also asked what are euphemisms, why do we use them and how do they develop. They have contemplated taboos, jargon, slang and obscenity, and wondered why some words are more offensive than others.

Words, and their colloquial meanings as euphemisms, are investigated by the authors in *How Is A Wombat Like A Man?*, to be published next year by Oxford University Press, New York.

In the book, Dr Allan, a senior lecturer in linguistics at Monash, and Dr Burridge, a linguistics lecturer at La Trobe University, explore the use of language as a shield (euphemism) and as a weapon (dysphemism).

There was a constant turnover of euphemisms in the spoken language, Dr Allan said. The euphemisms of yesteryear were replaced by new ones as people created alternative expressions to avoid offending others.

Euphemisms provided a way for human beings to talk about potentially distasteful, taboo, fearsome or uncomfortable subjects such as body parts, disease, death and sex



Dr Keith Allan and Dr Kate Burridge with furry friend, courtesy of the Monash market. Picture: SCOTT FITZPATRICK

For example, the use of bathroom or loo for toilet, underprivileged instead of poor and needy, senior citizens instead of old people, or pass away instead of die.

Then there was 'gender' instead of sex, 'made redundant' instead of sacked, 'industrial action' instead of

strike, and 'tactical withdrawal' for retreat.

Often a euphemism degenerated into a taboo term through association with the taboo topic. Undertaker once meant odd job man and was used as a euphemism for the person taking care of funerals.

Undertaker now was being replaced by the euphemism funeral director. And since the 1960s, the adjective gay has been used less in the sense of 'bright, full of fun'.

Dr Allan said: "A publisher may write 'after careful consideration we have regretfully concluded that your manuscript falls outside the scope of our current publishing program' when they really mean 'we don't want to publish your lousy manuscript'."

"Some of my favorites are descriptions of death written by doctors on hospital patients cards — therapeutic misadventure, diagnostic misadventure of the highest magnitude, negative patient outcome, and the patient failed to fulfil his wellness potential.

"Politicians never speak of bribes, graft and expenses-paid holidays, but of honorariums, campaign contributions and per diem travel reimbursements."

The work, originally conceived as an academic paper, evolved into a book for general reading as the authors delved into the subject.

"Once we started writing, and thought about all the different sorts of euphemisms, it just kept growing. We had to define what a euphemism was, how it worked, and the various kinds of euphemisms there were," Dr Allan said.

"We have created a new defini-

tion of euphemism to do with concerns about possible 'loss of face'. Whenever we speak we make a choice along these lines, and most of the time we avoid being offensive.

"People are very sensitive to off-color words. Their response to obscene or taboo terms is different to other words."

Dr Allan said that as some sexual taboos faded, they were replaced by taboos on sexist and racist language.

Recently, the word condom — which had often appeared in print euphemistically abbreviated to c-d-m — had passed from taboo into everyday language.

"Nowadays the term is widely used in the media, both in reporting and advertising, and condoms are occasionally even to be seen on television — though not usually located on that part of the anatomy for which they are manufactured," he said.

He said studying euphemisms gave an interesting perspective on the human psyche.

"One of the most striking effects of our journey into oral culture was to be sharply reminded of the delightful inventiveness of so much of its terminology," he said.

"Many euphemisms and dysphemisms demonstrate the poetic inventiveness of ordinary folk. They reveal a folk culture that has been paid too little attention."

Teaching the Filipino teachers...

A group of Filipino physics teachers is studying at Monash this year under an Australian aid program which is helping to restructure the Philippines' secondary education system.

The 34 teachers are fellows of the Philippines-Australia Science and Mathematics Education Project (PASMEP), set up as part of Australia's increased aid to the Philippines since 1986.

Professor of Science and Education, Peter Fensham, was part of a mission to the Philippines which established the project's structure. Associate Professor, Dick Gunstone, travelled to the Philippines late last year to complete details of the project in consultation with education authorities there.

PASMEP is being co-ordinated in the Education Faculty but the Physics Department has been involved in advanced teaching and the ELICOS centre in improving the fellows' language skills.

"They are studying an advanced program to train them to run in-service programs in the Philippines, tied in with the introduction of new curricula in science and maths throughout that country," Dr Gunstone said.

"When they return, they will be teaching an intensive six-week program for other teachers. The project aims to produce more people with science and mathematics skills and to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

"The bottom line is the new curriculum in physics with its new topics and increased emphasis on technology and society. What we are doing with them, however,

covers much more than just the new course content.

"We have been teaching physics to the group as well as showing them alternative ways of teaching — looking at learning, ways of structuring the in-service courses, teaching to adults and problems of introducing changes to a system.

"It's the first time we have had such an extended program for this sort of specialised teacher education program in the department. However, we have had many strong links with Asian countries through other shorter projects, visiting staff members and people working here on higher degrees."

Dr Gunstone and Professor Fensham both have conducted UNESCO-sponsored teaching programs in the Philippines.

He said the PASMEP program had been fortunate in attracting good staff and the response from the participants had been extremely good, after some early problems associated with settling in.

"After all, the situation was a novel one for both the fellows and Monash staff. They had to come to grips with understanding why we were doing things differently," Dr Gunstone added.

"We have spent a lot of time getting to know them and helping them to understand alternative ways of going about the teaching of physics and other subjects."



Part-time lecturer in physics, Mrs Mary Brown, with a group of Filipino teachers studying at Monash under the PASMEP program, part of Australia's aid to the Philippines.

First education doctorate

Australia's first comprehensive doctor of education degree was launched in the Gallery Theatre last month by the chief executive officer of the Victorian Ministry of Education, Ms Ann Morrow.

The new doctorate, which will be taught from 1991 in the School of Graduate Studies in the Faculty of Education, is a research-based degree designed to improve professional practice by increasing the knowledge and skill of students through research into current educational problems and issues.

Although similar degrees are offered in North America, until now no Australian university has offered such a comprehensive one.

Ms Morrow said that continuing professional development in the teaching profession was a crucial issue, and the new degree represented a giant step forward.

"The education system stands to gain a great deal from the upgrading of teaching qualifications," she said.

"The new doctorate will offer teachers greatly improved access to higher degree work. In the past, few have been able to arrange to earn a doctorate."

Better graduates were demanded as society became more complex, Ms Morrow said. "There is an ever-growing demand for the educated and educators. These days, everything is expected to be solved at the school level.

"Professional development is going to become increasingly desirable and increasingly necessary. This will have a direct bearing on teaching morale, which transfers into the performance of teachers."

Students enrolled in the EdD normally would take four years of part-time study to complete a com-



Ann Morrow: "The education system stands to gain a great deal from the upgrading of teaching qualifications."

pulsory eight subjects.

The subjects make up a series of "tracks", each track reflecting the faculty's areas of expertise in teaching and research. (Next year's

tracks will be Curriculum Issues, and Administration, Planning and Policy.) Students also will be required to submit a 52,000-word thesis at the end of the course.

New HQ for APPI

Work has begun on the construction of the new \$1.5 million headquarters of the Australian Pulp and Paper Institute (APPI), based at Monash University.

The building is the culmination of plans by Monash and the Pulp and Paper Manufacturers' Federation of Australia to establish a world-class centre of research into pulp and paper technology, bringing together the research capacities of a university and the strengths of the manufacturing sector.

Monash professor of pulp and paper technology and the director of APPI, Harry Cullinan, said: "One of the immediate benefits of the activities planned for our new headquarters will be a major contribution to informed public discussion of the real issues involved with technology and the environment.

"We are excited by the prospects this project promises. It will be a facility of great value to the university and industry," he said.

APPI was established last year in the Monash department of Chemical

Engineering with \$500,000 a year support from the federation, the umbrella group of the country's most important paper manufacturers. Its aim is to upgrade the Australian industry's workforce and improve its international competitiveness.

The new headquarters, located west of Engineering Building 5, will provide space for the institute's continuing programs of graduate education and research. The two-storey 1200 square metre building, which will house lecture rooms, offices, conference rooms and laboratories, is expected to be completed early next year.

Monash has given \$350,000 to the construction of the new headquarters. The balance has come from the Pulp and Paper Manufacturers' Federation of Australia and industry.

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Monash Asian studies unrivalled: Minister

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Senator Gareth Evans, officially launched the university's Institute for Contemporary Asian Studies in July.

Speaking at the ceremony in the Alexander Theatre, Senator Evans, a graduate of Melbourne University, conceded that in Asian studies Monash was unrivalled in Victoria, if not Australia.

He said: "While it is a little painful for someone who studied and taught at Melbourne University ever to concede anything to our Johnny-come-lately rival from the outer suburbs, I have to acknowledge that when it comes to Asian studies, Monash University has for many years been unrivalled in this state, and probably — although not without some competitive claims from the ANU, Griffith and Murdoch — in the whole country."

The institute was established in 1988 to increase understanding of

Asia through teaching, research, publishing, and briefings for the business community.

It brings together the university's expertise in Asian studies, including that of its Asian languages and studies departments, and its centres of Southeast Asian Studies, Japanese Studies, Development Studies and Asia-Pacific Education, as well as the Graduate School of Management.

Senator Evans said: "If Australia is ever to catch up with our geography, to accept all the consequences — political, economic and cultural — of living in the Asia Pacific region, then the kind of work being done here at Monash under the umbrella of the institute, and the kind of creative new ways of

co-ordinating and presenting that knowledge base to the wider community, will be of vital importance to the country's future."

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, said that for too long Australian universities had seen Asia as external to our own culture and therefore something simply to be studied.

"At Monash we have to begin to build into all disciplines right across the university the teaching of things Asian. All theoretical, philosophical and scientific material, especially in broad introductory courses, should come to include Asia — as well as Europe-based intellectual content," Professor Logan said.

The director of the Institute for Contemporary Asian Studies is Professor Margaret Kartomi, and its executive officer is Dr Joan Grant.



Senator Gareth Evans, Professor Margaret Kartomi, and Professor Mal Logan at the launch of the centre.



Ms Robyn Leeson helps country student Marcus Smith, of Echuca.

Adjusting to big city life

The problems of country students adapting to living and studying in the city were discussed during a recent visit to Ballarat by Ms Robyn Leeson, a tutor in the department of Geography and Environmental Science.

Ms Leeson was invited to speak on Ballarat's public radio station 3-BBB FM by Mr Martin Murley, co-ordinator of the Vocational Information Centre, Ballarat.

Appearing on the centre's weekly program about youth, education and training issues, Ms Leeson, originally from Lang Lang, talked about the difficulties country students face in adjusting to city life. The program also featured Mr Gary Bourke, a former Monash student, now careers teacher at Murtoa Secondary College in the Wimmera region.

"Staff and other students tend to forget what sort of problems country people have in a new environment," Ms Leeson said. "You live in a small town for 18 years and then suddenly you're in a community of 17,000 on campus.

"If you are from a small town, as I was, you know everyone in the street. (At university) it's probably

the most people you have seen in one place in your life; and there's no-one to say hello to."

She said country students lacked the support network of city students, many of whom probably were still living at home. "If you're from the country you have to find accommodation and perhaps a part-time job at the same time you are leaving old relationships and trying to form new ones," Ms Leeson said.

Ms Leeson said Monash University's Halls of Residence provided support for first-year country students simply because there were many others in the same circumstances. [Applications for residence in the Halls for next year should be made before 22 November. Contact the Halls admissions office on 544 8133 or 75 3930.]

Getting a foothold on campus could be as simple as joining one of the many clubs or societies, she added. [The University Union can provide information and contacts for campus sporting, cultural, religious, political, theatrical, ethnic, faculty and general interest groups.]

Loneliness, unfamiliarity with the surroundings and lack of direct family support were common problems among country students. Ms Leeson said the end of first year was

a "make or break time" when students decided whether to continue in their studies or drop out.

"If they have made it to the end of first year, they've started to get a balance between how often to go home and perhaps breaking off some relationships at home," she said.

Students also came under pressure from family and old friends. "If they have made some sort of transition they have changed quite a lot and when they do go home they don't seem to fit in as well as they used to," Ms Leeson added.

"Some students have real problems adjusting to isolation and breaking down of relationships but most have found their feet by second year."

Ms Leeson said tutors should be aware of the needs of country students. "First-year country students speak up a lot because they are used to having close ties with their teachers," she said.

"This closeness helps the students because they are really desperate to find someone to identify with. Tutors can make them feel they belong just by knowing their names, knowing where they are from, or just by saying hello."

Industry grants for key centre

The National Key Centre in Industrial Relations in the Graduate School of Management has received two major grants totalling \$110,000.

A recent grant of \$60,000 from the Federal Department of Industrial Relations is to investigate workplace change following the implementation of award restructuring.

A series of case studies will be conducted in a range of industry throughout Australia, making this project the most comprehensive of its type. Mr Richard Gough, formerly of the department's Work Environment Branch, has been appointed to the centre to co-ordinate the studies over 12 months.

The project will involve 15 academics at institutions in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South Australia in up to 25 separate case studies.

"The aim of the project is to assess the extent of workplace change and to look at the factors which are promoting or hindering this, with a particular emphasis on award restructuring," Associate Professor Richard Curtain, of the key centre, said.

"Initially, the information will be useful for the Australian Industrial Relations Commission in its review of the award restructuring process. We don't think anybody else is looking in a systematic way at what's going on at the workplace level."

An earlier grant of \$50,000 from the National Board of Employment, Education and Training under its Innovative Grants Scheme is to establish industry-education links in the south-east of Melbourne.

"A network of industry consultants and experts from relevant disciplines in higher education, including TAFE, will be set up to provide specialist advice to industry on a consultancy basis," Associate Professor Curtain, the project's director, said.

"We plan to establish contacts between the industry consultants working from TAFE Colleges of Dandenong, Frankston, Moorabbin and Holmesglen, experts from the disciplines of business planning, engineering and industrial relations at each of Monash's campuses, as well as Swinburne Institute of Technology and Victoria College.

"The project will act as a 'clearing house' by linking requests for specific assistance from industry with the appropriate information and expertise in the area. It will run over nine months to assess whether it can generate enough work to be self-funding."

He said the two projects would enable the centre, which opened in March this year, to demonstrate its expertise.

"We have already completed a project for the Business Council of Australia in conjunction with the Industrial Relations Research Centre at the University of New South Wales," he said.

The 16 Business Council case studies will be published at the end of September.



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan, receives a cheque for \$60,000 from the Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr Peter Cook.

Bovine abroad

Outside studies program report

by Dr Barry Bovine, senior lecturer in the department of Ballistics and American Culture.



The purpose of my two-month visit to the United States was to gather material for a sequel to my recent book *Lost in the mists of wine: 1965-67, the forgotten years of Californian viticulture*. What follows is off the top of my head — a proper and detailed account of my trip lies somewhere at the bottom of San Pedro Bay:

Arrived in Los Angeles to find my luggage had gone on to New York. Caught a taxi to my sister's home in Long Beach, where a neighbor told me she had just left for a six-week study tour of migrant camps in Hollywood. Broke in through the back door.

incomprehensible. I phoned his office later only to find he'd gone to Tijuana to tie up a deal with a local cactus grower. "Cactus wine," he had slurred the previous day, "is gonna be bigger than hula hoops." Coleby, like his wine, was stuck in the '60s.

The next week I hung out on Redondo Beach trying to ascertain the popularity of late '60s Californian red. Until one day I overheard someone say that I looked like a talk show host. Quickly I returned home, raided my sister's wardrobe, and changed into something a little less conspicuous. I parked myself back on the foreshore and made copious notes, at the same time trying to ward off the unwanted attentions of local businessmen. None of whom knew anything about the wine trade. Still, I agreed with their remarks. I do look good in pastels.

The following day I met the head of Grape Expectations, a public relations firm involved in the profile management (as they call it here) of the Californian wine industry. Forgot I was wearing one of my sister's tee-shirts, which carried a message alluding to a certain lightheadedness endemic to west coast Americans. Company heavies used me to break the front door.

Fully aware now of the dangers associated with wearing your sister's clothes, I went shopping for a new wardrobe. Returned home \$1565 poorer and looking like a talk show host. Felt a real Californian.

Did lunch with Coleby Weissburger, manager of the Santa Monica Estate, one of the largest vineyards in the area. As we ate I taped his reminiscences of the '60s and sampled wines from the period. About October 1966 I had to call my sister in a migrant camp to tell her that her tomcat had escaped through the hole I had made in the back door, and that if he wasn't captured pretty soon it seemed very likely he would become the defendant in several hundred paternity cases.

She asked me what on earth was I blabbering about, where was I calling from, and besides she didn't own a cat anyway. I said this was news to me for I'd been feeding the animal for over a week and had spent about half my OSP grant on tinned gourmet food. I promised to mend the hole and sell the remaining food to the nearby cat hotel, The Catnappery. The cat could make its own way in this city of dreams. When I returned, Coleby was well into June 1967.

The next morning I began to transcribe a tapeful of Weissburger's ramblings. It didn't take long before I remembered I had used the fresh recorder batteries earlier in the week to power my sister's can-opener. Which I had used to open cat food. Coleby was

Visited several wine-growing areas over the ensuing weeks. As myself. And in the process learned to discourage the jibes about talk show hosts. I would turn on my accusers and tell them I was researching the forgotten years of Californian viticulture, 1965-67. Their eyes would glaze over as if they had just stepped in a cowpat.

My notebooks were beginning to fill. I became convinced there was a professorship — at the very least, a readership — in unlocking the key to one of wine's great mysteries. At about this time the cat returned. His arrival happened to coincide with that of my sister, who introduced us both to the front door in rapid succession.

With a stray cat under one arm and six weeks' worth of research under the other, I stepped out onto the expressway looking like a talk show host headed for a retirement village. The cat stayed with me until sunset. I hitched a lift to the bay with an out-of-work lecturer in Ballistics and American Culture from UCLA. We shared a flagon of fine Californian wine on the sand, and as the waves lapped at our feet we pondered the vicissitudes of academic life.

Daybreak found me alone. All my notes had floated out to sea. My lecturer friend had also disappeared. I put the flagon to my lips. It was empty.

Privacy law urged

Victoria is the only eastern Australian state not to have in place privacy legislation to protect the individual, according to senior lecturer in banking and finance at Caulfield campus, Mr Greg Tucker.

He was commenting on the release of a report by the Victorian Parliament's Legal and Constitutional Committee, which recommends introduction of comprehensive privacy legislation.

Mr Tucker, who conducted a review of international data privacy legislation while a research fellow at the OECD in Paris in 1988, gave evidence to the committee and has been quoted extensively in its final report.

His work on data privacy legislation has been published in the latest OECD Science, Technology and Industry Review, and he has been invited back to Paris in 1991 to do a three-yearly update on developments in this area.

Mr Tucker said Australia had lagged behind other OECD nations in the introduction of individual privacy legislation. "In Europe there has been sweeping privacy legislation introduced, beginning with Sweden in 1973," he said.

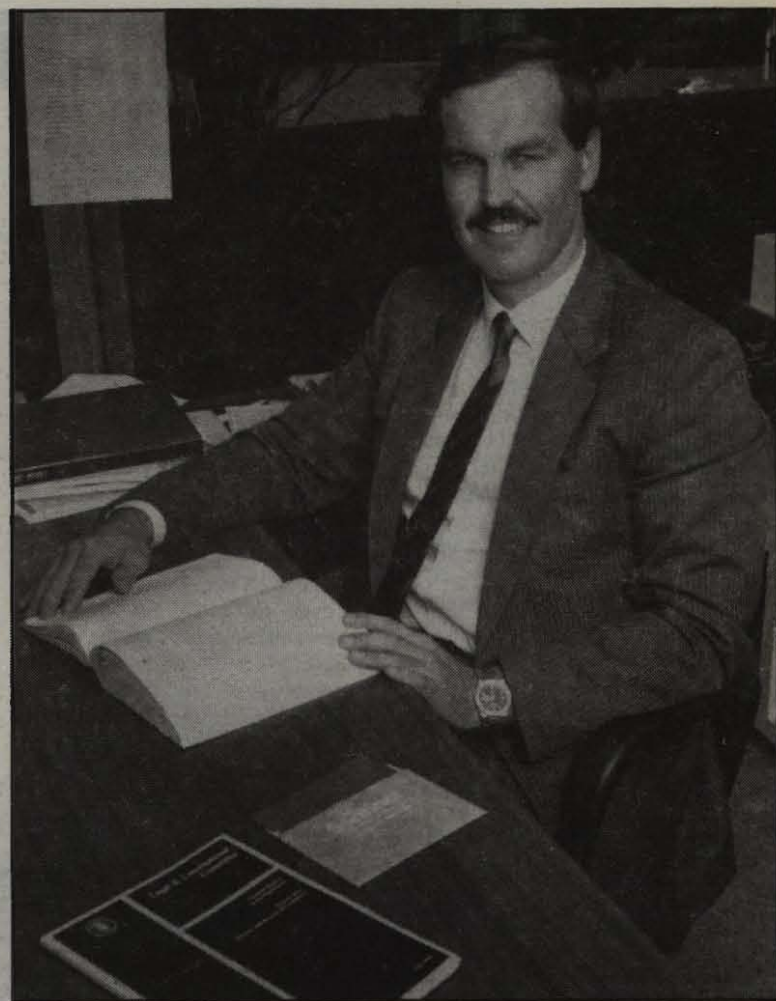
The OECD privacy legislation guidelines for western countries were adopted by Australia in 1986. However, no legislative action was taken until 1988.

"The Australia Card proposal sharpened our focus on the privacy issue. Now there is federal legislation in place and also in New South Wales and Queensland," Mr Tucker said.

[Federal legislation covers the public sector but does not cover the private sector or state public sector.]

"Privacy legislation is designed to protect personal information on the individual, which is held in many forms.

"Information may be gathered about individuals through the use of plastic cards, passports and the tax file number. In some cases there is no awareness that data is being collected."



Mr Greg Tucker with a copy of the report.

There were problems with determining the accuracy of information, the extent of the data, if it was kept up-to-date, and what it was used for. Security controls on access to the material also were vital to prevent unauthorised use.

Mr Tucker said privacy legislation was needed to make sure that information was not being abused and that when it had served its purpose, it was destroyed. "If a person collects information about you, you have the right to ensure that your personal privacy is not invaded," he said.

Examples of organisations which kept data on individuals were health insurance companies, financial institutions and the police. Univer-

sities were required to recognise privacy rights in their jurisdictions.

In the report, Mr Tucker's evidence is cited in relation to drafting new legislation, rather than extending existing legislation. His view that prevention of abuse was the cornerstone of privacy law also was reported.

"The emphasis should be on education of data collectors and employers, rather than having court action available to people. I also urged the committee to look at world trends in privacy law and to use international experience as a guide to legislation here," he said.

The committee's report has been referred to the Victorian Attorney-General, Mr Jim Kennan.

Telecom accord signed



A memorandum of understanding was signed last month between Monash and Telecom Australia to develop teaching and research in telecommunications engineering at Monash. Under the agreement, the university's Centre for Communications and Information Engineering will receive special support over five years from both the university and Telecom. Significant funding also has been received from the Victorian Education Foundation. The executive general manager of the Telecom Research Laboratories, Mr Harry Wragge (left), and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mal Logan sign the agreement at a ceremony held in the James McNeill Room.

Reproductive Health Meeting

Surgical abortions should disappear

Surgical abortions should disappear in Australia in favour of drug-induced terminations, according to Professor David Healy, of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

He was addressing the reproductive health meeting on the new contraceptive agent RU486 (Mifepristone), which is not available in Australia.

"It's a new option in fertility regulation which interdicts between conception, up to the stage when surgical methods are now used," Dr Healy said.

"RU486 has been approved by the World Health Organisation in studies in 23 countries to be a safe and effective way of inducing an early miscarriage without the need to be in hospital or have a surgical abortion.

"It is the first drug that will safely produce an early medical termination of pregnancy, and it's important because it has a great number of applications outside fertility regulation."

In Australia, surgical abortions were the third most commonly performed hospital procedure. This represented a waste of public money when a safer, less invasive method was available, he said.

(RU486, developed in 1982 by French pharmaceutical company,

Roussel UCLAF, acts as a competitive antagonist of progesterone, a hormone normally produced by the ovaries and which is essential for the initiation and maintenance of pregnancy. It binds to the progesterone receptors, thereby displacing natural progesterone. Depending on when it is taken, this progesterone withdrawal can induce menstruation. Thus it can be used to prevent the fertilized egg implanting, or to cause abortion of the recently implanted embryo.)

"RU486 has not been introduced into Australia for early pregnancy terminations as Roussel-UCLAF has refused to apply for permission to import it," Dr Healy said.

Roussel-UCLAF had stopped making the drug at one stage because of continuing threats to the company. The French Government had ordered that production be continued "in the interests of women."

Dr Healy told the meeting that RU486 has been given to more than 50,000 French women since 1989 to induce an early legal abortion. In that country, 150 women used RU486 each day and 35 per cent of terminations now were non-

medical.

World Health Organisation figures showed that 150,000 women died each year from abortion sepsis: complications following surgical termination. About 10,000 women had been treated with RU486 in developing countries, he said.

"Studies show that the majority of women who have had a surgical abortion by vacuum aspiration and a medical abortion by RU486 prefer the latter," he said.

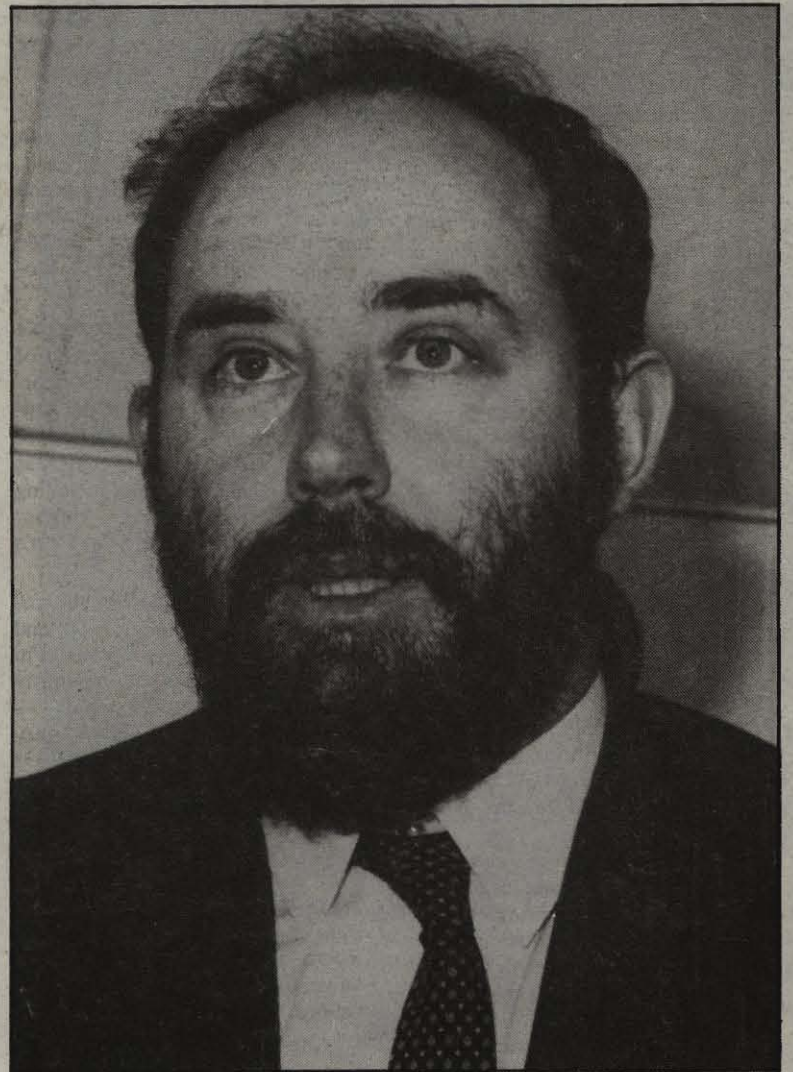
"As clinical experience of the safety and efficacy of this new kind of drug accumulates in France, the time will come when it becomes much more widely available in many developing and developed countries throughout the world.

"It is hoped Australia will be one of them."

Dr Healy said that RU486 had been used experimentally in Australia in the Monash Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology to facilitate birth in difficult cases where the fetus already had died.

The drug also had been used as an anti-progesterone or anti-cortisol medicine in cases of brain cancer, breast cancer, adrenal gland cancer and endometriosis.

Dr Healy cautioned the meeting that RU486 should not be available as a contraceptive.



Dr Neil Mitchell: "No patient who needs a drug has been denied."

Branch criticised

Australia was considering using research data from overseas to speed the availability here of new drugs and treatments, Dr Neil Mitchell, a spokesman for the Drug Evaluation Branch, told the reproductive health meeting.

Dr Mitchell, medical services adviser in the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Department of Community Services and Health, said memoranda of understanding had been signed with Sweden and Canada, countries with high standards in evaluation.

At the meeting, the branch was criticised over the time taken to process applications and its stringent licensing requirements.

Dr Mitchell replied it was not the branch's responsibility to encourage international companies to market their products here. The branch had a regulatory, rather than an entrepreneurial role.

He said ultimately a company would only market a drug in Australia if it were profitable to do so. Drugs could not be made available here when no application had been made or when no company was willing to market a drug.

[The new contraceptive agent RU486 (Mifepristone) fell into this latter category. An application was before the branch to license RU486 to expel dead fetuses but not for use as an abortion agent.]

The other reason for a drug being unavailable was if the branch's

evaluation resulted in an unfavorable finding, Dr Mitchell said.

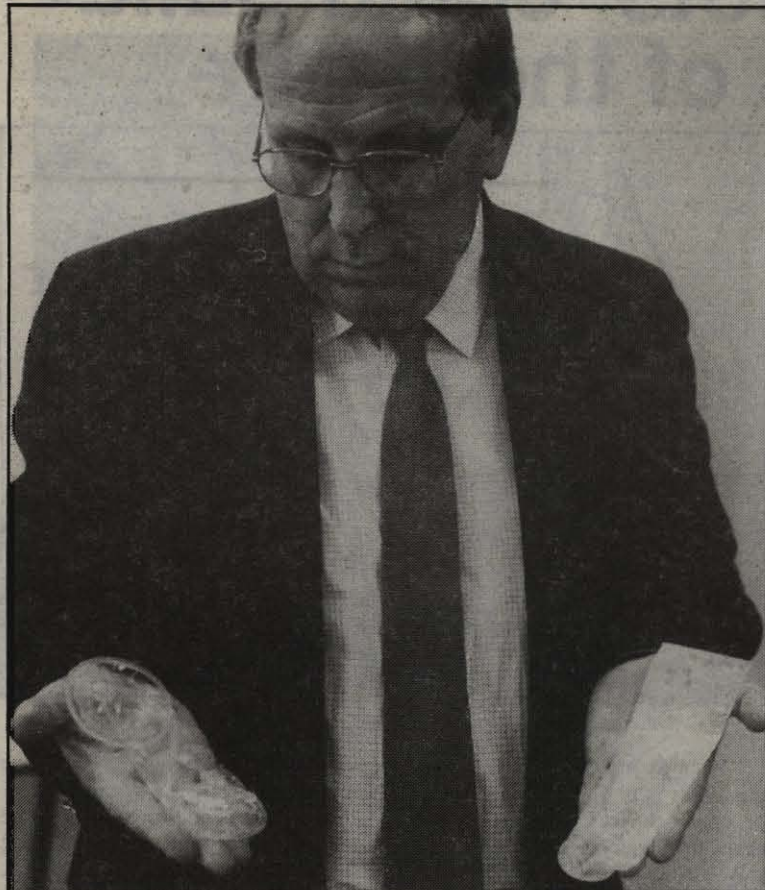
The establishment of an Australian pharmaceutical industry would result in a greater number of clinical trials. However, the biochemical industry here mostly was involved in marketing copies of already available drugs.

Dr Mitchell defended the branch against allegations that the community was being denied new treatments. "No patient who needs a drug has been denied this," he said.

Women who needed a particular drug could import it on compassionate grounds, with the responsibility placed on her and her doctor. About 20,000 of these applications were granted each year, with the exception of RU486.

Dr Mitchell foreshadowed changes in the branch's methods, including charging pharmaceutical companies for an application.

"In proportion to the cost of developing a new drug, evaluation is not expensive. If a clinical trial costs even \$20,000, that's very minor in terms of the cost of developing a new drug which can be \$100 to \$200 million," he said.



Professor Roger Short displays some condoms of the future: a plastic male condom (left) and a female condom. Picture: GREG WILLIAMS

From page 1
small-volume, high-value export industry."

The medical director of the Family Planning Association of Victoria, Dr Gab Kovacs, also advocated a "change of rules" in drug regulation.

He said that since 1981 no new contraceptive steroids had been introduced into the Australian market. However, three new "third generation" progestogens were currently in use overseas.

Several studies had shown that these had biochemical advantages over the "second generation" oral contraceptives available here. One company had been attempting for the past eight years to have its Marvelon pill approved for sale in Australia.

Marvelon is an oral contraceptive using the new steroid Desogestrel and it has become extremely popular throughout Europe.

He said the Drug Evaluation Branch should be able to take into account regulatory approval by another country which had "the highest standards in drug assessment." This would mean testing would not have to be duplicated and the Drug Evaluation Branch's workload could be significantly reduced.

Women denied safe, convenient birth control methods

Australian women in their middle and post-menopausal years were disadvantaged, compared to women in all Western nations and many Third World countries, through lack of choice in hormone replacement therapy (HRT), Dr Elizabeth Farrell said.

Dr Farrell, director of Menstrual-Menopause Services at Monash Medical Centre, said Australian women were being denied all the

more convenient and safer forms of these therapies because of "the restrictive nature of our drug regulatory procedures."

"Pharmaceutical companies are less inclined to consider Australia as a site for research of new and improved HRT methods," she told the reproductive health meeting.

Hormone replacement therapy is used for the treatment of menopausal symptoms, the prevention of osteoporosis and fractures, and for protection against cardiovascular

disease. Most women require both oestrogen and progesterone treatment.

"HRT is available in this country in a limited number of oral preparations, vaginal oestrogen creams and as a subcutaneous implant of oestrogen. Therapy should be safe, have minimal or no side effects and be easy to take," Dr Farrell said.

"Oral forms of HRT unavailable in Australia include convenience packs, similar in appearance to the oral contraceptive, in which the re-

quired dosages of both the oestrogen and progesterone are included in one tablet for each day of the month. These packs are much easier to use and compliance is better."

Other treatments still unavailable here were:

- Oral micronised oestradiol (natural oestrogen) and oral micronised progesterone.
- Forms of oestrogen absorbed through the skin, including the transdermal patch and oestradiol gel.

"The development of these forms of oestrogen have provided newer and safer forms of replacement therapy," Dr Farrell said.

"The patch provides physiological levels of circulating oestradiol in a sustained manner and a lower overall dose, but sufficient to alleviate menopausal symptoms. The patch is very well accepted by the user, as it is easy to use and the dosage schedule is simple.

Monash gains an all-rounder

Take the sports-minded product of a non-academic family, then let him play rugby for Australia and bake prize-winning bread in his spare time away from his career as an organic chemist.

Put all that together and you come up with Monash University's new deputy vice-chancellor, Professor Geoff Vaughan, formerly director of the Chisholm Institute of Technology.

Born in Sydney, Professor Vaughan went through the state education system before studying for a science degree, a master's, and finally a doctorate in chemical microbiology.

"As a child I always wanted to be a scientist. I was so impressed by my maths and chemistry teachers in high school that I wanted to use my own maths and chemistry in future life," Professor Vaughan said.

"Their inspiration set me on fire, and there was nothing else in my mind other than studying science at university."

Although he had full parental support, the wider family thought Geoff was being "a bit different", for he was the first of a whole generation of brothers and cousins to attend university.

Following his work in chemical microbiology, he began academic life as a lecturer at the Victorian College of Pharmacy. He stayed there in various capacities from 1979 to 1986, by which time he had been appointed dean and director.

Having become very interested in the wider field of higher education, Professor Vaughan took the opportunity to apply for the position of director of Chisholm, a post he held for three and a half years until his

recent arrival at Clayton.

"There's a big challenge with Chisholm merging with Monash. We now have a very large and diverse multi-campus institution, but it's been exciting to be associated with the change," Professor Vaughan said.

The deputy vice-chancellor's role at Monash encompasses a blend of administrative and academic opportunities. His portfolios include student services, the student union, halls of residence, and overseas students. General staffing, including industrial relations, is another aspect of Professor Vaughan's work.

"I'm also involved with the co-ordination of communication and contacts across the campuses. I'm well placed because I obviously know two of the campuses — Caulfield and Frankston — very well."

One thing that the deputy vice-chancellor is not enamored of is red tape. "I don't like red tape — I don't like bureaucracy. I like to see things happen. But first I've got to learn the Monash system and find where the links are across the university before I can make them happen," he said.

Professor Vaughan was quick with a pithy definition of the ideal length of a meeting. "As short as possible, provided you can get the work done."

"I like short meetings, but that

depends on everyone having done their homework," he said.

With the merger, Professor Vaughan sees Monash becoming an even more diverse institution in the next few years. And he hopes that students will be able to move across campuses and courses more than they have been able to in the past.

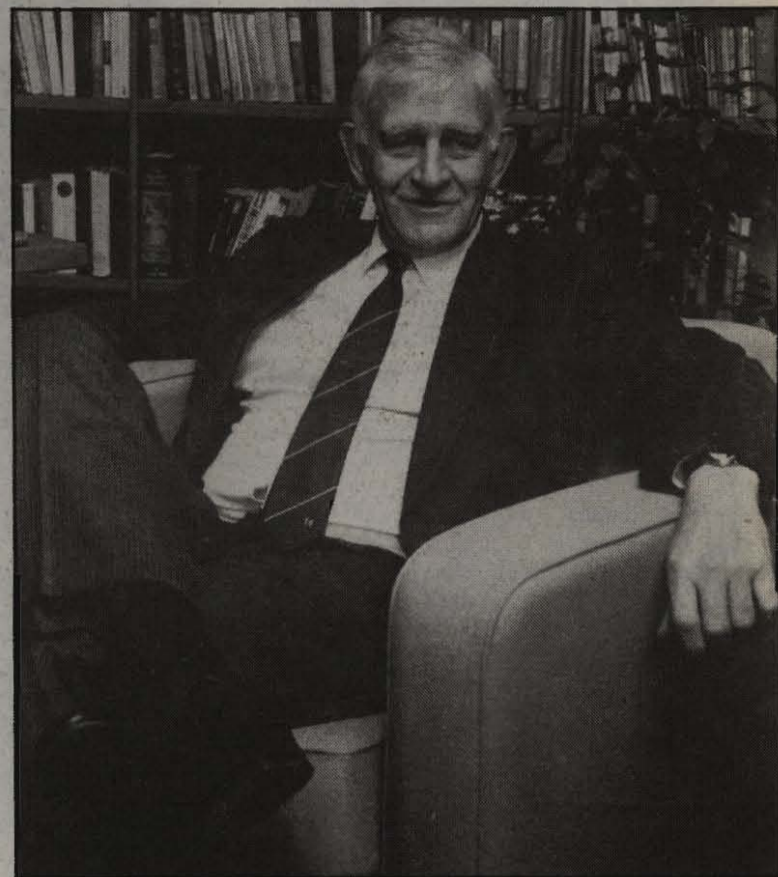
"With a more diverse university we have the opportunity to allow students to pick and choose across faculties, whereas previously many courses were highly regimented and students had to go along a given track without much option for electives or alternatives," he said.

In private life, Professor Vaughan is married to Jennie, an agricultural science graduate. The couple have four adult children: a farmer, a doctor doing postgraduate work in surgery, an agricultural scientist, and a veterinary surgeon.

He suggested laughingly that his wife's genes had more success than his. "She ended up with two agricultural scientists and a vet — but I have no scientists."

Professor Vaughan is a self-confessed sports fanatic. In his younger days he played rugby for Australia, and still plays a great deal of tennis.

He takes great pride in the fact that his son is captain of the Melbourne University Blacks football team. "I'm an ardent follower of them on winter Saturdays, but as I have responsibility for the Sports and Recreation Association at Monash I'm caught between two allegiances."



Professor Geoff Vaughan. Picture: RICHARD CROMPTON

Jennie Vaughan need never worry about running out of fresh bread — Professor Vaughan has cooked the family bread for more than 25 years.

Even that practice has its roots in his work as a microbiologist — yeast was an easy thing to work with if you wanted to take your laboratory home to the kitchen.

September is always a big month in Geoff Vaughan's life, for that is when he exhibits his bread at the Royal Melbourne Show. He has won many prizes for his entries over the years.

It seems that the new multi-campus Monash has a multi-faceted deputy vice-chancellor to help it on its way.



An ancient tradition enters the 20th century. The Australian head of the Chikuho School of Shakuhachi, Mr Riley Kelly Lee, plays the shakuhachi in an exotic musical evening entitled "1000 Years Of Japanese Music", held recently at Robert Blackwood Hall. Accompanying Mr Lee was another Japanese musical expert, Ms Satsuki Odamura, who delighted the audience with the range of music she produced on the koto, a traditional stringed instrument. The concert was presented by the Japanese Music Archive, with the support of the Japan Foundation Sydney Liaison Office and the Vera Moore Fund.

'Homebots' could build cities of the future

Robotic technology could be the key to improved productivity in Australia's construction industry, according to a civil engineering lecturer at Caulfield campus.

Mr Murray Muspratt's vision of "homebots" replacing human workers on building sites received national media coverage at the National Conference on Robotics, held in Melbourne in June.

The paper described a "homebot" ensemble of truck-mounted robots which could provide an on-site production line, turning out roof trusses and standard-sized panels for walls, floors and ceilings. Other robots mounted on gantries would put the pieces together.

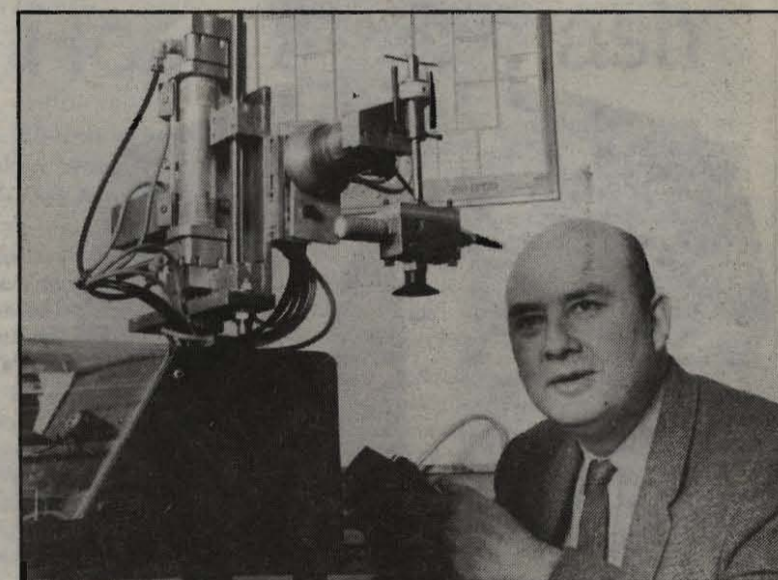
The robot truck would then move to the next vacant block and build another identical house.

Mr Muspratt said that the use of robotics in manufacturing industry was growing rapidly but the construction industry had been slow to capitalise on the array of technology now available.

He said the homebot concept, which stemmed from a research project he undertook at the University of Illinois, could become economically viable given rising housing costs and the continuing restructuring of building industry unions.

"Productivity in the housing industry has been static for the past 20 years, while manufacturing productivity has increased by almost 100 per cent in the past decade," Mr Muspratt said.

The Japanese had led the way in the 1970s by using robotics to maintain competitiveness in manufacturing at a time of rising energy costs.



Murray Muspratt: A vision of 'homebots'.

"What we are trying to do now in the 1990s is to apply the same sort of approach to construction, and again the Japanese are leading the way. They are the only ones dedicating research and development money to this sort of robot development," he said.

"They are allocating increasing resources to identifying viable applications. The relentless advances in robot technology in non-construction fields are providing a pool of ideas and technical configurations that lend themselves to almost immediate transfer to construction."

"The use of robots for building construction is an idea whose time has come."

However, Mr Muspratt said funds for research and development in Australia were non-existent. Even prototypes built so far in Japan were only "a drop in the bucket" com-

pared to the potential construction applications.

He said robotics could at first be used to provide cost-effective methods in high rise development, in underground, polar or undersea construction, and could be applied in space and in nuclear applications.

"For now, I think it's a matter of getting people comfortable with the idea," Mr Muspratt added.

"The construction industry has been inward looking for too long because we have been a protected and isolated market. It needs to start thinking globally, like manufacturing."

He said it was important to build up knowledge about construction robotics in Australia so that we could take advantage of the technology when it becomes available.

Robotics is not a part of any civil engineering courses taught in Australia, Mr Muspratt said.

Examining Australia's health care

The well-being of Australia's health system will be examined by a new national research centre, established with federal and state grants worth almost \$2.5 million.

The National Centre for Health Program Evaluation is a joint venture between the Graduate School of Management's Public Sector Management Institute and the University of Melbourne's Department of Community Medicine. The two universities are providing accommodation and other infrastructure.

It is being funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (\$300,000 a year for five years) and the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (\$850,000 for the first three years), with some assistance from the Vice-Chancellor in its establishment phase.

The centre also is expected to attract outside funding for specific health program evaluation projects. The directors of the centre are Professor Jeff Richardson and Professor Chris Selby Smith of Monash and Dr David Dunt of the University of Melbourne.

Its proposed research program is not yet finalised but is likely to include:

- the economic and health impact of the introduction of new technology
- evaluation of health services for particular groups such as women, ethnic groups or Aboriginals
- evaluation of immunisation and screening services and preventative activities such as alcohol and drug abuse programs
- the provision of institutional care for the aged in the light of growth in numbers and costs.

Professor Selby Smith said the centre's main role would be in the evaluation of health programs throughout Australia, with particular emphasis on evaluation from an economic point of view. It also would undertake teaching, consultancy and development of better evaluation methodologies, he said.

The work of the centre would involve many disciplines, including academic and practical perspectives, clinical and health care services, evaluation and survey/statistical skills, as well as economic expertise.

He said at Monash there would be collaboration between the faculties of Medicine, Economics and Politics. The centre is supported by Monash's Faculty of Medicine whose Dean, Professor Bob Porter, is a member of the centre's advisory committee.

"We will be trying to forge close relationships with other people who might be interested in aspects of health care evaluation. We want to produce high quality academic work that is relevant to people working within the health system," Professor Selby Smith said.

"It's going to be a challenge to make it work, but the aim is to contribute to the better development and provision of health care and services for Australians in the long run," he said.

"The health care system is huge; it employs about six per cent of the Australian workforce and represents about eight per cent of Gross Domestic Product. We have to be

realistic about what we can achieve because the industry is very big and very complex.

"There is a very wide range of things that could be done by the centre, and although there are never enough resources to do everything, it is important that we maintain high standards of quality in our work.

"I'm sure there are a number of areas in the health system where we can make decisions better. We are looking for ways to get better value for money out of the health dollar.

"We don't have to make much difference to pay our way, relative to the very large total of health care outlays. We will be trying to balance the ratio of benefits to cost to ensure we get as much as we can from our limited resources."

Professor Selby Smith said the centre would have a range of research associates from universities, government and the health care system.

Among them will be Dr Ian McDonald, head of the Cardiac Investigation Unit at St Vincent's Hospital and the medical evaluation expert on the Commonwealth panel which looks at expensive new health technologies.

"The centre will help to link people with common interests and it's very important that we are open to outside suggestions. We will be seeking to develop links with a wide range of relevant individuals and organisations both overseas and in Australia," he said.

"We already are involved in teaching of health economics and health service evaluation. We also can act as a contact point for visiting academics and health professionals."



From left, Dr David Dunt, Professor Jeff Richardson and Professor Chris Selby Smith.



Noted Egyptologist and now Monash lecturer, Dr Colin Hope.

Egyptology finds Hope at Monash

A full-time lectureship in Egyptology will be established at Monash next year.

The position in the Classical Studies Department is believed to be the university's first privately-funded lectureship. It is also the first full-time Egyptology appointment in Victoria.

The new lecturer will be Dr Colin Hope, formerly a research fellow in Egyptology at Oxford University. Originally from the UK, Dr Hope has lived in Australia since 1981, holding research positions at Macquarie and Melbourne universities.

The Classical Studies Department has been encouraged by the popularity of Dr Hope's course in Egyptian history this semester which, although not advertised in the university handbook, attracted 60 students. This was the department's highest ever enrolment in a second or third-year course.

Supporters of the lectureship have raised about \$80,000 through private donations and fund-raising activities, including a sale of donated Mediterranean antiquities.

A one-day symposium on Mediterranean civilisation in June in conjunction with the Museum of Victoria attracted 250 people, the biggest attendance ever at an Arts Faculty event of this type.

The department can afford the lectureship in 1991 and 1992 but aims to raise at least \$350,000, which would be invested to provide income to fund the position in perpetuity.

Among several fund-raising activities has been the formation of the Egyptology Society of Victoria to promote public awareness of Egyptian culture and support the teaching of Egyptology at university level. The society hopes eventually to provide a studentship for travel to Egypt.

Society secretary, Gill Bowen, a postgraduate student in Classical Studies, said that departments intending to open up new study areas increasingly would have to consider outside financial support.

"The university is very happy for us to have an Egyptology lectureship but there are no funds for it," she said. "I think we are going to see a lot more of this sort of sponsorship."

Dr Hope said there was a great deal of interest in Egyptian culture. "I've been teaching adult education courses in Egyptology since 1981 and they're always packed," he said.

"I have had students from universities coming to these classes because Egyptology has not been offered at tertiary level. We want to introduce the subject on a full academic level."

Dr Hope said an aim of the Egyptology course would be to incorporate archaeology into the study of ancient history.

For more information about the lectureship or membership of the Egyptology Society, contact Ms Bowen, Department of Classical Studies, ext 75 3264.

Deadlines for degrees

Final-year bachelor degree candidates who expect to qualify for their degree this year must lodge an Application to Graduate with Student Records by 21 December to have their degrees conferred. Application forms are available from Student Records, University Offices.

Honors students enrolled in faculties in which honors are taken in an additional year should

apply in December of that year. If they decide subsequently to discontinue honors, an Application to Graduate with a pass degree should be lodged immediately.

Higher degree candidates are not required to apply to have their degree conferred until their faculty or the PhD and Research Committee informs them that they have qualified. An Application to

Graduate, which will accompany the notification, should be returned to Student Records as soon as possible.

Diploma candidates are not required to apply to have diplomas awarded, as all diplomas are awarded in absentia. Candidates for the Diploma in Education are reminded that the diploma cannot be awarded until their bachelor degree has been conferred.

Fundamentals of campus religion

How important are Christian fundamentalists on the Monash campus?

That was one of the issues three representatives of the diverse university Christian community were invited to discuss recently on national radio.

Monash's Ecumenical Chaplain, Father Steve Russell, was invited to appear on the Sunday late night program on 3LO, along with John Sugars of the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students, and fourth-year law student Cathy Scott, of the Anglican Communion of Monash.

Joining the discussion on campus fundamentalism was the president of Melbourne University's Maranatha Christian Fellowship, Paul Munster, and the program's host, Father Paul Collins.

The actual term "fundamentalism" became an issue during the program, with Mr Sugars pointing

out that it has lost its meaning and has been turned into an emotive word.

"The word fundamentalism is normally used in a derogatory way, and most people don't want to associate with it," Mr Sugars said.

"There are many Christian groups on campus, but most of them would shy away from the title fundamentalist — they would claim to be conservative, and probably evangelical or even charismatic," he said.

The difficult task of coming up with an acceptable explanation of fundamentalism fell to Father Steve Russell.

"The crucial issue as I see it in a lot of the debate about fundamentalism is a certain attitude towards the Bible.

"A fundamentalist is generally a person who believes that the Bible is incapable of error of any sort, whereas liberal Christian scholars are not bound to that idea of Biblical inerrancy," suggested Father Steve.

The student liberal Christian representative on the panel, Cathy Scott, was keen to explain what it was that appealed to her about a mainstream religious body like the Anglican church.

"The mainstream church enables a broader base of views to be put forward.

"There's not just one basic view which everyone holds — differing views can be quite legitimate," she said.

Mr Sugars described the mode of action of the Christian Union, the group with which he works.

"What we do is encourage people to join churches where they can be well taught from the Bible and be encouraged in their relationship with God and can be outward looking in their Christianity.

"If that happens in a mainstream church then well and good, but if it doesn't, then go somewhere else," he said.



THE Victorian State Government's Green paper entitled *Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation* explicitly recognises that to address pollution and resource depletion problems we must address the institutional structures within which resources are used.

In the case of cars, using them efficiently is most effectively approached by increasing their occupancy rate. Instead of vast investments in engineering, which might bring a few per cent improvement in efficiency, putting a second person into all the empty seats rolling around our cities would nearly double the efficiency of our commuter cars. So why doesn't it happen?

The detailed answers to this, as most of us know, are many and complex.

We might, in the case of car pooling at Monash, recognise that universities (erroneously, of course)

are tacitly thought by much of the public to be centres of social innovation; that universities are socially responsible (that is, beyond responsibilities to abstract "truth") and that they are more aware, as institutions, of public trends than the public in general, and therefore look at how our own institutional structures could more explicitly accommodate the environmental concerns so clearly evident in 1990 Australia.

Should we do this, and simultaneously retain our practical priorities, we would recognise that:

- Parking space costs money to provide, police and maintain.
- Parking areas under pressure are rendered unsafe, a) by illegally parked and double parked cars, and b) by jockeying behavior of drivers seeking space.
- Public transport infrastructure is disadvantaged to the extent that car access is favored, thereby hurting the mobility-disadvantaged.
- Present public transport access to Monash is rudimentary, and the policing and maintenance of existing car parks is inadequate to the point that safety is compromised.
- Just as ALCOA was able to

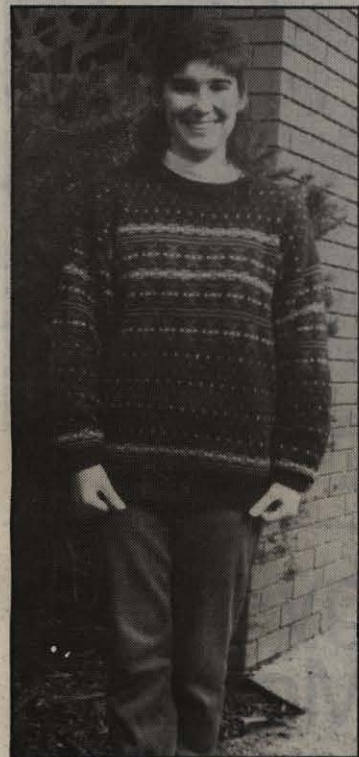
draw favorable attention to itself on winning its recent environment award, Monash could do the same.

- Instigation of car pooling incentives may render space free for more lucrative uses than parking.

Given incentives such as these, the university might act to alter its institutions to favor car poolers. The Graduate School of Environmental Science has offered to set up and administer car pooling incentives along the lines of priority free space for car poolers: low priority (north-west corner of south-west car park) for drivers with one passenger; high priority (central, southern car park — opposite the Gallery Building) for cars with two or more passengers.

So far no action on the offer has been taken. Certainly a pilot program would have no meaning as a test of popularity of the scheme, but it would be an opportunity to test various procedures for operating it. In this sense alone — that is, an experiment in socio-environmental dynamics — wouldn't it be worth giving it a try?

Frank Fisher
Graduate School of
Environmental Science



Cathy Scott



A delighted Meredith Ellis accepts the inaugural Merck Biochemistry Medal from the managing director of BDH Chemicals Australia Pty Ltd, Mr Allan Dewar (right). Meredith won the award for being the most outstanding honors graduate in biochemistry in 1989. Looking on is the chairman of the Biochemistry Department, Professor Milton Hearn.

A noted authority on the management of mental disorders in the elderly, Dr Daniel William O'Connor, has been appointed to the Chair of Psychogeriatrics at Monash University.

Dr O'Connor graduated MBChB from the University of Auckland in 1976 and completed a Diploma of Obstetrics the following year. He held several positions between 1976 and 1984, including that of registrar at the Auckland and Kingseat hospitals, while undergoing training in obstetrics and psychiatry. The latter part of his training was devoted to managing and redeveloping psychogeriatric services at Kingseat Hospital.

In 1985, Dr O'Connor was awarded a research fellowship at Hughes Hall, Cambridge, and was appointed to the position of honorary senior registrar at the East Anglian Regional Health Authority. With social anthropologist Dr Penelope Pollit, he established the Hughes Hall Project for Later Life, a long-term experimental study of the efficacy of providing practical help to elderly people with mental disorders and their families.

The project, one of the largest and most comprehensive of its kind, now is nearing completion. In 1988, he took out the degree of MA from the University of Cambridge.

Dr O'Connor has acquired an international standing as an epi-

demiological and clinical investigator in psychogeriatrics, and has published widely and delivered papers at several international conferences.

The School of Nursing at the Frankston campus is looking for pregnant women to take part in its Adopt-a-Mother scheme, in which third-year Diploma of Applied Science (Nursing) students "adopt" a mother-to-be as part of their study into birth and parenting.

The students normally visit the family before the delivery, then — with the mother's agreement — may either attend the birth or visit her within 48 hours and make a final visit about three weeks later.

Those expecting to give birth before November and who would like to take part in the scheme should contact Ms Bronwyn Sleep on ext 74 4355 for further details.

Reader in biochemistry, Dr Phillip Nagley has been appointed to a personal chair in the department of Biochemistry at Monash.

Dr Nagley graduated BSc from the University of Sydney in 1967 and completed his MSc in 1969. In 1972 he was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Monash University, where his DSc was conferred in 1985.

Dr Nagley's first appointment at Monash was as an Australian Commonwealth Postgraduate Scholar in 1969. In 1972 he became a Senior Teaching Fellow in the department of Biochemistry. Later that year he was promoted to lecturer, and then to senior lecturer (1979), and to reader and Senior Research Associate, Centre for Molecular Biology and Medicine (1983).

One of Australia's most distinguished molecular biologists, Dr Nagley's principal research interests are in the molecular biology of mitochondria and organelle biogenesis. He has published more than 90 papers and review articles in international journals and books, and was the chief editor of *Manipulation and Expression of Genes in Eukaryotes*. He is an active member of the Australian Biochemical Society, and has participated in and organised numerous conferences, both here and overseas.

A special presentation will be held in Robert Blackwood Hall on Tuesday 16 October for members of staff who have become eligible for a 25-year service medal since the last presentation in 1987.

It is expected that about 150 awards will be presented this year.

Applications are now invited for the university's Bachelor of Social Work by either distance education or on-campus study.

Applicants must have completed at least two years of an arts, humanities or social science degree by the end of 1990, or have obtained an Associate Diploma in Welfare Studies. Some special entry places are available for those with different qualifications.

Special consideration for enrolment in the distance education course will be given to country applicants and those already employed in the welfare field.

For further information and application forms, contact the department of Social Work on exts 75 4299 or 75 4291.

Applications should be lodged with the department by Friday 28 September.

The director of the Koorie Research Centre, Dr Eve Fesl, has been appointed to the Aboriginal Arts Committee of the Australian Council. She will serve on the committee until 30 June 1991.

Dr Fesl has also been appointed chair of the Literature Panel for the same period.

Campus briefs

Membership of the Australian Fulbright Association is open to all those who have participated in Fulbright and other United States government-sponsored education and cultural exchange programs.

Established in January, the association aims to support and promote such programs and encourage continuing relationships among those who have benefited from them.

The association's patron is Sir Zelman Cowen. The foundation officers are: president, Emeritus Professor Bill Walker (Mt Eliza and Monash); vice-president, Emeritus Professor Don Nicholas (WAITE); secretary, Professor John Sharpham (Ballarat University College); treasurer, Dr Howard Bradbury (ANU).

A one-day conference, to be attended by several distinguished US academics, is planned for later this year. Further information about the association may be obtained from Professor John Sharpham, Director, Ballarat University College, PO Box 663, Ballarat 3353.

Volunteers are needed for one hour each week to read library books on to tape for visually impaired students. Those who may be able to help should contact Ms Ethel Ham in the Main Library, Clayton campus, on ext 75 2623.

Industry chief to market Monash

If his past achievements in the world of industrial and managerial relations are anything to go by, Brian Powell must have a silver tongue to match his hair.

The new managing director of the university's business and consulting arm, Montech, has an impressive record in Australian industry.

Following a period in senior management at the Ford Motor Company, Mr Powell spent 12 years with a high public profile as chief executive of the Australian Chamber of Manufactures.

His early life included some future important university associations — the boy sitting next to him in primary school was none other than Monash's present dean of medicine, Professor Bob Porter.

Unlike Professor Porter, however, Brian Powell did not plunge straight into a university career.

"After a couple of terms at Adelaide University I decided it wasn't for me, so I literally ran away to sea for a year," Mr Powell said.

After serving as an officer in the Royal Australian Navy, he studied at the Australian National University for a degree in economics with a political science major.

Mr Powell's role at Ford as manager of traffic customs and government services brought him into contact with governmental decision making.

"I looked after the logistics of the company, and had to plead Ford's case with government on anything from tariffs to transport to foreign exchange rules.

"We had a very professional and very good relationship with govern-

ment. Ford is, after Monash, the best management school in the country," Mr Powell said.

From 1975 to 1987, Mr Powell was head of the Australian Chamber of Manufactures. He said the Chamber revolutionised the professionalism of employer groups in Australia.

"While I'd had many rough experiences with the trade union movement, I felt there was a level of intelligence there with which we should be learning to meet, discuss, talk and argue, rather than just confronting.

"I think I made quite substantial inroads there into working with the trade union movement, even though we were on opposite sides of the fence," Mr Powell said.

Several of the union power brokers Mr Powell dealt with back in the '70s have gone to the dizzy heights of political power.

"I think Bob Hawke did a lot to get more academic people into the trade union movement, and so did people like Bill Landeryou, who made major efforts to attract both Bill Kelty and Simon Crean into the Storemen and Packers' Union. Such people had a dramatic influence on trade unions," he said.

Mr Powell also spent some time as the employer representative on the Trade Union Training Authority, which gave him a close relationship with many trade union people.

After 12 years at the Chamber, Mr Powell felt the call of the con-

sultancy world, and decided to go out on his own.

One of his proudest achievements as a private consultant was a government assignment to win the Anzac ships contract for the Williamstown dockyard, and oversee its privatisation.

"That was the most enjoyable exercise I've been engaged in for a long while", he said.

Mr Powell is clear about how he sees Montech's role. "It's all about improving the relationship between a very important educational and research organisation and the community it serves.

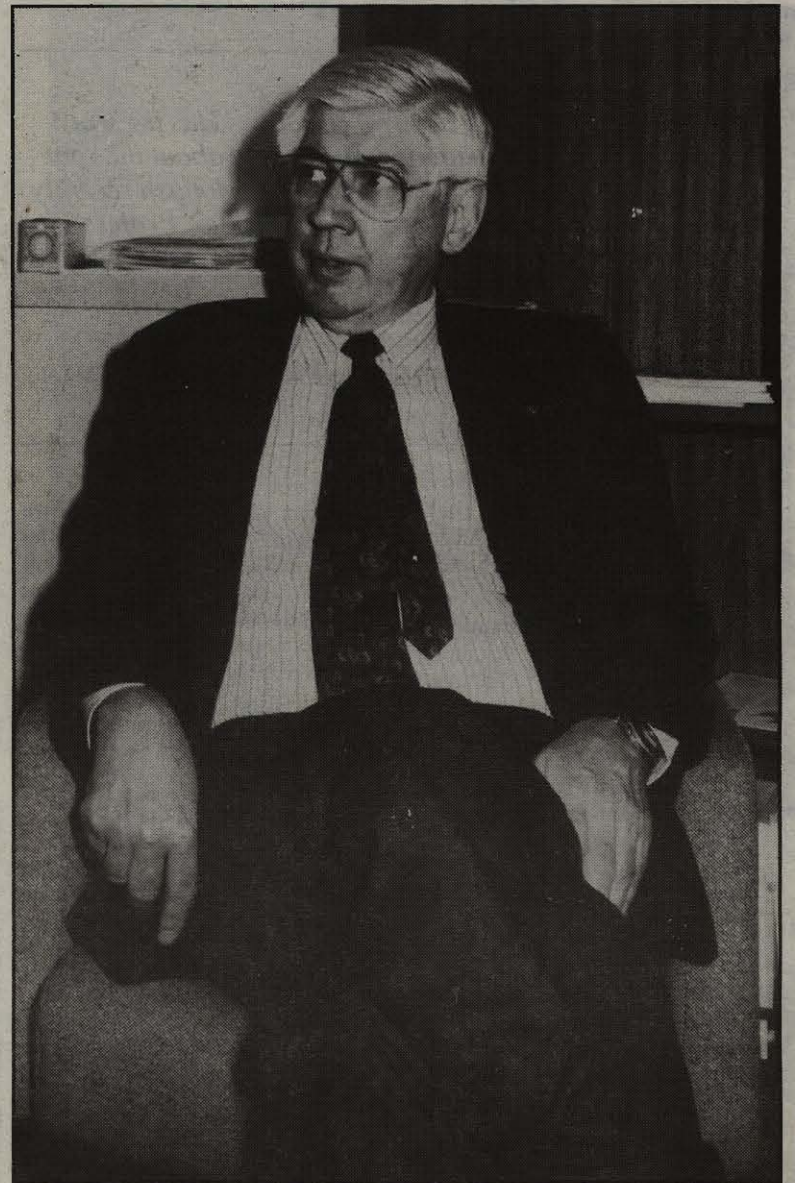
"It's getting the message of the university across, getting our research into industry and getting industry to think of the university when it has a problem, to see if the university can fix it," he explained.

Mr Powell wants Montech to develop in such a way that business and government can understand how the university can contribute to the improvement of economic and social schemes.

"Montech is free of red tape. We can make a decision and act on it, and then we have to survive through our board. It's very similar to industry, where you have to set standards, live by them and lead by example," he said.

Mr Powell is hoping that Montech will be able to syndicate more university research.

"If that can be achieved, it requires not only a commitment from investors, but a commitment from government to allow that form of investment to get research breaks in taxation," he suggested.



Brian Powell

How to succeed in (foreign) business

Many Australian companies do not adequately prepare their staff for the different cultural, social and business situations they will face overseas, according to the chief executive of the Monash-ANZ centre for International Briefing, Mr Ian Haig.

The centre will soon begin its first courses, designed to help Australian business people operate more effectively in other countries.

"Our role is to give business people a foretaste of what will happen to them in a new and untried environment. It's important that they should not get too many surprises when they arrive in their new country," he said.

"In our courses we are creating an early experience of the new culture. The aim is to get something close to the Australian performance from someone in an unfamiliar location."

Japanese economy, which imports all its energy, is in trouble, we're all in deep trouble," he said.

He said the Middle East was continually going through disruption because of oil cost and supply and mistrust between the countries. "The problem is that political disruption spills into the oil supply," he said.

Mr Haig has published works on Arab oil politics, alternative energy sources and Australia and the Middle East. He was Victoria's Agent-General in London from 1988-89 and has held senior business positions including managing director of ACI Fibreglass Ltd.

Mr Haig said the failure rate for Australian companies operating abroad was higher than most of our OECD competitors.

"We think that if someone wants to go somewhere to do business, then that's sufficient motivation to make them effective. Very few Australians going abroad for business get any sort of briefing.

"Our negotiators abroad need to be aware of the cultural problems, legal practices and business norms, as well as the elements of national character and the eco-political situations in the host countries.

"Australian executives commonly make the mistake of spending too little time in their target country. They are not sufficiently aware of the need to build up friendships and trust before doing a deal, which is the basis of the way to do business all over Asia and in many other parts of the world.

"To build up friendship and trust, requires an interest in and knowledge of the customs and background of a country. Abroad, business is often largely a matter of whom one knows, and how well one knows them."

Australia could no longer afford to be insular and monolingual, Mr Haig said. "If we are to capitalise on Asia's dynamic growth, we need to learn to do business with Asians, as well as improve our performance in North America and Europe," he added.

Companies should choose overseas representatives on the basis of suitability, rather than availability.

He said many of the problems faced by expatriate Australians related

to family difficulties in a new environment. The centre would include families, and particularly spouses, in its courses.

The centre for International Briefing is the result of an initiative by the Institute of Contemporary Asian Studies, which facilitates teaching and research on Asia in all faculties at Monash.

It is being established with funding of \$1 million over five years from the ANZ Bank. Its main office is at the Monash Centre, corner of Exhibition Street and Flinders Lane.

Mr Haig said originally an Asian focus was envisaged for the centre but it now had an international outlook and would draw on expertise at Monash in many disciplines.

It also would conduct individual and group briefings for travellers as well as those planning to live in another country. Briefing also would be provided for business people coming to Australia.

The centre would act as a bridge between tertiary educators, business and government. "Educators need to find more ways of applying their knowledge effectively with business and government negotiators," Mr Haig said.

The first courses during October will be on the regions of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore; and Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong. In November the focus will be on Europe 1992 and the Eastern Bloc countries.

Next year's program will include courses on Japan, India, Laos/Cambodia/Vietnam, Papua New Guinea/Pacific region, the Middle East, China and Indonesia/ASEAN countries.



Ian Haig: "Our role is to give business people a foretaste of what will happen to them in a new and untried environment."

Mr Ian Haig is a former senior Australian diplomat with a special interest in the Middle East.

He has met President Saddam Hussein of Iraq on two occasions: the first time in 1965 as Trade Commissioner in Beirut and Cairo, and again in 1973 as Australia's ambassador at large for Energy Affairs.

"He was the hardest, most implacable and most charming negotiator," Mr Haig recalled. "He's ruthless and very competent and he does nothing without sensible planning. He's no madman.

"So far, he's only made one major mistake and that was the war with Iran. He didn't expect Iran would keep up its human wave resistance to his superior ground forces."

Mr Haig believed that Saddam's

tactics would be to wait out a blockade to retain Kuwait.

"At present, the situation is simple. The West has the air superiority but doesn't have the ground troops to press home any advantage. It's not a situation for testing your arm. It's one for taking a long-term view and being very careful," he said.

"I thought that what he (Saddam) wanted to do was convince the Kuwaitis to help him with his debt problem." However, seizing Kuwait had given Iraq control of 20 per cent of the world's oil supplies, which Saddam would use to force up the price.

Mr Haig, who was also Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, said the West should be concerned about its access to oil, rather than the price.

"It's supply that matters, not whether it costs \$35 barrel. If the

Universities in moral crisis

Are universities suffering a moral collapse? Has the word education lost its true meaning? The debate about the root causes of problems in universities came to Monash recently with the visit of eminent American philosopher, Professor Bruce Wilshire of Rutgers University, New Jersey.

*Professor Wilshire, author of **The Moral Collapse of the University: Professionalism, Purity, and Alienation**, gave three lectures on the Clayton campus.*

Most observers agree that undergraduate education in large universities in the United States is gravely flawed.

In 1982, normally cautious academics claimed in print that most BA degrees from such institutions are worthless either as a preparation for a profession or as a preparation for life, for "living well" (and they did not mean just what advertisers mean by that phrase).

In a survey of 5000 undergraduates in large universities conducted by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 42 per cent said they did not believe their professors were personally interested in their progress, and 52 per cent claimed they were treated like numbers in a book. In the spring of 1990 the president of Stanford University, Donald Kennedy, expressed his intention to redirect professors' attention toward undergraduate teaching. Writing about many reports from "the highest echelons of the educational establishment," Calvin Schrag epitomises the situation:

The authors...all decry the lack of curricular coherence, the threat of excessive vocationalism, hyper-specialisation of vocabularies, faculty self-indulgence, political self-interest and fanatical departmental allegiances...which have eroded liberal learning.

Breakdown

I assume the existence of an educational crisis in the United States, and am mainly interested in its moral dimensions. I think the moral breakdown is so serious that it can be called a morale breakdown. When, for example, gorillas' territory is violated they tend to foul their nests and no longer properly care for their young. Their species' will to live falters. Probably our human failure to care for our young, to educate them in our large research universities, indicates the same faltering in our species. Too often the academic professional's ambition is narrowly focused. Left unconsidered is the common good, especially the educational task to prepare our young to assume responsibility for civilisation.

What is education? It is remarkable that so few "educators" in our research universities speak about education. Administrators speak about administrative problems, professors speak about problems in their special field of research, and those who do speak about education — professors in education departments — are typically accorded second class status or are shunned. Our word "education" has lost its roots. The Romans contrasted *educare* (or, closely related, *educere*) to *instruere*. Through various pedagogical arts, the educator "leads out" the student to confront humanity's perennial questions:

What can we know? What ought we to do? For what can we hope? Who are we? Who am I? Through skill and patience, the educator *educes* from the student the student's own considered sense of what's most important to be learned — important if the student is to live as fully, as vitally, as well as possible. Education is for the good of the student.

Conditioned

By contrast, the mere instructor builds in, structures into the student whatever facts or skills the instructor wishes to implant there for whatever reason and by whatever means. Perhaps the student is conditioned much like a rat or a dolphin can be. If a dolphin, say, is instructed or conditioned to detect and detonate explosives, this is for the good of the instructor, not the instructee. We can speak coherently of instructing someone to be a slave; we contradict ourselves if we speak of educating someone to be a slave.

Education should be the ultimate orientation experience in which the student learns to interact with the world — local, planetary, cosmic — in a way that is constructive for all involved, good for all involved. Too frequently undergraduate "education" in research universities today is a profoundly disorienting and fragmenting experience in which the question of what is good is systematically obscured.

Although academic fields have been hyper-specialised at great costs — although this is becoming obvious — hyper-specialisation persists for the most part. What is going on? I think we must suppose that something irrational is happening, irrational if for no other reason than that it is unacknowledged. I think archaic purification ritual is at work.

Neglect

One of the costs of hyper-specialisation is neglect of undergraduate students in research universities. Most of these students are not even acolytes in processing and purifying a subject matter; they are not even majors in one's field. They are the great unwashed mass thrown into unwelcome proximity to us intellectual masters. But there are facts even more telling for my thesis. Frequently academic fields constrict their scope so severely that they ignore findings in adjoining fields that are highly relevant to their own research interests. What can explain this self-defeating behavior?

To take but two examples; medicine and archaeology, insofar as they are taught in universities. Presumably, the hundred or so pounds of materials each of us ingests each month — foodstuffs — is a relevant health factor. Yet nutrition has drawn only peripheral attention from those professional health practitioners called doctors of

medicine. These health practitioners ignore obvious considerations of health. Why? The paradox calls for inquiry. I think we most plausibly explain it when we suppose that in addition to obvious egoistic, monopolistic and monetary motives, deeply hidden purification motives are at work.

Ignored

I think the ingestion of nutritional materials is generally ignored by physicians because the ingestion is generally not regulated, processed, and hence purified by physicians. They do not intervene — from on high, as it were — and inject the foodstuffs themselves. It does not pass through their "cleansing" hands.

Turn now to professional archaeology, particularly the way the excavations of the great Neolithic mounds and stone circles of England and Ireland (built around 3000 BC) have been conducted. Stonehenge is just one of the more recently built.

Take the huge mound, with its girdling stones, just north of Dublin called Newgrange. Until the 1960s most professional archaeologists regarded such a mound as a burial site merely, even though both ancient tradition and more recent travellers' reports indicated that in addition to their burial role the mounds functioned to register

then receding cusps of time, walk down the tunnels into the chambers, and either the sun's beams traverse the length of the tunnel on a clear winter solstice morning — and on no other — or they do not.

Why did archaeologists make claims that were so easily refutable by the simplest observations? Again, the most plausible supposition is that they were in the grip of a terribly constricting and irrational view of their subject matter, a self-and-group-defining purification ritual.

Blinkered

They refused to acknowledge what the astronomers — a different professional group — had pointed out long before. They dug into the ground, as if they wore blinkers. They saw only the stones. They could not step back, dilate their vision, and see that the placement of the stones correlated with movements in the heavens, and could not be understood in isolation from these correlations. They could not see that persons were buried at this site because at just this place and at just this time the dead could be expected to be reborn with the rebirth of the year itself.

Certain obvious factors promote hyper-specialisation, especially the urge to guard one's expenditure of time and energy in acquiring special

If this view of the university as rigidly partitioned and educationally disorienting is correct, what, if anything, can be done to remedy the situation? We must start by being diligently perceptive and scrupulously honest. If archaic forces of identity formation are at work behind our shiny secular-professional surfaces, we must acknowledge these forces; thereby their destructive, alienating effects will be diminished.

In other words, if we have become specialised to an irrational degree, this must be acknowledged. If, correlatively, many professors have been alienated from undergraduates, this must be acknowledged. The oft-repeated claim made by research universities that excellence in teaching is as important for professors' employment and tenure as is excellence in research is usually false.

Lying

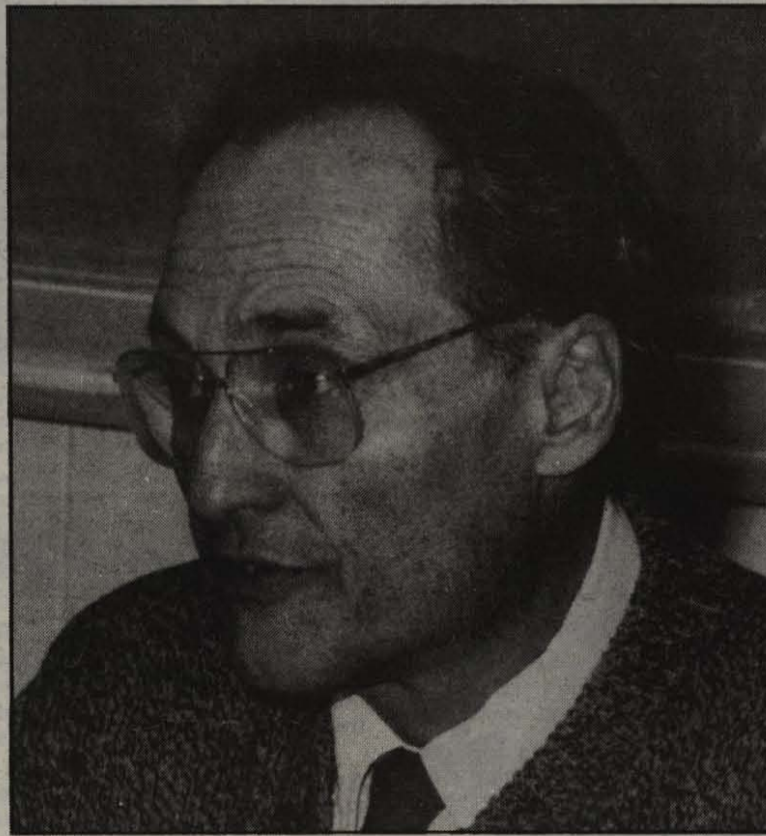
Those who make the claim must realise that it is false. So it is a lie. The lying must cease. If truth and truthfulness are not respected in the university, its reason for being is defeated, and no other efforts at reform can remedy this illness at its heart.

I suggest, second, that a serious interdisciplinary centre, or "think tank", be set up in large universities. I don't mean something that is equivalent to bed-time reading. I mean a centre in which well-read and serious people from every field (or areas not yet identified as fields) get together and hash-out, fight-out, tease-out, coax-out the concepts shared at one level or other by all conscious human activity: concepts of the individual, of the group, of meaning, evidence, truth, of integrity.

Ultimately we must rethink the meaning of good and evil, and discover or rediscover what evidence counts for the truth of various kinds of claims, aesthetical and ethical, not just scientific. The meaning of the PhD degree must be rediscovered: that is, that anyone who penetrates to the conceptual marrow of any field is ipso facto philosophical. Economists who refuse to stay confined to merely short range, easily quantifiable notions of costs and benefits — who insist on seeing beneath "the bottom line" — are philosophical. Artists who refuse to denigrate their work as mere entertainment or decoration — who see the power of good art to orient us in the world and teach us — are philosophical. Mathematicians who see the connection of mathematics and music, for example, or between mathematics and what used to be called sacred geometry, these thinkers are philosophical. The listing of sorts of interdisciplinary thinking is endless, just as the power of human imagination, conceptualisation, and emphatic concern is endless.

I suggest, third and finally, that we expose the "nuts and bolts" significance for university restructuring implied in recognising archaic forces at work in the university. This is the most speculative and yet potentially most fruitful approach to reform. I believe that archaic initiation and purification ritual is at work in forming professional disciplinary identity, and thereby in forming the university itself.

This is an edited version of the Hugo Wolfsohn Memorial Lecture, given by Professor Wilshire at Melbourne University in August.



Professor Bruce Wilshire: "The lying must cease. If truth and truthfulness are not respected in the university, its reason for being is defeated . . ."

precisely the shifts in the seasons, winter solstice, spring equinox etc.

In other words, they had astronomical not just funerary significance. (For example, the astronomer Sir Norman Lockyer pointed this out in 1909.) At one and only one morning of the year do the rising sun's rays traverse the full 63-foot length of the tunnel into Newgrange and illuminate the inner chamber. It is the morning of the shortest day of the year, winter solstice, the death of the old year, the first moment of the birth of the new.

But as recently as 25 years ago archaeologists highly regarded professionally and academically were poo-pooing such observations, claiming that they were cultists' reports, the fabrications of persons unable to do the hard work of science. But all one has to do to test the astronomical claims is to get out of bed on the mornings of these approaching and

skills by guarding the domain in which the skills are exercised. If the field is altered one's skills may become obsolete. But since the costs of hyper-specialisation are so great and are now so obvious, I think it is most plausible to suppose that in addition to obvious factors other hidden ones are at work.

Irrational

It is not just that the self-defeating effects of hyper-specialisation are so great, but that this specialisation looks like purification ritual. There is a grotesque fear of messiness and lack of definition, a fear, I think, of violating a great taboo: the polluting mixing what ought to be kept separate. This obtains despite the well known fact that creativity has typically occurred historically in messy areas of overlap between disciplines. Irrational, suppressed factors seem to be at work.

Eastern Europe steps into the unknown

Eastern Europe would become economically and politically diverse in the wake of last year's democratic revolution, according to Professor Agnes Heller, of the New School for Social Research, New York.

Professor Heller was at Monash last month to deliver a series of lectures and seminars on Central and Eastern Europe in the 1990s.

She said that over the next 20 to 30 years each country in the region would develop in different directions. Some could develop industrial, fully-fledged democracies, while others would face nationalistic or partly totalitarian forces.

"There's no prediction for better or for worse but whatever happens is a step forwards. In 1989, the 20th century history of Europe ended a period which began in 1914. What comes afterwards is an open question," she said.

However, the tendency of these countries to see themselves as a part of the East had completely gone. There was a new consumerism, new expectations, and a desire for reunification.

"Each government, each country wants feverishly to fit into the new arrangements. They want to become Western and this wasn't always the case. Western means modernity, and it means a type of modern development," Ms Heller continued.

She said the events in Eastern

Europe had shown that liberal democracy, as a model of statescraft, now was preferred in Europe to all types of totalitarian systems.

"Totalitarianism was one of the many experiments of the modern world and it's turned out to be the poorest and most devastating experiment — both economically and in human terms," she said.

Eastern Europe had not produced a political system which deserved to be preserved.

"Violence is inbuilt in totalitarian systems; they cannot function without it. Either you wage war against your own people or against another population, but you must wage war continually," Professor Heller said.

"I would not dare to speak in terms of any benefit. What developed (under totalitarianism) was an inferior economy with a government that was totally criminal and totally wasteful.

"In Europe it might be an understatement to speak of 100 million victims, including 20 to 30 million under Russian Stalinism."

Professor Heller said the single most important factor in the Euro-

pean revolution was the passivity of the Russians. "They would not march in or send their tanks and planes or back-up the secret police," she continued.

"Once the bayonets were gone, that was enough to get the momentum going."

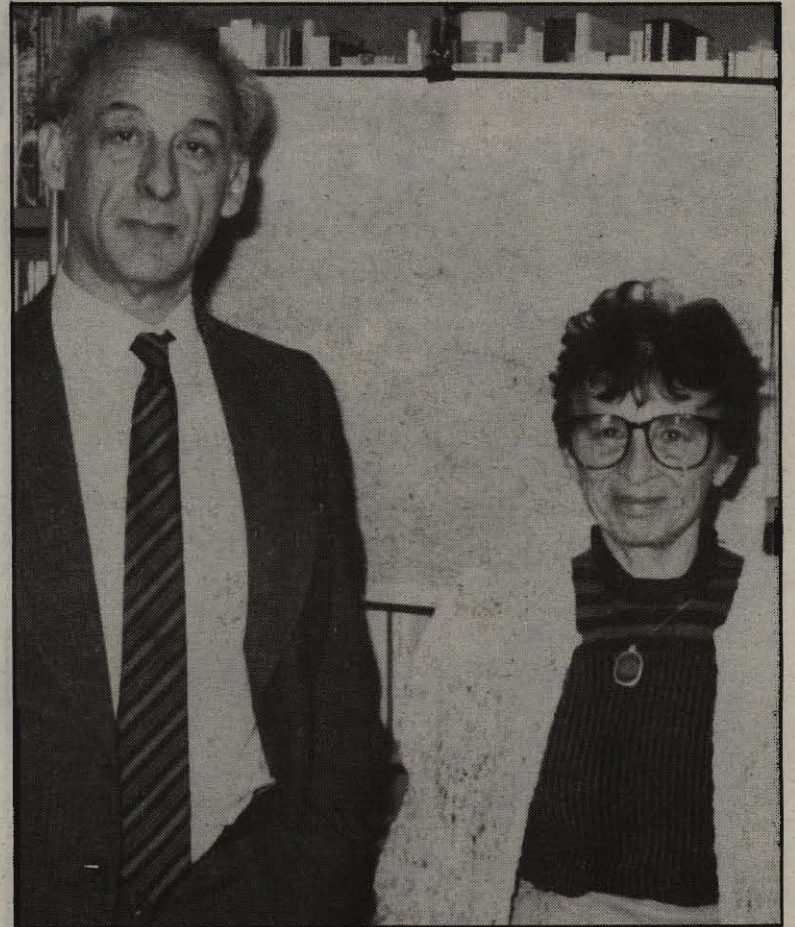
She said that even five years ago she had been very gloomy about the expansion of totalitarian regimes throughout the world. However, their growth in Central America and Asia now had been almost completely reversed.

Professor Heller predicted that Chinese communism would not survive the country's next popular uprising, which would probably occur within the next five years.

Professor Ferenc Feher, also of the New School for Social Research, and at Monash for the lecture and seminar series, said describing the Eastern European revolution as a triumph of capitalism over socialism did not take into account the complexity of the situation.

"What cannot be denied is that an economic change is going to be implemented. We will see market economies which will be part of the global system," he said.

"The 1989 revolution means that reducing it to one factor —



Professors Ferenc Feher and Agnes Heller, of the New School for Social Research, New York.

capitalism versus socialism — is no longer possible. What can be said is that the socialism experiment failed."

"It's not at all certain that they will be very prosperous on the basis of a market economy. They certainly will be freer to choose their

employment and lifestyle.

"Before, you either belonged to the ruling elite or you were a State employee. But even if the economy doesn't flourish, I don't believe people would want to go back to the old Soviet system, because it's slavery."

Scholarship strengthens Ukraine links



Dr Marko Pavlyshyn (right) and Ukrainian writer Yuri Pokalchuk in Kiev.

Monash University's links with the Ukraine have been strengthened by the establishment of a new graduate scholarship in Ukrainian studies.

The first graduate from the University of Kiev will study here next year under the scholarship scheme. Details of the scheme were finalised during a trip to the Ukraine earlier this year by senior lecturer in Ukrainian studies, Dr Marko Pavlyshyn.

The scholarship is equal to the value of a Monash graduate degree. In exchange, the University of Kiev will pay the living expenses of Monash students who study there.

Dr Pavlyshyn visited two major Ukrainian cities — Kiev and Lviv — between March and May as part of his outside studies program.

"As a result of the trip to Kiev, we now have direct links to leading personnel in the National Association of Ukrainian Studies and with

the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR," he continued.

"This is a level of contact unheard of even a few years ago. There have been very real advances in freedom of speech and the academic world is uniquely placed to take advantage.

"It was astonishing, particularly from my point of view as a literary scholar, to see how writers and critics had been reinstated as a political elite.

"These are people who are taking leadership positions, not merely as spokesmen, but also as organisers and leaders of new political organisations."

In researching contemporary Ukrainian literature, Dr Pavlyshyn interviewed many of the country's leading novelists including Dmytro Pavlychko, now a prominent politician in the Ukrainian Democratic Party.

"While I was there, it was still generally thought that a declaration

of independence was a long way off. This illustrates how quickly the political development of the republics and fragmentation of the USSR is advancing," he said.

"Everyone was in favour of cultural development and most are in favour of separating from the Soviet Union. At least in the short term a confederacy seems to be the most likely outcome.

"In the long term, I think we should be looking at the possibility of complete separation. It's very likely we will see a division of the Soviet Union along ethnic lines."

However, most ordinary people were concerned more about the failure of perestroika to effect real economic change.

"There was a very deep level of frustration at the deterioration of supply of basic consumer goods. It will be a while before we see any economic consequences of the recent social changes," he said.

Building confidence with wood

The look of pride on children's faces when they have created something out of wood gives Frankston campus's Bob Greaves a great deal of satisfaction.

For 10 years, Mr Greaves, of the School of Early Childhood and Primary Education, has been giving children aged from four to 14 the chance to build from pieces of wood whatever their imaginations dictate.

This will be the fifth year that Mr Greaves has taken his "Children Working With Wood" creative activity to the Royal Melbourne Show.

Between two and three thousand children take part in "Working With Wood", which is held daily on the Woodchop Lawn, near the Hall of Manufactures.

According to Mr Greaves, it's an enormous logistical exercise to get all the materials together.

"Bowens Timber and Hardware organise donations of materials and tools and the Royal Agricultural Society pays my motel bill and that sort of thing," he explained.

The activity is staffed by third-year education students who are given credit for it in their coursework.

The biggest benefit, says Mr Greaves, is the way it raises children's self-esteem.

"You see children come in with low shoulders and drooping body postures, and they'll go out with raised shoulders and beaming faces, saying 'look what I've made!'"

"You can show that to parents because they can see it happening,

and they also see quality teaching taking place by our students," Mr Greaves said.

Bob Greaves is also author of the forthcoming second edition of *Child Art — A Parent Handbook*, which will be launched by the Art and Craft Teachers' Association.

The book explains the importance to parents of drawing as a communication skill, and the evolution of early scribble into written language.

"There's very little general information about what children's art is about, so the book is aimed at parents of kindergarten children in a language assessable to all people," explained Mr Greaves.

Copies of the book may be ordered through the Art and Craft Teachers' Association.



Creating self-esteem at the Royal Melbourne Show.



The Torvill and Dean of the roller skating rink in the 21st century? These two youngsters were competing in the 1990 Australian Roller Skating Championships, held recently in the Sports and Recreation complex on the Clayton campus.

Chinese student scores double

Postgraduate education student Xia Guangzhi has returned to China with an impressive double achievement to his credit.

Mr Guangzhi is the faculty's first graduate in the Master of Educational Policy and Administration degree, and also the first student from the People's Republic of China to complete that qualification.

Unlike the majority of Australian students, Mr Guangzhi's educational path involved work as a farm laborer in the countryside, and two years as a bricklayer in Nanjing.

Following a nine-year courtship,

Mr Guangzhi married Cao Li, but had to leave her for his studies in Australia within a month of their marriage.

However, after two years Ms Li was able to join him at Monash as a guest of the English Department.

On the couple's recent return to China, Mr Guangzhi took up a position as program officer at the State Education Commission's Bureau of Overseas Studies.

His role involves arranging for students to study in the USA and Australia — an experience Mr Guangzhi speaks warmly of.



A proud Xia Guangzhi, the Faculty of Education's first Master of Educational Policy and Administration, with his wife, Cao Li, Associate Professor Gerald Burke (left) and the Dean of Education, Professor David Aspin (right).

Bilingualism on the rise in Victoria, workshop told

Bringing up children bilingually was the subject of a workshop held at Monash last month.

In Melbourne, more than 75 community languages other than English are spoken and about 23 per cent of people use a community language in the home, compared to the national average of 14 per cent.

The Language and Society Centre (LASC) at Monash, part of the National Languages Institute of Australia, organised the workshop to provide information and support for bilingual families.

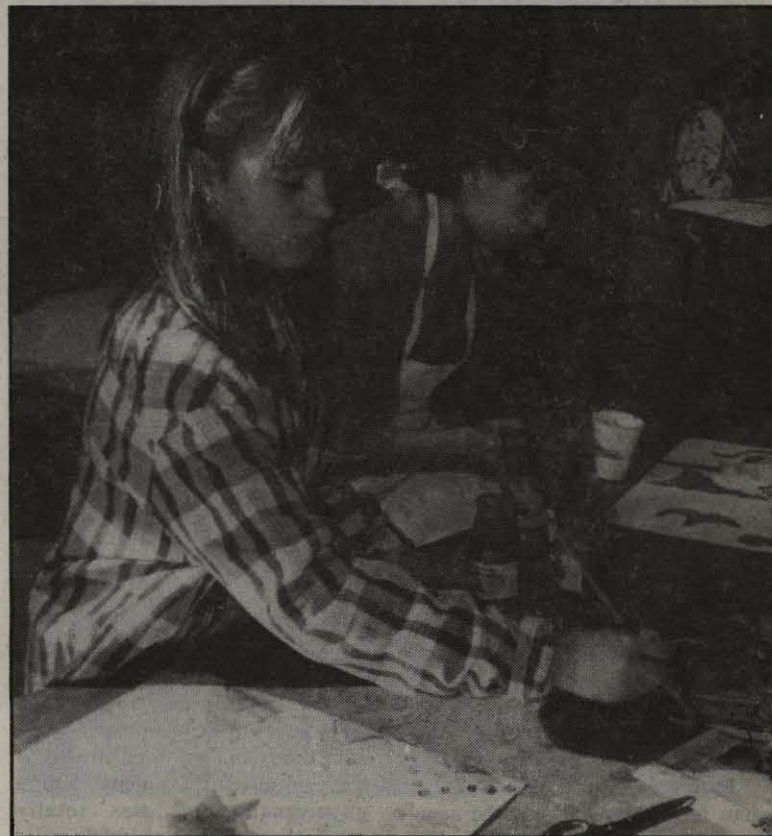
Dr George Saunders, senior lecturer in languages at the University of Western Sydney, told the workshop that raising children bilingually presented difficulties.

These included unrealistic expectations on the part of the parents, uninformed criticism from relatives, and reluctance by children to use a non-English language.

A case study was used to show that children in a two-language family could attain a good level of bilingualism as infants and, with parental encouragement and assistance, maintain and develop proficiency through to adulthood.

He said parents did not necessarily have to have an ethnic background to succeed in raising children bilingually.

Director of the LASC, Professor



Languages meet in the Arts and Craft Centre.

Michael Clyne, of the Linguistics Department, said that bilingual children may have intellectual advantages over children who spoke only one language.

He said a rise in the proportion of second-generation Australians with one parent speaking a community language indicated an increasing commitment to bilingualism.

Carving music from trees



The dramatic history of a 64-year-old homemade Indonesian orchestra was presented at the Alexander Theatre last month. The Gamelan Digul was created in 1926 at an Irian Jayan prison camp from jungle trees, stolen door hinges, and prison cooking pots. How it found its way to Melbourne — and eventually to its permanent home in the Monash University Music Department — formed the storyline of a musical-dramatic production in Indonesian and English. The authentic atmosphere of the production was enhanced by Indonesian culinary delicacies on sale. Pictured are students from the departments of Music and Asian Languages and Studies, which presented the performance in association with the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia.

A taste of rugby

Coach of Monash Rugby Union Club's senior side, Arnold Wallis revs up his team as it continues on its winning way to the grand final, to be played on 15 September. Arnold, a second-year arts/law student at Monash, took over as coach early this year. Since then, the team has won 13 games, lost three, and drawn two.



Pregnant women quit smoking in pilot study

A successful US self-help program shows promise in assisting Australian women to stop smoking during pregnancy, according to senior lecturer in the department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Dr Greg Rice.

A *Pregnant Woman's Self-help Guide to Quit Smoking*, designed by professor of Public Health at the University of Alabama, Dr Richard Windsor, has the greatest success rate in the field in America. It has been modified for Australian women by the Queensland Cancer Foundation.

Dr Rice ran a pilot study on the guide with the aim of introducing a more effective management strategy into the pregnancy care clinics at the Monash Medical Centre. The program is being evaluated by Clinic staff members. Midwives are continuing to monitor the women.

The guide uses a self-directed seven-day quit plan to allow women to take control over their smoking behavior. It promotes a sense of

achievement and satisfaction when they quit successfully.

About 40 per cent of the women at the Monash clinic smoke, seven per cent above the national average. Early results show half the women using the guide and one in five have quit.

Dr Rice has been awarded the Anthony Suleau Prize for 1990 for the study as his thesis for Master of Business and Health Administration at RMIT. The prize is awarded to the best participant to complete a postgraduate course in health administration in Australia each year.

According to Dr Rice, the detrimental effects of smoking on the fetus, newborn child, and the future growth of the child have long been known. Smoking decreases

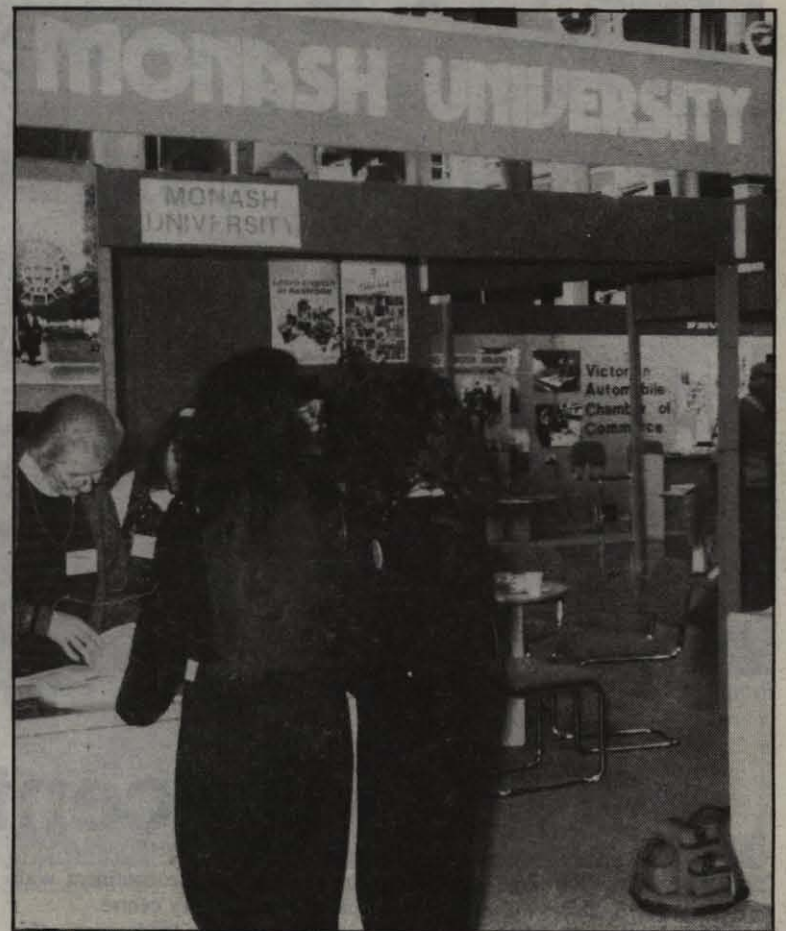
birthweight, increases the possibility of spontaneous abortion and infant mortality. Despite this knowledge, some pregnant women are not motivated to give up smoking, he said.

Dr Rice said: "The most beneficial outcome so far are the comments made by the women throughout the study." Unless self-motivated and encouraged by support of the clinic staff, they will not quit. If a woman is motivated to quit using the guide, she is unlikely to start again later in the pregnancy.

The problem with a pilot study such as this, said Dr Rice, is that it deals only with a small number of women over a short time. Further comprehensive long-term studies on birthrate, perinatal effects and biochemical analysis of nicotine would be required to determine its true impact.

Dr Rice is also working as NH&MRC Research Fellow in the department of Physiology on identifying women with a predisposition to preliminary labor.

Jane Grogan



These two potential Monash students were among many who sought advice about the new multi-campus Monash at the Young Australia Expo, held recently at the Exhibition Buildings. More than 45,000 teenagers from across the state attended the five-day expo to find out more about future courses and careers.



Computer buff programs a victory: The winner of the Andersen Consulting Scholarship, second-year Bachelor of Computing (Information Systems) student Danielle Blackmont with her parents after receiving her prize: a Toshiba Laptop computer and \$5000 in cash.

Lecturer wins metals and materials award

The Victorian Branch of the Institute of Metals and Materials Australasia has awarded Dr Trevor Finlayson, a senior lecturer in the Physics Department, its Meritorious Service Award.

The citation, in part, said: "Dr Finlayson has served the institute for many years, both at the branch and national level. He was a member of the branch council from 1981-82 and 1984-85, and was closely involved with the physical metallurgy activities of the branch from 1977-82.

"Dr Finlayson was chairman/editor of *Materials Australasia* from 1985 until early 1989. He was responsible for collecting and editing technical articles, appointing and supervising editors of different sections, and taking responsibility for the final technical standards and production layout.

"The well-being and high standards of *Materials Australasia* during the period mid-1985 to 1989 are largely due to the especially careful, conscientious and diligent service to the institute by Dr Finlayson."

Merger widens horizons for Chisholm alumni

In 1988 the Chisholm Institute Council established the Chisholm Alumni Association. Membership is open to alumni of Caulfield and Frankston campuses of Monash, and alumni of Chisholm and its antecedent institutions — Caulfield Technical College, Frankston Teachers College, Caulfield Institute of Technology and State College of Victoria at Frankston.

The association, with a membership of about 2100, operates alongside a number of faculty-based chapters: it organises activities for members and friends in conjunction with graduate year groups, affiliated chapters, or departments, and publishes its own news sheet.

Almost 150 members pledged special support to the association in its early months by becoming Foundation Members. A plaque recording their generosity will be installed later this year. Corporate sponsorship has also been provided by State Bank Victoria.

Membership is available on payment of an annual donation (currently \$25). Complimentary membership is extended to new graduates from Caulfield and Frankston cam-

pus for the first 12 months after their graduation. They are then invited to become financial members. This ensures that graduates continue to receive news of special events — both social and professionally-based — as well as some university publications. Associate membership is open to staff and other interested people. A proportion of revenue from donations is directed towards teaching and research activities to help maintain high standards of academic excellence.

Many members take up library borrowing rights for an additional fee — a specially discounted rate is offered. Other benefits include access to the services of the Student Union at Caulfield and Frankston campuses, use of conference and

catering facilities and use of the computer terminals at Caulfield. Attractive discounts are offered to members using the CITSU Bookshop or taking professional development short courses.

Members and friends recently enjoyed a close-up view of "SOLution", the university's entrant in the 1990 world challenge race for solar-powered vehicles. And on 7 October, alumni will be playing the money market, using computerised simulation packages in the School of Banking and Finance.

The merger of Monash and Chisholm presents exciting possibilities for the Alumni Association to widen the range of activities in which its members can be involved, while still fostering the contacts and networks of those many people who are proud to be known as Chisholm alumni.

For further information contact the executive officer, Ms Bev Fryer, at PO Box 197, Caulfield East 3145. Telephone 573 2731.

Australians missing out on long-acting contraceptives

From page 5

Dr Sandra Hallam, assistant medical director, Family Planning Association of Victoria, said it was common sense to have available as many varied contraceptive methods as had been tested and tried.

She said of the three long-acting, non-oral gestagens (contraceptives) marketed throughout the world, only one was available in Australia, but not for contraceptive use. [It has marketing approval in the treatment of a number of gynaecological conditions and malignancies].

The makers of this product, Depo-Provera, had not applied to license it here as a contraceptive because "it is relegated to the too

hard and controversial basket."

Of the three preparations, two (including Depo-Provera) were administered by intramuscular injection, effective for two or three months, and one (Norplant) was implanted under the skin, effective for five years.

"At least six others are in their final clinical trials. These include vaginal rings, biodegradable and non-biodegradable implants, micro capsules and pellets," Dr Hallam said.

She said the advantages of Norplant and vaginal rings were that women were in control of their own contraception because the implant or ring could be removed, and both

used a less controversial progestogen than Depo-Provera.

Depo-Provera had been the subject of more than 1000 studies in the 82 countries where it was registered for use. "On the basis of evidence from these studies, it looks to be a safer preparation than the pill," Dr Hallam added.

"It makes us wonder in despair why this now almost obsolete preparation has been victimised for so long. As we have had this impasse with Depo-Provera, I imagine other pharmaceutical firms will carefully consider whether it is worth the expenditure to even try to get their products licensed in Australia."



Bringing a sense of scale to Arthur Boyd's triptych is the director of Robert Blackwood Hall, Mr Harold Karpin. Picture: RICHARD CROMPTON.

Boyd's innocent victim

The large triptych by Arthur Boyd, *Australian Scapegoat Triptych* 1988, was recently offered on extended loan to Monash University by the Arthur Boyd Foundation. It is one of a group of works by Arthur Boyd that was exhibited at the 1988 Venice Biennale, an exhibition that launched the new Australian Pavilion for this major international art festival.

Much of the history of Australian art has been concerned with the tradition of the landscape, beginning in the 1800s, when we inherited the romantic traditions of English and European landscape artists. A major reassessment and redefinition of this tradition was undertaken in the 1940s by the artists we now refer to as the Antipodeans (including Fred Williams, who reduced the elements of the Australian bush to its bare essentials; Sidney Nolan who peopled his harsh lands with legendary heroes such as Ned Kelly and the Gallipoli soldier Simpson; Russell Drysdale who replaced the lush,

forest image of the continent with that of the arid, dry centre.

Arthur Boyd's landscapes refer back to a colonial vision of Australia as the lost Arcady. In a quest to infer a sense of history, Boyd transferred classical mythological characters into an Australian setting. In a series based on Leda and the Swan, Diana and Acteon and with figures of Venus, Mars and Vulcan he imbued the Australian landscape with a symbolic significance it had not previously had.

Boyd mixed freely references to classical mythology, Christian iconography and Australian history, merging the whole into a highly personal and visionary expression of his own experience of the world. *Australian Scapegoat* is one of the recent works called by the artist "pictures of pictures". In them Boyd makes reference to his own work from the past, reworking familiar figures and themes to make a new statement.

The Scapegoat of Christian parable is the innocent victim, and has appeared in various forms in Arthur Boyd's mythology — the crip-

pled dog, the artist himself, victim of greed, also the scapegoat soldier, victim of war. The animal is a composite of several recurring Boyd animals — goat, sheep, dog. In this work he also echoes a Narcissus figure as he leans over the water, and is identified as the prototype digger branded on the forehead with the rising sun insignia.

As Grazia Gunn, curator of the Venice Biennale exhibition, writes: "The beast can...be seen as symbolic of both the heroism of the unknown soldier and the inevitable tragedy of war. Boyd sets his beast in a no-way-out scenario. The doomed scapegoat is centrally placed between Venus, the goddess of sensual pleasure and Mars, the evil god of war". The feeling of entrapment is heightened by being geographically trapped on a thin promontory.

The artist represents himself in the guise of both cripple and clown, and runs into the painting, perhaps too late, armed with his crutch and his paint brushes.

Merryn Gates
Monash University Gallery

Arranging a musical match

"WANTED: A dynamic musical conductor capable of inspiring talented student musicians to perform at a high standard in a new orchestra."

Although that was not the description the head of the university's Music Department, Professor Margaret Kartomi used in a recent advertisement for a world-class musician, it's the kind of person she has in mind to lead the proposed new university orchestra.

"What we want to do is create a very high quality orchestra which will draw on the best young musicians in the whole of Melbourne," she said.

Professor Kartomi describes the new venture as "a community orchestra, but based at Monash". Not surprisingly, its leader will have to be a very special person.

"We want a really livewire conductor who can also teach the history and theory of music," Professor Kartomi said.

The position, which is at senior lecturer level, has been advertised throughout Australia, America and Europe.

Professor Kartomi is anxious to turn Monash into an important live music venue for Melbourne.

"This orchestra will have a community outreach role which will strengthen the idea we have at the moment of making the Monash campus a concert centre for Melbourne."

Monash has a big advantage over other Melbourne universities because of its excellent concert venues, she said.

"Robert Blackwood Hall has the best acoustics of virtually any hall in

Australia, and it's especially good for symphony orchestras.

"Then we have the Religious Centre which is extremely good for chamber ensembles and organ music; the Alexander Theatre, very suitable for small operas because of its orchestra pit; and the music auditorium and the Union Theatre," she said.

Professor Kartomi expects that the orchestra will attract the best musicians under 29 years of age, and there will be places for talented young musicians who are not Monash students.

Although there is no remuneration for orchestra members, there is a special accreditation scheme which will no doubt delight musically inclined students.

Most university faculties have agreed to allow up to 12 points accreditation towards whichever degree the student is undertaking.

Participation will require three hours of practical rehearsal time a week, as well as a one-hour lecture on the theory and history of music.

"Having the students get points for their degrees is to encourage them to put a lot of effort into individual rehearsal and class time. As a result we can get a very high quality," Professor Kartomi said.

She hopes that the orchestra will present four concerts in the second semester next year: three in Robert Blackwood Hall and one in the Great Hall of the National Gallery.

Scholars muster across Tasman

Noted historians from Australia and New Zealand have been enlisted for a conference on the two countries during both world wars.

The conference, entitled "An Anzac Muster", will be held at Monash and at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology from 20-23 September.

Co-organiser, American history lecturer and former resident of New Zealand, Mr Tony Wood, said the aim of the conference was to present recent work by historians from both sides of the Tasman.

"Since I have been here I have been struck by the need to bring Australian and New Zealand historians together. A lot of people are unaware of the excellent work being done in the other country," he said.

The New Zealand Government has contributed a grant to cover the air fares of the nine New Zealand historians participating in the conference. The conference also has been supported by the Arts Faculty at Monash and the Department of Communication Studies at RMIT.

"We have tried to get young scholars as well as more senior people. The conference is aimed at a wider audience and we hope to publish a selection of the papers presented," Mr Wood continued.

"We want to emphasise the home front, and women's and social history, as well as the battle front." He said Australians knew about our part in the world wars, but there

was a lack of knowledge about New Zealand's involvement and of that country's history generally.

"Since the Closer Economic Relationship was established in 1983 there's been a much better coverage of New Zealand affairs in the Australian media. I think the conference will make a small, but effective contribution to trans-Tasman understanding," he said.

Keynote speakers will include leading New Zealand historian Sir Keith Sinclair, who will talk on "Tasman Relations in the two World Wars," and Professor Erik Olssen, who will speak on "New Zealand and World War I".

New Zealand's official historian, Jock Phillips, will present a paper written jointly with Professor Ken Inglis of the Australian National University on war memorials in the two countries.

Senior lecturer in the Education Faculty, Dr Peter Gronn, and reader, Dr Andy Spaul, will address the conference on "War and education".

Other topics will include gender and war, the two wars and oral history, government policy in World War Two, and war and the labour movement.

Conference venues will be the Monash University Gallery Theatre and the Institute Function Room, RMIT Union.

For further information contact Mr Wood on ext 75 2172, or Ms Judith Smart, Department of Communication Studies, on 660 2900.



Frontline artists capture war

The emotional response to the overwhelming experience of war is captured in the latest exhibition at the Monash University Gallery. Titled "Send Me More Paint!", due to the chronic shortage of materials faced by frontline artists, the exhibition of Australian art from World War Two includes work by William Dargie, William Dobell and Donald Friend. "Send Me More Paint!", which is mounted by the Australian War Memorial and will be touring throughout Australia, can be seen at the gallery until 29 September. The exhibition was opened by Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop (above centre). He is pictured with the director of the Monash University Gallery, Ms Jenepher Duncan, and member of the Friends of the Gallery, Emeritus Professor Rod Andrew.

Admired actor checks in at the Alex

Mention the term "star quality" and Julia Blake's name may well come to mind.

The willowy grace that is such an integral part of Julia Blake's presence on stage or screen has made her a respected and much-admired figure, even among theatre critics.

And recently Monash has been her home away from home. At the Alexander Theatre, she shared the stage with fellow cast members Elspeth Ballantyne, Robin Cuming, Peter Curtin, Caroline Gillmer, David Latham, Tambllyn Lord and Genevieve Picot in the Playbox Theatre Company's production of *Hotel Sorrento*.

Written by Australian playwright Hannie Rayson, the play examines the events that surround the coming together of a family after 10 years of living very different lifestyles.

It deals with themes of love, rivalry, loyalty and envy and the response of people to these emotions.

Ms Blake maintains there are very few good roles for actresses over 35, and the fact that *Hotel Sorrento* was dominated by women's roles was a big attraction for her.

Her character, Marge, is a teacher whose background includes a broken marriage and grown children who do not really understand her.

She is involved in a relationship with a younger man who runs a radical newspaper, but she feels her life is not going anywhere.

"Intellectually she knows the way her life should go, but she's approached everything through her head for the past few years and her heart hasn't been touched," Ms Blake said.

By the end of the play, Ms Blake says Marge's life is about to go off in another direction.

"I love the fact that in her middle 50s she will start again, with fresh

passion, but with wisdom — it's a lovely idea," she said.

Ms Blake was particularly impressed by Hannie Rayson's skill in taking a character and allowing her to see a commonplace situation in a completely different way.

"I loved the concept of the character seeing something with new eyes and being recharged with energy and confidence.

"That really embodies what I feel about theatre and cinema — you must touch people.

"It's fine to approach somebody through the intellect or the emotions; but you have to really excite them, even if it leads them to argument," Ms Blake said.

Ms Blake says she enjoys the way Hannie Rayson is fascinated by the cut and thrust of family life.

"My own family life has meant an enormous amount to me, in terms of my relationship with my children.

"It takes great skill to write dialogue about ordinary everyday things, and the really heartening thing is that audiences are deeply touched by this play — you can hear people crying," Ms Blake said.

In private life Ms Blake is married to actor-turned-state parliamentarian, Terry Norris.

Recently the husband and wife team had the chance to perform on stage together in Peter Gurney's play *Love Letters* at the Victorian Arts Centre.

"It was an enormous success, and Terry was fantastic. And it was the first time our children had ever seen him on stage," she said.

Several different acting duos were given the opportunity to play *Love Letters* on a once-only basis. Apart from being cleverly written, there was another aspect of the play which appealed to Ms Blake.

"There was the luxury of flinging oneself into it and not having to do it again," she said.



Playwright Hannie Rayson and Mr Peter Fitzpatrick, senior lecturer in the English Department.

Doctor Jazz swings music and medicine

Unlike most PhD students, Dr Simon Pilbrow is managing to balance both the arts and science.

For him, this means being hunched over a microscope by day and over a piano keyboard at night. "Trying to combine the two has been very difficult, but I have had regular contact with musicians over the years," Dr Pilbrow said.

While researching his PhD in the Biochemistry Department, he also has been the featured pianist in a series of lunchtime concerts organised by the Monash University Jazz Club and the Music Department.

One concert highlighted Dr Pilbrow's own compositions.

Throughout his medical studies here, and later while at the Alfred Hospital, he performed with some of Melbourne's best jazz musicians. This year he has played with drummer Allan Browne, bassists Geoff Kluge and Gary Costello and trumpeter Julian Driscoll, as well as undergraduate members of the jazz club.

Browne and Kluge are members of the group Onaje, which recently performed at the Montreal Jazz Festival. Gary Costello is the bassist in Paul Grabowsky's band on "Tonight Live with Steve Vizard."

"My heart is in music and I'd love to be able to do it full time, but it would have to be viable. There's so many musicians for whom it's not, despite their enormous talent and hard work," Dr Pilbrow said.

"It's difficult to make a living unless you teach or do a lot of session work. Even very solid players are on the fringe because you need commercial success to survive; it's not always a case of ability."

Dr Pilbrow's research into "Expression of oncofetal antigens in colorectal cancer," supervised by Professor Anthony Linnane, has been funded by grants from the Royal Australian College of Surgeons and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

After graduating in 1985, he worked as a medical officer at the Alfred Hospital and completed his primary exam for the Royal Australian College of Surgeons in 1987. He began his PhD research in 1988 and expects to complete it during 1991.

He was a member of the jazz club in his undergraduate years at Monash. "I think there's a lot of talented and promising young players here. The society encourages younger musicians to learn to play jazz and improve their improvisational and performance skills," he added.

(Simon Pilbrow can be heard each Tuesday at the Royal Derby Hotel, Fitzroy.)



Simon Pilbrow and bassist Geoff Kluge at a lunchtime concert.

Gippsland poet ranges wide



Poet Laurie Duggan

A former Monash student from the radical '60s has returned to the fold as writer-in-residence at Monash University College Gippsland.

Laurie Duggan is the author of a documentary poem about Gippsland called *The Ash Range*.

He recalls his student days at the Clayton campus as exciting times. "It was good for writing, because there were people with me, such as Alan Wearne and John Scott, who are still going strong," Mr Duggan said.

Coming from a Gippsland family, he has written extensively about the area. This made him an ideal choice for a 10-week period as writer-in-residence.

His work at Gippsland has been interesting and varied, he said. "I've talked to education classes about teaching poetry, and I've read some of it to an English class.

"I've also spoken to a women's writing group about publication, and to another English group on satire, of which I've written a fair bit," Mr Duggan said.

"Soon I'll be speaking to a Gippsland history class about the 1939 Gippsland bushfires, and I'm addressing a visual arts forum in a couple of weeks."

Mr Duggan describes his own career as chequered. "I've done all sorts of things, from lecturing to cleaning in a bookshop to being an art critic for the *Times On Sunday* during its dying days.

"But all through that time I was always writing poetry," he said.

Mr Duggan is enjoying the fact that the college is using his expertise in several subject areas. And student reaction has been very good, he said.

"From my point of view, I'm having a lot of time to do my work and have a good look around South Gippsland, which is the one area of the region I don't know much about.

"So it seems to be working out fairly productively for both the college and for me," Mr Duggan said.

(Mr Duggan's new book, a collection of poems entitled *Blue Notes*, will be launched this month at the Melbourne Festival.)

Huts subside,
lean with the wind,
collapse;
the vertical and horizontal
grow obtuse and acute;
boards grey, then rot;
thick iron lasts
a little longer
Fire and regrowth
clear the remains.
So, Glen Wills:
a sign in a clearing;
at Sunnyside there's nothing;
Grant, a graveyard
if you can find it.
And Stirling?
The base of a chimney,
overgrown,
in a small clearing;
dark water,
a wild fruit tree.

(From *The Ash Range*,
Picador, 1987)

Chasing the outback sun

A solar-powered car, designed and built at Monash University's Caulfield campus by staff and students, has completed its outback road trials and is ready to race in the World Solar Challenge.

Forty-four solar-powered vehicles from around the world will compete in the 3200-kilometre race from Darwin to Adelaide in November. In the 1987 race, Caulfield's entry came sixth in a field of 23.

The new vehicle, named SOLution, was publicly unveiled last month at a launch at Olympic Park attended by the federal Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Crean, sponsors of the project and university officials. The solar vehicle was shown in action and a video about its development over the past two years was screened.

Project leader, Mr Paul Wellington, a lecturer in the department of Mechanical Engineering, said the project was a good example of co-operation between industry and education.

"It has linked students from the varied disciplines of industrial design, applied psychology, and marketing," Mr Wellington said.

Specialist assistance has been provided by the Plastics Skills Centre at Dandenong TAFE, the Materials Engineering Department at Clayton, and the Engineering School at Moorabbin TAFE.

Sponsors from industry have donated materials and services worth about \$250,000. When student time is taken into account, the total cost of the vehicle is estimated at about \$2 million.

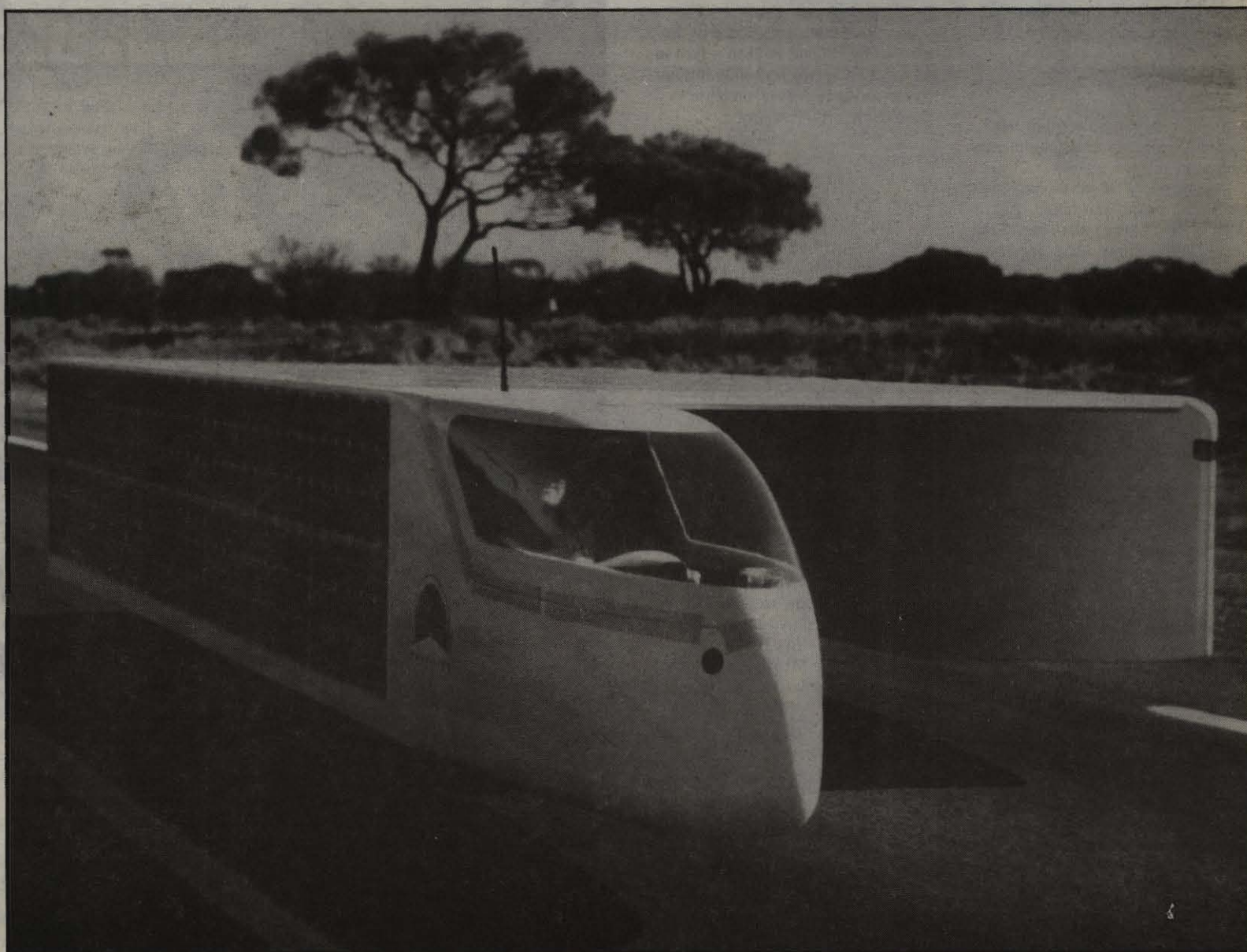
Major sponsors are the Victorian Solar Energy Council, Ciba Geigy, Telecom, ASTA, AutoDESK, GKN Technology, Comalco, the Army Engineering Development Establishment and the RACV.

Mr Wellington said the launch was the culmination of more than two years of research, planning and fine-tuning of a revolutionary, three-wheeled catamaran design.

The driver sits at the front of the right-hand hull, which contains the electric motor and steering wheel. The second hull has a single wheel.

Solar cells are on a panel connecting the two hulls and on the outside of each hull. Use of high-tech carbon and glass fibre panels means the vehicle, which is slightly larger than a Ford Falcon, weighs only 170 kilograms.

For the vehicle's road test last month, 32 project members travell-



The SOLution goes through its paces in the outback. Minor modifications have been made to the vehicle following its road test.

ed to Port Augusta, in South Australia's mid-north.

"We tested the car on a section of the actual road we will be racing on. This gave us the chance to see how it went climbing some of the most difficult hills and to evaluate the drivers in traffic," Mr Wellington said.

The four race drivers were selected as a result of the road test. They are Lisa Breen, a former Caulfield campus engineering student and the only driver from the 1987 race; Lisa Billingham, of Dandenong TAFE; Mary Holstock, the sister of a Dandenong TAFE team member; and Kirstie Spratt, a final-year nursing student at Frankston campus.

The other project members will take part in the race as support crew under the supervision of technical manager, Mr Shane Richardson, a

mechanical engineering graduate who worked on the vehicle's design, and team manager, Ms Penny Rosen, a final-year marketing student. Ms Rosen developed a promotional campaign for the project as part of her studies and was subsequently invited to be race team manager (see story below).

Minor improvements have been made to the car following the outback road test. The steering has been re-designed, a new disc wheel fitted in the front right-hand side to counter flexing in strong cross winds, and modifications have been made to the chain drive and suspension. Some components also have been made lighter.

In 1987, the Caulfield vehicle was the only catamaran in the race. Mr Wellington said SOLution was a significant advance on that vehicle because of extensive testing and the

use of a computer-aided drafting system.

He said the project gave students the opportunity to take part in real design and development work. In the classroom, teachers could give examples relating to real design problems.

"Also some of the materials we have used are very expensive, and because we have been given these materials to work with on the car, it gives students experience they might not otherwise have had," he added.

"One of the great things about this project is the way it generates enthusiasm and brings in people with different skills and interests."

For example, Ms Robyn Parker, a final year graduate psychology student, is doing research on the way the team handles the stress of the race.

Mr Wellington said he expected SOLution to be among the leaders in a competitive race.

This year General Motors, which won the last race with its Sunraycer, has not entered its own vehicle. However, it is bringing out the three leading cars from a United States college competition, held in July from Florida to Detroit.

Other corporate entries include vehicles from Honda Research, Toyota and Hoxan, a Japanese solar cell manufacturer.

In October, SOLution will be exhibited at an international conference entitled "Transport and the Environment", organised by the Australian Academy of Technical Science and Engineering. It also will be shown at the Australian Electric Vehicle Association meeting at Sandown.

Behind the scenes, a part-time marketing student at Caulfield campus planned a publicity and promotions campaign to bring the project into the public eye.

The successful public launch of SOLution was particularly rewarding for Ms Penny Rosen, who designed the campaign as part of her studies.

The launch last month was the culmination of months of detailed planning and hard work. It received newspaper and radio coverage and environmental magazines also have expressed interest.

"The team recognised the need for some sort of marketing involvement, particularly from the sponsorship side. It was really left up to me as to what I wanted to do," said Ms Rosen, senior ac-

count manager with the advertising agency Young and Rubicam.

"The major thing was the launch, which we've been working on since November last year. We also started a newsletter to establish dialogue with the media before the launch, prepared a press kit and set up various fundraising activities."

Ms Rosen so impressed the team with her organisational skills during the vehicle's outback trial that she has since been appointed team manager for the race. She will be responsible for organising the team's food and accommodation, as well as all communications.

"What everybody finds is that it's a very absorbing project, and it's very hard to get a little bit involved. My work on this has been far and above any project I've ever done," she said.



Viewed from the front, the SOLution shows its aerodynamic lines.