First students for KL

A total of 431 students began classes last month as part of the first intake of students at Monash University's new campus in Malaysia.

The Monash University Sunway Campus in Kuala Lumpur is the result of a partnership between Monash and Sunway College which builds upon, twinning arrangements between the two institutions.

The new arrangement enables Malaysian students to undertake an entire honours degree while remaining in Malaysia.

Monash's vice-chancellor, Professor David Robinson, said the new campus was part of the university's plan to establish a range of campuses and extension centres throughout the Asia-Pacific region and in other selected countries.

"The Sunway campus will benefit Malaysian students who wish to study a Monash qualification that can't, for whatever reason, come to Australia to study. It will also be an attractive option for students from other countries in the region," he said.

Monash was the first foreign university to be invited to operate a full campus in Malaysia. It has accepted large numbers of Malaysians onto its Australian campuses since the 1970s and now has the largest number of Malaysian alumni of any Australian institution.

Monash Malaysia will provide a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in engineering, science, information technology, business and the arts, and will also house a growing research base.

Myths debunked in language study

By JOSIE GIBSON

Linguistic diversity is more evenly spread throughout Sydney than in Melbourne or Adelaide, Monash researchers have found.

And claims of language 'ghettoes' in these cities are not supported by the facts, according to the research on Language Concentrations in Metropolitan Areas, by Professor Michael Clyne and Ms Sandra Kipp of Monash University's Linguistics department.

Using data from the 1996 Census, the researchers looked at Local Government Areas (LGAs) within Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide.

In Sydney, linguistic diversity is concentrated in state capitals, particularly in Sydney and Melbourne, where more than a quarter of the population speaks a language other than English at home. In Adelaide, the city with the highest proportion of home users of languages other than English, the figure is about 15 per cent.

According to Professor Clyne, the findings could help urban planners looking to provide language-specific services where they are most needed.

And, he said, they also debunk a few myths.

"The idea of Chinese-speaking ghettoes, for example, is simply not supported by the data," he said. "The research shows that both Mandarin and Cantonese have relatively low concentration factors."

"Myth: Australian students will also benefit by having this additional option to spend a semester studying in another country!"

Monash was the first foreign university to be invited to operate a full campus in Malaysia. It has accepted large numbers of Malaysians onto its Australian campuses since the 1970s and now has the largest number of Malaysian alumni of any Australian institution.

Monash Malaysia will provide a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in engineering, science, information technology, business and the arts, and will also house a growing research base.

The main intake of students at the campus is expected at the beginning of next year.

"Indon plan gets boost"

Monash has commenced a feasibility study in consultation with the Indonesian Government and the rectors of Indonesian universities on establishing a full Monash University campus in Indonesia.

Speaking at the end of a visit to Indonesia last month, vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson said Monash's desire to participate fully in the Indonesian education sector over the long term had remained unchanged by the recent events in that country.

"Despite the current economic crisis in Indonesia, Monash is very optimistic about the country's medium- and long-term outlook. The university remains strongly committed to forging links with Indonesia's education sector, even during these times of difficulty," he said.

Professor Robinson said Monash would continue its university preparation and language courses in Jakarta and Bandung through its joint venture entity, UnitedAsiaGuna.

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Features
The Asian currency crisis – one year on
When cracks began appearing in the financial armour of several Asian 'tiger' nations 12 months ago, few expected the repercussions to be as widespread and dramatic as they turned out to be. But Mohamed Aiff argues that the Asian miracle is far from over.

Arts
'Closer' to the Alex
An award-winning story of four strangers joined by love and separated by desire comes to Monash University's Alexander Theatre on 1 September.

Taste of Egypt on show
A sample of the culture of one of the world's oldest civilizations has gone on display at the Monash University Library.

Sports
Safety call on netball
Many serious netball injuries could be avoided if simple safety techniques were observed and game rules were modified for children, a report by Monash University's Accident Research Centre has suggested.
US looks to bounce AFL

By JOSIE GIBSON

Australian rules football could face a tough competitor if American football powerbrokers press plans to establish their multi-billion dollar games Down Under.

The successful National Football League (NFL) has confirmed its intention to stage its first-ever game in Australia, perhaps in the year 2000, as part of a long-term worldwide expansion program.

According to Mr Tim Farrow, a lecturer at Monash University's Marketing Department, Australian clubs should put the NFL under the spotlight.

"The NFL's marketing strategies face Australia offers great promise," he said. They believe Aussie fans are not to be underestimated the NFL is international, about the organisation's global expansion program.

"The NFL has already created a brand in Europe with the three-year-old World League of Football (now renamed NFL Europe), and the game is currently played in about 15 countries ranging from Germany to Japan. But will Australians' sporting spirit allow them to be exposed to a game fundamentally different from their national sport? Australian Rules Football is virtually a single-step action with little removed from the stop-start action of well-known sports in the American varieties."

Mr Farrow said the phenomenon international success of American football basketball showed that such marketing could overcome cultural boundaries - with lucrative rewards.

Australian football has been broadcast here for nearly 20 years. More significantly, Australia is a potential gateway to the Pacific rim countries.

The NFL has already created a brand in Europe with the three-year-old World League of Football (now renamed NFL Europe), and the game is currently played in about 15 countries ranging from Germany to Japan. But will Australians' sporting spirit allow them to be exposed to a game fundamentally different from their own national sport? Australian Rules Football is virtually a single-step action with little removed from the stop-start action of well-known sports in the American varieties.

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Mr Farrow said the phenomenon international success of American football basketball showed that such marketing could overcome cultural boundaries - with lucrative rewards.

Teachers to meet on PEEL

Up to 200 teachers from across Victoria will converge on Monash University on 24 and 25 August for a conference on internationally-launched classroom teaching techniques.

Dr Ruth McKinnon and Mr Tim Farrow from Monash University's PEEL (Project for Enhancing Effective Learning) have been invited to speak at the conference. A full report of the research is available by contacting the centre on (03) 9905 8594.

Myths debunked in language study

Continued from page 1

According to the research, the most strongly concentrated languages were Macedonian and Vietnamese (Sydney), Macedonian and Albanian (Adelaide). The most dispersed were German and Greek (Melbourne), German and Polish (Melbourne), German and Spanish and German (Adelaide).

Professor Clyne said the relatively low concentration of German was due to a number of factors. Areas where Germans had lived for many years had been overtaken by other community languages as the German speakers dispersed, he said. And the fact that German speakers came from a number of European countries meant the language was spoken by a diverse group of people who may not wish to congregate.

Professor Clyne said the research had been influential in light of the rise of Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party and state of its sales.

"The trick is to get teachers involved at the grassroots level - it's not imposed from above," she says. "PEEL works because the strategies and classroom techniques work ... and the kids like them."

According to Mr McKinnon, PEEL techniques get students to talk about what they're learning, to test their knowledge and its resultant road trauma costs against the costs of producing and running the machines is to reduce trauma rather than make revenue, then 20 cent machines are clearly the best option," Dr Haworth said.

"If the reason for installing these machines is to reduce trauma rather than make revenue, then 20 cent machines are clearly the best option," Dr Haworth said.

"We found that the 20 cent machines gave the highest usage rates - almost double that of the $1 machines," Dr Haworth says. "The promotion used didn't seem to be effective, but we are not certain if this is because the wrong types of people were using them or simply not enough promotion."

The report concluded that the benefit-cost ratio to the Victorian community, taking into account road trauma costs, would be greater if three hundred 20 cent machines we're installed at the 150 highest volume licensees.

The bad news for the hotel industry and the broad-based machine manufacturers is that while usage was lower with fewer machines, the overall revenue was less.

"If the reason for installing these machines is to reduce trauma rather than make revenue, then 20 cent machines are clearly the best option," Dr Haworth said.

Self breath testing a public benefit or a private cost?

By KAY AMSTEL

The introduction of breath-testing machines in hotels has been hailed as a breakthrough in the self-regulation of responsible drinking. But why do as few as one in 10 drinkers bother to use them?

"With the advent of computer technology and cunning media barons who know the sport for what it is: a coloured digital product," he said. "Who plays wins and who may not win. That's important because if the game can be won by anyone, anywhere, anytime, and in the eyes of big business, that's an opportunity that simply can't be missed."

"Four US television networks paid US$7.6 billion for the rights to broadcast NFL games for the next eight years, so imagine what the asking price might be if there was strong international market penetration."

For more information on the sport, visit www.americansports.com.au/football/australianrules.htm
Benefit helps more: report

BY KAY ANSELL

Despite the Federal Government's new Youth Allowance attracting criticism from Opposition parties, more tertiary education students will be better off than under the schemes it replaced, Monash University researchers say.

More than 50,000 students who would not have qualified for last year's more generous independent status under AUSTUDY will now qualify for the Youth Allowance (above $50,000) under the new scheme.

The Monash researchers' estimate of the number of university and TAFE students who will become eligible for the Youth Allowance, rather than AUSTUDY, is higher than the Federal Government's predict'd figure. Prospective students delay university entry for 18 months, during which time they earn $13,800 or more, for example, were students from lower middle-class trend to be better off than under the Youth Allowance's age undergone means test, under AUSTUDY still per week) for 18 months within a two-year period and earning $13,800 over that time (originally it was $17,000).

Another benefit of the Youth Allowance is the more generous rental assistance provisions for students living away from home, including the removal of $1200/month (instead of two or more years).

By Kay Ansell

Access points help students reach VTAC

Prospective undergraduate students can now apply electronically to the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) for a place to study. VTAC Access Points have been installed at four Monash campuses — Clayton, Caulfield, Peninsula and Gippsland — and several other Victorian tertiary institutions.

The Access Points are work-stations which allow prospective students to access the VTAC Guide to University and TAFE Courses and application forms on the Internet. The manager of Monash's Prospective Students Office, Ms Caroline Knowles, said this year's first-time applicants had been able to apply to VTAC over the Internet.

"VTAC Access Points, which cost nothing to use, have been established to ensure that those students without personal access to the Internet can still make use of the technology," she said. "Students use the VTAC Guide to select courses at any Victorian tertiary institution, fill out the application form and lodge it — all electronically.

"Applicants still pay an application fee, but this is done through Australia Post after lodgement." VTAC applications close on 30 September. Lodgement costs $15 for Year 12 students and $25 for all other applicants. Late applications will incur a late fee.

Prospective students can also apply to VTAC using the traditional hard-copy application form, and Year 12 students have the additional option of using an interactive voice response system.

Access Points are located in the libraries at Monash's Caulfield, Peninsula and Gippsland campuses, and in the Prospective Students Office at Clayton campus.

For further information, call the university's Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 1230 or VTAC on (03) 9500 0000.
New challenge for robot rover

Monash researchers are working on plans for the ultimate all-wheel drive using a Russian-built rover to handle the roughest Martian terrain.

Tim Thwaites reports.

Professor Ray Jarvis of Monash University's Department of Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering is a man who likes a challenge.

And that is exactly what he has in the form of a Russian-built model of a planetary rover.

He recently started work on a project to equip and program the remote-controlled, six-wheeled vehicle so that, in theory at least, it could be dropped into unknown and rough terrain on Mars, or anywhere else in the universe, and be able to find its way around, without falling off a cliff, rolling over, or otherwise damaging its high-strength titanium body.

Easy, you might say? RE202 and CSP0 performed similar tasks with style in the Star Wars movies more than 20 years ago. But the reality of robots and remote-controlled vehicles is very different. Behind George Lucas.

Professor Jarvis, who has been working with robots since the Star Wars era, is one of Australia's foremost researchers in the field of robot navigation.

For the past 12 years, he has been financed by a Special Investigator's Award from the Australian Research Council. This money has allowed him to set up the new project which will not only give him a chance to put past work into practice but also allow him to extend his studies.

The vehicle which was recently delivered is the real thing—a planetary rover made by engineers from the Transmash company in Russia which supplies similar vehicles for space programs all over the world.

Each wheel of the rover is built out of sheet titanium and can be controlled independently through its own set of gears. In addition, each of the vehicle's pairs of wheels can move independently of the others in two dimensions—up and down and side to side.

Providing such a machine with the intelligence to be able to navigate unknown and rough terrain safely would be a significant jump in capability compared to today's robots, according to Professor Jarvis.

"First, the rover has to be able to locate itself in three dimensions. "Positioning errors in robot navigation have typically relied on prior knowledge or preparation of the site. The robot followed a trail of wires laid underground, for instance, or plotted its position with respect to a series of parallel lines marked out on the ground, or to well-marked features such as the 'distance transform'," he said.

But Professor Jarvis wants to develop a system that is much closer to human navigation, using natural landmarks in the environment such as rocks, trees and unusual land formations.

Professor Jarvis said information analysis was essential if the landmarks were to be recognised again. "Once the machine moves, the view of the landmark changes—it may be clearer or further away, it may appear different because it is viewed from a different angle, it may even be partially obscured. To be able to match the new view with the old demands intelligence."

Next, information on landmarks and any territory the vehicle has scanned with its sensors must be put together into a map to allow the vehicle to plan the most efficient pathway towards its goal, while avoiding obstacles and terrain so rough that it would be unsafe to cross.

In plotting such a path, Professor Jarvis plans to adapt a technique known as the 'distance transform', which he developed to allow robots to navigate on flat surfaces such as factory floors. In order to test his ideas, he is planning to build a special test rig for the rover to negotiate, with rocks as landmarks and obstacles.

"In an unknown environment, it is inevitable that the vehicle will only have partial information about the terrain," Professor Jarvis said. "So it is important that the navigation system include a failure mechanism. Then, if the vehicle finds itself in a situation where it is likely to damage itself by proceeding, it would automatically stop or back out.

However, in order for the vehicle to use this information effectively, it must be able to store the data and then analyse it using a computer. The computer, unlike the sensors, does not have to be carried on the vehicle itself, as long as the vehicle can communicate with it.

Professor Jarvis wants to develop a system that is much closer to human navigation, using natural landmarks in the environment such as rocks, trees and unusual land formations.

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Students unite on Monash Plan

Monash students have produced their own answer to the university's corporate plan in a document believed to be the first of its kind in Australia. Student representatives and MUFSO committee member explain what the students hope to achieve.

The Monash Student Plan also encompasses the three main themes of Monash innovation, engagement and internationalisation. Innovation for MUFSO is an engagement student representatives, ensuring that Monash students can discuss issues such as course quality and the implementation of information technology within courses. Innovation also covers how the university and MUFSO will resource student organisations and maintain a dialogue on course quality and learning and teaching.

The plan has been written to define how students are going to work with the university.

Engagement in The Monash Student Plan looks at how students will interact with the university, including information campaigns run jointly with MUFSO and the university, and students having an opportunity to comment on university policy in its formulation stage. The engagement of MUFSO is something students are looking forward to, with Monash setting up campuses around the globe.

Currently MUFSO is looking at the internationalisation of the Australian curriculum and the needs of international students.

The Monash Student Plan is designed to be added to and reprinted each year to accommodate changes in the tertiary education environment and in the composition of the student body. It is envisaged by both the university and MUFSO that the Monash Student Plan will be presented each year to Council and that it will define MUFSO and cross-campus student activities for the following year.

The Monash Student Plan

The plan is aimed at positioning MUFSO to:

- ensure effective communication between students and the university;
- represent all Monash students in a consultative, methodical and considered manner;
- recognise individual campus needs;
- provide advocacy on a broad range of student issues;
- organise student representatives and student organisations to avoid overlap in duties and activities;
- contribute to the development of university policies.

Source: The Monash Student Plan: Unified and Localised (June 1998)
Lessons learned in Asian crisis

When cracks began appearing in the financial armour of several Asian tiger nations 12 months ago, few expected the repercussions to be as widespread and dramatic as they turned out to be. Mohamed Azli argues that the Asian miracle is far from over, with the currency crisis reaching Asia some valuable lessons.

The various reasons why the crisis occurred have been much debated and will be bypassed here. But what about the cost and consequences of the Asian financial meltdown?

Political changes with far-reaching consequences have also been unleashed.

A year since the onset of the crisis, economic growth in Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand has now gone past competitive levels, their exports have registered negative growth. This is due to a total collapse in the currency where one modest report noted the export figures from Asia to the US had dropped by 26 per cent. Another source claims that the depression curve has shown itself in Asia to build up a stable rock for the recovery.

The saga of the reunited Germany, which had long been known to the world as a land of peace and prosperity, was not repeated in America. The Japanese yen, which dropped by about 14 per cent last year and the free-floating peso in Mexico, is still showing its value during the past.

When the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, ignored Pauline Hanson's outspoken statements, he appealed to 'free speech' and referred to an over-use of the term 'racist'. He also gave respectability to the public domain of language used by those whose ideology many thousands of fundamentalists fought against and which many died to protect Australia from.

The essence of racist language is to divide people into an in-group and an out-group on the basis of physical features and/or ethnic origin. It is not 'us' and 'them'. They are the 'superior', 'over-mansoor', as the National Socialists put it, when 12 of them were electing to the German parliament in 1928. It was the first time they had fielded candidature. For the Nazis, 'us' were the Aryans. They were Jews or other races. Aryans who were allegedly involved in an international conspiracy with Communists, the allied countries, and the League of Nations, the forerunner of the United Nations. And so 'they' had to go, as Germany was perceived as 'one people' with 'one leader'.

One Nation-speak, they are the 'Asians', including both foreign countries and companies and Australia itself, particularly Filipinos, and there is another international conspiracy involving the United Nations and the rest of the world. Members of the in-group who are badly-off are useless migrants' who should be 'swept away'. As in the late 1920s and 1930s in Germany, the context is difficult economic times and widespread economic disenchantment.

The language of discoum has now become the language of envy and resentment, then that of exclusion. I am not suggesting that the Australian landscape will undergo a total extermination. But we don't want them here, spoken recently by the leader of the One Nation Party, is the same language associated with adversity, drinking in other parts of the world. And where there is moral violence and physical violence is often not far away. Was it perhaps the slogans 'For all of us' that started it all? On the surface, the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, said that he was 'not suggest.

The result of this increased competition is that Asia's fragile miracle economies will be pushed to grow more from productivity-based efficient economic management than through fast-paced increases in foreign capital and import of some kind isolated economic policies or prudential supervision. Of course, the politics of the 'us' and 'them' groups must give way to democratic governance.

Australians should shun language of exclusion.

Data show that the years following the 1997 Asian financial crisis, its prevention and its resulting policies have filled people with language of envy and resentment about Asians, including both foreign migrants and their descendants, and those who are 'one people' with 'one leader'.
Impact of poet on show

BY STEPHANIE GOETZE-THIES

The Monash University Gallery will open a landmark exhibition on 23 August to mark the centenary of the death of French poet Stéphane Mallarmé.

The exhibition, titled *Ashes of the Stars - Stéphane Mallarmé - A celebration*, aims to create an awareness of Mallarmé and his work in relation to the visual arts over the last hundred years.

Mallarmé (1842-1898) had a strong connection with many aspects and exponents of the visual arts. Artists such as Edouard Manet, Berthe Morisot and Edgar Degas were close friends of Mallarmé, while many other artists have been directly inspired by his work.

Organised as part of the Melbourne, Marrakesh and the 20th Century Festival, the exhibition will consist of 19th and 20th century works by artists such as Matisse, Whistler, Morisot, Degas, Redon, Gauguin and Vuillard.

The exhibition will also feature a diverse selection of works, ranging from illustrations by Marivaux for a deluxe edition of Mallarmé's *Poèmes* in a 1906 piece by Broodthaers and artworks created especially for the exhibition.

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‘Closer’ to the Alex

An award-winning story of four strangers joined by love and separated by desire comes to Monash University's Alexander Theatre on 1 September.

The play *Closer* took London’s West End by storm last year and won playwright Patrick Marber a sweep of honours, including the Laurence Olivier Award for best new play, the London Critics’ Award for best play, and The Evening Standard Award for best newcomer.

The Melbourne Theatre Company production is presented by arrangement with London’s Royal National Theatre and features Marcy Chiappa (Diana), Asher Keddie (Alice), Jane Menenian (Anna) and Robert Menzies (Larry), under the direction of Bruce Myers.

Dai, a journalist-turned-novelist, comes to Alice’s aid after she is hit by a taxi. They fall in love, promising never to tell to each other, and he hails his new novel on her funeral. Dai then meets Anna, an up-and-coming photographer. To complicate matters, Larry (the doctor who treated Alice after her accident) meets Anna after an erotic encounter on the Internet.

Both a romantic comedy and a brutal dissection of life in the 1990s, *Closer* explores the games people play and the lies they tell, all in the name of love.

Hailed as one of the hottest young Australian talents on stage, *Closer* opens at Monash on 23 August to 26 September.

What: *Theatre* Where: Alexander Theatre, Clayton

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Third world blues for Vietnam vet

A new guide to Australian feminism, *Australian Feminism: A new guide to Australian feminism*, will give an overview of many unexplored political, social and economic issues, Monash academics believe.

Professor Barbara Caine, from Monash's History department, is the chief editor of *The Oxford Companion to Australian Feminism*.

The companion companion, to be published in November, will “encourage the breadth of contemporary understanding of feminism”, she said. “What we've tried to do is focus on issues and people who are not in the mainstream of feminism and feminism as a whole.”

The author of *English Feminism: 1770 to 1960*, Professor Caine has been working on *The Oxford Companion to Australian Feminism* for nearly five years. She sees the work as an indication of the strength of interest in women and feminism.
Insight into life of ancient Egypt

A sample of the culture of one of the world’s oldest civilisations has gone on display at Monash University’s Main Library.

About 25 books, documents and artefacts on Egyptology, including several from private collections, are on show in the Library’s Rare Books Section.

The exhibition represents a summary of some of the major discoveries made by a group of about 20 international researchers — including a team from Monash — working at the site of Lisht, in Egypt’s Dahshur Oasis. A primary focus of the exhibition is written material found at the site, which includes almost perfectly preserved wooden books (codices), remnants of ancient texts written on papyrus, and fragments of pottery vessels, known as potsherds.

According to Dr Colin Hope, an archaeologist and lecturer from Monash’s Classics department and a member of the Dahshur team, the inscriptions describe a diversity of topics and provide a vivid account of life in the village where they were found.

"We know the affairs of several generations of various families who occupied specific houses over a period of about 100 years," he said.

The artefacts contain examples of major pre-Arab languages and scripts as well as the ancient languages of Egypt (Ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Coptic).

The distinctive style of ancient Egyptian boxes, as well as the ancient languages of Monash University, Clayton campus, Clayton, telephone (03) 9905 2089.

INPRINT


Allan di Umbrin (Editor)

Over the last 30 years, Australia’s approach to trade and industry policy has changed dramatically.

This book — a collection of more than 400 documents — charts important developments in general industry policy, as well as industry-specific policies and general industry programs, including export and government procurement.

The book examines key developments such as Australia’s policy towards the GATT, bilateral and regional trade relations including the recent APEC initiative, and exchange rate and foreign investment policies.

Written by Monash academics Richard H. Steiner and Lisa Group, and DPIR trade policy consultant Tas Lutrull, the book is a valuable resource for lecturers and students of economics.

The Politics of Indonesia

Oxford Press University Press (95 $25.95)

At Indonesia struggles to reform its political institutions and practices, it has come under close international scrutiny.

The Politics of Indonesia, by Dr Damien Kingsbury of the Monash Asia Institute, gives readers an insight into the political issues facing Indonesia.

The book begins with a discussion of the traditional and cultural values that have influenced the country, and traces its development through the colonial era and the period of its emergence as an independent state.

It also analyses the rise and fall of President Soeharto, discusses the role of the armed forces and the media, and looks at corruption and human rights issues.

The Politics of Indonesia is a valuable resource for students of Asian studies, and those who trade or do business in Indonesia.

All books featured in ‘Inprint’ are available, or can be ordered, at one of Monash University’s four on-campus bookshops. Some online ordering facilities are available.

Clayton, telephone (03) 9905 3111 or email bookshop@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au

Gippsland, telephone (03) 5122 1771 or email bookshop@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au

Peninsula, telephone (03) 9793 6932 or email bookshop@bookshop.adm.monash.edu.au

Monash University is hosting its series of executive programs for senior and middle managers and ..-

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Marketing

5 September

The Search for Competitive Success

The full-day seminar explores the basis of competitive success, the contribution of marketing to competitive success and the strategies and tactics of successful firms.

Inquiries: Ray Whyte, 9933 2389.

28 September

‘Marketing Management Principles and Practice’

This intensive five-day program has been designed to meet the needs of those working in consumer, industrial, service and government organisations. It is particularly beneficial for executives needing an understanding of the marketing discipline or needing an update in contemporary marketing techniques.

Inquiries: Linda Cunningham, 9933 2316, or email lynda.cunningham@monash.edu.au

Wine and Business

11-16 October (Adelaide)

Wine Executive Program (Residential)

Monash University is hosting its annual five-day residential executive program for senior and middle managers and ..-

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Siegfried Kracauer - ‘In the Shadows’

The Hoogen, Gippsland campus, telephone (03) 9905 6327.

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Safety call on netball

BY DEBORAH MORRIS

Many serious netball injuries could be avoided if simple safety techniques were observed and game rules were modified for children, a report by Monash University's Accident Research Centre has suggested.

Funded by Victoria's Sport and Recreation Department, the study involved a review of existing data and research on netball injuries with the aim of pinpointing areas for further research.

As the most popular team-based sport in Australia, netball attracts more than 320,000 participants, with 112,000 players registered in Victoria alone. It is the fourth most popular sport among Victorian adults and the third most popular among children aged five to 14 years.

Despite its reputation as a non-contact sport, netball causes a significant number of injuries. According to the Monash report, the game is responsible for 9 per cent of adult and 4 per cent of child sports-related injuries reported to hospital emergency departments. More than 80 per cent of adult and 70 per cent of child netball injuries occur during formal competitions.

The report examines a range of strategies for preventing netball injuries and recommends areas for further research, development and implementation. These include improving ball-handling techniques, wearing appropriate footwear, using mouthguards, preventing "over-use" injuries, and changing the existing rules.

The report's author, Professor Joan O'annae-Smith, said that very few existing safety measures had actually been evaluated.

"More research is definitely needed," she said. "We don't know what the risk factors are for some injuries. For example, we don't know what impact different types of surface or footwear or levels of experience may have. This report is the first step towards developing a systematic approach to reducing netball injuries."

The centre's research showed that knee injuries are generally the most severe and costly injuries associated with netball. Adult netballers most often sustain injuries to the ankles, knees and hands, while children sustain injuries most often to the hands and fingers. Children's injuries are most likely caused by incorrect technique and a lack of coordination, the report says.

It urges sporting organisations and schools to review playing conditions for children. Professor O'annae-Smith said this might involve modifying game rules to reduce the incidence of body contact and allowing children to play with smaller-than-standard nets. The report also suggests encouraging children to play the modified games Fun Net and Netta to help them develop good skills and technique at a young age while keeping injuries to a minimum. Professor O'annae-Smith believes the project is the most comprehensive review of injury prevention in netball ever undertaken.

"Many netball injuries are preventable through proper preparation, technique and use of appropriate equipment," she said.

For further information, contact Professor Joan O'annae-Smith or Ms Ruth Zaro at the Monash University Accident Research Centre on (03) 9905 1808.

A whole new ball game

Three Monash students are skating their way to success in the newly-formed Australian Volleyball League. Nick Marsh, a veteran of five intervarsity competitions, was voted Most Valuable Player in his first match for the Melbourne Falcons. One of Neil's team-mates, Cristy Mace, who has played state league games for Victoria for many years, is on the University side. Nicole Mace, who has played state league games for Monash for many years in the Falcons women's league.

Top gun

Monash athlete Alex Bolderly recently fought his way to second place in the Australian Taekwondo championships. As a result of that effort, Alex will join the Australian team in the Asian Games in Vietnam later this year. He was awarded a Blue for his outstanding performances at the 1997 Australian University Games, when he was selected in the All-Australian team.

Teams vie for Uni Games spot

BY DEBORAH MORRIS

Blood was shed, tears were spent and cheers echoed around the campus, as more than 200 Monash University athletes took part in the 1998 Southern Universities Sports Association Championships last month.

Monash enjoyed a highly successful games, taking gold in women's badminton, men's hockey and women's soccer. The men's volleyball team took first place in the volleyball section of the championships held earlier this year.

Monash were runners-up in football, men's table tennis, men's touch and women's hockey.

Eighteen Monash teams qualified for the Australian University Games, which will take place in Melbourne in late September. The games will be jointly hosted by Monash University and The University of Melbourne.

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