Monash study examines judicial independence

BY FIONA PERRY

The recent trial and imprisonment of Malaysia's former deputy prime minister, Mr Anwar Ibrahim, is an acute reminder of the importance of an independent judiciary in a democratic society, according to the Sir John Latham Professor of Law at Monash University, H. P. Lee.

"The Anwar Ibrahim case, while having no parallels in Australia, illustrates how the security of a judiciary can be eroded, fueling a growing cynicism and lack of confidence in a country's legal system," he said.

And while Australians maintain a high degree of confidence in their legal system, recent disturbing attacks on the judiciary threaten to undermine its independence, warns Professor Lee, who is currently conducting ARC-funded research into the Australian judiciary with Monash Emeritus Professor Raid Campbell and Professor George Winterton from the University of New South Wales.

Sir John Latham Professor of Law at Monash, H.P. Lee.

"Subversion of judicial independence need not take the overt forms manifested by the experiences in Malaysia," said Professor Lee. "In Australia, it can take the more insidious form of a process of disempowerment, which can have a corrosive effect on the integrity and standing of a court."

"This occurred following the High Court's Wik decision, when the court was subject to virulent attack by politicians, which could reasonably be construed as an inciting contempt for the court."

Professor Lee said manipulation of judicial appointments and abolition of courts and tribunals by governments could also represent a threat to judicial independence.

"By abolishing courts or tribunals and therefore 'recognising' the system, governments can pick and choose the judicial officers they reappoint and simply discharge the others," he said. "And by leaving or the jurisdiction of the courts and transferring them to tribunals, governments are increasingly reducing the power of the courts.

"Members of tribunals may not be as protected as judges and therefore may not have the same degree of independence."

The introduction of private clauses in governments' contracts, constraining the ability of courts to examine certain legal decisions, may also hinder judicial independence, said Professor Lee.

"For example, there are provisions of the Migration Act which limit the grounds on which the Federal Court can examine decisions by the Refugee Review Tribunal."

Professor Lee believes the media has an important role to play in heightening public awareness of the importance of the independence of the courts.

"The concentration of powers in the executive arm of government was allowed to develop unchecked in Malaysia due to a lack of examination of the issues by the media, which is completely under the control of the government," he said.

"In Australia, unlike in Malaysia, we at least have an independent media, which maintains a vigilance."

Boost for asthma research

BY DAVID BRACE

Two million Australians - almost one in 10 of our population - suffer from asthma, and Monash University scientists will play a part in a new $35 million research program to reduce the burden that asthma places on our community.

A Cooperative Research Centre for Asthma has been established by the Federal Government to bring together the best doctors and scientists in Australia to tackle asthma. The researchers will undertake new studies into the causes of asthma and investigate better methods of treatment.

The government has allocated $15.5 million towards the centre, spread over seven years, with the remainder to be funded by research institutions and pharmaceutical companies.

The Monash team is led by Professor Robyn O'Hehir, director of the Department of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology at the Alfred Hospital and Monash.

Monash's partners in the centre are the Institute of Respiratory Medicine in Sydney, the University of Western Australia, the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and the University of Sydney.

Industry partners include NSW Health, Asstra, Glenn William, Hoechst Marion Roussel, 3M USA, Merck Sharp and Dohme, Zanca and Bectinger Langenbein. Asthma Australia is a key supporter of the CRC for Asthma.

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Ambulance and paramedic studies centre announced

BY JULIE RYAN

Health minister Mr Rob Knowles visited Monash University's Peninsula campus recently to officially announce the new Ambulance and Paramedic Studies Centre. The $3 million state-funded purpose-built facility is currently under construction at the Peninsula campus where the centre will be based, and is expected to be completed in time for the beginning of the 2000 academic year.

As part of the Faculty of Medicine, the Monash University Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies will provide a high level of integration with related health disciplines within the university. The Faculty of Medicine was the right to train the state's ambulance drivers and paramedics following a review of the options for ambulance education and training which recommended:

- that education be made available to a single agency;
- that basic ambulance and paramedic training be provided on a comprehensive basis;
- that strong preference be given to formal partnerships with a faculty of medicine.

Mr Knowles said the delivery of ambulance training one of the outcomes through an established education agency would provide significant benefits to the ambulance workforce and would bring into light the training practices of other industries.

"This shift to pre-employment training brings ambulance education into line with contemporary education practice for nearly all other industries and will open up broader career paths," Mr Knowles said.

Faculty of Medicine dean Professor Nick Saunders said the centre would provide extended opportunities for the faculty, especially in terms of research opportunities and industry collaboration, as well as for those undertaking courses at the centre.

"Initially, the Monash centre will deliver essentially the same education program as is currently delivered by the Ambulance Officer Training Centre," he said.

"However, as training moves to a pre-employment model, the unique ambulance officers will also be prepared to pursue careers in non-traditional services, including mining and police services."

Mr Knowles also took the opportunity to congratulate the courses at the centre, Associate Professor Frank Archer.

Free way to be named after Monash

Legendary World War One military engineer Sir John Monash has been recognised with a new Melbourne landmark.

The Victorian Premier, Mr Jeff Kennett, has announced that the SouthEastern Freeway will be renamed after Monash University's namesake.

"Sir John was not only a very great Australian in terms of his war experience - he was a wonderful engineer and was responsible for many of the bridges constructed around Melbourne," Mr Kennett said.

Monash University, through vice-chancellor Professor David Robinson, has been a strong supporter of the name change and was active in pointing out the significance of the Monash legacy in the region covered by the freeway.

Sir John Monash was involved in the construction of the Merri Bridge, also known as the Lonsdale Street Bridge, over the Yarra River where the freeway begins. The freeway passes his old school, Scotch College, before continuing on through the City of Monash and close to Monash University. Finally, it leads to Gippsland where Sir John was general manager of the Electricity Supply Commission and chairman of the State Electricity Commission.

Leaving intellectual joins IT faculty

One of Australia's leading intellectuals, Professor Barry Jones, has joined Monash University's Faculty of Information Technology as an adjunct professor.

Professor Frank Archer, the inaugural director of the Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies, Associate Professor Frank Archer, left, with Victoria's health minister, Mr Rob Knowles, and Monash dean of Medicine, Professor Nick Saunders. Photo by Richard Cremin.

Vigilance urged on credit laws

A Monash University senior law lecturer will address an international conference in Helsinki later this month about the need for consumer credit legislation to keep pace with advancing technology.

Ms Elizabeth Lanyon says the challenge for government is to ensure that consumers can receive just what they are paying for- without risk of the financial services market becoming increasingly complex.

"People need warnings, whether they are mortgaging their car or their house," she said.

"At the moment in Australia we have a system based on paper-based situations, but we need to rethink all of those protections and consider the online environment and how we're going to deal with that."

Ms Lanyon said a blurring of distinctions and unprecedented growth in credit options and services has caused credit legislation to become outdated.

"For many, it was once only about 30 different types of mortgage products - now there's more than a thousand," she said.

Ms Lanyon's attendance at the Helsinki conference follows her successful application to the Ian Potter Foundation for a $1000 travel grant to cover her airfare. Her paper is titled 'Hybrid consumer credit contracts in the electronic age: A challenge for regulation'.

"With the theme 'The consumer in a globalised information society', the conference will draw together academists and leading consumer lawers from around the world.

"Ms Lanyon and Monash professor of law Tony Duggan have also co-authored a new book, Consumer Credit Law, which describes new consumer credit legislation introduced in Australia in 1990."

Monash law lecture Ms Elizabeth Lanyon says a blurring of distinctions and unprecedented growth in credit options and services has caused credit legislation to become outdated. Photo by Richard Cremin.

Funding boost for CRCs

Monash University has become a player in four national research centres funded jointly by the Federal Government and industry.

In the latest round of grants for Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs), Monash researchers are involved with the new centre for Asthma and with the previously established centres for Vaccine Technology, the engineering-based Cast Metals Manufacturing, and the IT-based centre for Enterprise and Distributed Systems Technology.

CRCs receive partial funding by the government for seven years, after which they are required to resubmit a proposal to continue to be part of the scheme. Normally, 26 CRCs received $1860 million in funding over the seven-year period from government and industry, and from the partner institutions in the CRCs.

Five existing CRCs with Monash involvement received renewed funding in the latest round. They were the centres for Catchment Hydrology, Freshwater Ecology, Australian Telecommunications, Polymers and Chemicals.

Monash's deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Peter Daviss, was delighted that nine of Monash's submissions for CRC funds were successful.

"This is, once again, an excellent result for Monash. The latest round of successful applications has spread the pattern of CRC involvement more evenly throughout the university."

"We are very disappointed, however, that four of Monash's submissions for CRCs funds were unsuccessful."

"It was, however, a wonderful outcome for Monash. The latest round of successful applications has spread the pattern of CRC involvement more evenly throughout the university."

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Asthma focus for new research centre

Projects are underway to be undertaken by the CRC for Asthma include developing better devices for delivering asthma drugs, identifying genes associated with asthma, and developing novel vaccines for preventing asthma.

According to Professor O'Hehir, who will be working on the latter project, almost 80 per cent of asthmatics suffer allergic reactions to entrainment in the environment.

"There is strong evidence to show that many asthmatics who suffer an allergic reaction as an asthmatic response is something in the air, such as grass pollen of house dust mites. We are working on developing vaccines which will put off the allergic immune response and therefore prevent the onset of an asthma attack," Professor O'Hehir said.

The advantage of this approach is that the vaccine eliminates the need for a cure for asthma, unlike most treatments that only reduce the allergic reaction once it has already induced the attack.

The Monash team also plan to conduct studies to measure the extent of the asthma problem as perceived by parents and families. The team will work closely with the Lung Health Promotion Centre at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne to disseminate the research results to medical and health professionals as well as to the public.
‘Pro-social’ counselling model could cut costs

BY KAY ANSELL

A Monash academic has developed a model that could save taxpayers millions of dollars each year and help make the community safer.

Dr Chris Trotter's model is the basis of his book, which was launched in late April and will be published internationally.

Working with Anzianl Clients: A Guide to Practice is the result of years of research that has seen Dr Trotter's model adopted in New Zealand and in Victoria. He has also trained probation officers in both England and Wales.

A senior lecturer in social work at Monash, Dr Trotter says clients on community correction orders, including those on parole, might typically see a parole officer for just 30 minutes once a fortnight. Yet for clients who were supervised on a structured basis of counselling, this was still enough to have the rate of further imprisonment compared to those who were not supervised using this approach.

It costs about $50,000 per year to imprison offenders, according to the Office of Corrections. Approximately 100 offenders under correction orders breach these orders and, with prison stays averaging about six months, halving the rate of re-conviction adds up to a potential saving of tens of millions of dollars per year.

Dr Trotter's model for counselling involuntary clients takes a three-pronged approach.

First, workers have to clearly explain their roles to their clients. "Clients have to understand that the parole officer is there to help their parole is not a punishment but it is supervision," says Dr Trotter.

Second, counsellors have to work within their client's definition of their problem. "Working with a client in terms of what it means for them is more effective than the worker saying, 'This is the problem and you should work on it.'"

Third, workers should reinforce the positive aspects of clients' behaviour, rather than denounce them by focusing on their failings. He describes this as "the most crucial aspect of my research."

Positive reinforcement could cover behaviour as simple as keeping appointments with a parole officer, to more significant issues such as reduced drug use.

The model has been most effective in helping young, drug-taking, high-risk offenders, but less effective with people aged over 30. Dr Trotter says young people seem to be more easily influenced by the counselling process.

Dr Trotter received a $150,000 Australian Research Council collabora­
tive grant with the Department of Human Services to explore the effec­
tiveness of the model in the area of child protection, dealing with parents who abuse their children. Data from 300 clients is already indicating positive results, he says, with the child protec­tion workers and clients themselves approving the model.

Follow-up research after approximately six months will prove the positive outcomes are sustained, but Dr Trotter expects that levels of child abuse for that group will fall.

He speculates that the model could also be effective in counselling psych­
atic patients released into the commu­

nity under supervision, although no work has yet been done on this area.

At a time when a more hardline, US-style model of crime control is gaining political support, Dr Trotter wants to see more resources put into rehabilita­tion measures such as his model.

There is much at stake — not just the high cost of child protection and cor­

rection orders, he says, but the safety of children and the public in general.

Working with Anzianl Clients: A Guide to Practice is published by Alton and Unwin.

A gentle touch by pig handlers could make all the difference to their annual performance, according to stock-handling research by Monash University and the Victorian Institute of Animal Science.

A ProHand pig is a happy pig

BY COREY MARSHAL

Farmers — before your animals revolt in a manner similar to those in George Orwell's classic novel Animal Farm, you may want to check out a new stock-handling method that keeps everyone down on the farm happy.

The stock-handling method ProHand, which was created to ease the handling and increase the productivity of pig stock, could soon be applied in the dairy industry, according to Monash's associate dean of research in the Faculty of Science, Professor Graeme Coleman.

Developed by Professor Coleman in conjunction with Professor Paul Henshaw, from the Victorian Institute of Animal Sciences, the program is now being marketed as a multimedia CD-ROM and training package and is showing results that suggest potential applications to larger industries.

The program targets the fact that the routine handling of pigs has on various aspects of production.

Supported by the Pig Research and Development Corporation, it is already used by more than 300 pig handlers throughout Victoria and numerous nationwide.

"There is a very real relationship between the characteristics of hams and their behaviour towards their animals," Professor Coleman says. "These behaviours affect the responses of the animals, which in turn affect their reproductive performance and growth rates."

While campaigns aimed at changing the behaviour of people who smoke, drink or have phobias have been around for many years, he says, programs that approach farming from a psychological viewpoint is something new.

"Animals are very sensitive to human behaviour, and the way they are treated has a major impact on their productivity and attitude," according to Professor Coleman.

"Continuous abusive behaviour, such as hitting the pig at the back of the queue as they are walked along, creates a fear that is repressed in the pig's performance."

"Some handlers don't realise they are behaving in a way that may cause fear in their animals. By making the interaction positive wherever possible, for example placing a hand on their back or scratching behind their ears, that fearfulness is eliminated."

"Stock then become easier to handle and obey show increased productivity, growth rates and sometimes fertility."

But while ProHand teaches stock people to apply positive behaviour when working with the animals, there is a limit to the extent of contact the program endeavours because it is counterproductive to treat the pigs as pets.

"ProHand focuses on animal handling in a commercial context," Professor Coleman says.

The CD-ROM's interactive software takes the user through a series of questions and scenarios to determine their behaviour patterns before following on with an educational component.

Mr Murray Spicer, a research scientist with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment in Bendigo, spends much of his time working on extension and training for the pig industry and has become involved as a ProHand trainer.

"I had reservations about the program early on," Mr Spicer said. "However, I've seen the responses from people in the program and I know that it produces extremely positive results."

Modelellers could be "guns for hire"

BY KAY ANSELL

When a new tax such as the GST looms large, the public is caught between the arguments for and against. People assume that the government bases such a major policy change on the best information available from economic modelling.

How do members of the public know that the information is sound and unbiased? They don't, says Monash's Professor Alan Powell, when the economic modelling is done by private companies that do not allow public scrutiny of their work.

Professor Powell, who holds a personal chair in Econometrics at the Centre of Policy Studies/Impact Project, is worried that economic mod­

ellers thrust into the private sector by lack of resources in public institutions are pressured into becoming guns for hire.

"In this paper, 'When modellers behave like lawyers: Have we lost the plot?', Professor Powell argues that there is no incentive for private mod­

ellers to put their models up for public scrutiny.

Professor Powell answers a ques­
tion with a question. Are modelellers behaving like lawyers? "Can the public be assured that they're not? And the answer is a clear 'no'. That's a concern because lawyers know the answers but don't tell you what the client wants.

"But a social scientist wanting to know the effects of a policy should go with an open mind, and be pro­

bed by what he knows about the prob­
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An economic model is a systematic way of organizing all the data and theo­

ries that the modeller believes relevant to an issue, he says, and two modellers can use the same information to arrive at two different conclusions because they may have different assumptions about what is important in the real world.

The "privatisation" of modelling clouds the issue. "We can only be assured of the unbiasedness of model­

ellers, if we know they are not beholden to somebody who wants a particular answer and who demands a particular answer as a condition for paying researchers to do the work."

Professor Powell is not suggesting that private modelellers are necessarily biased by such considerations. But he says the public is not being given any reason to think otherwise.

"The Monash model, used most recently to assess the GST, demon­

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"Third, workers should reinforce the positive aspects of clients' behaviour, rather than denounce them by focusing on their failings. He describes this as "the most crucial aspect of my research."

Positive reinforcement could cover behaviour as simple as keeping appointments with a parole officer, to more significant issues such as reduced drug use.

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Community initiative gets historical database online

The new face of Malaysian politics

Malaysia’s trial of the century is over. As predicted, the sacked deputy prime minister, Anwar Aflatuni, was found guilty of abusing his power in covering up allegations of sexual misconduct and was jailed for six years. Anwar is adamant that he has been the victim of a high-level conspiracy, and even those who don’t count themselves as his supporters feel that justice has also been the victim of politics, writes respected political analyst Professor Shamsuddin AB.

The ‘new face of Malaysian politics’

From the day of Anwar’s ousting, on 2 September 1998, until the announcement of the court verdict on 14 April this year—a period of about 30 weeks—Malaysians and the rest of the world witnessed the longest sustained attack ever on the government in the history of post-colonial Malaysia. It was an attack that has a very broad popular appeal, comprising numerous interest-oriented groups and opposition political parties. It has no precedent in Malaysia. It is not yet over and continues to hold momentum.

Instead, what we witnessed was the birth of a new political movement in Malaysia, one that is not concerned simply about winning votes and general elections but more about openly articulating differences, plurality and diversity. It was a nationalistic ‘politics of resistance’, a struggle for social justice, freedom of speech and democracy, hence an attempt to transform ‘civil society’ to democratic culture.

In short, it is a struggle against the ‘old’ mainstream politics, one that has survived for more than five decades and been legitimised by institutional structures established by British colonial rule; in particular through the institution of modern electoral politics and a democratic rule of law, mainly meant to suppress the possibility of an outbreak of open ethnic conflict, such as the one witnessed in the May 1969 racial riot.

Without doubt, in the last three years Malaysia’s political consciousness has been awakened never before by the ‘new politics’ movement, known simply as reformasi. Malaysia are now confident that they can demand change without at the same time resorting to violence, which seemed likely in the past. They also know that enough pressure can cause the government to compromise.

There is a real possibility that the ruling coalition’s traditional two-third majority will be substantially reduced in the next election. This could persuade the new generation of leaders in the ‘new and old’ politics to pursue the real change, especially from within the establishment. Anwar’s visibly tired and a host of other ‘mistakes’ by Mahathir Mohamad, not least his fumbling health, has persuaded many Malaysians that the prime minister’s time is up. Many expressed the view that the greatest service that Mahathir could now render to the nation is to decide to step down. Equally, many hold the view that he would certainly prefer to do so.

Whatever the future holds, sooner or later Malaysia has to move on without Mahathir, even if Anwar is not at the helm.

But nobody could deny that the ‘Anwar factor’ has been critical to the making and consolidation of the new face of Malaysian politics and society, especially in building a democracy of which Malaysians can be proud.

Shamsuddin AB (SE, Malaysia, PhD) is professor of social anthropology and currently director of the Institute of Social and Cultural, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi. He has written several books and lectures extensively on Malaysia issues and is a research assistant of the Monash Asia Institute.

The Monash news capture food writer Mr Stephen Downes in action for the new CD-ROM on business etiquettes. Photo by Greg Ford.

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Democracy in Indonesia is facing ‘bleak prospects’

As the recent bloodshed in East Timor and Aceh has demonstrated, the turmoil dogging Indonesia is far from over. Crucial general elections are scheduled for next month, but Dr Damien Kingsbury believes the polls, if they proceed, will not resolve the country’s political, economic and social problems.

Elections are planned in Indonesia for 7 June, and it is hoped these will usher in a new and optimistic phase of democratisation for a country which, from 1957 until 1998, was ruled by presidential fiat.

But despite the announced elections, the chance of Indonesia achieving democracy in any conventional sense in the foreseeable future seems unlikely.

There are two main issues in the process towards Indonesia’s democratisation. They are the electoral process itself and, if the elections go ahead, the degree of recognition accorded to their results.

In the first instance, there is a growing belief that the elections will be ‘postponed’. This is based on the logistics of conducting the polls in what has always been acknowledged as a short timeframe; Indonesian officials say, off the record, that they doubt it can be done, simply in organisational terms.

Funding for the electoral process, too, is scarce. The Indonesian government remains strapped for cash. The continuation of the government party, Golkar, to administer the electoral process will no doubt cut some costs, but it also raises obvious doubts about the acceptability of the outcome.

More important is the political and ethnic violence that has been tearing at the fabric of Indonesian society since early 1998. There is little doubt that much of the violence has been orchestrated by members of the political elite running competing agendas ahead of the elections.

Such agendas include the assertion of Islamic nationalist identities of various stripes, redressing economic imbalances, the settling of ethnic rivalries, claims to separatism, the relative positions of various political parties and, not least, factionalism within the armed forces. There is also a agenda proposing that the elections not go ahead to retain the political status quo.

The case in Jakarta is that the postponement of the elections will be announced just before the polling date although, in all things in Indonesia these days, this is uncertain.

Whatever the outcome of the elections, there are serious doubts about the distance-endness of Golkar as the officiating body, of the approval process for the nearly 100 political parties that have registered to take part, and of the role that intimidation and vote-buying will play.

Any of these issues could be, or is used as, a trigger to invite the appointment of a caretaker president and cabinet.

Assuming that the elections do go ahead and that they produce results generally accepted as valid, some of the larger of the myriad parties will have to form a coalition to be able to govern. Such a coalition has been mooted among the ‘Ciganjur Four’: the FDI’s Megawati Sukarnoputri, Islamic organisation Nahdlatul Ulama’s Abdurahman Wahid, PAN leader Amien Rais and Jogjakarta’s Sultan Hamengkubuwono.

All four owe their current status to non-democratic processes, and the democratic credentials of all, in terms of policy development, are deeply flawed. But even if this group could be considered democratic in temper, they share major animosities towards each other.

Megawati is widely understood to be a figleaf leader who relied for support on theickle Abduhrahman. However, in mid-April, Abdurahman announced that a woman would not be acceptable as president. Abdurrahman, blind as a result of a stroke last year, and Amien Rais are opposed to each other. In any case, Amien’s power base has all but disappeared as the middle of last year due to his inability to get down to the hard work of building a coalition of Islamic interests, Limeyuddinshouwars is admired by many Javanese because he is a traditional sultan, but because he is

Even if a coalition could be engineered, there is little likelihood of it lasting long, given the diversity of interests.

Other political leaders would rally around one of these candidates, but note would have enough support to form a coalition without the assistance of another of the four figures. Even if a coalition could be engineered, there is little likelihood of it lasting long, given the diversity of interests and a demobilised inability to compromise. As such, it is probable that all parties would search for a strong compromise candidate outside their group, or that such a ‘strong figure’ would impose his will over the competing interests.

There is also some belief that President Habibie might try to maintain his position, either through the electoral process or in the event of its postponement. However, armed forces chief General Wiranto seems set on opposing that idea. Habibie has enjoyed his brief tenure as president essentially because he has been able to rely on Wiranto’s support, which was only ever conditional and temporary.

Habibie’s announcement in January that East Timor could vote on independence was made without consulting Wiranto. Apart from wishing to be consulted about all major policy issues, Wiranto sees East Timor as a military and not a political issue and therefore his responsibility.

Wiranto was reportedly furious with Habibie and effectively withdrew his support, which in part explains the army’s support for the East Timor military. Incidentally, neither side among the Indonesian political elite supports independence for East Timor, and the likelihood of this outcome is far more remote than even Indonesia’s unlikely democratisation.

The coming political exercise faces several obstacles. At each point, should failure occur, the default position is occupied by the armed forces, in particular by Wiranto. Wiranto’s agenda is stability and the preservation of the state. He is not democratisation.

Wiranto is already being touted by a couple of small parties as the best compromise president and he could appeal to numerous groups, being Javanese, a good Muslim, a traditional army man and a strong figure. Appointing a president by acclamation, as with Soeharto, would follow an established political model of presidential appointment.

Perhaps, given Indonesia’s continuing economic catastrophe, its political instability and centrifugal tendencies which threaten to tear the state apart, the appointment of a new ‘middle’ military leader is what the country needs. In this there is a tendency to fall into the trap of Indonesian observers of the mid-1960s, when Soeharto was seen as the saviour from the catastrophe that was Sukarno.

But no political leader can be a saviour, or anything like it, if they are not both representative and accountable. It is these two fundamental criteria for what we consider democracy that are most at risk in Indonesia in the coming months.

Exploring the dark side of the migrant experience

BY FIONA PERRY

A young Jewish woman in 1930s Australia struggles with issues of abuse, self-identity and racism in the latest offering from Monash Student Theatre:

Torero, written by third-year performing arts student Julia Reichstein, is a compelling drama about Paula, a 13-year-old girl who finds her voice in a new country. Sensorially abused by her school principal but unable to tell her family of her ordeal, Paula seeks strength and protection by donning her father’s traditional garb.

This thin line separates her from her father, who is desperately trying to fit into his new community and silence his wayward memories of war-torn Europe.

Torero, Julia Reichstein's first full-length piece, is a direction for performing arts student Ellie Eisen-Chen.

The play will be performed from 12 to 15 May and 19 to 22 May at 8pm in the Student Theatre Space in the Union building at the Clayton campus.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $8 concession. For bookings and further information, contact Monash Student Theatre on (03) 9905 3108.

ARCHIVE

Festival workshop leader, Johnny Black, bottom row, centre, with the Seven Royal Hindustans, a group of Arab aerialists.

Germain Bogdanov teaches at the Bursn Academy of Theatre Arts in Moscow, where he works with Meyerhold's "Theatre Mechanics" (Bio-mechanics). He is in demand all over Europe, and his recent workshop at the London International Workshop Festival became the festival's talking point.

Other workshop leaders include Johnny Hitch (UK), Wagari Yala (Japan), Germano Amegy (Senegal), Peter Marshall (Trinidad), Suraya Hifat (EGYPT), Ibrahim Magzoub (EGYPT) and Linda Davies (Australia).

Presented by Monash University and the Australia Council for the Arts, the Australian International Workshop Festival will be held at the dance and drama studio at the Victorian College of the Arts. For more information, contact Ms Jan Clancy on (03) 9905 1677.

The newswood poles are grouped in a consistent relationship, reflecting the character of the university site. Moor's material and forms evolve ancient monuments, modest sculpture and the evolution of experiences over time, as indicated by the changing surface effects of the weather.

Robert Rooney's painting, "Variations Slippy Seat" (1987), recently exhibited in the gallery's Persistence of POP exhibition, is one of four paintings by the artist illustrating the systematic processing of an idea.

The process is closely related to the composition of music, so that the work proceeds as a time piece. Rooney's painting can normally be seen on the first floor of administration building 3a at the Clayton campus.

Gallery administrator Ms Stephanie Gorton-Thien said the gallery acquired new works on a regular basis, through university funding and private patronage, with gifts and donations providing important additions.

Some of the most recent acquisitions include new work by Lauren Berkowitz, Christopher Longtin, Mish Loder and important earlier work by Peter Thirwall and Ian Burns," she said.

Leaflets & Care: The popular cultural celebration of the 70th anniversary of stage-singer Jacques Brel was performed at Monash in March by a cast of eight students and recent graduates of the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies.

Jacques Brel is on at Theatreworks from 8 to 29 May for bookings, call (03) 9534 3308.

**settings:**

**Seductive games**

Two lovers and a series of rituals and games based on seduction are at the heart of Lucetta & Care, coming to Monash University later this month.

Presented by Rasters Theatre, the play tells the story of one of history's dastardly brother and sister acts, the illegitimate children of Pope Alexander IV, Lucetta and Care Borgia. Bored with the real world, the pair confine themselves to a room where they play out acts of brutality and kindness, affection and abuse.

Lucetta & Care stars Zoe Barton and David Tredinnick and is on at the Drama Theatre in the Performing Arts Centre, Clayton, on 20 May. For bookings, call (03) 9905 1111.

Jacques Brel lives! Due to popular demand, the Monash University production of Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris has been revived for a short season at Theatreworks in St Kilda.

The popular cultural celebration celebrating the 70th anniversary of stage-singer Jacques Brel was performed at Monash in March by a cast of eight students and recent graduates of the Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies.

Jacques Brel is on at Theatreworks from 8 to 29 May for bookings, call (03) 9534 3308.
May

10 Lunchtime concert - 'Russian sentiment', the works of Prokofiev, Rachmaninoff and Scriabin, presented by Denis Braun (piano). Hexagon Theatre, Gippsland, 1.10 pm (George Jenkins Theatre, Peninsula, on 10 May).

20 Southeast Asian studies seminar - Current issues in Vietnamese socio-economic development, in the wake of the regional crisis,' by Adam Forde, visiting fellow, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, ANU. Room S23, building 11, Clayton, 11.15 am.

21 Biological Sciences seminar - 'Sex ratio conflict and colony genetics in Formica anta,' by Dr Michel Chapuisat, Department of Genetics, La Trobe University. Lecture Theatre 56, Clayton, 1 pm.

22 Psychology seminar - 'Perceptual countermeasures to visual search and conflict in split-brain patients,' by Stuart Godley, Department of Psychology, Clayton, 1.10 pm.

27 Southeast Asian studies seminar - 'Health and nutrition in Indonesia', by Professor Alan Godley, Clayton, 11.15 am.

28 Psychology seminar - 'Health and nutrition in Indonesia', by Professor Alan Godley, Clayton, 1.10 pm.

31 Music seminar - 'From the Beginnings of Aboriginal History to the Modern Political Movement', by Dr Bain Attwood, Room G38, Clayton, 12 pm.

The Struggle for Aboriginal Rights: A Documentary History

Edited by Dr Bain Attwood and Associate Professor Andrew Marks

Aboriginal Heritage

From the beginnings of Aboriginal political activity on Flinders Island in the 1800s to the fight for native title today, The Struggle for Aboriginal Rights describes the history of the political struggle for Aboriginal rights.

Editors Dr Bain Attwood and Associate Professor Andrew Marks use a selection of historical documents created by Aboriginal campaigners throughout, some of which have never been published, to present Aboriginal perspectives on issues ranging from dispossession to the last 100 years.

The Struggle for Aboriginal Rights aims to be all Austalians better understand both the continuities and changes in Aboriginal political power over the last 100 years.

In Attwood and Dr Marks are lecturers in the History department at Monash University and have been researching Aboriginal history for a combined 40 years.

Singer and His Critics

Edited by Dale Jamieson

Blackwell Publishers (RRP $45)

Professor Peter Singer, from the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash, has been one of the most influential philosophers of the 20th century. In Singer and His Critics, a lifetime of his work is scrutinised by contemporary critics.

Each of Professor Singer's major arguments is explored, analysing his normative theory, his position on the moral status of animals, and his thoughts on the sanctity of human life.

Professor Singer's comments to his critics add to the work he has already published and makes this text essential reading for anyone who wants to understand his views.

Edited by Dale Jamieson from Carleton College, Singer and His Critics also contains new essays by leading philosophers from around the world.

All books featured in 'inpress' are available or can be ordered at Monash's free on-campus bookshops.

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Associate Professor Bruce Steele, left, and Professor Dale Jamieson.

What's on

A round-up of events and activities around Monash campuses

27 Biological Sciences seminar - 'Microtubules, cellular microfilaments and the higher shape of higher plants', by Dr Tobias Baskin, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Melbourne, Lecture theatre 58, Clayton, 1 pm.

27 Music seminar - 'Variations: developments in music in Victoria, 1846-1996', by Dr Harry Burke, Masan University. Room G38, Performing Arts Centre, Clayton, 1.05 pm.

28 Psychology seminar - 'Localization of selective attention in children with ADHD and Tourette's syndrome', by Dianne Sheppard, Department of Psychology, Clayton, third floor, building 17, Clayton, 1.05 pm.

28 Accounting and finance seminar - 'The impact of IT on management accounting roles: Some implications for accounting education', by Dr Ian Beaumont and Mr Bill Richardson. Room A1.34 (street level), Castlereagh, 11 am.

31 Accident Research Centre seminar - 'Incidence studies of road accidents In Sweden: Methodology and preliminary findings', by Mr Anders Lie, Swedish National Road Administration. EACF conference room 101, first floor, building 7, Clayton, 1 pm.

June

1 Lunchtime concert - 'Mozart and Prokofiev sonatas', performed by Lamin Shooster and Tamara Smoloc Performing Arts Centre, Clayton, 1.10 pm.

3 East Asian studies seminar - 'Trade liberalization in Taiwan', by KAM Lin Meng-chun, PhD candidate, Monash Asia Institute. Room 5807, building 11, Clayton, 4 pm.
Hockey hits hard

BY COREY NASSAU

Hockey has the second highest participation rate of any team sport worldwide, second only to soccer. It is played in 132 countries, and in Australia alone there are more than 48,000 players registered with the Australian Hockey Association.

However, the game's fast-paced, ball-striking, stick-swinging action — the very characteristics that attract people to the game — are the same ones that contribute to its high injury rate.

Ms Sherker (Mona Shreech) of the Australian University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) says it is estimated that 15 per cent of hockey players are injured during a season, with most injuries a result of being struck by the stick or the ball.

As part of an ongoing series of sporting safety reports, Ms Sherker and fellow MUARC researcher Ms Erin Connell have authored a new report reviewing field hockey injuries and recommending preventive measures.

Ms Sherker says the report, which has been funded by Sports and Recreation Victoria, has been commissioned to encourage participation by making the sport safer, not to discourage participation.

The Monash Hockey Association at Clayton is one of the bigger sporting clubs on campus, with approximately 100 members spread across 12 teams. Association president Scott Doyle has been playing hockey most of his life and has seen and experienced a fair share of hockey-related injuries.

"The game is very lucky — I've just had a billion bruises and lost a lot of skin off my elbows and knees," Doyle said. "People get hit a lot on the fingers, and rolled ankles are fairly common as a result of accidentally standing on a stick or ball.

According to Victorian hospital surveillance data collected between 1990 and 1997, there were 291 hospital emergency presentations as a result of hockey injuries. And these statistics do not take into account players who go to their GPs or seek other avenues of treatment.

The MUARC report recommends a number of possible strategies for reducing player injuries. Key suggestions focus on the enforcement of rules aimed at decreasing aggressive play, and the uniform introduction of modified rules for children. Of equal importance, the report says, is the use of protective equipment and commitment to the early development of good game technique through expert coaching and pre-game stretching and warm-ups.

"These are important factors for helping to reduce injury in hockey, but it is also vital to have game officials who can help maintain players' safety through consistent interpretation of the rules," Ms Sherker said.

Doyle said that while the potential for injury was quite high, he did not believe it was due to players being rough, having inadequate protection or lacking proper coaching: but rather that the game involved players running around at speed swinging a hard stick at an equally hard ball.

"It's a very skilled sport, but the very nature of the game means people do get injured no matter how careful they are," Doyle said. "Wearing protective gear like mouthguards and shin pads helps, as does proper skill development and good refereeing, but injuries will always occur because it is a 'contact/controllable' sport."

Ms Sherker said the aim of the MUARC report was simple: "We want people to keep playing hockey, but in a manner that helps prevent injury so that they can enjoy the sport for more of the year than they do now."

According to Doyle, while hockey helps develop hand-eye coordination in a similar way to cricket, unlike in cricket everyone 'husts' at the same time and in such a situation "there is bound to be the occasional problem."

To obtain a copy of the report, contact the Monash University Accident Research Centre on (03) 9905 4771.

Age knows no boundaries

With the strength of Monash staff member Val Worrell, proving that being fit — and strong — aren't qualities necessarily restricted to the young. And she has the gold medals to prove it. Photo by Greg Ford.

By FIONA PERRY

World champion hammer-thrower Val Worrell, 64, recently gave a much younger Monash gym user the shock of his life.

"He had finished using the leg press machine, which I was waiting to use, and asked me how many weights I would like removed. You should have seen the look on his face when I asked him to add another 50 kg!" laughed Worrell, who works at the Sports and Recreation Centre at Clayton campus.

Worrell, who is currently holding the World Masters 20-pound and the Australian Masters 16-pound hammer-throwing records, is a regular fixture at the gym, training three mornings a week for 90 minutes at a time.

Her most recent success was at the Australian Masters Track and Field Championships in Canberra this year, where she won gold medals in the hammer, discus, heavy hammer and pentathlon (hammer, shotput, discus, javelin and heavy hammer) events.

At last year's World Masters Championships in Oregon, US, she equalled competitors' world records and came second in one of her age to take out the 16-pound hammer-throw world title.

And Worrell has no intention of slowing down, gearing up to compete in the next World Masters Championships to be held in Brisbane in 2001, and the Australian Masters Track and Field Championships in 2002.

Her message to older people who may feel intimidated by the gym is to put their reservations aside and come and try it.

"Exercise is very important at any age, and you don't have to be doing heavy weights to use the gym," she said. "The staff here are fantastic and I'm also very willing to help any older people involved as exercise programs at the gym."

For more information on the Monash University Accident Research Centre gym, contact (03) 9905 4111.