Probe into police interviewing techniques

Or do they? According to Monash University linguist Ms Georgina Heydon, issues of guilt identification and lie detection are not quite so simple. Her doctoral research into the 'myth of the linguistic lie detector' explores how these are translated into the language of interrogation. The thesis title, 'Do you agree that she would have been frightened?' is typical of 'policepeak' in an interview situation, she says.

By analysing interviews between police and alleged suspects, Ms Heydon hopes to identify undesirable patterns and flawed assumptions underlying interviewers' techniques, as well as providing a detailed linguistic description of the interview structure.

"There's certainly a lot of rubbish perpetuated about lie detection and such things -- that you can tell when someone's lying," she said.

"Criminologists are concerned that a lot of beliefs among police are absorbed ad hoc -- from an older officer or a new recruit, for example -- and may be quite erroneous."

The field of forensic linguistics -- the analysis of language used in the criminal justice system -- is relatively new in Australia. Linguistic experts are generally brought in when there are disputes about a problematic interview or court case. However, Ms Heydon contends the entire interview process needs closer examination because of the institution-wide assumptions behind it.

New head of school for Malaysia

Strategic development consultant and academic Dr Ron Davison has been appointed the next head of the School of Business and Information Technology at Monash University's Malaysia campus.

Dr Davison will formally take up the position at the end of November. He will take over from Professor Robin Pollard, who has been head of school since Monash opened the Malaysia campus in July 1998.

Announcing the appointment, pro-vice-chancellor of the Malaysia campus Professor Bob Biggall said he was delighted that Dr Davison had agreed to join Monash.

"He has a very strong commitment to education in Asia and extensive experience in projects throughout the region," he said.

Dr Davison was previously head of the Graduate School of Engineering at RMIT and project director for RMIT's proposed Vietnam campus development.

His work has included projects in Vietnam, Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, China, India and Indonesia.

Monash in quest for Olympic gold

Monash science student Ms Lauren Hewitt is caught mid-action during her 100-metre heat at the Sydney Olympics last month. Ms Hewitt, who reached the semis of the women's 200 metres and ran in the women's 4 x 100-metre relay team, was one of several Monash staff, students and alumni who competed in Sydney. Monash graduate Ms Anna Wilson (LLB(Hons)/BSc 1996) came fourth in the women's cycling road race and the women's team pursuit; Ms Melanie Dennison (BCom 1999) competed in the women's sailing Europe fleet races; Ms Irena Olevsky (BBus 1997) competed in both the duet and team synchronised swimming events; and Mr Eddie Denis (BE(Hons)/MEngSc 1993) was a member of the men's water polo team. Ms Anna Baylis, a fitness instructor from Monash's Caulfield campus, competed in the women's mountain bike cross-country event. Monash photographer Mr Greg Ford took photographs at the Games for the Australian Olympic Committee.
**In search of a better brew**

*By Peter Goldie*

There are times when you just cannot get to a good latte. If you’re desperate, there is always instant coffee and instant milk mix, but even this can end with a bump when you get to the bottom of your cup; the sight and texture of a glutinous residue can be worrying.

It is a sight that has also been puzzling Australian exporters of powdered milk. Although harmless, the residue puts our product at a disadvantage, resulting in restricted seasonal production.

Enter Monash postgraduate Kim Jackson. Aged 30, from Melbourne, she is investigating the natural functionality of instant whole milk powder in hot coffee. She has cracked the mystery and set about finding a fix, which she hopes will restore the competitive edge.

**Probe into police interviewing techniques**

*Continued from page 1*

Maintained on a practical level, they must also produce certain evidentiary material for a future court case.

"There’s a reason police might be attending a high Avon," Ms Heydon said. "They are under great pressure to focus on the job at hand."

If police are under great pressure, so too are the people they interview - witnesses, suspects or fellow officers. Interviewers are confronted by representatives of a powerful, entrenched institution. In the case of non-English speaking speakers, the interview process may be highly confusing or intimidating, so suspicions police officers might do little to defuse tension.

Ms Georgina Heydon. Photo by Christopher Alexander.

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**Research could alleviate those paper jammin’ blues**

*By Stuart Heather*

The next time paper gets stuck in the photocopier, spare a thought for Chris Garvey.

The Monash PhD student is chemically tuning research on our use of paper and industry and possible solutions he has found are preserving.

Paper may be getting jammed because of changes in its water content, due to a difference in humidity (either expanding or shrinking) and its mechanical properties (becoming stiffer or more flexible).

Understanding how paper behaves as it absorbs (or loses) water, or as it dries out, is important in a broad range of applications. In precision colour printing, for example, the paper’s behaviour has a direct effect on the quality of the finished product.

Even ordinary paper is a complex material, comprising natural substances - cellulose and hemicellulose (two polymers of sugar molecules), and lignin (a polymer responsible for the brown colour in unbleached paper).

Although advanced paper technology using this polymer structure is still not fully understood. In his research, Mr Garvey is harnessing sophisticated technologies to identify what happens at a molecular level.

"Paper is not a homogenous mixture. It is a composite material with a complex structure," says Mr Garvey. "Although the structure has been described before, we are in new territory in combining data from a variety of research tools to describe the distribution of water across the matrix of polymers."

Mr Garvey has subjected paper to tests with Monash’s dielectric relaxation spectroscopy, with solid state nuclear magnetic resonance at the University of Queensland, and with small angle neutron scattering (SANS) at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility in Sydney.

SANS involves passing a beam of neutrons through a sample and noting how and where they are scattered. Mr Garvey’s work at Lucas Heights enabled him to apply for access to an even more sophisticated SANS facility at the US Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology Center for Neutron Research, where he was granted ‘beamtime’ in April.

Potential applications of the research may also go beyond paper. "You can find similar problems in both nature and the man-made world, from the performance of industrial resins in humid conditions, to the performance of industrial resins in humidity. The problem of hydration of glasses or semicrystalline polymers is a phenomenon of interest to many different scientific disciplines."

The research has been supported by an Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering grant, the Cooperative Research Centre for Healthcare and Paper Science, and the University of Queensland’s Centre for Magnetic Resonance.

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**Monash in super-computing alliance**

*Monash University has joined a new super-computing consortium that aims to improve the competitiveness of Victorian universities, research institutes and industry.*

Monash with contribute more than $1 million per year for the next three years to the Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing (VPAC), to provide and support advanced computing facilities and technologies.

As a VPAC partner, Monash will be eligible for high-performance computing (HPC) facilities around Australia, and physical access to facilities will be enabled to provide a centre of HPC expertise and an education centre.

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**Monash News October 2000**

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**BRIEFS**

**Students selected for Olympics work**

Eighteen Monash Multimedia students have been selected to help with a project that worked on the Sydney Olympics website last month.

The students were the only Australian university students to be selected for the task after SOCOG officials hunted for international talent.

They learnt their design and technological skills to the website project, working around the clock alongside IT professionals from IBM and Silicon Valley.

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**Bid to attract the world’s brightest**

Monash will seek to attract international undergraduate and postgraduate students under a new scholarship scheme worth $3.3 million.

Researchers will be a focus of the program, with 50 per cent of funds, or last 20 new scholarships, to be awarded to postgraduate students.

Approximately 35 per cent of the scholarships will be made available to undergraduate international students.

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**Medal for university sport directors**

Monash Sports and Recreation Centre director Mr Campbell has been awarded the Australian Sports Medal for his contribution to university sport at a regional, national and international level.

He received one of the five medals allocated for Australian University Sport in the category of Office Holders and Administrators.

Mr Campbell has been a member of the Australian University Sport Board of Directors since 1994 and has had six years’ involvement with the World University Summer Games.

He has also held key planning and strategic roles with Australian University Sport and has overseen multi-million dollar sports facilities development projects at Monash and Melbourne universities.

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**Correction - Monash Ethics Consultancy**

Monash Ethics Consultancy can be contacted on (03) 9903 1990 or email david.munchamp@vcu.unimelb.edu.au. The information which appeared in the September issue of Monash News was incorrect.

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**New head of school for Monash Malaysia**

Continued from page 1

Graduates of the centre will receive the Diploma in Ambulance and Paramedic Studies, with further studies leading to a new Monash degree - the Bachelor of Paramedic Studies.

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**The Age are proud supporters of Monash University.**

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**New head of school for Monash Malaysia**

Continued from page 1

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**Older doctors harder to train?**

*By Paul Carson*

"We’re seeing a steadily increasing number of aged doctors," Dr Bruce Evans said.

"More older doctors are taking their time to train. What are the effects of age on training?" he asked.

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**Older doctors harder to train?**

*By Paul Carson*

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Structural changes challenge TAFE sector

By Stuart Heather

Victoria’s TAFE sector is facing new challenges after substantial structural and operational changes during the 1990s, according to new research by a Monash academic. TAFEs have also had to respond to industry and community needs. The demand for training has shifted from declining manufacturing industries to information technology and service industries.

With this change, the institutes have lost many full-time positions once held by men, replacing them with more frequently held by women.

As part of deregulation, entry qualifications for TAFE teachers were lowered; formal traditional teaching qualifications are no longer a prerequisite. Victorian TAFE institutes have been amalgamated into 19.

Dr Chandra Shah. Photo by Ken Chandler.

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Postgraduate Information Evening provides a recipe for career success

More than 400 people keen to further their qualifications and careers flocked to Monash’s Postgraduate Information Evening held at the Hotel Sofitel recently. The annual event, organised by the University Marketing Office, presented both graduates and professionals with the opportunity to obtain information and advice about postgraduate research and professional programs through on-campus study, flexible learning and distance education. Eight of the university’s 10 faculties were represented at the event, including Arts, Education, Law, Pharmacy, Business and Economics, Information Technology, Medicine and Science. Photo by Duyen Vo.

Malaysian women in gentle push for Islamic reform: researcher

By Sue McAlister

Malaysian women activists are proud of the rights they have won through Islamic reform — but this doesn’t mean they will stop campaigning for more, according to Monash researcher Ms Rebecca Foley. Ms Foley, a doctoral candidate in the School of Political and Social Inquiry, said Islamic reform is an important issue in Malaysia, where 60 per cent of the population is Muslim, and the Sharia, or Islamic law, exists alongside civil law.

Malaysian Muslims believe that Islam has been distorted over time and used to deny them their rights. They also argue that their successes — such as Malaysia’s domestic violence laws, which are unique in Asia, and its amended rape and child custody laws — are evidence that Islam and women’s rights need not be mutually exclusive.

Ms Foley has identified two main reformist groups, which she calls “Islamic equity activists” and “Islamic equality activists.”

“Equity activists”, she explained, “argue that, while women’s rights are important, they should be achieved within the context of Islamic law. They are more accepting of the role of women in society, and focus on issues such as gender equality and women’s rights.”

“Equality activists”, she added, “are more radical and demand full equality for women under Islamic law. They believe that women should have the same rights as men and that the Islamic legal system should be reformed to reflect these principles.”

Ms Foley said Malaysia’s women activists are cautious about further reform. “However, they are very aware that the ruling party, UMNO, is male-dominated, and that women have little influence in government decisions. They are also concerned about the potential for Islamic fundamentalism to undermine women’s rights.”

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Ms Foley said Malaysia’s women activists are cautious about further reform. “However, they are very aware that the ruling party, UMNO, is male-dominated, and that women have little influence in government decisions. They are also concerned about the potential for Islamic fundamentalism to underestimate the plight of the female relative of her Muslim host family who was unhappy trapped in a polygamous marriage.
The Monash Enhancement Studies Program is the largest and most comprehensive extension studies program in Australia. The program allows high-achieving secondary school students to study a Monash subject as part of their Year 12 program. The Enhancement Studies Information Evening will be held on Wednesday 11 October from 7.30 pm in the Clayton campus. The evening will provide Year 11 students, parents and teachers with information on the subjects available, class locations, and costs and benefits of the program. To register, contact Ms Michelle Brown in the Prospective Students Office on (03) 9905 5859, or visit the website at www.monash.edu.au/pso

Monash is a residential program consisting of academic, social and sporting activities, which aims to introduce secondary students to life at university. The program for Year 11 students runs from 27 to 29 November at the Clayton campus. The program for Year 10 students will be held between 27 and 30 November at the Gippsland campus.

For more information on the Clayton program, contact (03) 9905 4164. For more information on the Gippsland program, contact (03) 9905 5883.

Bachelor of Business and Commerce

The new Bachelor of Business and Commerce degree is being introduced at the Berwick, Peninsula and Gippsland campuses in 2001. This broad-based degree will replace many of the existing business courses at those campuses. The course is designed to introduce students at all campuses to six key areas of business.

Students then elect their major study area from the sequences available at the campus at which they are enrolled. Unfortunately, the 2001 VTAC Guide does not fully depict the breadth of majors available at the campuses.

Soda and Ice comes to Gippsland

The unique soda-glazed ceramic work of Monash master's student and Ceramic Design student, Craig Nicoll, is on show at the Switchback Gallery at Monash's Gippsland Centre for Art and Design until 19 October. The exhibition's title, Soda and Ice, refers to the icy matt surfaces on the work, the result of an innovative approach to soda vapour glazing. In this process, sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate are introduced to a gas-fired kiln at more than 1200 degrees celsius, creating a soda vapour that forms a glass where it comes into contact with clay surfaces. A wide range of colours, from icy white and pale blue and green to yellow, red, maroon and grey, textures and patterns are later created during the firing process. For more information on the exhibition, contact the gallery on (03) 9902 6261.

Corporate aspirations begin to change attitudes to human rights

By Kay Angel

Protestors outside the World Economic Forum in Melbourne recently were portraying an 'us-against-them' scenario - human rights activists versus multinational corporations - according to Monash academic Professor David Kinley. And despite passions running high outside, the issue of human rights did not feature in the discussions inside the forum.

But while the WEF experience shows how much work lies ahead, there is some evidence that both sides are beginning to reach common ground, reflected in changes in laws and attitudes among corporations themselves. Professor Kinley, director of Monash's newly created Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, said international human rights laws place no direct obligations on corporations - it is a matter of persuading corporations that it is in their interests to uphold standards.

Issues such as their public image with consumers become powerful motivators for corporations to improve their human rights performance. The recent human rights compact signed between UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and 50 multinational corporations shows that global businesses are aware of the pressure, Professor Kinley said.

Even at a domestic level, Australian laws never refer to human rights as such - they come under laws covering such areas as working conditions and product safety.

With notable exceptions, such as its treatment of indigenous people, Australia has a comparatively good human rights record, he said. However, its laws holding corporations accountable have not developed to the extent of those in the US and the UK, where corporations can appear in court over their activities overseas, as well as in their domestic dealings.

In operating overseas ventures, multifunctions are so powerful they can choose whether or not to uphold human rights, and how, he said.

Unfortunately, legislation can offer scope for avoidance through the courts. "If you are big and powerful ... all sorts of litigation games will allow you to beat your opponent into submission."

"If you really want to get the corporations to sort out the problems, you have to convince them that it's in their interests." This may mean lengthy discussions at boardroom level between human rights organisations and corporations.

"The human rights community must reach out beyond the already converted to persuade the unconverted that human rights are relevant," he said. As well as conducting traditional academic research, Castan Centre academics are proactively pursuing relations with NGOs, governments and corporations in the application of international human rights law and the implication of international legal developments in the area, Professor Kinley said.

"It will be the smart companies, those who are thinking ahead, who will want to listen," he said.

Soda and Ice, by Craig Nicoll, will be on show at the Switchback Gallery at Monash's Gippsland Centre for Art and Design until 19 October. The exhibition's title, Soda and Ice, refers to the icy matt surfaces on the work, the result of an innovative approach to soda vapour glazing. In this process, sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate are introduced to a gas-fired kiln at more than 1200 degrees celsius, creating a soda vapour that forms a glass where it comes into contact with clay surfaces. A wide range of colours, from icy white and pale blue and green to yellow, red, maroon and grey, textures and patterns are later created during the firing process. For more information on the exhibition, contact the gallery on (03) 9902 6261.
Opening ceremony celebrates Australia's diversity in all its glory

The opening ceremony for the 2000 Sydney Olympics was a success because it celebrated the diversity of Australia, and avoided the cliches and stereotypes most Australians expected to see, says Monash communications lecturer Ms Leanne White.

The opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games - the Games of the XXVII Olympiad - was viewed by a global television audience of nearly four billion last month.

Unlike the negative public reaction to the inflatable kangaroos on bicycles at the Atlanta Olympic Games closing ceremony four years earlier, the pre-ceremony assessment of the event had been positive.

Director of ceremonies Ric Birch appears to have successfully orchestrated a celebration of the Australian nation, minus the cultural cringe.

Stadium Australia was symbolically cleansed with the burning of eucalyptus leaves. Some may have wondered whether white Australia's black history could be just as easily cleansed in the nation's collective consciousness.

With the first Olympic Games of the new millennium, Birch may have felt pressure to present a new and fresh perspective on an ancient civilization.

Leading the spectacular event was the impressive 'Welcome' sequence, where 120 stock men and women rode in formation to the stirring theme music of The Man From Snowy River.

The spectacular, reminiscent of Australia's light horsemen, culminated with a huge banner being unfurled to display the words "Our Mob. Our Country. Our Cathy".

Seven separate themes and individually choreographed segments were then unveiled - Deep Sea Dreaming, Awakening, Fire, Nature, The Tin Symphony, Arrivals and Eternity.

In the style of Lewis Carroll's classic Alice in Wonderland, the Deep Sea Dreaming sequence saw petite 13-year-old Nikki Webster spread out her huge beach towel, and Australia's colourful imagery, in front of the world.

She then slapped zinc cream on her nose, and dreamt of an ocean world full of sound, light and motion.

Such sights were familiar for the majority of Australians who live near the country's 36,735 kilometres of coastline, or any tourist who has explored the Great Barrier Reef or stepped foot on Australia's famous Bondi Beach.

While Nikki Webster symbolised Australia's future, Aboriginal songman and elder Djakpurra Munyarryun - who led the youngster through her facsimile journey of discovery - represented Australia's proud indigenous past.

Despite Channel Seven commentator Emir Dingo's opening words "O'ay mob. 'Ow are y'all?, the 'Awakening' sequence was particularly important in setting the tone of reconciliation for the rest of the evening's performance.

Stadium Australia was symbolically cleansed with the burning of eucalyptus leaves. Some may have wondered whether white Australia's black history could be just as easily cleansed in the nation's collective consciousness.

Fire, the crucial element in any Olympics opening ceremony, culminating in the lighting of the cauldron, was the next arrangement.

The segment continued the cleansing theme, with the blooming of spectacular wildflowers after the rains.

The Tin Symphony sequence enabled those who had been brought up in the bush to remember some treasured rustic relics such as corrugated iron, windmills, shearing sheds, rainwater tanks and rusted farm machinery.

In this sequence, however, Birch couldn't resist a few quirky Australian images for the rest of the world to ponder, including Victa lawn mowers, corrugated iron backhats, dancers Ned Kellys and those strange jumping cardboard boxes!

The presence of Arrivals' sequence took on the atmosphere of a fronted Marri Gras of dispotic dimensions.

Immigrants from Africa, the Americas, Oceanica, Europe and Asia were represented in the five colours of the Olympic rings.

The candle was encouraged to wave its torches and glowing wrist bands to the hypnotic beat before joining young Nikki's emotional rendition of the all-encompassing multicultural anthem "Under a Southern Sky".

The final sequence, Eternity, was a tribute to the Australian working class, with a thousand tap dancers representing the energy and enthusiasm of our young country.

A bridge was built to symbolically connect the old Australia to the new. Appropriately, Djakpurra and Nikki came together on the bridge, which was lit up by the word Eternity.

If we weren't sure what the imagery was supposed to symbolise, commentator Garry Wilkinson was there to explain to us that it was "a reminder of our place in the scheme of things".

Juan Antonio Samaranch welcomed his audience with the words "O'ay Sydney, G'day Australia", and the night was capped off with the image that would be emblazoned on the front pages of the newspapers as well as the national psyche - Cathy Freeman standing under the Olympic cauldron against a backdrop of nature's contrasting elements - fire and water.

Australia's female athletes were honoured as Betty Cuthbert (helped by Rachelle Boyle) passed the torch to Dawn Fraser, Shirley Strickland de la Hunty, Shane Gould, Debbie Flintoff-King, then finally to "our Cathy".

Whether we are prepared to admit it or not, we are a nation of knockers who are quick to criticise - even before an event.

Why was the opening ceremony so well received? And more importantly, why had so many Australians feared that the night would simply turn out to be an embarrassing public display of hackneyed and cliched Australian images?

Generally, most Australians were relieved that the ceremony was free of the cliches we have become so accustomed to seeing in television advertising and tourism brochures.

While the dinobones and shakers were out in force, the highly stereotyped images of Australia's favourite fauna were virtually non-existent.

Even Sydney Olympic mascot Syd, Millie and Oily were almost that night.

Many Australians were worried because they believed Birch had let them down before, with a giant Australia flag on Sydney Harbour Bridge in May for Corroboree 2000, or blow-up roos at Atlanta.

But while Birch was portrayed as a possible antagonist, Australians may have been their own worst enemy.

Whether we are prepared to admit it or not, we are a nation of knockers who are quick to criticise - even before an event.

Australians are still quick to now down tall poppies. Even in this new millennium we are a highly self-conscious nation preoccupied with what the rest of the world thinks of us.

But we need not have worried - Birch showed the diversity of Australia in all its glory.

Ms Leanne White is a lecturer in communications and media studies at Monash University.
Lecturer wins Australia’s richest art competition

**By SUE McALISTER**

A Monash fine art lecturer has won the country’s richest art competition - the $100,000 Doug Moran National Portrait Prize.

Ms Kristen Headlam, a painting lecturer in Monash's Department of Fine Arts, won the prize for her self-portrait 'In Bed with the Animals'. She said she felt both excited and terrified on being awarded the prize.

"I was surprised, as I locally didn't think I had much of a chance. I thought the painting of me and my dog and two cats - who all like to get on the bed with me - would be considered too frivolous."

However, the competition's international judge, Dr Charles Saumarez Smith, director of London’s National Portrait Gallery, said he decided the Moran Prize should be awarded to a portrait which was "at the opposite end of the pole of portraiture to the commissioned, public portrait".

"I felt that Kristen Headlam's self-portrait had a freshness to it - a spontaneity and verve, as well as a directness and an ability to escape the stereotypes of traditional portraiture, all of which was extremely attractive, conveying a strong sense of the personality of the artist, together with confidence and fluency in his handling of paint."

"I recognised and applauded - the fact that the Moran Prize is not about public portraits of well-known and respectable sitters, as is the Archibald Prize, but has a more democratic intent in exploring the character and individuality of ordinary Australians," he said.

Ms Headlam agreed: "The Moran Prize is unusually supportive of artists from right around Australia, including less well-known ones. It's certainly beneficial to Monash - my students are very pleased and happy now to see portrait painting and art competitions as more accessible than they'd previously thought, especially as the Moran Prize doesn't require that entries depict someone famous."

"Still, I suppose my dog and cats are quite famous now - and I think they know it!"

**Monash painting lecturer Ms Kristen Headlam said she felt her prize-winning entry 'In Bed with the Animals', would be considered too frivolous.**

Golf gadget wins international prize

**By SUE McALISTER**

A multi-purpose gadget for golfing executives, designed by a third-year industrial design student at Monash, has won the inaugural Marksman Design Award.

Mr Yu Weng (Alvin) Sitoh's entry, titled 'Exo', beat 115 other entries from 31 countries to win him the prestigious annual international award and $US10,000 in prize money.

"I was shocked," said Mr Sitoh, who is on an exchange program from Singapore. "Neither I nor the other Singaporeans on our side expected to win."

"I felt that Kristin Headlam's self-portrait painting was more accessible than they'd previously thought, especially as the Moran Prize doesn't require that entries depict someone famous."

**Mr Alvin Sitoh:**

"I wanted to design something recreational that wasn't too serious. After all, business people do play!"

"I hope that Exo is a compact, multi-functional tool kit to handle every eventuality on the golf course."

"Exo includes a mechanical pencil to keep score, concealed brushes for cleaning clubs, a spike wrench for keeping golf shoes in order, and a drier tool for repairing dents on the green."

"A bottle opener and screwdriver complete the package."
New book reveals challenges faced by modern universities

BY DEREK BROAD

From age-old traditions and scholarly pursuits to global markets and economic demands, universities have experienced major cultural shifts during the past two decades. Australian universities more than most... RRP:$49.26

Simon Marginson, from the Faculty of Governance and Reinvention in the Enterprise University: Power and Participation, says that universities need to address the need for new management structures to foster creativity. "We need to create a culture of innovation where academic freedom can flourish," he said. The wide variation in the concept of "musical time" in the new millennium...

...its subject of "The Decameron Project," says Dr John Long, a Monash science graduate, who has recently released his latest book...

The book was produced by Professor Simon Marginson (left) and Associate Professor Mark Condren, from the Department of Psychological Medicine at Monash University.

Using case studies from 17 Australian universities, the book reveals that since the mid-1980s, universities have been forced to adopt a corporate model of management in order to survive.

This is due to a decreasing government commitment to the tertiary sector, says Professor Marginson. "When John Dawkins, the Labor minister for employment, education and training from 1987 to 1990, expanded tertiary enrolments without a commensurate expansion of funding, institutions were forced to secure funding from the private sector, and the "enterprise university" was born."

According to Professor Marginson, the "enterprise university," which has centered on general staff, the burden of innovation and directional research culture where academic freedom can flourish, is underpinned by a commensurate expansion of funding. "To improve the situation, academic freedom needs to be defined in a new way," says Professor Marginson. "Corporatisation of universities creates a lot of hope, power and prestige for both public and private institutions where such as vice-chancellors and deputy vice-chancellors, who end up carrying all the burden of innovation and directional strategy for the university. Under this model, the creative capacity of the rest of the university, including academics, is undermined."

While Professor Marginson does not advocate a return to collegiate structures of governance, he believes there is a middle ground that needs to be reached. "To improve the situation, academic freedom needs to be defined in a new way," says Professor Marginson. "Corporatisation of universities creates a lot of hope, power and prestige for both public and private institutions where such as vice-chancellors and deputy vice-chancellors, who end up carrying all the burden of innovation and directional strategy for the university. Under this model, the creative capacity of the rest of the university, including academics, is undermined."

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Production challenges attitudes to sex in the new millennium

BY SUE MCALISTER

Its title alone should ensure the success of Sex, Sin: The City (The Decameron Project III).

The latest production is by the Monash Centre for Drama and Theatre Studies. "It will be just as entertaining and, I'm sure, as popular as the 1998 productions," says Professor Michael Hanner, who is helping organise it. The students wrote all the theatrical pieces, which "feature often strikingly different approaches to sex in the new millennium," says Ms Betty Hanmer, who is directing the production.

The production is a course requirement for students completing Monash's Bachelor of Performing Arts degree. As you'd imagine, Sex, Sin: The City offers the audience a stimulating experience. It is intellectually confronting and theatrically unorthodox, with the dramas, song and dance performed by students interspersed with appearances by two guest speakers each night, who express their perspective on various aspects of physical and emotional interaction between urban dwellers.

The world's first Decameron Project was such a hit that, says Ms Betty Hanmer, who is directing the production, "the students were so pleased that they agreed to perform the show again."

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King Island fossil research may solve extinction mystery

BY DAVID BRUCE

King Island is a windswept, isolated and rocky piece of land in the middle of Bass Strait, between Victoria and Tasmania. Not far beneath the surface of the island's yellow sand dunes are the fossilised bones of a group of unique animals. In these bones may lie the answer to the Australia-wide extinction of these animals over the last 40,000 years.

Monash palaeontologist Ms Sanja van Hoet, who is completing a PhD on the topic, said it was a controversial topic.

"There are heated arguments going on about how all these animals became extinct, with many saying it was due to overkill of the fauna by the Aboriginal inhabitants over thousands of years. But from my research, I think the changes were more environmentally related than human-related," Researcher Ms Sanja van Hoet.

After months of fieldwork among the sand dunes of King Island, with her year-old daughter and a group of volunteers for company, Ms van Hoet found evidence of dramatic climatic changes over the past 40,000 years.

El Nino linked to variations in Indonesian weather patterns

BY PETER GOLDIE

Indonesia's diverse climatic and geographic regions produce what has been described as one of the most chaotic weather systems in the world.

Its geographic features have a large influence on global weather patterns, partly because of the country's huge tropical rainforests.

Given the importance of weather changes locally and regionally, and the constant threat of drought for the archipelago and beyond, it would seem that a regional weather watch would have long been in place.

However, such a scheme has never been possible amidst the group of hundreds of islands fractured by distance, culture, language and a lack of resources. Until now, that is. Monash University has recently been involved in establishing a weather-predicting system for the country's 210 million people.

Indonesian meteorological expert Ms Dewi Kirono has been gathering and assessing the raw data on which predictive models can be developed to forecast such events. She is now completing her PhD research in Monash's Department of Geography and Environmental Science on the influence of El Nino on timing, spread and amount of rainfall for the region.

Ms Kirono, who comes from Surahaya in eastern Java, was an undergraduate hydrology student in Jogjakarta in the early 1990s, when the country was hit by a drought which forced it to import rice for the first time in two decades.

Her attention was drawn to what caused these events, and for her subsequent work she won the 'Best Paper on El Nino' at the El Nino Symposium of the Association of American Geographers last year in Honolulu.

"It is a very complex and difficult weather system, and scientists have never been able to work on the topic thoroughly because of a lack of basic data," said Ms Kirono. "I have found the weather variations in Indonesia to be closely associated with the El Nino Southern Oscillation.

She undertook the mammoth task of sifting through weather results from more than 3000 reporting stations to focus on the records of just 85 stations from 1879 to 1999. It is the first time this information has been collated.

Although describing the data sitting as "very tedious for six months", Ms Kirono has developed a database which opens the way for further studies of the El Nino, the first of which gets under way next year when Ms Kirono returns to Indonesia.