STUDIES IN TIME AND SPACE
Monash medical students are not alone in challenging the curriculum of medical schools and the basis of community health care, the Dean of Medicine, Professor R. R. Andrew reports.

Prof. Andrew attended the Fourth World Conference on Medical Education held in Copenhagen last year. His report was tabled at a recent meeting of the Senate.

"The students at Copenhagen represented the view that they were not content to be, as they alleged, the passive vessels of pedagogical in­
epistemic abstraction. They disputed vehemently the idea that the medical course existed in a vacuum and insisted on all occasions that medicine extended to the cognitive aspects, but also relevance to the application of their knowledge and skills to the community in the delivery of health care, must be con­
 sidered.

"Challenges more radical, less well received, came from another direction — those representing the cult of the de-schooleds. They reject the need for assessment, other than the satisfaction of canting standards, by his own stated goal, and resist the notion of statutory registration. Breaking the lock-step..."

\[ \text{continued} \]

\[ \text{Student's survey shows...} \]

\[ \text{LOCAL COUNCILS LACK BALANCE} \]

A lot is heard these days about 'open government' and the possibilities of influencing decisions. Pressure groups have been formed on a wide range of Federal and State matters — education, abortion, pollution, to name a few of the obvious and current ones.

In South Melbourne, Ms. Fox said, two wards had 700 and 900 voters while the others had 2600, 4500 and 5000 — in other words one ward had twice as many voters as another.

In Moorabbin, Kew and Heidelberg, on the other hand, electors were fairly evenly distributed between wards.

Using Waverley as an example, Ms. Fox said that the council did not represent the age range and occupational interest of the residents of the city. Six of the councillors belonged to the 40-50 age bracket, which represented 25 per cent of the population. On the other hand, the 18-20 age group, another 12 per cent of the population, had no representative.

In occupational interest, two-thirds of the council, or eight of the 12 councillors, qualified as professionals; while one councillor was non-representative of Waverley residents, Ms. Fox claimed.

"Of course, age and occupational representativeness is neither necessary nor sufficient for democracy," she said. "But to the extent that these categories have unique interests and priorities, absence of their representatives from council reduces the chances of other interests being successfully for resources.

Ms. Fox went on to strike a blow for women's interests. "Very few women were on councils and yet women were probably the main consumers of local government services, for example, in Waverley, where there were three women out of 15 councillors being women.

\[ \text{Wealthy are favored} \]

At the moment, with councillors working on behalf of certain interests, the relatively wealthy and the professionally trained public services workers had the time and money for council activity.

Mrs. Fox claimed that councillors could put personal preference or need before community needs; further, given the apathetic public, community needs might not be well articulated.

Ms. Fox suggested that councillors be paid, or given an allowance for expenses, as one step towards improving local government.

Further, more of the dealings of council should be open so as to encourage people who take a more active part in local government.

Kew had set a worthwhile precedent here because it issued personal invita­tions to a number of ratepayers to attend each council meeting.

"As a long-term improvement, people should be educated to appreciate the importance of their decisions made by obscure agencies do affect them and they in turn lose the ability to participate in a working democracy," Ms. Fox said. "We must en­ Provide its right to choose decision­ makers in the electorate's objective interest to do so."
THE JEFFREE TELESCOPE IN OPERATION

ASTRONOMY, the oldest science, is still very much alive, though universities tend to neglect it, and to leave it to a few big institutions.

But Monash has a proper optical telescope, and an observatory, i.e., a going research program, and hopes of undergraduate courses in second and third years.

The telescope was originally built, though not finished, by Mr. L. Jeffree, an amateur astronomer in Bendigo. Monash acquired it in 1968, physics and mechanical engineering restored it over the next two or three years.

The Jeffree telescope now sits in the Monash observatory built on leased land near Numulgi, about 60 km east of the campus, where viewing conditions are good.

The telescope, about three metres long and 45 cm in diameter, is of the type known as a Newtonian reflector: the parallel rays entering the scope are reflected back by a parabolic mirror to a focus near the scope end; to bring the image out of the tube, a small mirror near the focus reflects the rays at right angles through an aperture in the side of the tube.

The field may be viewed by eye, or by camera, or by optical measuring instruments.

The telescope is mechanically driven and electronically controlled to move in what is called right ascension, that is to match the apparent motion of the sky, in effect trained on the south celestial pole.

When the telescope follows the sky's apparent motion, the star images remain fixed in the field of view.

On the other hand, a three exposure with a stationery camera shows the circular tracks of the star around the pole in the centre, as shown in the pictures on this page and on the next.

Research men in Monash's physics department David Herald and John Robinson, have built two instruments for use with the Jeffree telescope — a photometer for measuring light intensity, and a spectrograph for analysing the color spectrometer of the light from a star.

These instruments will be used to carry out a preselection of stars for research projects planned for the 120 cm telescope of the University of Tasmania.

This year Russell Palmer is using the photometer in an honors project to study the proper motion of known and suspected flare stars. These stars suddenly increase in brightness and then gradually return to their steady state.

Next year it is hoped to continue this work in collaboration with the CSIRO division of radio physics which is interested in studying the mechanism of these stars by searching for simultaneous outbursts at optical and radio wave lengths.

Physics staff encourage projects for third and fourth-year students to introduce them to precision astrometry, optics, and photographic techniques. Daytime use by interested people, involving optical studies of the sun, will be encouraged.

Apart from physics, other departments interested in either the research projects or in the proposed undergraduate courses are chemistry, mathematics, engineering and education.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS

Above is the interior of the Monash observatory photographed for this report by the physics photographic laboratory. The two photograph of star trails were taken by Dennis Corke, senior lecturer in physics. Both these exposures were taken at the observatory site.

The photo on page 2 was made between 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. on November 12 last year. It is looking towards the south pole; the continuous straight line is a satellite.

The photograph on this page was a two hour exposure, also looking south. The observatory was lit by electronic flash.
All the effort—is it for the team or for the individual?

NEWS FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES

According to a Melbourne University survey League footbal players have a different temperament and personality depending on whether they are a forward or defender.

In academic language the full-forward is "self-oriented" and the backman is "task-oriented".

A survey into the personality and performance of Australian Rules players has been done by Eric Sandstrom and Brian Nettleton, members of the university's education department.

The survey was unreported briefly in the latest issue of the University of Melbourne Gazette.

Intriguing differences

Intriguing differences were found between the attacking and defending players. For example, full-forwards were found to be significantly more self-oriented and less task-oriented than defenders. This finding tends to support the widely held belief that players occupying primarily attacking positions are of a different temperament or personality from those in defence.

One professor told the council that the university was being selective. Many other forms of de facto relationships deserved consideration.

Because of changing values, he believed the provision should be reviewed in 12 months.

No age restriction

The council of the University of Tasmania has removed age restrictions from the rules of matriculation.

Under present rules, students had to be 17 to be admitted to the university, unless the Professorial Board permitted a candidate to enter.

The motion which the council adopted made it clear that "maturity is not necessarily a reflection of age."

Brown coal char help to purify polluted water

Research workers in the Institute of Materials Research Department of Metallurgy, The University of Melbourne, have discovered that char produced from brown coal can be used in purify water polluted by bacteria.

"Char can also be used to treat chemical solutions and effluents associated with industrial processes, the researchers noted.

The research leading to these discoveries was sponsored by the Victorian Brown Coal Research Committee, which was set up by the Victorian Government in 1969 to find new ways to use and develop coal which exists in vast quantities in the Latrobe Valley region of Victoria. The Committee, joint-funded by the Victorian and the State Electricity Commissions of Victoria.

Greater exploitation

According to the university these possible developments could result in greater exploitation of the extensive deposits of brown coal in various parts of the world, particularly in Australia, the United States and West Germany.

Part of this research has shown that brown coal char has already produced on an industrial scale in Victoria, can be used to remove coliform bacteria from water polluted by sewage. If the polluted water is passed over or through beds of the char the bacteria are quickly adsorbed by the char. Adsorption is caused by a monotonous chain of atoms, molecules and micro-organisms which are physically or chemically held to the surfaces of solids. After adsorption the bacteria can be destroyed by heating the loaded char to destroy the bacteria.

In early experiments on samples of water taken from the Yarra River near Prince Edward Island a period of 200,000 E. coli organisms per litre were found, which is about 200 times the number considered safe for swimming. But, after treatment with two hours with brown coal char, it was found that 99.9% of the organisms had been removed from the water.

The chemical oxygen demand (C.O.D.), which is another measure of pollution, was also reduced from 420 ppm to 12 ppm by this treatment.

In later work on samples taken from a large open NSW drain at Croydon in 1971 the water was found to contain 10 million E. coli per litre and these were reduced by 99.9% in five minutes by treatment with brown coal char.

Potential applications

The University of Melbourne has applied for patents in several countries for the use of brown coal char in industrial scale and domestic scale treatment of water.

Brown coal char was also found to be suitable for purifying electroplating solutions. But had only limited value in extracting protein and lactose from cheese whey and buttermilk.

It has also been found that raw brown coal, which is much cheaper than the char, is generally as effective as the char on this treatment but some practical problems would have to be overcome before it could be used satisfactorily for water treatment.

The brown coal char is commonly purified by activated carbon, and other workers have developed feasible systems for its use in large scale water treatment.

Experiments in the Institute of Materials Research have shown that brown coal char has only a slight less capacity for purification than activated carbon. But the reduced char is much cheaper than activated carbon and is at present imported into Australia.

In practice it is expected that the cost of any design for the production already developed for activated carbon, but some further work would be needed to provide a design for specific treatment plants for water purification.

MONASH REPORTER
Last January and February a lecturer in geography at Monash, Dr. Jim Peterson, led a five-member team into the soaring 16,000 mountains of Irian Jaya, formerly Dutch West New Guinea.

The expedition's aim was scientific, one aim being to study the retreat of the Carstensz glaciers.

If the glaciers continue their retreat they will be gone in 100 years.

Jim Peterson's wife, Judy, a biologist and lecturer at LaTrobe Teachers' College, was a member of the team. She studied minute plant growth on the ice.

Other members were: Ian Allison, 27, of Melbourne, a glaciologist with the Antarctic Division of the Department of Science; Ted Anderson, 28, a surveyor from the University of NSW; and Richard Muggleton, the expedition photographer, who is clinical photographer at the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital's plastic surgery unit.

The seven expedition photographs published in this month's Reporter were taken by Muggleton. A pictorial account of the expedition is presented on pages 6 and 7.

The Carstensz Glacier Expedition was financed through the Australian Research Grants Committee and the University of Melbourne Department of Meteorology, which is studying links between glaciers and the world's weather.

It was the second five-member expedition to Carstensz — Muggleton and Peterson were members of a team which went at the end of 1971.

This time, as last, each team member had a special interest.

For Anderson it was surveying, for Allison it was glaciology and meteorology, for Peterson it was the geomorphological record of the ice advances and retreats over the last 12,000 years. And for Muggleton it was, of course, a photographic record. Each expedition member is preparing results for publication in appropriate journals.

First stop in Irian Jaya was at Jayapura on the north coast of the island. They then flew to Ilaga, a mountain village at 7000 ft. From there it was a tough 60 mile hike to the glaciers.

At Ilaga the expedition was joined by Samuel Misamou, a law student at Unches University, Jayapura, and Max Kaleu, a local policeman.

As a result of the rigorous two-month expedition Ian Allison lost 11 stone, Jim Peterson 10 lb, and his wife half a stone.

The most spectacular achievement of the expedition came when Peterson and Anderson climbed the 18,022 ft peak of the Carstensz Pyramid, the highest peak in the South Pacific.

The peak, with Peterson in the foreground, is on page one of this issue. They climbed the formidable slope on the right of the picture.

The interesting first outcome of Jim Peterson's investigation is that about 10,000 years ago, the Carstensz glacier had advanced down the valley to a level of about 1700 metres — far lower than it is today, about 4200 metres. That makes this probably the lowest of tropical glaciers in the world at that time or since.

Cairns left by previous observers in 1936 and in 1962 are now well ahead of the glacial terminus. In the 35 years from 1936 to 1971 the Meran glacier has retreated about 1500 metres and the Carstensz about 700 metres.

The retreat of the Carstensz glaciers is in general accord with the recession of tropical glaciers during this century, according to Peterson, that is probably due to a warming of the earth's climate rather than to reduced snowfall.

A major concern to atmospheric scientists is whether and to what extent the general warming is linked with the man-made increase of carbon dioxide and dust in the air.

LEFT: Meltwater from the retreating glaciers has formed lakes, and given expedition members a chance for a cold bath. Dr. Jim Peterson braves the water with a bar of soap.
RICHARD MUGGLETON, a clinical photographer from the Preston and Northcote Community Hospital, was the photographer for the Carstensz Glacier Expedition. The Reporter publishes a selection of his work...

LEFT: Iqbal Rahimjeh, leader of an expedition from University of Indonesia, which joined the Australian team, discusses the climb up the Carstensz Pyramid with Dr. Jim Peterson.

ABOVE: The location of Carstensz. It is at latitude 4° south about 700 miles from Darwin.

LEFT: The expedition members mixed with local highlanders as they waited on the mission airstrips for small planes to get them in and out of the Carstensz area. Judy Peterson is at left.

RIGHT: Living in front of a retreating glacier is like living in a crumbling quarry. Fortunately the expedition could camp on an isolated mound away from the danger of rock slides and ice falls.
University exam board to be questioned

The Victorian Universities Committee, which consists of representatives of the three Victorian Universities and the Victorian Institute of Colleges, has set up a committee to review the role of the Victorian Universities and Schools Examination Board (V.U.S.E.B.). The new body will be known as the Committee on Arrangements for Secondary Courses and Assessment (C.A.S.C.A.).

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr. J. A. L. Matheson, will be the chairman of C.A.S.C.A.
The chairman of the Victorian Universities Committee, Dr. D. M. Myers, said that V.U.S.E.B. had been under pressure to undertake other important functions. These include the prescription of school syllabuses and the conduct of examinations in subjects not used for university entrance.

Moreover, the Higher School Certificate examination was being used increasingly for other purposes than university entrance — it was used, for example, by other tertiary institutions for their own selection purposes, and by employers as evidence of applicants' performance.

Dr. Myers said these circumstances had led to the realisation that the special requirements of the universities which V.U.S.E.B. was set up to handle were unduly influencing the whole school system, which catered for the education of the great majority of students who did not go on to university studies.

C.A.S.C.A. includes representatives of a number of bodies concerned with secondary and tertiary education. It will recommend the broad principles of legislation on the basis of which a new authority, more appropriate to present circumstances, could be set up to replace V.U.S.E.B.

It will not itself set out to resolve the problems of secondary education or of terminal schools, but will do so one kind or another; this will be the responsibility of the new body when appointed.

German award to Monash lecturer

A senior lecturer in mechanical engineering, Dr. Gunther Arndt, has been awarded a Humboldt fellowship to do 11 months research work at Stuttgart University in Germany. Dr. Arndt will leave Monash in October. His research project will involve the theory of flexible manufacturing systems.

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation provides opportunities for young, highly qualified scholars from abroad to carry out research projects of their own choice in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Vic Abor. Leg. Serv. receives $400,000

"Aborigines are unaware of legal rights"

Professor Louis Walker, professor of law at Monash, believes Aborigines should be made more aware of their legal powers and privileges.

Prof. Walker is president of the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service which is based in Gertrude St., Fitzroy.

Following a recent Federal Government grant, he hopes the service will be able to mount a program of education, in respect to the law and its operations, among aborigines.

The government had set aside $200,000 for legal aid to aborigines; the Victorian service will receive a substantial proportion of this money.

Prof. Walker recently addressed a meeting in Canberra of nine Aborig- inal and 14 white legal aid workers. The Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Bryant, attended the afternoon session of the meeting.

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service was established in June last year with private funds and a $10,000 grant from the State and Federal governments.

This service arranges for Aborigines to receive legal advice and to be represented in proceedings in the courts.
Is the University prepared to support avant garde theatre?

Judging by the Monash Players' production, "Rabelais", the answer is a resounding no.

Financially and attendance-wise it was a flop. They played to less than half full houses every night of the eight-night season (May 2-9, 9-12). The audience totalles 1096 including comps; the maximum possible was 4044.

The Players relied on a university audience. It was not well publicised outside Monash, despite the two or three minute minute finale.

And yet as far as this reviewer is concerned it was a good show, a very good show. Something refreshing and new for the Alexander Theatre and for the University.

The person responsible was the director and designer, Nigel Triffitt, the recently appointed director of student theatre. It was his first production for the Players.

Triffitt didn't just use the stage; he used the theatre. In fact he blocked off half the stage and by using a catwalk attempted to bring the production into the audience. He also found the theatre a movable pit; by continually lowering and raising the actor he added to the general movement, excitement and color before the audience.

One scene in the second act typified his ability. With a central scaffold and the Players scattered round the theatre he was able, by the use of rope and voile, to make split second changes in mood and atmosphere.

And he also improved the Players - they had more confidence and evenness than in earlier, more staid, traditional productions, "Mother Courage" for example.

There were faults - lines were lost because some of the actors hurried, the sound system needed another co-ordination and the plot was hard to follow. These should have been overcome by opening night.

It would be a pity if the production is only remembered for the Alexander Theatre's introduction to nudity - it's hope the future that it might come to represent a turning point in the direction and acceptance of theatre at Monash; a successful attempt at something different.

The harsh language, the nudity, the dancing color, the raucous music, and the set could not be labelled gimmicks unless Triffitt comes to rely on them in productions. The task he has set himself for the next production is to come up with something entirely different; perhaps that might draw a university audience - who knows?

Ian Anderson

PHOTOS: STEWART LEE


By ALAN TRETHEWY, senior lecturer in education.

Fortunately, the time is passing when we felt obliged to receive any reasonably presented book on Australian education with open arms as a most welcome addition to a limited local literature.

In the past five years Australian education and its market have been discovered by publishers and confronted by an overly stream of books, we can begin to pick and choose a little more discretarily.

Of course, many areas of interest are not covered comprehensively; but, with the promise that the best may be yet to come, we can be more discerning.

Viewed in this way, Changing Education - Australian Viewpoints is a very useful book, which, however, shares some of the limitations of its type.

It largely a collection of articles that have appeared in Australian educational journals over the last four years, selected for their relevance to the theme of "education and change", and organised into a logically connected sequence.

The editors say the "focus of attention moves from schools as related to Australian society, through educational development as a planned process of change, to more specific approaches to curriculum and instruction in selected teaching fields."

More specifically, Part A differs from similar books by concentrating on educational responses to social problems, particularly holding up the strengths of inherited traditions; Part B is based on planned educational change, including its theoretical bases and implications in curriculum organisation, school architecture and educational technology; Part C presents articles on specific issues in teaching and learning, including science, mathematics, social science, and learning languages, and discusses the teaching of children with special educational difficulties.

The collection is potentially very useful not only for its stated purpose of "providing students with insights and information relevant to educational practice in Australia," and in giving examples of ideas and practices in curriculum and instruction.

Its strengths are:

(I) It focuses on a contemporary theme of considerable importance, and not only demonstrates that far-reaching changes are taking place, but questions about them.

(II) It brings together in one volume a variety of articles that are scattered throughout the literature that might otherwise have been lost to new readers.

(III) It draws together a number of apparently disparate developments, and, by linking them in a coherent framework and providing helpful introductory commentaries, enables the reader to see connections and patterns that might otherwise be lost in the particularities of his own experience or interest.

(IV) It appears to have sampled the available literature sensibly, keeping a balance between theoretical analyses, historical reports of actual projects, and drawing on contributions from all states.

(V) In its selected articles, bibliographies and question it provides a stimulus to discussion and further study.

In all, 38 articles have been incorporated in the text. While this base-line is incomplete or "thin and thin character contributes to the book's purposes, it also introduces some problems.

Despite skilful selection, arrangement and linking commentaries, book readings may only be as good as the intentions available to the editor.

One nagging question is whether the individual articles illustrate or elucidate the chosen theme adequately or appropriately. In Part A and C the question can be answered favorably, but Part B appears lacking at this point.

Neither the introductory commentaries of the articles chosen really attempt to describe and analyse social change in Australia at any depth; thus the book lacks a satisfactory statement of the phenomenon to which education is said to be responding.

The article by Hughes comes closest to the mark but, as one might expect, is still an essay. For example, are more concerned with factors that limit change. Of course, they cannot be blamed for that, for they were writing or speaking to different audiences and with different purposes in mind - not for this book.

In such a case, it would seem desirable to write a special essay-review rather than fo us on published articles alone. To their credit, the editors have done this in the chapter on children with special educational needs.

A further problem already suggested is the impossibility of distinguishing between articles written at different times on different purposes.

Some of the problems of parts A and C in particular vary widely in subject matter, scale, tone and length, this may be disconcerting to the reader, expecting a coherent and developed treatment of issues.

Unfortunately, the editorial commentaries are consistently unsatisfactory; after all, the purpose of the compilation is to inform the reader about ideas and issues in the literature. The collection contains some more comprehensive and unified accounts of the evolution and development of educational theories and practices and the one on changing curricula and changes in Australian society on the introduction to the mainline Simpkins and Miller have provided with a most acceptable resource book.

Pens and nibs versus Valves and tubes

The scientist writes his papers on his theories and his experiments. The literateur has no such close joining apparatus and is forced to choose but to work yet again over the whole world of literature or that part of it that he could substantially encompass.

So Dennis Davison, senior lecturer in English, in his introduction Davison makes the point that, though so much literature is delightful and formally ingenious, the leaping and targets is in sharp contrast to the social conscience shared by the artists and novelists of the period.

In his introduction Davison provides over 320 pages of poems, in a number of groupings including such varied love poems and religious verse.

And Martin, also senior lecturer in English, through Cam- Bridge University Press has pub- lished his study Shakespeare's "Sonets", carrying the sub-title "Self, Love and Art."

Martin, who himself writes poetry, claims to have written his slim volume of 160 pages of text for the average reader as though an university student.

June, 1972

MOONAH REPORTER
Although the consumer has the ultimate right not to buy, the complexity of modern products tilts the balance distinctly towards the seller, says Professor Irvin Gross.

To address this imbalance, Professor Gross, professor of marketing at Monash, has proposed a five-point Consumer’s Bill of Rights.

Prof. Gross outlined his ideas at a lecture at the University of Technology. His lecture, “The New Consumerism,” was subsequently published in the Australian Journal of Marketing Research (February 1973).

His Consumer’s Bill of Rights provided that:

1. Consumers have the right to minimum performance and safety standards in the goods and services they receive.
2. They have the right to choose what they buy, a choice of shops, and a choice of prices and services.
3. They should have easy access, at reasonable cost, to information about the goods and services they buy—quantitative, descriptive, free, comparable and easily understood.
4. They should have protection from serious misleading information and shady selling techniques; and
5. They should have easy access to groups and bodies to legitimize complaints against sellers who do not deny them or any of the above rights.

Examining these five points, Prof. Gross pinpointed the area he believed needed the most immediate attention. The reason was obvious. On the first point, minimum performance and safety standards, he said, that a fair amount of protection existed, particularly on food and drugs. He thought the automobile industry was, in the way of safety, what the food and drug industry was. He argued that the consumer at the mercy of often poorly treated, poorly supervised, and sometimes unconscionable service shops. Problems existed also in the flammable, explosive, and toxic chemicals and the injectables used in children’s clothing.

Right to choose

The second point, the right to choose, had been aided significantly by the outlawing of resale price maintenance, although there were problems in some industries where a de facto decision existed among a very small number of dominant competitors with protection from foreign conventions.

He emphasized that Australian consumers lose much more purchasing power through protection from import than from all direct forms of business manipulation combined.

The third point, easy access to relevant information, was an area where much could be done at relatively little cost. Prof. Gross urged that such information, including information about the ingredients and nutritional content (in foods), prices, interest and service charges should be readily available, and readily priceworthy on the package as well.

The fourth point, protection from misleading sales and shaky selling techniques, had been the largest single source of complaints to the Victorian Consumers’ Protection Council. He observed. The most common targets of these complaints had been certain door-to-door selling organizations and misleading advertising.

The fifth point, easy access to mechanisms for redress of complaints, had been answered in Victoria with the creation of the Consumers’ Protection Council, he said, although the council needed a larger budget and access to legal aid to do a thorough job. The possibility of adopting the American practice of instituting class action suits should be explored, he said.

To implement the Consumers’ Bill of Rights, Prof. Gross outlined several mechanisms, namely: (1) voluntary positive action by manufacturers and merchants; (2) imposed legal requirements and constraints, and (3) a marketisation of the demands of people in the marketplace.

Most ore honest

Professor Gross said he did not share the opinion of “some cynics who view business people as malevolent or purely self-centered.” For the vast majority of cases, he said, “businessmen are attempting to run profitable business by ethical and honest means.”

In particular, Prof. Gross believed that there were “some unique opportunities for retailers to sensori themselves to become the most important consumer protection agencies.”

For example, the large supermarket chains which control the bulk of grocery distribution in each state, if they realigned themselves as purchasing organizations for the consumer, could have an enormous influence on the marketplace, he said.

Professor Gross noted that although the chains put great pressure on the manufacturers to hold or cut prices, and kept their prices down by slightly degrading the quantity and quality of their products.

“The large supermarket chains have the resources to maintain quality-checking facilities to make sure the products they distribute meet standard

ards, thereby assuring their customers, that the low prices they offer are not at the expense of quality or quantity,” he said.

However, Prof. Gross conceded that even with increased voluntary activity on the part of business organisations, there would always be those who operated on either side of the edge of the line, in which case there was a very definite role for law and government agencies to play.

He described as “shortsighted” the attitude of business people that any government activity which restricted their freedom of activity was “interference” and had to be deprecated.

A more reasonable position would be to set up those areas in which industry-wide restrictions would be in the public interest and which would affect all competitors equally.

But the best mechanism for protecting consumers, he contended, Prof. Gross said, was for the market itself to act. If enough people refused to buy badly supplied, poorly manufactured goods, or goods that they thought were not as described in the advertisements, they would find that such action would bring faster and more positive results than anything else.

“Australia needs more of the Nader kind of activity to extract the few abences of the business world and to keep the majority of businesses on the straight and narrow.”

“Go to the ant, thou sluggard…”

Though no sluggard, Dr. George Ettershank, senior lecturer in Zoology, did just that on his recent overseas leave.

He studied harvester ants in the desert of New Mexico, an area he was interested in the role of ants in the desert ecosystem.

Here was surveying at the micro level: measuring and mapping the overlap of nests of the same and different species, to get at the density of nest distribution. He also used a census-taking, trying to find the site of the populations, of the nests and the proportion of each nest that is out foraging.

And in the harvesting system: the intensity of foraging as a function of distance from the nest, the size of the foraged area, and the degree of overlap of foraging areas between nests of the same and different species.

Interesting and painstaking, revealing and rewarding in the context of the desert balance, and mathematical enough to need programs and computers...

— G. H. Vass, The Halls of Residence have vacancies for the second semester. To apply for a place contact the halls admissions office, Roberts Hall, 544 9805.

Guide for conference organiser

The Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee has asked the Reporter to publish guidelines for inter-university meetings.

The Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee recognizes the importance and value of inter-university meetings of members of the academic and non-academic professions, who have responsibilities in the educational and administrative nature. However, because of the number and variety of such meetings, the AVCC has (since 1968) attempted to apply a set of rules in order to protect the universities from undue financial embarrassment and to prevent the proliferation of meetings to the detriment of day-to-day operations. These rules have been reviewed in the light of experience, and are now formulated in the form of guidelines for the holding of inter-university meetings.

Guidelines approved by AVCC (1973)

1. There are three types of meetings:

(a) AVCC meetings, the University of Melbourne and the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), which handle finances and controls and finances (e.g. Administrative Staff Conference);

(b) Those which the AVCC has agreed to advance or sponsor utilizing AVCC funds, and for which fees are pooled to reduce cost (e.g. Australian Universities Conferences);

(c) Those held between university staff with common interests, usually financial rather than general university matters (e.g. Committee of Librarians, Heads of Departments of Chemistry, University Counselors).

2. Groups are not to hold an inter-university meeting are asking to take place.

(a) Advise the Secretary, AVCC, of the nature of the meeting, the participants, and the type of meeting in terms of AVCC policy, (b) Make a formal approach to the AVCC for support if the meeting is in categories (a) or (b).

3. Inform all those being invited that the AVCC has been advised that it is, and the precise financial arrangements for AVCC poolings of fares, independent of AVCC.

4. To assist organisations and universities, the AVCC sends to individual AVCC meetings, the dates of time, public notices of inter-university meetings, the nature of the meeting, the participants, and the type of meeting in terms of AVCC policy.

5. Universities whose staff receive invitations should ensure that the meeting has been cleared with the AVCC and that the financial arrangements are clearly understood. If there is any doubt, it should be referred to the Secretary, AVCC.

6. If the AVCC rejects an application for sponsorship of a meeting, the organisers may choose whether to proceed on a different basis, or defer meeting for a subsequent approach to the AVCC. The AVCC is unlikely to support the holding of a particular inter-university meeting more than once in three years.

7. Organisers of inter-university meetings are asked to inform the AVCC of the financial arrangements:

— those not to be charged.

8. Inter-university meetings are asked to inform the AVCC of the financial arrangements:

— those to be charged.

June, 1973
Notes from the graduations

We may be tagged a colonial power

- Dr. Gunther warns

At the first May administration ceremony a former administrator of Papua New Guinea outlined how he believed Australia should approach the country's coming independence.

Dr. John Gunther said Australia must give Papua New Guinea symptomatic help, but not paternal help, for as long as it was wrong.

Dr. Gunther is a former Assistant Administrator of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea and he was foundation Vice-Chancellor of the University of Papua and New Guinea. He retired earlier this year as vice-chancellor.

Dr. Gunther gave the occasion an address at the economics and political graduation in Robert Blackwood Hall on May 4. He was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. (He quipped in his introduction that he did not want to talk about law. "They will suddenly frighten me, its followers frighten me, they are always so final," he said.)

Dr. Gunther made two suggestions on Australia's future attitude towards Papua New Guinea. The first was an ask, the second on how this aid should be used.

First, Australia should achieve grants-aid for Papua New Guinea of 1% of its GDP. He said succeeding Commonwealth governments had given lip service to the internationally accepted Large "of 1% but it had never been reached.

Australia's excuse that no other nation had achieved the target, either should not be allowed to be said, he said. A stable, prosperous neighbor would be in Australia's interest, he said, because "It would make a stronger friend and ally.

Second, Australia should reject the theory that the whole economic makeup of Papua New Guinea was indubitably bound to agriculture.

Papua New Guinea, he said, needed secondary industries especially of the labor-intensive kind. It would remain a poor nation unless its assets - power and human resources - were harnessed to the full.

"Australia should assist Papua New Guinea against preventing Papua New Guinea from competing in food technology. If Australia had a string attached to future aid, provided it be not paternal help, for as long as it was wrong."

Dr. Gunther noted that the various 'splitter' activities of public policy and private good will must be co-ordinated.

Mr. Merrild said his own collection would pass to the La Trobe Library.

"No secrecy is defensible"

Monash history professor, Professor A. G. L. Shaw, introduced Samuel Merrild to the May 16 Blackwood Hall audience by saying:

"The honorable Samuel Merrild is a citizen of Monooe Pond, and such provides a devastating answer to Barry Humphries and Mrs. Everside. He left school when only 10, but studied at night to matriculate, and later qualified as a licensed surveyor, of whose Institute he became Councillor, President, and Fellow."

Prof. Shaw then spoke about Mr. Merrild's contribution to the collection of historical records. He said a significant number of Monash staff and students were heavily indebted to the collection.

Prof. Shaw said in part:

"In 1946, a friend of John Milton, the London bookkeeper George Thoman, decided to try to collect every book and pamphlet then being published at a time of intense political excitement and controversy. In the next 20 years he accumulated nearly 22,000 pieces, many of which would have been ignored as radical rubbish, but which, to the intense gratification of scholars, were thus preserved, and are now in the library of the British Museum. "It is not, I think, improper to compare Sam Merrild's collection with that of Thoman. For Mr. Merrild has devoted himself to gathering together all the publications and documents which he feels are necessary to lay his hands on relating to the history of the Australian Labor movement, and has reaped an extraordinarily large harvest to make the collection in this area which is, in many respects, more comprehensive than that of any public institution. "In making this, he has spent much time and shown great imagination, and so have his associates in this; a new area of study in Labor history. This is the most significant contribution to learning that any one collector can make, and it is the achievement which distinguishes him as a great collector."

"Our collecting is not all, for collections can be, and are often, hidden from students and scholars, either because these people are a nuisance, or because they might discover some skeleton lurking in the slyly locked cupboard.

"To Sam Merrild, no investigator is a nuisance, and no secrecy is defensible in scholarship; his concern is only to help any one studying this most important aspect of Australian history by making available to them whatever they may wish to see from his remarkable store."

Michael — for the second time round

The University's first graduate from Monash for the second time last month, Brother Michael Lynch, graduated from the Bachelor of Education at the May 23 ceremony.

Brother Lynch, who is teaching at Saleaeian College, Chadstone, is a member of the Monash University Association. In 1964 economics students were so impressed by a ballot of the eleven economics examined that he and Brother Lynch became the first person to receive a degree.
IN April and May Monash had a number of visitors from Asian countries — from Indonesia, Japan and Bangladesh, for example.

An official of the government's Australian Information Service suggested that the spate of visitors might have something to do with the weather — not our weather but that of Europe.

He said it was still a little too early for the European summer so Asians were attracted to Australia. Each year at this time the AIS arranged tours for a number of Asian visitors.

One set of Monash visitors — the delegation from the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam — of course had nothing to do with the weather; only a change in the political climate.

**JAPAN**

Two journalists came — Dinesh Singh, editor-in-chief of the Indian journal, "Round Table", and Christiano Wobisino, managing editor of the Jakarta current affairs weekly, "Tempo". Mr. Singh met Herb Feith and Max Teichmann from the politics department and Mr. Wobisino had discussions with staff from the Centre for South East Asian Studies.

Other visitors included the parents of Crown Princess Michiko of Japan who was recently in Australia with her husband, Crown Prince Akihito.

The Reporter presents a pictorial record of some of the visitors...

**INDONESIA**

ABOVE: On May 9 Japanese businessman Hidehisa Shoda, and his wife, visited the Japanese department, and had informal meeting tea with staff and students. Mr. and Mrs. Shoda are the parents of Crown Princess Michiko, who, by coincidence, was on an official government tour of Australia at the time. Mr. Shoda is managing director of Nisshin Flour Milling Co. Ltd., and chairman of the exchange sub-committee of the Australia-Japan Business Corporation Committee.

**BANGLADESH**

ABOVE: Professor Ida Singa Mantra, director-general of culture in the Indonesian education department, and professor at Udayana University, Bali, lectured at a May seminar of the Centre of South East Asian Studies. He talks with students from left John Inglesea, a PhD student in Indonesian history, Putu Kompiang, a Balinese engineering student, and Yaji Bawak, a PhD student in politics from Tokyo.

RIGHT: Professor M. N. Huda, head of the economics department, and Mrs. Huda, senior lecturer in economics, Dacca University, Bangladesh, visited Monash in April, and were the guests of Professor W. A. G. Scott, Pro-Vice-Chancellor. Professor and Mrs. Huda visited Australia under a Department of Foreign Affairs overseas visitors program.

June, 1973

MONASH OBSERVATORY, page 3
SAFE DRIVING IS REWARDED

Monash drivers are safe... official drivers, at least.

Last month eight University drivers were awarded certificates for safe driving by the Victorian division of the National Safety Council of Australia.

The eight drove for 10 months or more last year without a hashmaper accident. By the rules they had to have driven at least 2000 miles — the Monash drivers averaged 12,000 miles last year.

The drivers are: Rodney Dickson, Kevin Grace, Russell Hall, Frederick Morgan, Kevin Perry, Frank Smith, Ernest Waley, and Robert Wright. In the picture above the Deputy Commander presents an award to Mr. Dickson.

Both certificates were awarded under the council's annual "Freedom From Accidents Program.

This campaign is open to all persons who have been continuously employed as drivers by commercial or other organisations for 13 months from the date of entry each year. The drivers must be nominated by their employers.

DIARY OF EVENTS

JUNE

6: Lecture "Mental and Physical Health of University Students", by Dr. J. Garner, Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Melbourne. sponsored by the Monash University Society. Admission: 6.00. Memorial Union Lecture Theatre.

21: Performance of "Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5", by the Monash University Symphony Orchestra. Sponsored by the University of Melbourne. Admission: 1.00. Memorial Union Lecture Theatre.


MUSIC

Indonesian gamelan

Monash's gamelan teacher, Mr. Peledjuno, from Bali, will be returning to the University early this month. This year he will be teaching staff and students on the music department's new 16-piece gamelan.

The gamelan was purchased with the help of proceeds raised at concerts given by last year's classes. Last year about 100 people learned to play the various percussion, bowed and wind instruments.

Clubs will cater for both beginners and advanced level people. Times will be arranged at a meeting this Thursday, June 7, at 1:30 p.m., in room 108 of the music department, Music Building.

US pianist in RBH

American pianist Richard Goode, will give two performances in Robert Blackwood Hall this month.

On Tuesday, June 5, at 8:15 p.m., Goode will take part in a chamber music concert, including works by Mozart, Schumann, and Paume. On Wednesday, June 13, at 8:15 p.m., he will give a piano recital, including works by Bach and Beethoven.

Both performances are by the Australian Society for Keyboard Music. Admission is $2.50 adults, $1 students, and 50c children.

Chamber orchestra

The Monash Chamber Orchestra has been re-formed.

Any staff member or student interested in joining should contact Leslie Howard or Jonathan Harris of the music department on ext. 3352. The orchestra conducts rehearsals at 7 p.m. on Thursday in room 1103 of the Membeis Building.

Here's a money-saver...

Staff and students can save money — and ease the pressure on the parking areas — by taking out shared car-parking permits.

Those in the group of driver-passengers who take turns in driving to the University, each using the one parking permit, which is transferable from one car to another. All that is required is the payment of one parking fee and a list of the cars to which the permit may be attached.

In this way, groups can save money on parking fees, petrol and car maintenance. Many students have already taken advantage of the system, but it is felt that it could be more widely used.

To move another to relocate parking, the Parking Committee has appealed to staff to park their cars in areas as close as possible to the buildings in which they work.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Academic Registrar's department has been advised of the following scholarships.

The Reporter presents a précis of the details. More information can be obtained from the Academic Registrar.


In the Usual Advertisement

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