Native plant extract for "Pill"...

MONASH SCIENCE TEAM SUPPORTS NEW DRUG INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA

A Monash scientific team believes that Australia should develop its own oral contraceptive industry and stop importing the "Pill" from overseas.

The scientists are preparing a submission to send to the heads of government and Industry which will outline the costs involved and urge the establishment of an Australian steroid drug industry.

The industry could also manufacture drugs for other medical purposes, for example cortisone.

The team involved is Professor John Swan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and former professor of organic chemistry at Monash, Dr. Frank Eastwood, reader in organic chemistry and Dr. David Colless, a senior research fellow in chemistry.

Steroid drugs are the active constituents of oral contraceptives. They are largely manufactured from steroid raw materials obtained from plants.

The scientists claim that the industry is feasible in Australia because it would be based on a native plant—one of the many solanum species which grows widely throughout Australia.

Extraction of some solanum species yields the alkaloid solasodine, a steroid which is used as the raw material in one of the two major contraceptive manufacturing processes.

At Monash, the scientists are conducting research on solanum plants in conjunction with the Wallis Agricultural Research Institute of Adelaide and the Division of Applied Organic Chemistry of the CSIRO.

The research work is aimed at determining which solanum plant is best suited, both in agricultural and chemical terms, to the extraction of solasodine, or a related steroid.

It is being financed by the Rural Credits Development Fund of the Reserve Bank. Several major companies in Australia have shown interest in the work.

Professor Swan has just returned from three months study leave in Queensland and NSW, where he collected solanum plants, including many species that had not been analysed before.

On Cape York he found one species which had not been previously recorded in Australia, and he rediscovered two species which had not been collected for more than 100 years.

He said there were over 80 native and 30 introduced species of solanum plants in Australia. Well-known species are Solanum tuberosum (the potato) and Solanum aavaleae (the kangaroo apple).

One species, Solanum lacinatum, was collected in Australia by Russian scientists about 10 years ago, taken back to Russia and cultivated, and is now used for the steroid drug industry of Russia and Eastern Europe. (The Russian interest in the Australian plant is illustrated by the stamp reproduced above.)

The Monash scientists said that Australia was totally dependent on overseas pharmaceutical companies for its supply of oral contraceptives, hormones, cortisone and other steroid drugs.

They estimated that this year one million women in Australia were using oral contraceptives. The total annual cost was about $15 million—a little more than the $16 million wholesale cost and about $6 million retail profit.

The sale of corticosteroid drugs for medical purposes added about another $15 million. Thus the total retail cost of steroidal materials in 1974 is about $50 million.

If Australia was to develop its own steroid industry, the scientists say that the economics of the total process would allow an adequate financial return to those growing and harvesting the crop and to the associated chemical industry.

Such a project would give a powerful impetus to the creation of a technologically advanced chemical industry in Australia and should lead to earnings through the export of a continuously useful and salable commodity.

The Monash team believes that within a few years about 100 million women throughout the world will be using the pill and there is already a world shortage of materials for the manufacture of oral contraceptive steroids.

To meet the Australian demand and the potential export market, a scale of operation of 5000 to 10,000 acres under cultivation could be envisaged, the scientists say.
Change in 1975 quotas proposed for sociology

The Faculty of Arts has recommended tighter quotas in sociology to the Professorial Board which meets next Wednesday (October 30).

If approved by the Professorial Board and Council the quotas would affect first, second and third year sociology in 1975.

The intake in first year would drop from 450 to 350 in second year and it would be 340 instead of 380 and in third year a quota of 150 would be introduced. In fourth year and for post-graduate work there would be no increase in student numbers.

In a notice this month to all sociology students, the department chairman, Professor W. N. Scott, said the reason for the reduced quotas could be stated simply — lack of staff.

The sociology tenure staff have for some years carried teaching loads well in excess of faculty norms," Prof. Scott said.

"We are now in a position where we are still a number of staff short of our entitlement, but, because of the present 'freeze' on staffing, can see no prospect of making up this deficiency.

"But, the market for sociology staff is, of course, booming, and most of my senior colleagues could readily take positions elsewhere — with promotion and with lower teaching and administrative loads.

"If, therefore, these restrictions were not imposed, I would expect to lose staff — and who could blame them? The result of this, I am convinced, is that restrictions much more severe than those now imposed would be necessary.

"I believe that most students appreciate the staff have pulled out all the stops during the past four years to take as many students as possible. Regrettably, for the reason stated, a halt must be called.

"Prof. Scott said that the quotas would, as ever, be administered as sympathetically as possible, but clearly a number of students who expected to proceed must be excluded.

"We are looking at the driving patterns of all potential drivers," he said. "Not just those involved in accidents or those who have consumed alcohol.

"Later, however, the study may look at the behaviour of other drivers, for example how far their driving habits resemble those of driver education.

"We are concerned that the behaviour leading to accidents was not yet well understood. It was clear that a number of accidents occur at intersections, but the exact events leading up to the accidents are not documented.

The University's three-year road user behaviour study is now in its first phase with an examination of drivers' behaviour at an intersection where the majority of accidents occur.

The study is being carried out by a five-member research team from the Department of Psychology.

The research is primarily looking at the extent to which drivers conform to formal (legal) and informal road rules which operate at intersections.

The informal rules cover such aspects as give way to the heavier or faster vehicle, and the strategies that occur when more than two cars approach an intersection at the same time.

The team is also examining factors determining drivers' first, second and third year strategies at an intersection, speed variation, lane keeping, and the gaps that drivers allow between traffic.

The study will lead to recommendations on priority systems, the legal traffic code, traffic engineering, and even recommendations about vehicle construction.

It is being financed by one of the largest research grants ever to come to Monash University and $50000 was awarded by the Australian Department of Transport.

The work is being supervised by Professor Ron Cumming and carried out by a team within the department. Part-time workers on the project are Prof. Cumming and Dr. Tom Triggs, while those full-time are Dr. Robert McKeffer (recently arrived from the U.S.) research assistant Philip Quinton and technical officer Bill Mars.

The team is also working closely with the Department of Transport on road safety sections.

The first phase is expected to take about a year, and the full study will then stretch another two years.

Dr. Triggs said one pilot study had been carried out so far, at an intersection in Sandringham and an intersection in Elwood. The main aims of the research is to determine which types of driver behaviour could be recorded by cameras and which need to be recorded systematically by other means.

The team is now examining Victorian accident statistics from the Road Safety and Research Authority and in order to identify intersections with a high concentration of accidents at a number of areas will then be selected for a more detailed analysis of statistical and anecdotal data.

The team has a station wagon and has ordered a Nova camera which can be carried in the back of the car, for processing information on the spot.

Data will be collected on both co-operative and competitive behaviour between drivers. In situations without traffic lights will be a primary interest. Dr. Triggs said alcohol was the greatest factor in poor road-user behaviour, but was not within the study's brief to look specifically at this problem.

"We are looking at the driving patterns of all potential drivers," he said. "Not just those involved in accidents or those who have consumed alcohol.

"Later, however, the study may look at the behaviour of other drivers, for example how far their driving habits resemble those of driver education.

"We are concerned that the behaviour leading to accidents was not yet well understood. It was clear that a number of accidents occur at intersections, but the exact events leading up to the accidents are not documented.

Accidents at intersections: major study under way

Summer School films

The Monash Film Group will hold a series of eight films by Spanish-born film maker Luis Bunuel as part of the coming Monash Summer School.

The films which will be introduced by a variety of media and film lecturers will include "The Exterminating Angel", "Bell de Jour", "Viridiana" and "Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie".

The collection of films represents all Bunuel films currently available in Australia.

Bunuel, who has been making films for more than 40 years, has a reputation for daring imagery and for biting attacks on the Church and State and on wealth and privilege.

The season which begins on January 16 and ends on February 11 will be in the Alexander Theatre. A season ticket will cost $8. The film group last year held its first Summer School film season with works by Vangaost.

More details are available from Tim Blakely, Monash Film Group, ext. 3142. See page 7 of this issue for more on the Summer School.

Staff Association resolutions

A special general meeting of the Staff Association of Monash University was held on Monday, assessment protests and related police onto the Monash campus.

About 80 members attended carried:

1. We believe that rational discussion as a way of resolving differences of opinion in an academic community is desirable.

2. We endorse the principle (reaffirmed by the Professorial Board on 25.9.74) that departments "be informed by consultations with students" in matters relating to course content and assessment.

3. We further endorse the Board's call for "immediate steps to examine the existing machinery for consultation between students and teaching staff and to make improvements where they may be needed."

4. We believe, therefore, that there is an onus on members of this Association to encourage active and to participate in discussion between teaching staff and students on these matters at all levels.

November, 1974

Photo: Australian Tourist Commission.
**PROFILE OF A MONASH STUDENT**

**Students entering Monash are predominately males under 19, who live in the metropolitan area, were born in Australia, have some religious beliefs, do not hold a scholarship, and have fathers in professional or managerial occupations.**

There are marked enrolment differences between faculties. For example, the professional faculties of Engineering, Medicine and Law are least representative with higher single enrolment at the University being female Arts students.

- **Sex:** Males enrolling outnumbered females 3 to 2. In the faculties of Engineering, Law and Medicine, they outnumbered females by 5 to 2 or more. In Arts, however, females outnumbered males by 3 to 1.
- **Age:** Students aged 18 or less made up 78% of the enrolment. Medicine had the most youthful enrolment (47% under 19), while older students tended to enrol in Arts, Ecops and Law. There were no students over 29 enrolling in either Medicine or Engineering.

**Socio-economic background:** Over 70% described their father's occupation as professional or managerial, while 9% said clerical, 9% craftsmen or semi-skilled, 4% shop assistants, and 4% unskilled or labourers. Law and Medicine had the highest proportion of students from professional or managerial backgrounds, and Arts and Ecops the lowest.

- **Country of birth:** Nearly 90% of students enrolling were born in Australia, New Zealand or the U.K., 4% were born in Asia, and 6% in other countries. Asian students in terms of their overall representation enrolled strongly in Engineering and Medicine. Non-British born migrants were most poorly represented in Medicine and best represented in Engineering and Science.

- **First language of student:** Overall 85% of students spoke English as their first language. The figure was lowest for Engineering enrolments (75%) where Asian born students and non-English speaking migrants were best represented at the University.

Religion: Catholics made up the largest group of new students (21%), while Christians the smallest group (13%). Those professing "no faith" made up 20%. Catholic students were found mostly to enrol in Law (36%) or Arts (27%). Jewish students were best represented in Medicine and Ecops.

- **Students with no faith were represented evenly across all faculties.**

**Type of school:** Most came from state schools (69%), then independent schools (22%) and Catholic schools (19%).

**Of the 18% who attended private schools, 12% were enrolled in the professional faculties of Engineering, Medicine and Law.**

**Ages:** 7% were over 25 and 18% were enrolled in the professional faculties of Engineering, Medicine and Law. They had the most youthful enrolment females to males (3:2). In the faculties of Engineering and Medicine, they had the most youthful enrolment females to males (3:2). In Arts, however, females outnumbered males by 3 to 1.

**Employment of father:** Professional and managerial students (50%) were more likely to enter Science (where they made up 58% of the entrants) and were poorly represented in Medicine and Law. Catholic school students were best represented in Law, independent-school students were best represented in Medicine (67%) and Law (56%).

**Locality of school:** Most students were from metropolitan schools (71%) with 10% from rural schools and 4% from provincial cities. Students from country schools were most likely to enter Engineering and Science, and least likely to enter Medicine.

**Scholarships:** The majority had no scholarship (53%), while 23% had Commonwealth scholarships and 19% had scholarships. Medical students had most Commonwealth scholarships (50%) while, predictably, Arts had the highest proportion of scholarships.

**Source of students' living allowance:** 29% of students said they received no living allowance; 39% received allowances from their parents. Arts students were least likely to have a living allowance from any source; Engineering students were most likely to be supported by their parents.

**Tuition fees:** For about $6 a head, Monash could cover an excellent barouche service, drinks, administrative expenses, and the provision of an overhead projector and screen if needed.

If the weather was bad, alternative arrangements would be available indoors.

Older aged students are least likely to enter the scientific faculties. These are some of the features of a profile of students entering Monash last year. It has been compiled by Anne Smurthwaite, a research assistant in the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit.

The profile was based on questionnaires filled out by students when they enrolled. The information, which has been collected annually by HEARS since 1969, was confidential and has been kept anonymous.

Here are some of the main findings ...
A mathematical sequence?

Sir,

Assessment ... occupation ... arrest ... withdrawal ... discussion ... answer.

This would be a very proper sequence.

If the University recognised that its action 30 years later complaints about assessment had been quite inadequate.

There is an old English saying that he who fights and runs away, will fight another day.

One wonders whether the University has not made a strategic retreat knowing full well that occupation is only 33 years and discussion can easily occur before there is a new generation of students.

This attitude could be taken if the University could find that about as good as it could be, or if it just couldn't care less about assessment.

In either case we can look forward to a repetition of the cycle — with variations — every generation.

A consultative congress formed in history

Sir,

Following a series of meetings between staff and students a consultative congress to discuss and to make recommendations on course content and assessment will be established in History.

The sequence of events and the decisions were as follows:

A general meeting of students and staff of the History department to discuss assessment was held on Tuesday, October 3. After an hour’s discussion it was decided to call another meeting to frame a working paper.

The second meeting was held on Monday, October 7, and after further discussion a small committee of three students, Mr. M. Prashok, Mr. S. Morgan and Mr. S. Rosenbluth and one member of staff, Mr. P. Clarke, was given the task of drawing up the paper. This was considered by the History department at its staff meeting on October 11. And minor amendments were suggested to the paper.

Another general meeting of students and staff on Thursday, October 15, adopted the following resolutions arising from the proposals of the working paper:

1. A consultative congress of the History staff and students shall be established, open to all students enrolled for History courses at Monash University and all members of the staff of the School of History at Monash University History Department.

2. (a) The purpose of the congress shall be to discuss and make recommendations on course content and assessment, and (b) Further, it shall be open to the congress to make proposals or suggestions for change in the course of study or for other appropriate bodies, related to the main body of the congress, and the proposals or suggestions taken up by the congress.

3. The first meeting of the congress shall be held within the first three weeks of the term of the University. Subsequent meetings shall take place at least once every term. Additional meetings may be called by the congress on notice in writing on or before the term of office of at least 10 members.

4. The first meeting of the congress a committee shall be elected by the meeting. The size of the committee shall be determined by the congress, and decided at the first meeting of the congress.

5. The function of the congress shall be as follows:

(a) To arrange the meetings and to elect the chairmen of the meetings.
(b) To preside over meetings of the congress.
(c) To submit a statement of the proposals made by the congress to the Chairmen of the department.
(d) To attend the staff meeting of the History department following a statement of the congress, and to participate in the discussions of the staff meeting.
(e) The History department shall undertake to give serious consideration to the resolutions and motions of the congress, and to take appropriate action.

Professor Alan McIvor, History.

Dr. Simonow retires

Sir,

Dr. Agnes Simonow has retired from the Monash University School of History as head of the filing section.

Mr. Douglas Bishop, formerly of the archives section of the State Library, has been appointed as the new filing officer.

Administrative officers of all ranks and students flocked to the Monash University History depart­ment, curriculum on Friday, September 27, to bid farewell to Dr. Simonow, who has been appointed as the new filing officer.

The letter was addressed to the Vice-Chancellor and was delivered to his office on the day that the "Lot’s Wife" article appeared.

Since no further issues of "Lot’s Wife" will appear this year, the Reporter has agreed to reproduce the following reply to the signatories of the letter.

Dear —

When I acknowledged the letter from you and some others in your Department the other day I was not aware that it had been sent to "Lot’s Wife" before it had reached me; this was just in accordance with normal courtesy.

It was perhaps hardly to be expected that the Editor of "Lot’s Wife" would answer the operators’ reply to the same issue but as this was the last mailing for this year it could have been the last printed word on a difficult and unpleasant episode.

The article contains a number of misrepresentations which certainly call for comment and which, I think, have been asked for in "The Reporter".

Your letter makes four main points.

In the first you refer to "police intervention in the dispute between the University’s Professorial Board and the Monash University Teachers’ Association:

You choose to ignore the fact that examinations and assessment are the business of faculties and departments and not the History department.

Further, I thought it was obvious that such a university building is not a convenient place for students to conduct a dispute with anyone.

When, in the end, police were called to clear the hall, the students were sent down and I think that was unjustified.

My offer to withdraw in the dispute between the University’s Professorial Board and the Monash University Teachers’ Association was accepted by the former.

In the last you refer to the necessity of a committee or on the petition of at least once every term. Additional meetings may be called by the congress on notice in writing on or before the term of office of at least 10 members.

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ARTS DEPARTMENTS COMMENT ON MAS ASSESSMENT PROPOSALS

TEN departments in the Faculty of Arts have commented on a number of MAS proposals on assessment and related issues.

The proposals proposed at an MAS meeting in June involved optional forms of assessment, student control of assessment, distinctions between pass and honors, publication of results, and the pass and grading of students.

The Dean of Arts, Professor Gary Mountford, reported to this month's Arts Faculty Board meeting that there was general agreement among the ten departments that there should be optional forms of assessment and student control of assessment. Further, the final decision on what forms were offered should rest with the department.

Professor Mountford said that the departments agreed that admission to honors courses should be less restrictive.

Five of the seven departments which commented in detail on the publishing of results agreed that results should be confidential to the individual student, but all felt that official records needed to be kept.

Professor Mountford said that no department would concede that students should decide course content and structure, but it was generally agreed that students should be consulted as fully as possible.

He said there was little support for the complete abolition of classes and grades. No department could suggest how the concept of failure could be abolished - at least in the units which counted towards the degree students would need to obtain a pass.

Detailed comments by history and geography

The detailed comments from two departments, history and geography, were published in the Arts faculty board papers this month.

In introductory comments the geography department said that it believed the majority of its students supported, in a general way, the present points concerning the structure and the geography of undergraduate degrees.

"Most of the students we meet are quite content to work within a system where academic merit is respected and rewarded, where a degree from this institution is accepted by society as an indication that a student has passed certain minimum standards," the department said.

The history department said its paper summed up the views of a majority of staff but did not represent the views of all. The department hoped the paper would be a basis for discussion with students.

History urged the introduction of an unassessed degree alongside the existing assessed degree, and sympathy was expressed for students within the system who wished to take a university course without undergoing a process of formal assessment.

Geography said that there was merit in the suggestion that students should have the option of not being assessed in a subject if they so desired, so long as subjects in which a student has not been assessed do not make it compulsory to have fulfilled degree requirements.

"Audit" a unit

"It should be possible for a student to 'audit' a unit (subject) without enrolling quite openly to purify his own interest without being forced to accept a failing mark on his record if he chooses not to be assessed," geography said.

History said that the policy of admission to the honors degree should be liberalised, initially for a trial period, to admit all students who applied for admission at the end of their year. The previously stated interest and sustained effort and evidence of supervision tutors for the student's application.

History said: "Regular consultation with students on the content and structure of courses is desirable, but, primarily for educational and practical reasons, final decisions should continue to be made by the department."

Similarly, both departments would be keen to give students complete say on how they should be assessed.

Geography commented that while accepting that a mixture of forms of assessment was desirable, the responsibility for the proportions of the total mark allotted to each form of work rested with teacher. Further, it may not be in the best interest of the student or of the society to allow a student to demonstrate his competence only in the form he thought most advantageous to himself.

History said that while some choice may be made available, and students should be consulted regularly, the final decision on methods of assessment must rest in the department.

No end to grading

Neither department could see an end to grading.

History said that although it did not want to encourage the spirit of competition between students, it considered that the award of classes of honors, or of grades of credit and distinction, was a desirable practice as it gave students an opportunity to try to account their teachers' evaluation in assessment of their own performance.

Geography maintained that students attending the same tutorials could be highly intelligent, or both, were entitled to the recognition that differentiated marks represented.

"So long as admission of professionalism into the world of education is not made unconditional and is not directly linked to grades, or to the recognition of the importance of marks for distinctive, creditable, and passing performances to be differentiated," history said.

Exam changes in English courses

Changes have been made to the end of year examination procedure in first year English, to the end of year examination and student meetings during the past fortnight.

The alterations add to the options open to students but do not mean that students have been abolished.

In first year English the students may now either sit for an examination or submit two short essays by the date of the examination, November 28.

In second year pass students may do an additional essay in the place of an examination.

In second year honors, as there are already four essays, the alternative to the examination will involve a national tuition assessment plus a short oral test. (Students could do a fifth essay if they so desired).

The wrong title

In last month's issue, The Reporter incorrectly gave Mr. Bryan Sulivan from the education faculty the wrong title. He is lecturer in education not deputy head of the faculty.

Shorter courses advocated by Careers Office

SERIOUS thought should be given to the introduction of shorter university courses, the Monash Careers and Appointments Office said this month.

The Office believes that after a course of four years, students should be able to evaluate their position and either proceed to more study or seek employment.

The October II "Careers Weekly" said that the most far-reaching change in the academic process of the future was most likely to be in the structure of courses.

"Many of the courses provided now have their structural origins in a previous, and thus somewhat unfamiliar."

There was a growing body of opinion that students should be credited for successful completion in any year of more than two years.

On the average, two years at the university each student would review his plans, and it was possible to enter the labor market at a much younger age.

"Many students who now complete degree studies in five years would do it in four, and many would be happier in that situation," said the Office.

"Mass tertiary education has changed this and in doing so has rendered obsolete the degree structures with which we are now familiar."

The Office said that this kind of structural pattern had been rewarded in various ways in recent years, and he was not sure that any criteria would be better in some overseas universities.

It was observed that existing curricula were designed for recurrent education, and introduced the possibility of great flexibility in content and of course objective. It was worthy of serious thought.

The Office praised the introduction of shorter courses, and said that students at Monash and elsewhere had been more positive efforts should be made to encourage students to have work experience before entering university, or to do other things during the course, or both. Periods of longer than one year, maybe up to three years, could be considered.

The Office also said that there seemed to be a need to reduce the emphasis on the acquisition of certification through formal higher education. Assessment for admission to professions or for professional qualification could well be based on other grounds than a mandatory formal qualification.

Further, there was merit in the proposition that school leavers should be allowed to accumulate credits and qualifications which should have limited currency. For instance, qualifications could be withdrawn after, say, ten years and re-awarded only if renewed every 20 years or a year of formal re-

Exams H.S.C. - two opinions on page 10

MONASH REPORTER 5 November, 1974
The Institute would assist the Commonwealth Parliament in its legislative role - it has benefited!'

The planning committee was established by the Royal Society of Victoria.

Prof. Swan says that although an Institute of Marine Science has recently been established in Townsville, it is extremely important that one also be established on the southern coast of Australia.

This is because of the different nature of marine sciences in a tropical area like Townsville, and a temperate one like Victoria, and because of the serious shortage of people trained in all aspects of marine science.

The Institute would assist the universities and colleges in the training of a wide range of marine scientists, including biological scientists who would study the plants and animals of the sea, and the sea shores, people specialising in physical and chemical oceanography, marine geology, marine engineering, coastal engineering, underwater exploration (especially for oil, coal and other minerals), and scientists studying problems of erosion and pollution adjacent to the sea.

Monash would use the Institute to train students and to carry out research, and as an exchange center for information between Victorian scientists and those from interstate and overseas.

At present Monash has nowhere over the past four years, and is keen to see it established on a site where final decisions have not yet been made on the site, or whether the Commonwealth Government at Portsea. and keen to see it established on a site where final decisions have not yet been made on the site, or whether the Commonwealth Government at Portsea.

One corn flake

The corn flakes packet was transparent and would allow a buyer to see that the package contains just exactly one corn flake. This was appropriate to Professor Street's association with the Interim Commission on Consumer Standards, which among other things is concerned with deceptive packaging.

As well as the working kit, there was also an ANU recreation kit im mediately below the central Monash crest.

The 1961 vintage helium illustrated the life blood of the department - its research interest in temperature physics and liquid helium. The model cryostat actually contained some molecules of the original helium that was injected into physics in 1961.

Street's Home Brew

And finally "Street's Home Brew". The plimsole lines on the beer mugs illustrated a standard capacity - the use of plimsole lines on beer glasses has at one stage a hot topic of concern within the department. "The fact that the shield has many parts to it reflects the fact that Bob Street is a man of many parts and, indeed, it is this spread of activities which has enhanced the Department of Physical Sciences in Australia since 1960.

Professor Bill Rachinger, professor of experimental physics, explained the significance of the decorations on the shield to the 170 or so people who attended Professor Street's farewell.
NEW UNIVERSITY CLUB

Enrolments open for the Monash Summer School '74-'75

STUDENT enrolments for the annual Monash Summer School opened last week.

The general public and Monash staff will be able to enrol from Thursday, November 7.

The courses cover a wide variety of activities including music, languages, dance, art, crafts and sport. Details are available in the booklet "Summer Sources" which was published last week by the Monash Summer Group.

As outlined in last month's Reporter, this year the Summer School will be broadened to attract people to the campus for various events other than just courses, and to allow Summer School participants to do more than one course.

Discussion groups

In line with this policy, a bus will be purchased to take art and craft activities out into the local area, a series of jazz concerts will be held, the Folk Song and Dance Society of Victoria will hold an evening of English, Irish, Scottish and Australian folk dances, and discussion groups will be organised on medicine, and education, and by the Community Research Action Centre.

WORK will start early next year on the new $400,000 Monash University Club.

The club, which will be built just north of the Religious Centre, should be ready for use in 1976.

The president of the club, Mr Warren Mann, from the Careers and Appointments Office, said that a questionnaire would soon be sent to members asking them to outline their demand for various facilities.

"We plan to have three types of eating facilities - outdoor cook-it-yourself, quick service, and table waitress service," Mr Mann said.

He said that membership of the club would remain the same - staff, both academic and non-academic, and postgraduate students.

The club had been planning this move for about seven years, he said. The club's existing facilities will be used by the Union. One thought is to convert the area into a bistro with a BYO licence - similar to the bistros at the University of Melbourne.

If State licensing laws are amended, then the Union will be able to obtain a licence which would allow limited bar facilities for use by all Union members, both academic and staff.

To this end the three Victorian universities have made submissions to the Chief Secretary about a proposed amendment to the Liquor Control Act which would enable university Unions to sell and supply liquor under certain conditions.

Atwell concert draws a large audience

Robert Blackwood Hall is delighted with the recent concert by the popular "Queen of the keyboard," Winifred Atwell. The concert, which was presented by J. C. Williamson Theatres, drew a near capacity house.

Winifred Atwell played a wide range of music from the popular classics through to old favorites and modern day hits.

She received a five minute standing ovation at the end of the night. The BBM management says it was the best concert for 1974.

The hall has two more bookings for this year - a program of negro spirituals and gospel music with The Proclaimers on Friday, November 29, and a choral concert of Christmas music by the National Boys' Choir on Saturday, December 14.

It is hoped to increase the number of regular concerts next year and names being mentioned at the moment are Rod McKuen, Randy Newman, Warren ("Alf Garnett") Mitchell, and Blood, Sweat and Tears.

Indonesian music

Also in line for Monash next year is an Indonesian music and drama group which will be in Melbourne from March 3 to 8 as part of Moomba. They will be performing at the New National Theatre in St. Kilda.

It is hoped the group will come to Monash during Orientation Week and play with the gamelan orchestra of the Department of Music.

The club's existin, facilities will be

Enrolments open for the Monash Summer School '74-'75

STUDENT enrolments for the annual Monash Summer School opened last week.

The general public and Monash staff will be able to enrol from Thursday, November 7.

The courses cover a wide variety of activities including music, languages, dance, art, crafts and sport. Details are available in the booklet "Summer Sources" which was published last week by the Monash Summer Group.

The book, which contains enrolment forms, is available from the Clubs and Societies Office, first floor, Union, or from the ground floor inquiry desk.

Students are asked to call at the Clubs and Societies Office in person with their ID card when enrolling. This year they will receive a 10% discount on all course fees.

Some of the new courses are square dancing, puppet theatre, bookkeeping, workshops for jazz and folk, picture framing and judo for women.

One highlight in January will be a week for women called "Getting Together" which will consist of practical and creative activities, discussions, workshops and films, for women only.

Another highlight will be a creative workshop for children throughout January which will not only allow parents to attend other courses, but also entertain and instruct children.

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Discussion groups

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A participant in last year's Monash Summer School.
The army pacifies, the technocrats manage, while the mass of society participates. The monadism on political activity by villagers demanded by the name of the "cattailing masses", and the declining welfare of the poor majority inside the "international level" influence of the elite, is a form of participation in which most are included out.

Mr Ward doesn't take the argument quite that far. But he concludes by reaching the right conclusion: "the ideals of Indonesia's own revolutionaries might be more completely conceptualised in the local ummat (community) of believers." The primary source of this confusion is the elite of political influence. Mr Ward's work is critical, postmodernist reporting in the tradition of the Cornell approach to Indonesian studies.

And that is good, if nothing else: since claims to authenticity, especially to the popular, are given, social relations are described, not analysed. More importantly, representativeness is assumed, just as in the model of Weber's ideal type. Thus Indonesia's elite represents Indonesia, just as the Monash Provincial Board represents the University. Participation in such a context can not be considered, much less explained. We thus have every sympathy for such an elite experiencing "success," as in Mr Ward's account of the 1971 Indonesian election, but we know less of those merely participating.

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**The Alexander Theatre Company — an appraisal**

**THIS WEEK** the Alexander Theatre Company finishes its first season at Monash and announces plans for the future.

The company, the first resident professional group at Monash, was a mixed success in its first season. Its successes and failures are important for Monash as the University, taking over the company, is trying to encourage theatre in this part of Melbourne and to provide an alternative to theatre in the city.

Its first two plays, Spike Milligan's "Puckoon" and "Under Milk Wood" by Dylan Thomas, were excellent fare and played to full houses most nights. And the critics' reviews were kind, even to have the critics recognise the company and attend was half the battle as they have been loath to come all the way to Monash in the past.

The third play, "Signalman's Apprentice" did well, though not as well as its predecessors. The disaster was D. H. Lawrence's "The Daughter in Law" which was generally praised and a hit with audiences, but with only a little point in its being staged.

**Return to comedy**

The fifth play, "The Wonderful Ice-Cream Suit", is a return to comedy. It is a pantomime entertainment and ends next Saturday. As always the set is good and the acting creditable, but it lacks development of a real play and ends with a dangerous routine and an attempt to become a lark's entertainment.

On balance the amalgamation of the Alexander Theatre and the Players Caravan, whose members founded the new company, has proved worthwhile and encouraging. (The ver-satility of the actors should be mentioned — the need to handle five different accents in five plays is an example.)

But perhaps the plays could be more carefully chosen, especially in the company's formative years when first impressions will be decisive. An overall impression is that the plays, especially the last two, have not let the company display its full potential.

One challenge that the company faced and always will face is to use effectively a theatre that was designed for a multitude of uses, not just theatre. The plays that succeeded, like "Puckoon" and "Under Milk Wood", used the whole stage and had constant movement.

The company's artistic director, Don McKay, believes that the company has achieved what it set out to do — offer good and varied theatre for adults, children and for educational purposes.

He said that "Under Milk Wood", as a play for senior school audiences and for the public, had been a great success. It will tour north-east Victoria and Gippsland from November 11 under the auspices of the Arts Council of Australia. The full company, plus stage manager and technicians will make the tour.

The children's shows had also done well, Mr McKay said. "The Magic Theatre Show", an introduction to theatre for primary school children, was so popular that eight more performances would be held next week.

And what of the future? In December and February the company will tour Melbourne. "The Storybook Show" will be taken to schools and shopping centres and "The World of Henry Lawson" will be performed at the next year's Sunbury Pop Festival.

In January the company will stage the University's annual pantomime. The Alexander Theatre commissioned playwrights Peter Pinne and Don McKay to write a pantomime for its actors and a chorus of children.

The result is called "The Shoemaker and the Elves". It will be first time the Monash pantomime has been fully professional.

The evening season for next year is still being decided although the first play will be "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead!", a modern play commenting on Shakespeare's "Hamlet". It will be of special interest to H.S.C. students and to Monash English students.

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**Director of Student Theatre — Andrew Ross**

AFTER ONLY two weeks in the job, Andrew Ross, Monash's new Director of Student Theatre is already building up his ideas and calling for helpers.

Andrew, a drama and film teacher, replaces Nigel Tippett, who has started his own touring company called the Yellow Brick Road.

Last year, while teaching at Vermont High, Andrew directed two plays at Monash — "Girl Pig Hat" (part of the Trugenini trilogy) and the children's play "Sploosh!" This year he directed "Bacchus," also for Monash Players.

Andrew is now organising a student theatre tour next February to south-west Victoria.

**Library social night**

The Monash Library Social Club will hold an evening of melodrama, a quiz and a buffet dinner in the Alexander Theatre, from 5 p.m. on Monday, November 11.

Taking part in the melodrama, "The poor little mill girl", will be Adrian Turner, Kelr Leverett, Keith Alker, Don Francis, Helense Shaw and Ross Phillips. Also on the programme is an item entitled "The bevy of freshmen couldn't even tie".

Admission will be $2 for non-members of the Library Social Club.
ASSESSMENT: TWO VIEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

As indicated by pages four and five of this issue and the last issue, assessment and examinations have become an important topic at Monash recently. The question has also arisen elsewhere. Below, the Vice-Chancellor at the University of Melbourne defends the H.S.C. exam from attacks by the VSTA and an academic from the University of Queensland outlines the relationship between assessment and general student grievances...
The problems confronting a part-time student is the basis of a report released last month by the Monash Union.

The report is based on a series of discussions the Warden of the Union, Mr. Groome Sweeney, had with 30 part-time students. Part-timers make up 24% of the total Monash enrolment; 3142 students out of a total of 12,837 (see table below for full details).

The report lists the difficulties part-timers have in their study and makes a series of recommendations. It suggests that part-timers are entitled to certain special facilities as a liability and that their attributes, especially their study methods, are fully recognized.

The report said that the greatest difficulty the part-timer had to overcome was time.

The part-timers were in danger of becoming friction-ridden with pressures of work and study, and little time left for relaxation and socialising. They did not have full potential in subjects because of insufficient time.

The report commented that participation in non-academic events was also limited and could lead to the problem of loneliness.

The report claimed that part-timers generally did not feel they belonged to the university; with so little time to familiarise themselves with its workings, they were swamped by its size and impersonality.

Part-timers often lacked knowledge of matters with which full-time students were familiar, for example Union facilities.

The report commented that these problems of time, loneliness and lack of familiarity are not alleviated by selective solutions. However, there were other means of help, especially if the part-timer could be more readily solved.

The most crucial problem was the library. Borrowing times and returning times being different for part-timers and full-timers meant they were often forced to buy books from the bookshop. This too posed problems, as important books were "snapped up" by eager full-time students.

## Other difficulties

Other difficulties mentioned in the report include:

- Car parking — scattered hours of arrival for part-timers often meant difficulty in obtaining parking spots.
- Time-taking — choice of subject was often restricted by time-taking, not by the natural bent of students. The lack of evening classes contributed to this problem.
- Enrolment — the length of time of the enrolment procedure and the ability to re-enrol by mail.
- Child-minding — the lack of co-operation from holidays and school holidays was especially hard on part-timers with young children. Further, there were no facilities at Monash for minders when children were ill or had to attend lectures. One point raised by the part-timers, which also affected full-time students, was that often the way tutorial classes were run did not aid the mixing of students. They tended to be mixed lecture classes, rather than discussion classes, which should take the lead and help "break the ice" between students.

The report ended with a lengthy list of suggestions and recommendations on the "statute." These included:

- Providing teaching and circulation by post of a pamphlet listing all the facilities available to part-time students.
- Utilising representatives on the part-timers' lectures early in the year that were well attended by part-timers.
- The organisation of evening meetings of part-timers, which could lead to the formulation of a social club.
- Some library books earmarked especially for part-timers. An investigation of the possibility of weekend breakfasting starting on Thursdays, as most part-timers do not come to Monash on Fridays.
- More evening lectures and the greater use of taped lectures for play-back.
- An orientation night for part-timers as most can not attend Orientation Week. Also a night re-enrolment time.

## Three events for women's society

The Monash Women's Society is organizing three activities for its members and friends over the coming weeks.

On Tuesday, November 11, a coffee morning will be held at the Vice-Chancellor's house. The speaker will be Professor A. S. Hancy, chairman of classical studies, who will speak on "The Greeks and the Games." All female members of staff and staff wives are welcome.

On Friday, November 21 a dinner dance will be held in Deakin Hall from 7:30 p.m. Tickets at $13 a double and $7 a single will cover a three course meal and music provided by Professor Douglas Laming and his band.

It is Y.O. Bookings should be made by November 11.

On Saturday, December 7 between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. a children's party will be held in the garden of the Vice-Chancellor's house.

All children of university staff are welcome. A variety of entertainment will be provided. Tickets will be $1 per child over 12 months or $3 for adults for financial members of the society.

In each case more information can be found through Mrs. E. Tisher, c/o Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Melbourne Education or Mrs. Hobbs on 788 6334.

## Guessing waists needed

Monash paid a handsome quarter million dollars for electricity in 1972: it is likely to cost as much as 300 thousand dollars.

Naturally enough, the management were not pleased when the committee of deans — wants to be sure that we don't waste the stuff, and that we are buying it in the most favorable way.

As to wastage, we can only rely on the common sense and goodwill of users not to operate electrical equipment unless it is being usefully employed.

To turn the light switches as we go through doors is just one good moral; and if the lights were incandescent globes it would also be good but slight conservation since the loads imposed by switching on and off are as rule so small.

If the lights are fluorescent tubes, however, the cost of starting and restarting is far greater than the cost of continual running. They are left best on all morning or all afternoon or out in course turned off at night.

## Bar radiators

Compared with a 100-watt incandescent lamp, a 60-watt (4 x 15W) filament type produces 1000 watts — 10 or 25 times the rate. Radiators should certainly be left off when the room is not occupied.

But, compared with lighting and radiators, it is running the big items that consumes electricity in a big way — both in quantity of energy, and rate of supply.

It may not be generally known that Monash, a big consumer, with its own substations round the campus served early in the day by the high voltage system, pays for the service, to a considerable extent, by electricity charges. The electricity charges amount to a great deal, which it is hoped can be reduced.

Clearly, for a given total energy consumption, we would reduce the total charge if we could reduce the maximum rate of demand.

As it happens, in August, we saved both ways compared with July: 42,000 fewer kwH (at 0.62c/kWH), saving $500. More importantly, the peak rate was lower by 200 kwH, at $2.49/KwH, that saved us close on $700. Total reduction for the month was over $1000.

Engineer Kevin Grace is looking at the possibilities of shedding load at critical times in the week when loading is generally high.

But, he points out, most of the heavy loads on the campus (the equipment is only relatively high power to run), are not of the type that can be switched on and off arbitrarily, but are of the type that are always in use.

## Refrigeration

Right through the departments — biology, zoology, maths, medical — the common load is not for heating, or for power, but for refrigeration. And refrigerators come in and out of action not by time but by temperature.

The four heaviest loads are compressors in the main library constantly on — a load that cannot be switched on and off arbitrarily.

The thermostat loads, whose operation may be arbitrary, are both in engineering, and are all that is left in the library area of "room for manoeuvre."

The investigation is proceeding. Meanwhile, thanks to all for their efforts in reducing consumption and costs — in August compared with the expectations from July.

### Scholarships

The Academic Registrar's department has been overwhelmed with the number of applications for scholarships. The Registrar presents a prize to the students for the dual degree of Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts. The prize is $1000. The Prize is limited to students in their final year of study who have been registered for at least one year at this University.

### A.I.M.E. Postgraduate Research Scholarship

Open to honours graduates in engineering and science who wish to enroll for a higher degree. Value: $3000 p.a. (maximum 5 students, limited to 3 years, 1973-74). Application deadline: November 15.

### St. Catherine's College (Oxford) Graduate Scholarship

Open to Australian graduates who intend to work for an M.A. in philosophy at Oxford. Value: $1000 p.a. plus fees and travel assistance. Applications close: November 15.

### French Government Scholarship

Applications are invited from Australian citizens for French government scholarship awards for study in France. Travel for one year in either basic sciences or social science. Value: $2000 in France. University of Paris tuition and travel expenses. Applications close November 20.

### Victorian University Women's Graduate Award


### C.S.I.R.O. Postgraduate Studentships

Studentships are available for postgraduate study for the degree of Ph.D. Value: Within the range of $400 - $800 p.a. Applications close November 15.

### Swiss Government Scholarships 1973/74

Open to postgraduate students for one year only, with emphasis for Australian students, who hold an Australian honours degree. Value: $1000 per month plus allowances. Applications close November 22, 1973.

### C.R.E.-N. Postgraduate Fellowship for Commonwealth Students.

A recent addition of The Times Higher Education Supplement indicates that British universities are having their power problems too. The THES caption was "Savvy Sue — part of Manchester's campaign to save the university's energy!"
Cricketers stumped by rain

Three Saturdays and the Monash cricketers still haven't been able to get on to the turf yet... like all other Melbourne cricket teams the Monash club has been plagued by wet weather which has prevented any match play.

Above, two club members, Bill Dooley (setting) and Martin Sullivan, sneaked away from practice sets to try the centre pitch. Bill, a first year student, is in the senior team. Martin, senior teaching fellow in education, plays for the staff team.

Monash has five teams in the eastern suburbs cricket association competition. Any students or staff members who would like to join the club this season should go to practice at the sports centre on Tuesday or Thursday evenings or contact Dr Peter Jeffrey, from biochemistry, on ext. 3779.

The five teams cover a wide range of standards. The club has engaged Brian Porter as a professional playing coach.

Busy year at the Sports Centre

The Monash Sports Centre has had a very busy year.

Apart from the times when the Games Hall was booked for regular club activities, casual users have been active with indoor soccer, badminton, volleyball and table tennis.

Squash coaching for beginners was popular, with about 35 students starting the game. Many of these students now make regular bookings outside the coaching hours.

Individual circuit training activities and keep fit programs were organised. Trampolining, badminton and tennis coaching were also conducted on a casual basis.

During the May and August school holidays S.P.A.M. (Student Parent Association of Monash) conducted recreational programs for the children of students. The activities catered for about 100 children, ranging in age from 5 to 12 years.

In early September, the National Fitness Council of Victoria started a pilot scheme of recreational activities for women, and this has involved the use of the sports pavilion and the sports centre areas.

It is an ongoing program and about 200 women have been introduced to activities from arts and crafts to the sports of swimming, golf, squash, tennis and croquet.

With the approval of the Health Department and the Child and Maternal Welfare Department, the sports pavilion, using the tea room and sports medicine room, has become a preschool centre, for the children of the women taking part.

This is the last issue of Monash Report for 1974. Publication will resume in Orientation Week and any contributions for next year should be forwarded to the editor, Jan Anderson, in the Information Office, Monash University Offices (phone ext. 3067).