Universities could help small manufacturers and community organisations by setting up a telephone advice service, suggests Professor Swan, Vice-Chancellor, Professor J. M. Swan.

Register

"It would involve approaching academic staff and drawing up a register of those willing to take part, together with their fields of expertise and the times they would be available," he says.

"Calls for assistance would be handled by some central agency who would switch the inquiry through to the appropriate academic staff.

"I would envisage that an instant answer can be given where there would be no need to involve the service in the initial contact. But as soon as a subsequent call is made it might attract a 'flagfall' charge, and the problem should be complex enough to require a degree of time-consuming research activity, an appropriate consultancy fee would be levied, part of which would go towards meeting the cost of the service.

"Besides benefiting the community, it can be envisaged that the service encouraging organisations to employ academic staff at various levels, from tutor to professor, as consultants.

But care must be taken to strike a proper balance between the time University staff give to consultation and contract research and what they use to meet the University's needs."

The main provisions of the Act are:

1. The pupil must be over 13 years old or be prepared to perform the same type of work.
2. The maximum period of a single engagement is 12 days; and only one engagement is permissible on the same day.
3. The minimum pay rate is $3 per day.

The work experience scheme came into operation last year under the Victorian Education (Work Experience) Act 1974.

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Lessons from a Chinese classroom

Mental disorder is so rare in China that teachers have difficulty finding a case of schizophrenia to demonstrate to medical students... 

According to officials at Peking Children's Hospital, some cases of mental retardation respond favorably to acupuncture treatment. It has helped, for example, in getting retarded children to speak.

The claims are reported by educational psychologist Dr Mary Nixon, a senior lecturer in the Monash Faculty of Education. Dr Nixon recently took part in an educational administrators' tour of China. Her particular interests were in investigating:

- research and training in psychology
- the training and work of para-professionals in human services such as welfare and health
- child care and education services.

Wheelchair survey

Heather Davies (in chair) with Miriam Feldheim (left) and Margaret Beaumont test the new ramp leading to the University Office. They say it is too steep.

More special facilities are needed on the Monash campus for wheelchair users, according to the findings of a survey by diploma of education students.

The 11 students were assigned by senior lecturer Dr. Pierre Gorman to check 20 buildings. And they found only a few a high seating.

They used a borrowed wheelchair to examine many facilities from a paraplegic's point of view.

The students who carried out the survey are Sandra Cahy, Patricia O'Donnell, Robyn Mann, Robyn Conrad, Amanda Golding, Heather Davies, Wilma Smulders, Tony Sheshan, Ruth Weber, Miriam Feldheim, and Margaret Beaumont.

They say their report draws attention to only a few of the problems facing wheelchair users.

Some of their main criticisms include:

- Stairs and/or heavy swing doors are a problem at the entrance to many buildings and more automatic doors are needed.
- Only the Union, Education, and Robert Blackwood Halls have specially-designed toilets for paraplegics and in Education it is for men only.

November, 1975

Where migrants like it best

Monash educational psychologist Dr Mary Nixon, back from a visit to China, reports that mental disorder is so rare, teachers find it hard to demonstrate schizophrenia to medical students...

"This study exemplifies China's approach to all fields of endeavour. Commitment to continuing revolution and the assumption of that status for Mao-Tse-tung thought is revolutionary truth and beyond question," says Dr Nixon.

"Clinical psychology is in its infancy. Our informants are not even sure whether there were any psychological research institutes in the country as late as 1933 when discussing mental retardation, suggesting that there might be two types: that resulting from brain damage (with the implication that nothing much could be done about these) and secondly false diagnosis.

"They cited a few individual cases in which particular help had brought about remarkable improvements. They were not particularly interested in measuring learning in remedial education. Their emphasis was on the need for and efficacy of good teaching methods for all children."

"The Chinese have adapted the Roman alphabet to give a phonetic representation of their language, says Dr Nixon. It is gradually replacing the traditional Chinese characters in school instruction, although these will continue to be used by scholars.

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New club is on the way ...

Preliminary work has started on construction of the Monash University Club for staff members.

Club president, Mr Warren Mans, says the latest estimate is that the $1.5-million project will be completed towards the end of 1976.

The single-storey, air-conditioned building, with more than 100 squares of floor space, is sited north of the Religious Centre, adjacent to the tennis courts behind the University Offices.

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FRONTLINE REPORT ON BIOLOGICAL BATTLE...

An expert in biological warfare — against insect pests — will give a front-line report on the battle at a Monash seminar later this month.

He is Professor Dudley E. Pinnock, of the department of entomological sciences at the University of California, Berkeley, who is here for five months as part of a year's study leave.

English-born Professor Pinnock, 37, has five degrees in zoology and applied entomology, applied biology, and insect pathology. Besides his university work, he is adviser to six U.S. government agencies.

The seminar, from November 24-29, has been arranged by Dr. George Etterbank and the Monash department of zoology, through the University's Centre for Continuing Education.

Professor Pinnock's particular study is the use of microbial agents against harmful insects as part of a general approach to pest management called "integrated control".

This is a three-pronged attack, he explains:

1. Microbial control through the use of disease organisms which attack specific pests.
2. Biological control through the release and management of parasitic and/or predatory insects which are natural enemies of the pests.
3. Selective use of chemicals, where necessary while the two natural control methods become established, and, in some cases, in concert with them.

Five different types of microbial control agents are used, he explains: viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and nematodes (thread worms).

He will discuss all five types at the Monash seminar, which will be attended by representatives of government agencies, industry, and universities.

Australia has tended to lag behind the U.S. and some European countries in the development of microbial control methods, he says.

No university here teaches the subject in depth, while some 20 do so in the U.S.

"Microbial control has a number of advantages over the exclusive use of chemical insecticides," he explains.

"Besides killing the insect pest you wish to control, chemicals also kill the natural enemies of that pest. They may also kill the enemies of some other insect, which then increases in such numbers that it becomes a new pest.

"The pests are usually more mobile than their parasites and predators, more resistant to chemicals, and often more adaptable in finding new habitats.

"This means that while consecutive use of chemicals may destroy the pests and their natural enemies, a sprayed area is likely to be reinfested by the pests. In the absence of natural enemies, this can cause an outbreak or resurgence."

When microbial control agents are used, they are selected to attack only the pest species. They have little direct effect on the predators, whose numbers relative to the pests are increased, often to a point where they can enforce natural control until the crop is harvested, says Professor Pinnock.

A major disadvantage with total reliance on chemical insecticides is that resistance built up by pests means ever larger and more frequent applications are needed to maintain control.

"Costs go sky high," says Professor Pinnock.

With microbial control agents, resistance is extremely rare and the tendency is less and less to be needed.

Another plus for microbial control is that the pathogens used are completely harmless to humans — so safe that there is no limit apart from cost to how much can be applied.

"The lack of harmful residues means that in the case of food crops a farmer can spray against a sudden pest outbreak right up to the time of harvesting," says Professor Pinnock.

"With chemicals, he is compelled to wait days or weeks after spraying before harvesting the crop so that harmful residues are reduced to an acceptable level."

"The most common way of applying microbial control agents is by mixing with water and spraying them over the crop as a living insecticide, says Professor Pinnock.

"Another way is to inoculate a small number of pests with a pathogen and release these into the crop. When the pests die, their carcasses become "nurseries" for millions more of the disease spores. These attack more of the pests."

"In this way, the killing zone rapidly expands until that particular pest menace is under control."

The control area can also be fortuitously extended by outside agents such as birds and mites transporting the disease spores, which to them are completely harmless.

"Microbial control is not limited to agricultural pests. Bacteria, fungi and nematodes are also being tested against mosquitoes — with "very promising" results, says Professor Pinnock.

"A particular problem with mosquitoes is that various species are susceptible to different pathogens," says the professor. But he is confident that microbial enemies will be found to contribute to the control of many species.

"We'll never eradicate mosquitoes completely, but we hope eventually to be able to reduce their numbers to a point where the chance of humans being bitten by vector species is very slight," he says.

November, 1975
Sir,

I was disappointed that you did not let us know in the October Reporter whether Prof. Boss, studying the word “bloody,” found it a rude word and so not respectable — not even in Australia, where, according to the Bulletin (August 14, 1884) the word “is more used and used more exclusively by Australians than by any other allegedly civilized nation.” For this reason, the Bulletin dubbed “bloody” the “Australian adjective.”

The Bulletin was on sound ground. As early as 1847, Alexander Marjoribanks noted (in his Travels in New South Wales) that “bloody” is “the favorite oath in that country.” One may tell you that he married a bloody young wife, another, a bloody old one; and a bushranger will call out, “Stop, or I’ll blow your bloody brains out.”

W. S. RAMSAY (Australian English, p. 37) notes that Marjoribanks “records having heard a bullock-driver use bloody twenty-five times in a quarter of an hour and calculates that, at this rate, allowing eight hours a day for sleep and six for silence, and taking into account that he became a fully-fledged swagman at 20 and died at 70, he would in the course of those fifty years have pronounced this disgusting word no less than 18,200,000 times!”

Hardly, William Kelly (Life in Victoria, 1859) regretted having used “bloody” so frequently in recording colonial conversation, but noted that “general conversation amongst the middle and lower classes at the Antipodes is always highly seasoned with it.”

S. J. BAKER (The Australian Languages, p. 355) notes that the literary critic A. C. STEPHENS in 1877 deplored the “literary jargon” with the word by W. H. Goodge and C. J. Dennis, noted by Professor Brown. Stephens found, “the constant use of the word by thousands of Sydney residents ... vile.”

It was a noble mardigras action; as late as 1944, magistrates were still finding the word offensive or indecent, and it was not until 1969 that a Quarter Sessions judge in Sydney finally ruled that it was neither. (While accepting Professor Boss’s point that the word derives from the German “blutig,” one wonders whether the magistrates may have had in mind the theory that the word was really profane, being a corruption of “by Our Lady.”)

Certainly the honor of incorporating the Great Australian Adjective into poetry belongs to W. T. Goodge, as Professor Brown says. He has been much imitated — not only by Captain Blair, whose poem was discussed by Dr. Baker, but by an anonymous American versifier whose “a volume of ...” appears in the collection of U. S. Songs, p. 303. This describes itself as “a brazen-faced plagiarism of one of our most treasured poems.”

I trust that this letter will help to clarify the etymology.

Ian Turner, Assoc. Prof., History.

Sir,

My offer of five dollars for the finder of the Masefield quotation (Reporter No. 44) was taken by remarkably few people. Can it be that we are all too bloody well paid? Not even Professor Boss was a contender. The first and only person to cross the finishing line by the (unspecified) deadline was Miss Joan Elvina, secretary of the English department. No, Sir — no plagiarism was involved. She simply happens to own a copy of Masefield’s works.

They come from his very long and often tedious poem ‘The Everlasting Mercy’. I’ll bloody him. I’ll bloody fix. I’ll bloody burn his bloody ricks. They come from his very long and often tedious poem ‘The Everlasting Mercy’. What are Poets Laureate up to when they use this kind of language in a poem bearing such a title?

Arthur Brown, Professor of English.

Sir,

Professor Brown continues to intrigue — there is no end to his perseverance, no lengths to which he will not go to unearth another rich vein (sic) on the origins of the word ‘bloody’.

But, sir, we must dig deeper than in the past 200 years. It occurs to me that we need to go back into the mists of time. Surely, there must be in some cave — in Spain or China or Australasia — a rude scratching, a set of we mean of some Neanderthal to record for all time his frustration.

Imagine, he comes home from an exhausting hunt and, cutting the throat of the mighty stag, he says, “bloody (bloody, blutig) hell am I going to get this meat cleaned up?”

So, sir, it must be over to the palaeographers and palaeontologists for enlightenment. Their’s is the past.

A. D. Finittum

(Allan Peter Boss, Social Work).

EDITOR’S NOTE:

We’ll leave it to the palaeontologists ...

For us, this long drawn-out correspondence — which had its inno­cent origins in a simple case of (al­leged) plagiarism — has come to a bloody end.

MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 8

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was a contemporary of the artist Raphael and he was a genius in many fields, including painting, sculpture, architecture, and engineering. He is best known for his painted works such as the Mona Lisa and the Vitruvian Man. Da Vinci was also interested in mathematics, science, and engineering, and his notebooks contain many important ideas and inventions. Despite his fame and contributions, little is known about the private life of Leonardo da Vinci. He lived in Italy and died in France. His death was likely caused by pneumonia. Da Vinci is considered one of the most important and influential artists in history.
This is Philip Martin's outward period. A style, if not the taste for it. This is Philip Martin's outward person speaking, the very, self-protective, understate, revealing only a portion of the truth. Part of the truth is certainly in the style, cool, pared down, at its best like the bone flute of the title, a Roman bone flute. A style, if not the taste for it. This is Philip Martin's outward person speaking, the very, self-protective, understate, revealing only a portion of the truth. Part of the truth is certainly in the style, cool, pared down, at its best like the bone flute of the title, a Roman bone flute.
Qld. Uni. staff unite

Queensland University Academic Staff Association plans to apply to the Industrial Registrar to become a union.

Association president, Mrs J. Guyatt, has announced the adoption of a new constitution which meets the requirements of the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

She is reported as saying an application for registration will be made after association members have had a chance to suggest any amendments to the new constitution.

The 800-member association had already been acting as a union but had decided to register officially as one in recognition of changes in the industrial climate.

Teachers, students 'need remedial English'

Some lecturers, as well as students, need remedial English teaching, says a University of Adelaide report.

People in both groups suffer from learning difficulties caused by poor performance in communication, it explains.

The report was made by a working party of the university's education committee. It recommends a pilot project of special tutoring to help those with English problems.

Experience gained from such a project should be passed on to education authorities "to seek co-operation in improving the performance of schools," says the report.

Macquarie's new Vice-Chancellor

Macquarie University has named a biochemist, Emeritus Professor Edwin G. Webb, as its new Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Webb, at present Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Queensland, takes over on February 1 following the retirement of Macquarie's first Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor A. G. Mitchell.

English-born Professor Webb, 54, graduated from Clare College, Cambridge, with first class honours in 1942 and later received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Cambridge.

He stayed there to become Director of Studies in Biochemistry at St Catherine's College.

Macquarie's vice-chancellor, Professor John Nixon, who announced last month he would stand down at the conclusion of the university's second triennium, held over the retirement of Professor T. P. Mitchell, chancellor, to allow Professor Webb to succeed him.

During his time at the University of Queensland, Professor Webb has been made a fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and has been awarded the Australian National University Medal for Research.

He has also been made an Honorary Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Sydney and has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of New South Wales.

In 1970, he was awarded the Fernley Prize for outstanding research in chemistry and in 1972, he was awarded the Redpath Medal for outstanding research in the biological sciences.

He is also a member of the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences.

Professor Webb has also been active in the field of chemistry, particularly in the area of synthetic biology, and has made significant contributions to the understanding of the molecular biology of bacteria.

He is widely regarded as one of the leading figures in the field of biochemistry and has been involved in numerous research projects throughout his career.

He has published numerous papers in leading scientific journals and is the author of several textbooks on biochemistry.

In addition to his academic work, Professor Webb has also been involved in various administrative roles at the University of Queensland, including as Dean of the Faculty of Science and President of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences.

His appointment as Macquarie's new Vice-Chancellor was announced by the university's council during a meeting held earlier this month.

The council praised Professor Webb for his "outstanding contribution to science and education" and said that his appointment would "strengthen the university's position as a leader in the field of biochemistry and related disciplines."

Macquarie University is one of the leading universities in Australia and is known for its strong research programs in a wide range of fields, including biochemistry.

In recent years, the university has made significant investments in its research capabilities, with the aim of becoming a world-class research institution.

Professor Webb's appointment as Vice-Chancellor will be welcomed by many in the university community, who have long looked to him as a leader in the field of biochemistry.

In his new role, Professor Webb will be responsible for overseeing the university's research and teaching programs, as well as its administrative and financial operations.

He will also be responsible for maintaining the university's high standards of academic excellence and for ensuring that it remains a leader in its field.

His predecessor, Professor T. P. Mitchell, had served as Macquarie's first Vice-Chancellor for five years, from 1970 to 1975, before stepping down due to health reasons.

During his time in office, Professor Mitchell oversaw the university's rapid growth and expansion, and played a key role in securing funding for its new campus in North Ryde.

He is widely regarded as having played a key role in shaping Macquarie University as it is today, and his legacy will be remembered for many years to come.
Top job for Monash man on genetics commission

Chairman of the Monash department of genetics, Professor Bruce Holloway, has been appointed secretary to a newly-established Genetics Commission of the International Association of Microbiological Societies.

The 20-member commission will hold its inaugural conference in Munich in 1978. It has been formed to bring together three bodies in IAMIS interested in genetics—a microbial breeding group, a plasmas group, and one on genetics in plants.

Chairman of the new commission is Professor Stuart Glover, head of the department of genetics at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne. His other members include experts from Japan, France, the USA, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Belgium and Denmark.

Additional coopted members are from Hungary, Sweden, West Germany, Venezuela, the USSR and India. The commission's activities will include organizing international meetings on microbiology, promoting public awareness, and advising on ways to improve international cooperation between scientists working in the genetic field.

An important area of concern will be the communications between scientists working in different fields and the need to develop new techniques or “manipulation” and its attendant risk of danger to the environment. A further concern will be the prevention of accidents in the laboratory.

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