On Saturday, October 23, Victorians will undergo a "once-in-a-lifetime" experience — a total eclipse of the sun.

And to observe and record every conceivable aspect of the phenomenon, Monash is helping to assemble one of Victoria's biggest-ever research teams — a thousand or more schoolchildren throughout the State.

The first steps in organising the operation were taken on Saturday when the Monash Centre for Continuing Education held a preliminary meeting with 40 teachers from more than 25 State primary and secondary schools.

The meeting set up a number of working groups to start detailed planning of individual projects which, it is hoped, will be carried out by teams of pupils. CCE will organise a series of workshops to help teachers plan and carry out these projects.

Dr Jack McDonell, director of CCE, says that the eclipse will afford a rare opportunity for Victorians to study and record the effects of an event that occurs, on average, only once every 360 years in any one place.

In Victoria, the eclipse will be total throughout a band covering half the State. The band's centre line will run roughly through Mt Gambier, Hamilton, Ballarat and Omeo and include Bendigo in the north and Geelong in the south.

The sky should darken about 4.10 p.m. Totality will occur about 4.40 and full light will return about 5.15 p.m.

Thus there will be an early "twilight", followed by darkness, and a "false dawn" before normal twilight begins.

Dr McDonell says that, while highly technical scientific observations must necessarily be concentrated at a few points, simpler observations can be made by thousands of pupils at hundreds of locations within (and outside) the band of totality.

"These can be assembled to provide worthwhile information that would be impossible to obtain through the normal procedures of scientific data collection," he says.

"It may be possible to match the experience of the Open University in the UK, where home experiment kits aimed at determining aspects of water pollution were distributed to more than 5000 OU students. The result was a complete, simultaneous mapping of pollution in lakes, rivers and streams all over the United Kingdom. It gave an overall picture of the pollution problem that could not have been achieved in any other way."

But, even if the solar eclipse observations do not produce significant new information, Dr McDonell believes that the interest generated in science among primary and secondary schoolchildren will be of immense benefit.

And what will the Junior researchers be looking for?

Preliminary work by a number of University departments has already suggested many lines of research that they may follow. For instance:

- How do Argentine ants (or any other species, for that matter) behave during a solar eclipse?
- What happens to the communication system used by bees?
- How do other creatures behave... daphnia, or brine shrimps, or human beings (e.g., motorists, or cricket umpires)?
- Will the milk yield of cows be affected?
- Do birds "stop singing", as they're commonly supposed to do... will roosters crow during the false dawn... will hens roost twice?
- Do flowers close prematurely — and open again?
- How cold will it get?
- Will the wind change in direction or velocity?

Monash staff already involved in the project come from areas as diverse as psychology, physics, zoology, classical studies, botany, education — even Southeast Asian Studies — and Dr McDonell hopes that this interest will spread.

New musical at the Alexander

WITH THAT shiny nose make-up, actor John Cousins could be playing a clown... or perhaps a gentleman with a fondness for good port.

In fact, he's bumbling Brer Bear in the Alexander Theatre's May holiday production of "The Adventures of Brer Rabbit".

Another photograph and the story are on page 6. (Photo: Horne Alliance.)

Also in this issue:

- Book loans, sales soar
- Literacy — a philosopher's view
- News from the graduations
- Works from the Monash Collection
- The growth of microform
- Theatre news

* A map showing the path of the eclipse appears on page 3.
Library borrowing and Bookshop sales have risen dramatically this year.

Overnight loans from the Main Library have doubled and general bor­rowing has increased by about 50 per cent over the same period last year.

Allowing for inflation, Bookshop sales for the period from January to March are up 17½ per cent on last year's figures.

The increases have Library and Bookshop staff intrigued.

A change in the overnight borrowing system, extending the hours from any time one day to any time the next, accounts for a large part of the increase in overnight borrowing.

But Librarian, Brian Southwell, says weekly borrowing usually drops when overnight borrowing increases.

The jump in overnight borrowing began the first week of term with 1996 books borrowed this year compared to 791 in the first week last year.

In the second week borrowing was 3150 compared to 1198 in 1975.

For the three weeks before Easter borrowing was 3511, 3866 and 3805. For the week ending April 15, borrowing was 4473.

Weekly borrowing began normally but has increased rapidly as term progressed - in the week ending April 2, 3555 books were borrowed compared to 2093 in the same week last year.

In the week ending April 9, 4028 books were borrowed; this dropped to 2880 for the week to April 15.

Of the other campus libraries - Hargrave, Law and Biomedical - only Biomedical has reported any change in borrowing patterns.

The Biomedical Librarian, Fay Baker, said both overnight loans and day reserves had risen sharply.

There has been only a small net in­crease in student numbers since last year so Mr Southwell and his staff have no immediate explanation for the increase beyond a habit of the 1976 Humanities students.

Mr Southwell said: "The thought that comes off the top of my head is that it stems from some form of insecurity - not surprisingly with the job market the way it is."

"This has happened before with post-war kids in the fifties who were brought up without fathers and again in the late fifties, the Cold War period. "Students are working harder, tak­ing life more seriously."

"There was a particular corner of the library which has always had kids who chatted and read race reports. They clearly failed because they didn't come back the next year, but this year's group is quite different.

"Students want to get the best degree possible."

Mr Southwell said another pos­sibility was that the Federal Govern­ment's scheme of providing proper libraries for secondary schools was beginning to bear fruit.

"Quite a few hundred libraries, good ones, would have been built.

"Students from these schools may be less self-conscious about using the library and about asking questions in the library."

He also said there had been a better re­sponse to orientation tours of the library this year and that the Library now had a better collection with more general books and more books on the edge of students' interests."

The manager of the Bookshop, Beresford Demnar, said the increase in sales had been "staggering".

"The increases have been right across the board. In some cases we have sold more books than there are students in the course.

"Everybody seems to be buying more books this year - even in the reference section. Quite a few are being bought irrespective of price."

BOOK LOANS, SALES LEAP

Not so spectacular has been the jump in sales for the period from January to April.

Sales for the period from January to April were $2814 compared to $1198 in 1975.

Mr Southwell believes that this figure was "accounted for by an upsurge of classwork".

Club Manager Appointed

Pre-school applications now open

Steve Abougelis, 25, has been appointed manager of the Monash University Club.

Mr Abougelis took up his position yesterday (May 3).

His first task will be the selection and appointment of staff for the club.

Work on the new club, behind the Religious Centre, is on schedule and club president, Warren Mann, expects it to be open for business in October.

Mr Abougelis holds a diploma of catering and hotel management from the Footscray Institute of Technology (William Anglia course) and has worked for the catering firm, Carlyon Hotel Group, for four years.

In that time he has opened a number of new cafeterias and clubs for the

group, including the Swinburne College of Technology canteen and the catering service for the Cranbourne Recreation Reserve - a horse racing, greyhound racing and trotting complex.

Mr Abougelis left his job to take up his new position.

He said establishing the new club presented a new challenge.

"What we are going to try to do is to make it an interesting club that members can feel proud to come to and to bring their family and friends to."

"We don't want it to be run like a factory canteen."

The new club will have bar and lounge facilities as well as a range of eating facilities from quick snacks to formal dining, and an outdoor eating area.

"Allowing for an even greater rate of inflation than we do, we are still looking at an increase of at least 15 per cent," Mr Demnar said.

"It's not as easy to get a job with a degree - you hear about unemployed physicists, engineers.

"The chairman of the Anthropology and Sociology department, Professor Michael Swift, said that, without studying the figures, there seemed to be a general feeling among students that they ought to do well.

"How long is it since we have had a 'decline' demonstration and there has been little of the 'drop out to find yourself' syndrome recently."

Applications for 1977 enrolment at the Monash Pre-school will close on July 2.

There are 40 places for children born between July 1, 1972, and June 30, 1973, available.

Pre-school applications now open

The chairman of the Pre-school Committee, John Jyfield, of the Education Faculty, says places will be allocated first to brothers and sisters of children who have attended the pre-school in the past.

Remaining places will be decided by ballot on July 16.

Parents will then be notified if their application has been successful or of their place on the waiting list.

Application is open to the public as well as university staff, and forms are available from the pre-school director, Barbara Lewis, 541 0811, ext. 2887.

The pre-school also reserves a small number of places for children with handicaps or special requirements.

Application for these places can be made at any time on special admission forms and age limits are not strictly adhered to.
Today's teenager "never reads a serious book and seldom uses a word beyond the range of a six-year-old child."

His or her "semi-literate essays" are full of "truisms, muddle, plagiarism and ignorance."

What's more, Victorian education has become "too trendy" and it's time to get back to "the four basic Rs — reading, writing, arithmetic and religion."

That, at least, is the view of many of the current critics of education in the sixties and seventies and its products.

But according to the chairman of the Monash Philosophy Department, Professor A. C. Jackson, those who remember students of 25 years and more ago as paragons of literacy and application to study have slightly askew memories.

From his impressions as a student at Melbourne University in the early thirties and as a teacher at Melbourne and Monash since, he believes today's students are more literate than their predecessors.

"Today's students write clearly and well," Professor Jackson says. "I see the work of quite a lot of first-year students and I think there is a higher proportion of good ones.

No silly essays

"Among the students of the past 15 years there has been a much higher proportion of good ones."

"By this I mean someone who, with hard work, is capable of doing second class honors."

"In the forties, and the very early thirties when I was a student, you had to be bright enough to get a scholarship or have enough money to come to the place."

"Three-fifths of the intellectual talent in the community was not in the universities."

"On the whole I do think that my chief impression is that there was a higher proportion of thoroughly silly essays then."

"One rarely gets those these days," he said.

The philosophy department has 445 first-year students this year.

"This department was the first at Monash, I think, to introduce assessment by essay — that was in 1972."

"I was immediately surprised by the extremely well-written and carefully thought-out essays one got."

"Of course if you are writing a Philosophy essay and you know anything about your subject it's difficult to write absolute nonsense without feeling guilty."

"But my chief impression is that compared with 1930-34 when about one-third to two-fifths just were not interested in anything at all, the overall standard is much higher."

"The essays are more concise, better argued."

Four-fifths are good

Professor Jackson says some of the reasons may be the high standard of English teaching in high schools in recent years, the increased amount of tutoring at universities, the high standard of writing in daily journalism, and that school students read "many more, and more easily accessible, books (as well as the so-called inaccessibles)."

"I do think the standard of arguing in essays among first-year students is reasonably good — nowadays that would be four-fifths in the class."

"When I first went to university the reasonably good ones would have been one-third."

Professor Jackson believes the increased emphasis on tutorial teaching at universities is partly responsible for developing thinking ability.

"In all the very great universities of the world you certainly think for yourself but with a good amount of 'bullying' from people who have been thinking about the subject for a long time before you."

"This is increasingly the tendency in Australian universities, 'inspiration' is being replaced by quite careful teaching."

"By this I mean that in the thirties there were hardly any tutorials. You went to lectures and despite the queerness of what was being said, the lecturer looked quite an ordinary bloke. So you went away and thought about it and if you had a few ideas of your own you usually did fairly well."

"Nowadays, through tutorials, students are guided until they have a good basis on which to begin having their own ideas."

"In any well-established subject there is always a fair amount known and you don't expect the bright ones to agree with it all but you do expect them to be able to reproduce the argument."

"This discipline is the chief difference between serious philosophy and 'making up your mind about the world' — it just doesn't wear."

It is this disciplined careful argument which Professor Jackson believes may be in danger from the "freedom of expression" now being urged by some educators.

"I'm certainly worried and apprehensive about what may be happening 10 years from now."

"I think it was the Director of Education in New South Wales who spoke of the main need being to be able to talk, as opposed to write, in order to communicate."

"The passage from the mind to the tongue is much easier, looser, than from the mind to pen and paper."

Professor Jackson and Professor Hector Monro, former chairman of the department, will retire at the end of the year.

"The flipper, about 7ft. long, was taken from the carcass of a blue whale washed up on a beach near Warrnambool early in April.

Three zoologists from Monash senior technical officer, Dennis Black, post-graduate student, Glen Carruthers and former student, Peter Meyer — joined experts from the National Museum and the Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education to take samples from the mammal.

"But they were heavy to work in and after a while you seemed to get used to the smell."

"The flipper and some of the whale's baleen (the filter apparatus to separate food from water) will be disinterred in a few months."

The skeleton will be cleaned up and displayed in the department's teaching collection.

The Monash team also brought back the penis, 3ft. long, which is preserved in a tub of formalin.
OVERSEA STUDY CHANCE

Monash medical students will in future have the opportunity to do elective programs at hospitals in England, Greece, and India.

The arrangements were made by Associate Professor Eric Glasgow, of the department of Anatomy, during a recent overseas study visit.

"I have always been a strong advocate of the great benefit of elective programs during the undergraduate medical course," he says in a report to Council.

As a result of his discussions with overseas authorities, it will now be possible for Monash students to do electives at medical schools and hospitals in

- Newcastle upon Tyne and Birmingham, in the U.K.
- Athens.
- Ludhiana, in north India.

"This is in addition to those contacts already established for assistance in obtaining positions in elective programs in London and Paris," he adds.

"For some years now elective programs have formed an integral part of the curriculum in many medical schools in the U.K. and they are often highly organised. However there is great pressure on the places available, especially from students from North America."

Professor Alan S. Henry, of the Monash department of classical studies, has been appointed an adviser to a U.K. team developing a new course for teaching Greek to sixth formers and undergraduates.

He accepted the role while on study leave at St. Andrews University, Scotland.

In a report to Council on his study leave activities, Professor Henry says the course is due for completion next year and will be published by Cambridge University Press for worldwide distribution.

"My function — which will continue now I am back at Monash — will be to advise on the suitability of the material for use in Australia," he says.

The new approach has been named the Joint Association of Greek Teachers' Greek Project.

Professor Henry was asked to serve as an adviser because of his interest in teaching the language to beginners at university level.

"The new approach has been named the Joint Association of Greek Teachers' Greek Project."

Associate Professor John Agnew, of the Monash department of chemical engineering, has returned from study leave in Europe with news of an unusual student "underground" movement in Czechoslovakia.

He spent a week in the country attending an international congress on chemical engineering, at which he presented a paper.

"Prague, where the congress was held, is a beautiful city virtually untouched by World War II, he says in a study leave report to council.

"Although it was obviously affected somewhat by the construction work in progress on a new underground railway.

"The labor force for this project, I was assured, includes any university student who dares to express dissatisfaction with the administration of his institute."

'76—a bad year for employment

1976 was the most difficult year since World War 2 in which to emerge as a university graduate, High Court Justice, Sir Ninian Stephen, told a combined Law and Science graduation on April 9.

"All of us who were lucky enough to complete our education in the boom years of full employment and unlimited opportunity have a special concern for today's graduates."

"Of Australia's 30 post-war years 1976 is probably the most difficult into which to emerge as a university graduate."

Sir Ninian, giving the Occasional Address, congratulated graduates on succeeding "in the competitive world of the university in the disciplines of your choice at a time when the challenges to be overcome are not only those set by the examiners but include the siren songs of those who use familiar words, like relevance and morality, in a new sense and who would destroy existing disciplines rather than have them adapt to meet changing needs."

At the ceremony 171 Law students and 122 Science students received their degrees.

They included two men and a woman who graduated as Masters of Laws and three postgraduate Science students who received their Ph Ds.

Sir Ninian told graduates that he believed the Monash legal product to be unique in Australia.

"It is double certificated, Bachelor of Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Laws."

"It has been said in older law schools of this city that all a Monash law graduate needs is a short midwifery course so as to emerge fully fledged and triple certificated.

"But inter-campus rivalry aside, Monash Law School's achievements in its relatively short life have been notable; it is now firmly established as one of the great law schools of Australia," he said.

At left, joint winner of the Supreme Court Prize, Mrs Gail Owen, next Sir Ninian Stephen (left) and the Chancellor, Sir Richard Eggleston, after the ceremony. Mrs Owen shared the Supreme Court Prize with Mr David Moore.

Families for Host Scheme

The Monash University Host Family Scheme for country, interstate and overseas students has been so successful that the scheme has a shortage of host families.

The convener of the scheme, Mrs Meredith McComas, said that 32 new host families had joined the scheme this year and were hosting 47 new students.

But 11 students are still waiting for host families and applications from students are still coming in.

Mrs McComas said most host families had children studying at Monash.

Host family activities could range from inviting the student home for a family meal to involving him or her in weekend outings and family holidays.

Mrs McComas asks families who can help to contact her at 42 Sunnyvale Ave., Camberwell 3124, phone 82 6884.

Monash Reporter

May, 1976
State control of graduate supply cannot succeed

Any attempt to manipulate university programs to meet the predicted manpower demands of industry would be "objectionable" and "doomed to failure," according to the Dean of Arts, Professor Guy Manton.

Such predictions were possible only in a totalitarian state, he declared.

He was speaking at a recent Monash graduation ceremony at which 283 Science graduates received their degrees. While some of them had already commenced studying for further qualifications, the rest—"more than in previous years"—might have already found difficulty in obtaining employment related to their Science course, Professor Manton said.

"Those who have received higher degrees may be encountering at least equal difficulty in finding opportunities for applying their training in scientific research," he added.

"The facts are that in America, in Great Britain and in Australia we are going through a period of restriction in the provision of funds for research, and that there is no certain prospect of immediate improvement in the general economic situation.

"Consequently, we hear much talk of the over-production of graduates in Science as well as Arts," Professor Manton went on.

"Some will argue that the fault lies with the government and the universities in failing to tailor their teaching and research programs to suit the market, and that an elaborate system of manpower control is the solution.

"Personally, I find this solution objectionable in its conception and doomed to failure.

"It is objectionable in its conception because it applies controls on the search for knowledge which are clinical to be nature.

"And it is doomed to failure, except possibly in a totalitarian state, because we cannot predict demand far enough ahead to plan the intake of students at the beginning of their training.

"Of course considerations of supply and demand will always affect the choices made by individual students, and of course some attention must be paid to demand in planning professional schools," added Professor Manton.

"But even then, planning could be too rigid. He pointed out that medical, engineering, and law schools did not exist solely for the production of practising members of those professions."

Some medics and engineers had become administrators, lawyers had a habit of turning into politicians, and it was worth noting that two of the best known of today's Australian playwrights were Monash Engineering graduates and a University of Melbourne medical graduate.

Professor Manton told the graduates he hoped as many of them as possible who were qualified to do so would continue with scientific work. The solution for the remainder rested with themselves.

But he warned that they would have to realise the community did not feel under an obligation to provide Science graduates with a lucrative scientific occupation.

"The work you have done may be more in the nature of a long-term investment," he said.

Professor Manton said that in some modern universities, traditional faculty divisions had been abandoned and disciplines regrouped under schools of various kinds: physical sciences, biological sciences, environmental sciences, and so on.

"I would not advocate that we should abolish faculties at Monash and introduce schools that reflect more closely the relationship of disciplines at the present time," he said.

"You do not sweep the system of classification in a library every ten or twenty years to suit the changing face of knowledge.

"Rather, you develop new subdivisions and that is the answer.

"Similarly, in the University we should retain our broad faculty divisions and retain our departmental divisions, but recognise them for what they are— an administrative convenience, and be prepared to encourage research and teaching across the boundaries of departments and faculties.

"At the research level there is sometimes a need for some kind of umbrella organisation, such as the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies or the Board of Studies in Environmental Science. Often, cooperation between individuals from different departments will prove fruitful even in a university.

"My point is that we should be prepared to encourage interdisciplinary co-operation, both in teaching and in research, at all levels rather than attempt a re-organisation of the administrative set-up."
WORKS FROM THE MONASH COLLECTION

by Grazia Gunn

Minimal Art, a movement originated in New York in the mid-sixties, particularly influential in Australia, a group of Melbourne painters.

Robert Rooney, Dale Hickey, Robert Hunter and Peter Booth, four of the principal painters in the group are represented in the Monash Collection.

In 'Painting 1970' Booth deals with time, space and surface.

Experienced meditatively the luminous black field in the painting urgen the eye into a receptive infinity.

The color blocks arrest the experience. The black is fluid. The color blocks are static. They stand independently, two color shapes; one of a butty cream color creates a relaxed contrast to the black, the other a red block is aggressive and creates a dynamic contrast.

The paint is laid on thickly, the color shapes are kept on the surface, the texture is generally smooth.

A small retrospective of Peter Booth's work is currently on exhibition in Sydney at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

In Melbourne the exhibition will be mounted at Monash in the Exhibition Gallery, Department of Visual Arts from May 17 to June 9.

PETER BOOTH: Born 1948, Sheffield, England. 1964-67, Attended drawing classes Sheffield College of Art. 1967, moved to Melbourne worked at various laboring jobs until 1967, 1968-69, Studied painting at Monash University. 1969, Awarded prize for subject painting joint winner of Howard Hall Prize, for Figure Painting. 1966-69, Taught painting

AYO IN FAREWELL CONCERT

The Australian Youth Orchestra will give an Australian farewell concert, before their overseas tour, in Robert Blackwood Hall on May 13.

Because their tour will include performances at American bi-centennial celebrations, their farewell concert is being sponsored by the American-Australian Association.

During May there will also be a visit to Blackwood Hall by a group of American musicians.

The Ciompi String Quartet from Duke University, North Carolina, will give a free lunchtime concert on May 31.

They will present works by the American composers Barber, Copland and Gershwin.

The quartet, members of the university's music faculty, has been invited to Australia by Dr Brian Chapman, of the Monash Physiology Department, who recently returned from study leave in North Carolina.

The group has engagements in Melbourne and Shepparton during their stay and will make three recordings with the ABC.

Following the outstanding success of Graeme Bell's concert last year the Blackwood Hall management will present a 'Welcome Back Graeme Bell' concert on May 5.

The hall manager, Don Vincent, said that following last year's tribute to Scott Joplin by Bell there had been hundreds of requests for another concert.

The performers will be Graeme Bell and the All Stars, Frank Johnson's Fabulous Dixielanders, and special guests Ade Monsborough and Adrian Ford, both musicians, and singer Judy Jacques.

On May 8 there will be a performance by the Youth Chorale of Australia conducted by Peter McKenna and the Camberwell Youth Orchestra conducted by Harold Badger.

The Australian Broadcasting Commission will hold the State final of its annual Instrumental and Vocal competition in the hall on May 12 and the second in its highly-acclaimed Gold Series concerts on May 20.

The Beethoven Ensemble will present some of Beethoven's British folk songs arrangements at a free Sunday concert on May 16.

On May 15 children from all parts of Victoria will present an orchestral concert as the finale to a May Music Camp for schoolchildren.

MEDICOS RESOURCE CENTRE URGED

Establishment of a national resource centre for medical educators is advocated in a recent "Newsletter" of the Australasian and New Zealand Association for Medical Education.

Writing from Perth, Max Kamien, a senior lecturer in medicine at the University of Western Australia, says that the present human and financial resources of individual Australian medical schools are insufficient to meet the demand for educational aids and other information.

"The apparent solution would be to form a national resource centre," he says.

Medicos resource centre urged

"I envisage an information service

I envisage an information service run by medically and paramedically qualified staff who would evaluate the needs of, and provide information to, medical and paramedical educators."

Such a service would reduce the time that medical teachers spend acquiring suitable audiovisual aids, Kamien says. It would provide information and access to what is available in Australia and would reduce the reduplication of similar material by two or more medical schools.

"Activities which release medical educators from administrative duties should benefit students by increasing the time teachers have available for student contact," he says.

PARENTS MEET

The Monash Parents Group will hold a film-luncheon at the Alexander Theatre on Thursday, May 6.

The film — "The Voyage", starring Nophia Loren and Richard Burton — will begin at 10.30 a.m.

For reservations ($2.50) phone the ticket secretary, Mrs J. Landman, 57 8881.

Women's careers

A conference on "Perceptions About Women's Careers" has been organised by the Centre for Continuing Education.

It is being sponsored by the Australian National Advisory Committee for International Women's Year.

The conference has been arranged in three stages. It will begin on May 28 and 29 with the establishment of working parties to investigate particular aspects of women's careers.

These groups will operate between meetings of the conference. Their reports will be submitted to the CCE by July 19 and will be discussed at a final one-day summing-up at Monash on August 14.

The deadline for enrolment for the conference is May 17.

The CCE expects that career teachers, senior educators, trade union officials and employers will attend.

May, 1976

MONASH REPORTER
You Might Find the Answer in the Fine Print

Looking for a book on child rearing in 1581, for information on the American women's rights movement last century or for details of the culture of an obscure Roman tribe, says the section is under-used at 40 per cent, according to Mrs Lord of the Library.

"They will all watch television and use the readers here is almost the same," she said.

The section has more than 12,000 boxes of microfilm and more than 100,000 microfiche sheets dealing with many Humanities and Social Science subjects.

Material is normally reduced about 16 times for microfilm and up to 150 times for microfiche sheets. At this reduction 2380 pages can be reproduced on one sheet.

The section contains a fascinating range of material.

Some of the most popular items are microfilm copies of "The Age" and "The Bulletin" since publication began, and copies of major overseas newspapers. But some of the lesser-known items are equally fascinating.

They include a set of all League of Nations documents and a huge set of Roman inscriptions.

The section is currently used mainly by postgraduate students and staff but it is open to all students, staff and the public.

Play competition produced...

High writing standards

Judges of the Alexander Theatre's 1976 play competition were very impressed with the high standard of writing in the competition.

Mrs Lord, said that of the 200 entries any one of eight or nine plays would have been a worthy winner.

The winning entry "Cass Butcher Bunting" by Adelaide playwright Bill Reed was ultimately a unanimous choice.

But Mrs Lord was very pleased to announce that after the judging an anonymous donor had given $500 so the committee could award a "second prize" to Jill Shearer, of Brisbane, for her Australian historical drama, "Cass Butcher Bunting;", a drama about three men trapped in a mine shaft, which will be staged at the Alexander Theatre for a three-week season from June 15.

Mrs Lord, a lecturer in the English department, believes the opportunity to have their play produced was partly responsible for the large number of entries from both professional and amateur playwrights.

Another director Peter Williams, who recently produced the highly-acclaimed "Roosman and Lens" for the Adelaide Festival, has agreed to produce "Cass Butcher Bunting".

To the editor:

The Reporter trivia prize?

The content of Dr D. G. B Silverbauer's last two letters to the Reporter (April '76 and earlier) suggest that he is competing for some literary trivia prize of which the rest of your contributors are unaware.

Perhaps the Editor could inform the readers of details of this competition.

Mal Hayes, Electrical Engineering.

(Sorry it's been won already - by Professor Arthur Brown, Ed.)

SHARE THOSE RECIPES

For incurable collectors of new recipes or those who simply enjoy cooking and eating good food there will be a new event on the time table for second term.

Clubs and Societies are hoping to repeat last year's Cooking Network - weekly meetings at which national dishes are prepared, and shared.

The Network will meet on Tuesday nights from 6 to 8 in the Sports Common Room. The first meeting is expected to be on June 1.

Clubs Liaison Officer, Joanne Gabriel, points out that with so many nationalities represented on campus there is an opportunity to learn how to prepare dozens of gastronomic delights.

Everyone at the university is welcome at the meetings which will cost 50 cents each.

If you are interested in presenting a recipe, want more information or can help with the organisation of meetings contact Joanne at Clubs and Societies, ext. 3144.

POEMS SOUGHT

The 1976 Monash University Prize for Poetry competition is now open. A $50 prize is awarded annually to the best poem by a Monash undergraduate who has done no more than four years' study since matriculation.

Entries must be the author's original work and must not exceed 150 lines.

Competition conditions are displayed on department notice boards and can also be obtained from the Academic Registrar's office.

Entries may be judged by the Academic Registrar, Mr D. Buchart, by August 30.

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 Graduate Scholarships Office, J. Robinson, Box N.8, Ground Floor, University Offices, Extension 4919.

Australian American Educational Foundation - Advanced Education in the Humanities and Social Sciences

A three-year research fellowship to examine the effectiveness of Aboriginal training programs in tertiary institutions is open to a graduate with an honours degree in a relevant social science discipline. Stipend: $12,300 p.a. - $17,330 p.a. Application closes on May 14. The Royal Society of N.S.W. - The Edgworth David Medal - 1976 The award is made for work done mainly in Australia or its territories, contributing to the advancement of the physical and biological sciences. Nominations close August 15.

Geoffrey Langlands Language Scholarship

Two-week language scholarship in Germany, providing accommodation, tuition fees, monthly allowance £500, open to anyone preparing to present a basic course in German. Applications close August 30.

Australian School of Nuclear Technology - Radioactive waste for undergraduate, fee: $20, will be held from September 15 to October 1 at Lucas Heights, N.S.W. Cost of course $300, plus accommodation and travel. Applications close August 9.
Brer Rabbit in holiday musical

Brer Rabbit and other characters from the Uncle Remus stories will be entertaining children at Monash's Alexander Theatre during the May school holidays.

They all had a thumping good time at rehearsals this week. The show, "The Adventures of Brer Rabbit," is an updated version especially written for the theatre by Ray Biebler and Bill Harding.

The script won the 1972 Australian Writer's Guild Annual Award as the best written for children. There are 11 songs, one of which was specially written for the Monash production.

It will be a Victorian premiere for the show, which was originally presented in Sydney and later toured Tasmania.

Director Marie Cumisky has assembled a cast which includes many well-known show business personalities, including Frank Wilson as Brer Owl and John Cousins as Brer Bear.

In an interesting departure from the original, Brer Fox becomes Sister Fox, played by former ABC-TV choreographer Anne Petersen, who has also produced the costumes for the show.

Brer Rabbit is played by Leigh Chambers, a former member of the Australian Ballet Company and Brer Wolf by Ron Challinor, who has appeared on television in "Certain Women" and in the Sydney productions of "Godspell," "Applause" and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," and in the local milk bar about brat and the local milk bar sketches and singing and dancing and crowning - a rehearsal. From l to r: Brer Wolf, Sister Fox, Brer Owl, Brer Turtleneck, and Brer Bear.

Brer Rabbit (sporting white ears) and his friends get together for some clowning — and crowning — at rehearsal. From l to r: Brer Wolf, Sister Fox, Brer Owl, Brer Turtleneck, and Brer Bear.

The Adventures of Brer Rabbit" will open at the Alexander Theatre with a 2 p.m. show on Monday, May 10, and continue daily from Monday to Friday at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. until May 21.

There will also be a 2 p.m. show on Saturday, May 15. Reservations, at $5.50 for adults and $1.75 for children, can be made at the Alexander Theatre or by calling $1.75 for children.

And at the Union...

Revue harks back to the '50s

The fifties era — when any self-respecting young man wore a bottle of California Poppy slicked on his hair, young women cared about bras and the local milk bar was the focus of social life — Feeling nostalgic? The Combined Halls revue is your answer.

The revue, by students from the Monash Halls of Residence, will be staged in the Union Theatre on the last four nights of term, May 4-7.

It rejoices in the title of "76 Halls Revue presents: How a Top Rocker Discovers Inconsequential Trivia.

The director of the revue, David Glazebrook, plays the "star" of the show, Top Rocker. He describes his show, "The Adventures of Brer Rabbit," as a "1956 type."

Topical sketches

The "inconsequential trivia" he and the audience will discover during the show include topical sketches and singing and dancing skills.

Thirty-six students from the five Halls will take part in the revue. The producer is Philip Dutton and the musical director is Karen O'Heany.

The revue is resuming this year as an annual end-of-first-term event. Any funds raised from the production will be used to provide facilities for the Combined Halls.

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