Skin brother to Walpiri

A Monash scientist has been made "skin brother" to a member of the Walpiri Aboriginal tribe in the Northern Territory. Dr Tim Ealey, co-ordinator of the Environmental Science course, can now take the name Tim Tchapananka. He is skin brother to Robin Tchapananka.

Far removed from the motor board and gown of academe, Dr Ealey's new status allowed him recently to participate in a corroboree, his body covered in red ochre. It was a significant ceremony, held only once every five years, in which young men, as part of their initiation, were taught sacred songs.

Dr Ealey earned his new status while working with the Walpiri who, with the Kartangerurr-Kurriji tribe, currently have a claim for traditional land before the Land Rights Commission. Part of the area being claimed is the Tanami Desert Wildlife Sanctuary which covers 10 million hectares — about a third of the total claim area (Tasmania is 6.7 million hectares).

The sanctuary is a semi-arid region rich in some of Australia's rarest animals such as the Western hare wallaby and the rabbit-eared bandicoot. It is also home to many sacred Aboriginal sites.

Dr Ealey was asked by the Friends of the Earth to make a study of the likely environmental effects of giving the Aborigines land rights over the area which was declared a sanctuary in 1964. Before coming to Monash, Dr Ealey was a desert ecologist and expert in spinifex deserts with CSIRO.

The Aborigines' claim is considered an important case and could set a precedent for the ownership of other sanctuaries.

Most of the Walpiri live outside the southern perimeter of the roughly square-shaped Tanami sanctuary, in Yuendumu. They traverse the south-west corner of the sanctuary on their northern journey to Hooker Creek.

Dr Ealey, with Richard Graves and Tony Lawan of FOR, spent 10 days in the Tanami region, 400km north-west of Alice Springs, last month.

Dr Ealey says his task could have turned him between loyalties — he supports the concept of land rights but was also concerned for the conservation in this important area.

He says: "I was determined to keep my scientific objectivity and not compromise, and pull out of the case if I could not honestly support the Aborigines' claims."

In the event he found there was no conflict and supported the Aborigines' quest for the "dignity of owning their own land" before Justice Toohey.

"In fact," he concludes, "far from land rights disadvantaging conservation organisations in the Tanami they could be the catalyst for conservation between bodies which so far have had little communication. This could result in benefits for all."

Dr Ealey says that animal species now rare in the Tanami sanctuary were more numerous before the Aborigines were removed. One reason could be an increased predation now by dingoes. (Dingo pups were prised by the Walpiri as food.)

He says the most important factor, however, is probably a lack of fire. "It is now recognised that prevention of burning has been responsible for the extinction of animals such as the heath hen of North America and near extinction of Leadbeater's Possum in Victoria."

Dr Ealey says the Aborigines had a burning scheme established during 10,000 odd years which prevented widespread, devastating, summer wildfires.

"On this question of wildfire prevention, there could be cooperation between the Wildlife Commission and the Walpiri who could resume their practice of burning along 'dreaming trails'," he suggests.

He sees no danger to the Tanami from uncontrolled hunting should land rights be granted. The Aborigines' diet consists largely of beef from cattle they own. Hunting, which Aborigines are already permitted to do in the sanctuary, is only carried out along roads, for a change of diet.

The Aborigines show a concern for rare species of animals, he says.

Animal released

"The recent discovery by Walpiri people of two manorial moles is significant. One was brought to authorities as a specimen, the other was not collected (as it would have been by a zoologist) or eaten (they are said to be delicious), it was simply released."

Dr Ealey says one of the main dangers to the sanctuary could come from uncontrolled vehicle access.

But he found that Aborigines stuck to the stock route across the south-west corner and simply did not like cross country driving.

"It is likely that only the people still interested in the cult will use any of the new route which is kept open by the Aborigines."

He says the introduction of weed species, chiefly by vehicles, is a threat, but the Walpiri can understand the problems and a "public relations program is needed whether land rights are granted or not."

No change

He says the Walpiri have no desire to change the management of the Tanami. They consider, for example, that cattle would not survive on it and the Aboriginal-owned Yuendumu Mining Company claims to have no interest in mining it.

Dr Ealey says he was most impressed with the astuteness, intelligence and good organisation of the Walpiri and the efficiency of the Central Land Council which was handling their claims.

"Land rights will give the Walpiri the status of owners of the land and, as such, they would be perfectly capable of reaching sensible agreements on management of the sanctuary," he concludes.

Dr Ealey says a person is made a skin brother as recognition that "the Walpiri approve of you, like you and your respect them."

He says the corroboree he participated in was a solemn ceremony in parts, with extreme reverence shown for sacred objects, but lots of fun in others.

And there appeared to be no contradictions with Christian beliefs.

"The corroboree was held on Saturday night, and it was off to Church on Sunday morning," he says.
**Welcome miser**

Be an energy miser...switch off all unnecessary lights!

The principal message that the lighting sub-committee of the University's new Energy Conservation Committee wants to get across — particularly in the coming winter months — is that quite dramatic savings can be achieved in the University's energy bill quite dramatically savings can be achieved in the University's energy bill.

Associate Professor Bill Bonwick, chairman of the lighting sub-committee, said this week: "The control over lighting is not centralised but is under the control of many individuals who may not be aware of the magnitude of the University's monthly electricity bill.

"Of course the 1 or 2kW electrical radiator, widely used unofficially throughout the campus, will have a severe effect on maximum demand during a cold snap, and this factor is receiving the attention of the heating committee.

"However, the number of light fittings across the campus is so large that the prospect of excessive energy cost due to lighting wastage is also a problem. The lighting committee will be shortly starting a campus investigation into lighting installations and usage to assist in the energy saving program announced in last month's Monash Reporter."

"If one assumes, as seems reasonable in the present circumstances, that a student service exists to contribute economically to the educational effectiveness of the institution within which it operates, some of these activities seem to be iminical to this purpose."

Mr Mann says he was prompted to sound a mildly critical note as a result of reading a recent issue of a student services group's publication ANZSSA Exchange:

He says: "I find myself wondering where in the pattern of use of resources to promote educational achievement can fall some of the activities reported so copiously in this journal."

"Educating students about sexuality is no doubt personally useful to them, but is it a proper charge on an institution's resources?"

"Being as I quite happily confess, willfully ignorant, I have not the faintest conception of what might be involved in 'bodywork — especially massage and bio-energetic neo-reichian techniques' — shades of Marshall McLuhan — but I suspect that these 'techniques' are even less justifiable in the prosaic accounting terms which are characteristic of this Fraserian era."

"The same can be said, fairly I believe, about the 'psycho-drama experience', the 'encounter groups' and the 'methods of the encounter movement'

"Is it unreasonable to question what the student who is concerned with passing his exams and getting a job in an increasingly competitive world can expect to gain by way of benefit from his student counsellor spending three days at a 'personal growth group' of which the focus is stated to be 'To provide personal growth, self-awareness and skills in interpersonal relations. The media of psycho-drama, encounter, gestalt movement and improvisation are used', after having sojourned for four days at a 'Clown Workshop' which is stated to be 'Concerned with the discovery of the participant's own clown. Techniques of improvisation and group work; timing and natural rhythm, communications centering'

"To what extent are they proper; of course they are not, and sooner or later they must be questioned."

"And to what extent are they proper; of course they are not, and sooner or later they must be questioned."

"And to what extent are they proper; of course they are not, and sooner or later they must be questioned."

**Queries on encounters of the unusual kind**

The activities in which some student counsellors engage have been questioned by the Careers and Appointments Officer at Monash, Mr W. Mann.

Writing in his office's publication, Careers Weekly, Mr Mann says: "At a time when tertiary education is being starved for funds, and most of us are looking critically at our activities in the hope of being able to maintain a satisfactory level of service despite reduced resources, I find myself increasingly questioning the activities in which some student counsellors engage.

"If one assumes, as seems reasonable in the present circumstances, that a student service exists to contribute economically to the educational effectiveness of the institution within which it operates, some of these activities seem to be inimical to this purpose."

"Educating students about sexuality is no doubt personally useful to them, but is it a proper charge on an institution's resources?"

"Being as I quite happily confess, willfully ignorant, I have not the faintest conception of what might be involved in 'bodywork — especially massage and bio-energetic neo-reichian techniques' — shades of Marshall McLuhan — but I suspect that these 'techniques' are even less justifiable in the prosaic accounting terms which are characteristic of this Fraserian era."

"The same can be said, fairly I believe, about the 'psycho-drama experience', the 'encounter groups' and the 'methods of the encounter movement'

"Is it unreasonable to question what the student who is concerned with passing his exams and getting a job in an increasingly competitive world can expect to gain by way of benefit from his student counsellor spending three days at a 'personal growth group' of which the focus is stated to be 'To provide personal growth, self-awareness and skills in interpersonal relations. The media of psycho-drama, encounter, gestalt movement and improvisation are used', after having sojourned for four days at a 'Clown Workshop' which is stated to be 'Concerned with the discovery of the participant's own clown. Techniques of improvisation and group work; timing and natural rhythm, communications centering'

"To what extent are they proper; of course they are not, and sooner or later they must be questioned.

"To what extent are they proper; of course they are not, and sooner or later they must be questioned."

"To what extent are they proper; of course they are not, and sooner or later they must be questioned."
Develop courses to avoid education 'steady state,' says researcher

The "steady state" in tertiary education is likely to continue even after an economic recovery, a Monash academic predicts.

Dr Leo West, senior lecturer in the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit, says one reason to expect a continuation of the steady state is that there appears to be little chance of any growth in demand for tertiary education, at least from the traditional source.

He says the implications of long term zero growth in tertiary education are undesirable.

They include a decline in the contribution of Australians to the academic disciplines through their research, a dearth of bright young people entering the disciplines, a reduction in the diversity of social system, a dearth of experts able and willing to contribute to matters of public and national importance, and the development of anti-intellectualism.

Not selfish opportunism

Writing in a recent Higher Education Research and Development Society publication, Higher Education in a Steady State, Dr West urges the tertiary education sector to work against a long term steady state.

"One way to do this is to actively seek alternative demand," he says.

"This is not just a piece of selfish opportunism. A decline in areas of past demand allows the opportunity for expansion into areas that have been for too long neglected.

The areas for which he suggests there may be alternative demand include studies for mature age people, postgraduate degrees which are not research oriented, and courses which have the flexibility to meet manpower needs as they arise with as little time lag as possible.

Dr Leo West

Such suggestions cover areas of real need, he says, and have a political attraction.

Dr West says it seems clear that the continuing education movement is not going to be an "easy" one. It is a movement that is gaining momentum in many countries.

He says: "In the future it will become increasingly difficult to maintain full employment. Some suggest that paid education will become politically more acceptable than shorter working hours. Restraining the rate of increasing importance. Others have suggested that education might become the new consumption good - an alternative to the high energy and resource-using consumer goods of the last decades. These are avenues of continued growth in mature age student entrants that provide for real demands and which offer solutions to serious social problems."

Dr West says that as the need for research trained personnel declines there is no need for a decline in postgraduate degree training - just a change in its direction.

"With the continued information explosion in the sciences there is more need for information-oriented postgraduate degrees. This implies that these be course work and possibly part-time, but that does not mean that they are "poorer" than research oriented degrees."

On the need for more flexible courses, Dr West says the best recent example of the total inefficiency in manpower planning caused by the time lag between identifying specific areas of need and training people for these was in the geology profession.

There was an expectation of requirements for geologists caused by the mining boom and a subsequent vast oversupply few years later.

He says: "One solution to this would be to provide generalist first degrees and to implement job training in short (say, one year) "capping" courses."

"Thus if there is a need for geologists, science graduates could be recruited into a short course concentrating exclusively on geology. The previous science training of the entrants would enable the training in specific fields of geology to be completed in a short time. Such courses would also be quick to set up and to dismantle to accommodate rapid changes in manpower requirements."

Dr West says that the indicators point towards little growth in demand for tertiary education from the traditional source.

He says predictions of future tertiary numbers are usually based on trends in three factors: the number of people in the age cohort; the proportion (of those entering) who complete secondary school - the secondary retention rate; and the proportion (of secondary school graduates) who proceed to tertiary education - the tertiary participation rate.

He says figures show that, even with a high rate of net immigration, there is little growth potential in the first factor.

Levelling will continue

While Australia's 34 per cent secondary retention rate is low in comparison with other countries, Dr West says it seems likely that it levelling out of this rate will continue.

And Dr West links a declining tertiary participation rate with an increased incidence of graduate underemployment.

He says: "Young people underemployment increases and public knowledge about it also increases, students may elect not to continue to tertiary education and it may become politically acceptable to cut back on the number of tertiary places available."

Entrants 'starry-eyed'

Today's tertiary entrants are very "starry-eyed" about their employment prospects, according to Dr Leo West, senior lecturer in the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit.

And in the light of figures backing up that claim, it is hard to see the desire to undertake a tertiary course being maintained at current rates when graduate underemployment becomes significant, he says.

Last year Dr West surveyed entrants to the Science faculty at Monash to discover the factors which influenced their decision to undertake a university course.

He found that 45.6 per cent rated "it will enable me to get a good job" as a very important factor.

The next highest rated factor, "as an exercise in finding self-understanding", was considered very important by only 19.4 per cent.

A further 23 per cent thought it either very likely or possible that they could get a position on graduation.

"The "years chosen are deliberately artificial dates, not significant according to our present notions."

Dr Marion Aveling and Dr Alan Atkinson of the University of Western Australia have been appointed convenors of a group studying what it was like to live in Australia in 1888.

Dr Peter Sparrrett, Macquarie University, and Dr Bill Gammage, Adelaide University, will work on Australia in 1938. They are keen to contact people who lived in Australia that year, and to set down and collect their recollections of it.

Professor Geoffrey Blainey, of Melbourne University and Professor John Mulvaney, of ANU, will convene a group of scholars in a wide variety of fields, from anthropology to geology, for a book about what happened in Australia's bicentenary year from first European settlement in 1788.

The general editor of the series of four reference books will be Professor F.K. Crowley of the University of NSW.

Monash men join bicentenary history project

Two Monash academics have joined a group of historians and social scientists helping to guide the project, "Australia 1788-1888" to completion in time to mark the bicentenary of European settlement on the Australian continent.

They are Professor John McCarthy, chairman of the department of Economic History, and Dr J. M. Powell, a senior lecturer in the department of Geography.

Co-operative national enterprise

The two men will join other academics from Sydney, Adelaide and Perth in the venture, which has been described as a "co-operative national enterprise", which will offer students and general readers new understandings of our past, particularly our social history.

The aim of the project is to produce a series of four reference books. These are a guide to printed and other sources, an historical atlas, a book of historical statistics and a one volume reference history designed for the school library, study and living room.

Professor McCarty and Dr Powell, and Dr Graeme Davison of Melbourne University, will study Australia in 1888.

Professor McCarthy says the approach taken in the project marks a radical departure from the narrative, chronological method of orthodox history writing.

The years 1788, 1838, 1888 and 1938 have been arbitrarily selected for examination.

A group has been appointed responsible for each year and will attempt to reconstruct a picture of what Australia was like in that year.

Professor McCarthy says: "This will not be a history of the tall poppies, the grand figures. Rather, the bias will be toward the ordinary people and how they went about their lives."

The years chosen are deliberately artificial dates, not significant according to our present notions.

Dr Leo West

"This "slice approach" will force us to break out of our traditional thinking patterns and, it is hoped, open up new approaches to Australian history. It will stimulate interdisciplinary studies and force a breaking down of barriers between different historians, such as economic and social historians.

The 1888 group is a natural project in two stages.

For the first two or three years it will attempt to "cast the net as wide as possible" throughout Australia for people with new ideas and approaches by arranging a series of meetings on selected topics.

The final arising out of these will be published in a newsletter, for a site in 1888.

Only at the end of this period will the group formulate a plan for the final work on 1888 and commission authors to produce specific chapters.

Dr Marion Aveling and Dr Alan Atkinson of the University of Western Australia have been appointed convenors of a group studying what it was like to live in Australia in 1888.

Dr Peter Sparrrett, Macquarie University, and Dr Bill Gammage, Adelaide University, will work on Australia in 1938. They are keen to contact people who lived in Australia that year, and to set down and collect their recollections of it.

Professor Geoffrey Blainey, of Melbourne University and Professor John Mulvaney, of ANU, will convene a group of scholars in a wide variety of fields, from anthropology to geology, for a book about what happened in Australia's bicentenary year from first European settlement in 1788.

The general editor of the series of four reference books will be Professor F.K. Crowley of the University of NSW.

June, 1978
The graduation ceremonies

'Economic growth is the key to graduate demand': industrialist

A leading Australian industrialist has claimed that a decline in our community's ambitions has caused the demand for graduates.

Delivering the occasional address at a recent Monash graduation ceremony, Sir Charles McGrath, chairman of directors of Repco, said: "Having reached high levels of affluence, improved our living standards, lengthened our lives and increased our freedoms, we've run out of the drive to keep going.

"In blunt terms, we've lost much of our urge to progress - to make material progress.

"This trend is expressed in the pop phrase - 'zero growth' - which seems to suggest that we shouldn't try to achieve any further increase in our material well-being, but rather limit our living standards to present levels, or perhaps, even allow them to decline."

Sir Charles said such action would be a betrayal of our past and a denial of our hopes for the future. It would be bad for us, for our students and their graduates and disastrous for the community in the long run.

"If we don't grow, the luxurious goods now available to most of us will not be available to everyone in Australia, and then惟our lives will be accessible to the vast majority of people elsewhere."

He said: 'There's still poverty and extreme hardship for some Australians, and there's still grinding and depressing hardship for millions in other countries.

"These problems will not be overcome by taking it easy."

"It's only growth - the drive to develop and utilise our resources and the constant effort to improve the way we do things - that will overcome problems of poverty and insecurity."

"It's only growth that will bring advantages in life expectancy, living standards and human dignity.

"It's only by growth that we will be able to use the knowledge and excellence which are nurtured in our universities."

"It's worth remembering, too, that it's growth that underpins our freedom. Democracy has flourished with material prosperity and the growth that we've enjoyed in Australia in the past has supported an extraordinary level of freedom."

Sir Charles continued: "Wherever we look there are crying needs for improvement in the way we do things - in industry, in government, in social problems, in education, in everything."

"Obviously growth shouldn't be sought for its own sake, and the excesses of past progress must be avoided. We must avoid waste, pollution, and the plundering of scarce resources.

In these days of increasing global interdependence, no discipline stands alone.

And it would be an unwise person not to perceive the linking pieces of the jigsaw."

Sir Charles McGrath, who received an honorary Doctor of Engineering degree at a recent Science and Law graduation ceremony, referred to his audit and said: "The very large number of science and law graduates here today reminds me that there are other important academic disciplines."

"In fact, without science, economics, law, etc., we couldn't know where to start, and without the rule of law, they wouldn't know where to stop."

"But surely this is what progress will mean in future. If the challenge of technology a century ago was to make a railroa carriage, its counterpart today is to make one that uses resources more efficiently, creates less pollution, and is safe."

Sir Charles said Australia in the past had achieved its greatest economic growth and material progress as a result of adversity.

He said: "Wars and depression, balance of payments problems, unemployment forced us to take action to get things moving, to grow, to develop."

"If we wait long enough our current problems will do the same for us again. Trade problems and unemployment will become so bad we'll have no alternative but to embark on new policies for growth."

Sir Charles acknowledged in his address at a Monash Arts graduation ceremony, Professor F. S. Scott, who presented the university's first honorary degree. Professor Scott said: "I cannot minimise how important it is that we undertake research that is directed to the university and society rather than its effect on teaching."

"We pride ourselves as being a rational, objective and modern society and yet we are as credulous in some respects as our medieval forefathers. They were happy to believe in miracles wrought by relics, in witches and fairies, on the most flimsy evidence."

"We believe in quarks and quasars, black holes and white noise, DNA and other incredible objects that a medieval monk would have scoffed at, merely because we read it in a book."

"And why are we so credulous?"

"Largely because of the international standards of scholarship that are preserved by universities and which lead to trust in the presentation of their research results."

"I cannot minimise how important to learning and to society is the continuing preservation of these standards of scholarship. It is a duty that every university worthy of the name must undertake."

A ceremonial dressing-down

Graduation ceremonies provide the opportunity for distinguished guests to a university to utter a few of the proverbial 'well-chosen' words.

"The ceremony was one of the traps, as La Trobe University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor J. F. Scott, acknowledged in his address at a Monash Arts graduation ceremony.

Professor Scott said: "When I watched the parade of new graduates across the platform, I was reminded of the experience of a friend of mine who presented the prizes at a girl's school."

"It was suggested to him by the headmistress before the ceremony that he should say a few words to each prizewinner, and so he loyally muttered 'well done' or 'Are you going to study medicine?' to each recipient."

"Then came the last award - for good conduct - and a wonderful tall blonde strolled up to receive her prize.

"What are you going to do when you leave school?" asked my friend and was taken aback by the reply: 'Well, I was going straight home!'"
Body urged for informed debate

There was an urgent need to fill the information void left by the government's failure to make any serious attempt to foresee and anticipate gradually emerging economic and social changes, a former chairman of the Industries Assistance Commission said at Monash recently.

Dr G. A. Rattigan, delivering the occasional address at an Economics and Politics graduation ceremony, proposed the establishment of a private sector institute which would enable the community to become more aware of future changes in our environment and what we might do about them and, second, to assess the implications and effects of government policies.

The institute would aim to encourage the government to move away from crisis management by promoting timely evaluation of issues and policy options "before the government acts or is forced to act."

Dr Rattigan warned that unless there was the capacity for continuous, forward-looking, informed public discussion, the Australian community would be unable to take informed decisions regarding business and private affairs. The strenuous efforts of the authoritarian control by politicians and bureaucrats, or have any confidence in the government's policy was directed to the interests of the community as a whole.

Politically neutral

Dr Rattigan said the institute he was proposing should be a politically neutral, professionally competent body of modest size, to assess the implications for the private sector of current and emerging policy issues.

It would be funded by voluntary subscription from any source in the private sector.

Its objectivity and independence would be achieved by pooling the funds through a small private sector body whose membership would be convinced to ensure political and industrial neutrality.

This body would give a broader direction for the institute.

Dr Rattigan said: "Underlying such a safeguard is the expectation that those who contribute funds to the institute will be seeking the truth, rather than simply being told what they might like to hear."

Subjects for study

Some of the subjects which would command extensive and on-going scrutiny included:

● The effects (and efficacy) of policies which redistribute 'wealth and power' between industrial sectors, community groups, and regions.

● At election times, a comprehensive review of the implications of the economic and social strategies which are implied in the election programs of the major political parties.

● Examination of changes in the Australian environment which are not policies induced but which governments must take into account in formulating policies; for example, the implications of rapid changes in the international trading environment, including those occurring in developing economies and those more slowly evolving changes in the size and composition of the Australian population, and an assessment of the government's responses to such changes.

Methods queried

Dr Rattigan said the methods of administration by the governments in many western countries were being increasingly questioned and concern expressed over the direction in which they were moving.

He said: "Some of these methods have been in vogue for so long that they have become the present recession. For example, the intervention by successive Australian governments in normal business activities has been practically entirely to support the status quo and the entrenched interests and against enterprise and innovation which are the key to success in production and trading."

He said two principal deficiencies could be identified in the current approach to policy formation in Australia.

These were a fragmentation and lack of co-ordination between departments and agencies responsible for policy relating to the government and a lack of foresight, causing the government to react to problems after they become crises, instead of anticipating and perhaps averting them.

Dean warns against losses of freedom

Loss of intellectual freedom in universities could easily be followed by a loss of freedom in societies, the Dean of the faculty of Science at Monash, Professor J. M. Swan, has warned.

Professor Swan said: "If politicians want to cut the universities 'back to size', to make them indistinguishable from all the other forms of post-secondary education, if they are to determine what the universities shall teach and how they shall teach it, they do so at very great risk to our social system."

Referring to Australian Universities Commission reports which are affecting the university research role as "being at the very heart of university work," he said: "This is the time for more research, more intellectual debate, not less."

Speaking at a La Trobe University graduation ceremony last month, Professor Swan said the world faced major economic problems.

Universities had to do research to ensure that living standards were maintained as energy costs went higher and higher.

It was important — from the point of view of a healthy society — that the process of research and intellectual debate in universities continued, and that social institutions, codes of behaviour, and understanding of physical and biological processes should be subject to continuous scrutiny.

"Students, during their undergraduate years in any good university, must be made aware that this research, this challenging of the status quo, is an integral part of university life," he said.

"The university will fail if it teaches its students what is, but does not make them aware of what might be," he added.

Former IAC chairman awarded hon. degree

Mr Rattigan came to the Tariff Board from an education in the RAN College and service in the Navy, through the Department of Trade and finally from the position of Comptroller General of Customs and Excise. He was made a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1964.

When he arrived at the Tariff Board it had very little economic expertise. There were few economists on the Board, and there was little communication with economists outside it. Consultants were not sought.

There was no research on the general impact of protection within the Board, nor any encouragement of research outside.

"The period of Mr Rattigan's chairmanship changed this situation dramatically. Under his guidance the Board established economic criteria for its recommendations. While the criteria are not fully endorsed by all economists, there are few who would argue that the criteria are not vastly superior to any that existed prior to Mr Rattigan's time. A general review of protection was initiated and research into the effects of industry protection was encouraged."

Professor Collins continued: "The IAC now employs a large number of competent economists and, in addition to its research activities in Canberra, maintains, in conjunction with several other government departments, a research unit in Melbourne. The two senior members of this research unit are part-time members of the Monash staff."

"These changes were not achieved without considerable opposition. But throughout the whole period Mr Rattigan has been the champion of general against sectional interests. He has emphasised the desirability of public scrutiny wherever the public interest is involved."

Annual meeting

Monash Women's Society will hold its 18th annual general meeting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 20, in room S002, ground floor, Menzies Building. Inquiries should be directed to the honorary secretary, Mrs Isabel Butchart, phone 25 1788.
'Multicultural society — but not to point of conflict'

Community leaders must provide a visionary approach that takes into account the welfare of all the citizens of our heterogeneous country.

- Professor R. Taft

Now most Australians, he said, had made it clear that migrants should be encouraged to fit into the community as soon as possible.

Sumbing up, Professor Taft said that while Australians had developed a certain degree of acceptance of unconventional styles, there were still distinct limitations to this, especially when it raised questions of separation. He said: "Clearly the vast majority of the population would like to see more mixing."

"There is a belief, which as we have seen is fairly well founded, that mixing together improves better relations, except where there is inferiority or rivalry, or where there is inability to communicate," Professor Taft said.

Two of the major areas of conflict are: the role played by migrant communities and their institutions, and the lack of understanding of the role played by them in the multicultural society.

"Ethnic institutions should be accepted as a part of the life of Australia — but, at the same time, the immigrants should try to spread themselves into activities that at least match the civic and community involvement of other Australians of the same occupational and educational levels," Professor Taft predicted that the integration of present immigrant ethnic groups in Australia would proceed in the same way as with Germans and Irish in the past, and perhaps could happen at a faster pace.

"But it is a gradual process, and there can be tensions on the way unless we watch our step."

Seminars on migrants, literacy

The current position of some ethnic groups in Victoria will be examined in a series of seminars being organized by the Centre for Migrant Studies at Monash in second term.

The schedule for the first three semesters is:

- July 10, Mr W. Lippmann, chairperson, Committee on Community Relations, Victoria; Australian Jewish Welfare Society, "The Jewish community."
- The seminars will be held in rooms 245, 250 of the Education building, and start at 7.30 p.m.
- Other seminars in the series will be organized later in July and in August.

The next forum will be on June 8, when Ms. Elizabeth Dine, Education faculty, University of Melbourne, will speak on 'Supporting language development at secondary school.'

The forums, which are being held in Room 245 of the Education faculty building at 1.15 p.m., have been organized by senior tutor, Dominica Nelson.

On June 15, Mrs Lorna Lippmann, Director of Community Relations in Victoria; Australian Jewish Welfare Society, will give a multicultural society, while on June 22, Mr. John Dine, of Christ College, Oakleigh, will look at the problems of "the disadvantaged — transition from primary to secondary schools."

There will then be a break, with the next round of Thursday forums resuming on July 20.

A Monash professor of education has said he would like to see Australia enjoy the best of both a multicultural and integrated society.

Professor R. Taft, delivering a Meredith Memorial Lecture at La Trobe University recently, said he applauded heterogeneity in Australian society.

However, unlike some current spokesmen, he could not accept that conflict and possible confrontation between sections of the community were to the long-term benefit of anyone.

Professor Taft was speaking on the topic of Australian attitudes towards immigrants.

Opening his lecture, Professor Taft said the main effect of large scale immigration on Australia had been to make Australians more aware of the cultural diversity of the human family.

He said cultural styles that once hit Australian minds, even the most tolerant of them, as alien, now had become a familiar part of the Australian way of life, if not the personal life of Australians.

The history of relations between newcomers and Australians so far had been that, over time, newcomers had become like the majority of Australians in their ways.

Tolerance

They had become partially acculturated, if not fully assimilated, and the established residents had gradually become more accustomed to and tolerant of foreign ways.

Professor Taft said: "Every experience of becoming familiar with and accepting a group who are culturally divergent from one's own culture helps to widen the range of tolerance to the next occasion."

"The long period of relatively happy relations between a heterogeneous group of people in Australia over the past 30 years must have helped to increase general tolerance in Australia." He said the history of attitudes towards immigrants in Australia provides plenty of examples where increased contact has helped to increase the range of tolerance to the next occasion.

Because of this, many ethnic groups in Australia adopted a low profile to be on the safe side. Those groups might be thought of as the 'silent majority' of immigrants.

Professor Taft said changing attitudes towards different nationalities were easily illustrated by the views expressed in opinion polls. In 1948 there was 70 per cent difference in the numbers who supported the numbers of English immigrants and those supporting Italian; in 1964 the difference was only 45 per cent and in 1971, 31 per cent.

The change in the relative attitude towards the admission of Blacks was even more noticeable.

In 1948, 77 per cent would not allow any Blacks at all to immigrate, whereas in 1964 the figures were 47 per cent, and in 1971, 34 per cent.

A series of Thursday lunchtime forums on language development and literacy problems, which began in June, will continue until August.

The next forum will be on June 8, when Ms. Elizabeth Dine, Education faculty, University of Melbourne, will speak on 'Supporting language development at secondary school.'

The forums, which are being held in Room 245 of the Education faculty building at 1.15 p.m., have been organized by senior tutor, Dominica Nelson.

On June 15, Mrs Lorna Lippmann, Director of Community Relations in Victoria; Australian Jewish Welfare Society, will give a multicultural society, while on June 22, Mr. John Dine, of Christ College, Oakleigh, will look at the problems of "the disadvantaged — transition from primary to secondary schools."

There will then be a break, with the next round of Thursday forums resuming on July 20.

...continued...
VANDALS STRIKE AGAIN

Vandals have struck Monash campus again. This time they raided a garden plot behind the mathematics building over the weekend of May 20-21.

The plot, on the far north-western corner of the car park at the rear of the building, is devoted entirely to plants and shrubs native to Victoria.

The vandals, who were riding broad-tired "dragster" bikes, which are popular among youngsters, tried to turn the plot into a makeshift speed course. They pulled out numerous plants and stakes so that they could have a clear track through the shrubbery.

The grounds curator, Mr John Cranwell, said: "The vandals seemed to be having a 'burn' around the tracks through the plot and decided to extend their interest to the garden beds themselves."

"It is a bit of a tragedy. Plants like the ones we lost take two to three years to grow and you can never make that up."

The garden plot has about 150 species of plants, shrubs and trees. It is also a popular haunt for native birds.

On the south-western corner of the same car park is a plot given over to plants from Western Australia. The two plots are joined by a strip where a number of unusual species of eucalypt have been planted.

Mr Cranwell said the area was becoming popular as a lunch-time stopping point, and for visitors to the campus.

He appealed to staff and students who visit the campus at weekends to keep an eye open for vandals, and to immediately report any suspicious activity to several staff on ext. 6054.

In August last year, a vehicular vandal skidded over the turf on a roundabout at the north-eastern entry to the campus.

Damage to the surface of the roundabout was considerable and repairs, involving several men battering and reshaping the area, were costly.

Introducing second generation Monash

Building blocks, Teddy bears, picture story books and pet turtles — despite what some cynics might suggest, they’re not materials normally considered integral to a university's function.

But they are part of the Monash scene — the creche, which plays an "integral" role in that it frees parents to study and work on campus.

The creche, which is open from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., is located just off the north-west edge of the campus in Bedloe Avenue. It originally occupied the house at No. 2 and has more recently moved into Nos. 16 and 18 also.

The creche currently cares for more than 100 children, aged from a few months to five years, from 85 families. But it has the facilities to take more, particularly in the mornings until 10 a.m. and in the afternoons from 2 p.m., and during vacations. It also has facilities to look after older children after school.

The centre’s first priority is to take the children of students and staff, but if places are still available it takes children from outside.

It has been suggested that some organisations might let participants know of the facility also.

The creche is staffed by trained mothers, including creche nurses and run by a committee of parents.

In directress, Dorothy Hill, says that although the creche is, in classification, a child-minding centre Monash parents tend to want their children to be actively engaged. The staff thus devise instructive programs around themes, such as "the family."

Parents are encouraged to become involved in activities and some guitar playing dads and dancing mums have brightened up rainy, indoor days.

Fees are $90 an hour for students and $110 for staff. Children are provided with a hot meal.

The creche organises fund raising events throughout the year to supplement help from the Health Department and the University, to purchase equipment. The next will be a jumble sale to be held in the Union on June 16.

For further information on the creche contact Dorothy Hill on 544 4089.

For the sake of historical accuracy, the creche no longer has any pet turtles. It does have a menagerie including rabbits, chickens and the odd visiting dog and cat. (The rabbits are, naturally enough, breeding like rabbits but their proximity to the chickens has at least one child perplexed. The younger was heard to remark, "The bunny rabbit is going to have some baby roosters.")

As for the turtles — they moved slowly on.

"I told the children they had got sick of the creche and were now across the road, attending the University," a staff member says.

Philosophic mathematician

A Monash lecturer in mathematics has had a paper co-authored by him selected for inclusion in the Philosopher's Annual.

This publication reproduces the 10 finest articles of 1977 as selected by a panel of prominent philosophers.

The lecturer is Dr Aidan Sudbury who, with Crispin Wright of All Souls' College, Oxford, wrote a paper on "The Paradox of the Unexpected Examination".

Dr Sudbury recently gave a lecture an department colloquium on the topic.
Warning sounds . . .

At 10:30 a.m. an emergency warning sounded and an announcement over the public address system asked everyone to leave the Union. By 10:40 a.m. the building was clear and each floor had been checked. The emergency vehicle was on the scene within minutes and an estimated 1500 curious people gathered outside the exits. There was no fire.

The exercise was a trial evacuation and implementation of emergency procedures. The evacuation is held annually to alert new staff and students to the procedure.

Copies of instructions to follow in case of an emergency are circulated to all members of the Union and are displayed throughout the building.

Part of the procedure involves certain staff manning exit doors to avoid trapping and injuries caused by broken glass in doors.

The drill organizers, Doug Ellis and John Ould, of the Union, and Will Barker, the University's safety officer, have thanked all members present for their cooperation with Central Services and Maintenance staff for their help.

They warn, however, that in the event of a real emergency, particularly during lunchtime when there could be as many as 5000 people in the Union, it would take longer to get everyone out.

The '20s roar back to the Alexander

The roaring '20s (and all that jazz) come to Monash this month with the Monash University Musical Theatre Company production of "The Boyfriend".

The musical comedy, complete with vigorous dance routines and sparkling music which capture the spirit of the carefree post-war years, plays at the Alexander Theatre on June 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17 at 8 p.m. There will be a wine and cheese supper after performances on June 8 and 14.

"The Boyfriend" is set on the Riviers and concerns the lives of the girls (and their boyfriends) who attend a finishing school for young ladies run by Madame Dubonnnet, a rather unconventional, certainly never produced COWDUNG.

The Mathematics department's journal for schools, Function, will carry a review of Tools for Thought in its next issue.

Michael A. B. Deakin
Mathematics Dept.

The drill organizers, Doug Ellis and John Ould, of the Union, and Will Barker, the University's safety officer, have thanked all members present for their cooperation with Central Services and Maintenance staff for their help.

The drill organizers, Doug Ellis and John Ould, of the Union, and Will Barker, the University's safety officer, have thanked all members present for their cooperation with Central Services and Maintenance staff for their help.

They warn, however, that in the event of a real emergency, particularly during lunchtime when there could be as many as 5000 people in the Union, it would take longer to get everyone out.

The '20s roar back to the Alexander

The roaring '20s (and all that jazz) come to Monash this month with the Monash University Musical Theatre Company production of "The Boyfriend".

The musical comedy, complete with vigorous dance routines and sparkling music which capture the spirit of the carefree post-war years, plays at the Alexander Theatre on June 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17 at 8 p.m. There will be a wine and cheese supper after performances on June 8 and 14.

"The Boyfriend" is set on the Riviers and concerns the lives of the girls (and their boyfriends) who attend a finishing school for young ladies run by Madame Dubonnnet, a rather unconventional, certainly never produced COWDUNG.

The Mathematics department's journal for schools, Function, will carry a review of Tools for Thought in its next issue.

Michael A. B. Deakin
Mathematics Dept.

The '20s roar back to the Alexander

The roaring '20s (and all that jazz) come to Monash this month with the Monash University Musical Theatre Company production of "The Boyfriend".

The musical comedy, complete with vigorous dance routines and sparkling music which capture the spirit of the carefree post-war years, plays at the Alexander Theatre on June 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17 at 8 p.m. There will be a wine and cheese supper after performances on June 8 and 14.

"The Boyfriend" is set on the Riviers and concerns the lives of the girls (and their boyfriends) who attend a finishing school for young ladies run by Madame Dubonnnet, a rather unconventional, certainly never produced COWDUNG.

The Mathematics department's journal for schools, Function, will carry a review of Tools for Thought in its next issue.

Michael A. B. Deakin
Mathematics Dept.

The '20s roar back to the Alexander

The roaring '20s (and all that jazz) come to Monash this month with the Monash University Musical Theatre Company production of "The Boyfriend".

The musical comedy, complete with vigorous dance routines and sparkling music which capture the spirit of the carefree post-war years, plays at the Alexander Theatre on June 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17 at 8 p.m. There will be a wine and cheese supper after performances on June 8 and 14.

"The Boyfriend" is set on the Riviers and concerns the lives of the girls (and their boyfriends) who attend a finishing school for young ladies run by Madame Dubonnnet, a rather unconventional, certainly never produced COWDUNG.

The Mathematics department's journal for schools, Function, will carry a review of Tools for Thought in its next issue.

Michael A. B. Deakin
Mathematics Dept.

The '20s roar back to the Alexander

The roaring '20s (and all that jazz) come to Monash this month with the Monash University Musical Theatre Company production of "The Boyfriend".

The musical comedy, complete with vigorous dance routines and sparkling music which capture the spirit of the carefree post-war years, plays at the Alexander Theatre on June 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17 at 8 p.m. There will be a wine and cheese supper after performances on June 8 and 14.

"The Boyfriend" is set on the Riviers and concerns the lives of the girls (and their boyfriends) who attend a finishing school for young ladies run by Madame Dubonnnet, a rather unconventional, certainly never produced COWDUNG.

The Mathematics department's journal for schools, Function, will carry a review of Tools for Thought in its next issue.

Michael A. B. Deakin
Mathematics Dept.

The '20s roar back to the Alexander

The roaring '20s (and all that jazz) come to Monash this month with the Monash University Musical Theatre Company production of "The Boyfriend".

The musical comedy, complete with vigorous dance routines and sparkling music which capture the spirit of the carefree post-war years, plays at the Alexander Theatre on June 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17 at 8 p.m. There will be a wine and cheese supper after performances on June 8 and 14.

"The Boyfriend" is set on the Riviers and concerns the lives of the girls (and their boyfriends) who attend a finishing school for young ladies run by Madame Dubonnnet, a rather unconventional, certainly never produced COWDUNG.

The Mathematics department's journal for schools, Function, will carry a review of Tools for Thought in its next issue.

Michael A. B. Deakin
Mathematics Dept.

The '20s roar back to the Alexander

The roaring '20s (and all that jazz) come to Monash this month with the Monash University Musical Theatre Company production of "The Boyfriend".

The musical comedy, complete with vigorous dance routines and sparkling music which capture the spirit of the carefree post-war years, plays at the Alexander Theatre on June 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17 at 8 p.m. There will be a wine and cheese supper after performances on June 8 and 14.

"The Boyfriend" is set on the Riviers and concerns the lives of the girls (and their boyfriends) who attend a finishing school for young ladies run by Madame Dubonnnet, a rather unconventional, certainly never produced COWDUNG.

The Mathematics department's journal for schools, Function, will carry a review of Tools for Thought in its next issue.

Michael A. B. Deakin
Mathematics Dept.

The '20s roar back to the Alexander

The roaring '20s (and all that jazz) come to Monash this month with the Monash University Musical Theatre Company production of "The Boyfriend".

The musical comedy, complete with vigorous dance routines and sparkling music which capture the spirit of the carefree post-war years, plays at the Alexander Theatre on June 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17 at 8 p.m. There will be a wine and cheese supper after performances on June 8 and 14.

"The Boyfriend" is set on the Riviers and concerns the lives of the girls (and their boyfriends) who attend a finishing school for young ladies run by Madame Dubonnnet, a rather unconventional, certainly never produced COWDUNG.

The Mathematics department's journal for schools, Function, will carry a review of Tools for Thought in its next issue.

Michael A. B. Deakin
Mathematics Dept.
Honoring a great Press

Monash's Main Library this month will mount a special exhibition to mark the 500th anniversary of the founding of Oxford University Press.

It will be officially opened by the Chancellor, Sir Richard Egginton, at an informal function in the Library on Monday, June 12.

The display will last for two weeks. A central feature will be a special display depicting the history of the Oxford English Dictionary, but there will be considerable emphasis on the works of Monash authors who have been published by Oxford University Press.

There will also be representative examples of OUP books contained in the Monash rare books collection. The books by Monash writers published by OUP cover a wide range. Among the authors (past and present) are: Mr Frank Jo (chemistry), Emeritus Professor Hector Monro (pharmacology), and Mr D. Powell (geography), Mr David Lim (economics), Dr Harry Gelber (politics), now at the University of Tasmania, Mr A. Idris (Indonesian and Malay), Professor H. E. Bolton (physics).

Former dean warns on doctor-superplus, costs increase

A former Dean of Medicine at Monash has called for a 10 per cent reduction in the number of students admitted to the 19 Australian medical schools, "as a matter of urgency."

Professor Rod Andrew, now director of medical education at St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Hospital, warned recently that the surplus of doctors which was around the corner in Australia would push up health costs by nearly a half.

Professor Andrew is delivering the Victor Copplestone Memorial Lecture to an Australian Postgraduate Foundation in Medicine meeting.

"Poor doctors, competing for patients, are bad doctors if not positively dangerous," he said.

He said the ratio of doctors to population had risen from 1:119 in 1970 to 1:60 in 1976, and by 1991 it would be about 1:450.

"The need to increase the number of graduates was great: the answer has been over-reaction and we are headed for a surplus of doctors. Some 10 countries in the western world have over-reacted in the same way but we will only be pushing up costs very greatly.

"This increase of nearly 50 per cent of the workforce in the 15 years 1976-1991, if it can be calculated at a conservative estimate, will increase the present 7.5 per cent devoted to health of one present medical workforce domestic product to about 10.5 per cent.

"This, in present day costs, would raise the present national health expenditure from $6.25b to about $8000m. per annum."

Dr Andrew said present entry quotas in the 10 Australian medical schools allowed 1500 people to enrol, producing about 1400 graduates. The entry quota should be cut to 1350.

"If there is a danger of being obsessed with academic standards and academic goals in the health area - maybe in the same way as forgetting that a whole spectrum of skills and aptitudes are required?" he asked.

He continued: "Do we change the whole direction of training to clinical training?" Do we retain in the main the present situation as a sort of belt of health with the occasional clinical responsibility hand-out?"

"Do we retain nurses scientific knowledge and clinical skills so that all should be at an academic level for passing a tertiary education with a qualifying degree?"

"Or do we plan for a system not lock-step in education, not monolithic in its deployment, but flexible enough to be geared to modern community needs but at the same time providing for the retention of clinical skills and the academic standard and service all the way to a high level of scientific contribution?"

"I believe this last system is best."

Farewell to Reuben Iavin

Reuben Iavin, Monash's Publications Officer for 16 years, retired from the University last month.

On his leaving, the Academic Registrar, Mr J. Butchart, said about Reuben: "His patient persistence in dealing with his colleagues in the production of University publications has been matched only by his good humour."

Those who attended Reuben's farewell were treated to lashings of that humor.

Reuben told the gathering he had been interviewed for the position by Mr Frank Johnson, the Comptroller.

"After the interview, which went well, I thought anyway, Frank thanked me for attending and told me I was the first person he had interviewed.

"I replied: 'You need interview no more.'"

"I don't know if he took my advice but I got the job."

Reuben continued: "When I started I was given a room in what is now the physics building and told, more or less, to work out what the job was for myself. Someone suggested I visit a mail room and think I'm still trying to work it out, I'm sure.

"He said the early years were exciting ones in which a nucleus of people had worked together to build what was now a great university.

"He said he couldn't have hoped for a better person to work for than Jim Butchart. Mr Butchart had given him support in all that he had done.

"I can only remember a mild disappointment at one job I had done, the cover of a graduation ceremony booklet. When I say 'mild disappointment' I can remember Jim calling me in and saying, 'What's this bloody thing?'

"Reuben said it had been his pleasure over the years to work as secretary to the publications committee, chaired by Brian Southwell, the University Librarian.

"At a recent meeting the committee expressed satisfaction with the high quality of work produced by Reuben.

"Reuben said he had shown the minute recording this to a colleague.

"He replied: 'You wrote that very well, didn't you, Reuben.'"

New officer for publications

The new Publications Officer at Monash is Mrs Lee White, formerly editor of publications and public relations officer for the National Gallery of Victoria.

Mrs White has had wide experience in publishing, having previously been a senior editor with the MacMillan Co. of Australia and Sun Books Pty Ltd. She also held editorial positions in publishing houses in London and with the chemical research laboratories of CSIRO.

Big response to Host scheme

Nearly 100 students - a record number - have been placed with families under the Monash Host Family Scheme this year.

But there are still about 20 students, new to Melbourne, who are awaiting allocation and the scheme's organisers are urgently seeking families with a Monash connection to participate as hosts.

The scheme is sponsored by the Monash Parents' Group.

Its convenor, Mrs Meredith McComas, says the scheme does not involve accommodation at a Monash residence but hospitality in the form of an occasional meal, outing, or just an invitation to a house in which the student can be assured of a welcome.

For further information contact Mrs McComas on 466-0414 (after 4.30 p.m.), Mrs Joy Guear 82 1956, or Mrs Sue Anglias 20 8345.

June 1976.
The Religious Centre: ten years on

Then...

The Monash Religious Centre celebrates its 10th anniversary with an interdenominational service on Sunday, June 11. The Centre’s new organ, built by Sydney instrument-maker, Ron Sharp, will be dedicated at the service which begins at 2.45 p.m.
The organ at Ormond College, Douglas Lawrence, will give a recital and the Monash Chapel Singers will present several brackets also.
The service to celebrate the use to which the building has been put will be conducted by the University chaplains.
Among those who have been invited to the service are donors whose contributions helped build the Centre and people on campus who have been associated with it.

...and now

The Centre had its beginnings as far back as January 1969 — two years before the University opened — when a group of representatives from various denominations proposed the idea of an ecumenical centre within Monash (an otherwise secular institution) linked with the University chaplaincy.
A public appeal for funds was launched in September, 1966. Donations came in from the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish communities and from other organisations and institutions outside the University.
The foundation stone was laid on April 9, 1967 and, on completion in June the following year, the building was presented as a gift to the University.
The design of the Centre was the work of John Mockridge of Mockridge, Staple and Mitchell. Colored stained glass windows in the main chapel are the work of Leonard French.

Tertiary Education Commission Report

SAMU: Disrupting a sound system

By Dr Peter Darvall
President, Staff Association of Monash University

The Staff Association of Monash University (SAMU) will be calling a special general meeting of its members in the first week of second term to discuss the implications of the TEC’s draft report on study leave and the form of SAMU’s response to it.

Many at Monash believe that the draft proposals, if adopted, will severely disrupt a system that is working well. The meeting will be invited to consider a number of implications arising from the report.

Among these are:

1. The timing problem
   Various formulae are suggested in the draft report for the new “Special Studies programs”:
   a. Total release from teaching duties granted to all academic staff in any one year to be not greater than 7 percent of the total man-weeks of teaching time of staff of grade of lecturer and above.
   b. Total release to any individual to include not more than 15 teaching weeks in any six-year period.
   In the years 1970-75, an average of 9.4 percent of the available man-years of staff of the grade of lecturer and above was taken as study leave at Monash. An average of 10.1 percent of available teaching man-weeks was taken.

2. Staff on study leave
   If the year is divided into a 32-week period (which encloses the 26 teaching weeks) and a residual 20-week period, then to maintain an average of 9.4 percent of staff on study leave and to remain within the 7 percent guideline we should need to employ the following equation:
   \[ 7\% \times \frac{26}{1.0} + 12.3\% \times \frac{20}{1.0} = 9.4\% \]
   That is, 12.3 percent of total staff, lecturer and above, would be jamming their study leave into the period of November — February. Considering that there are quite a number of fixed term lecturers who are ineligible, then the figure is probably greater than 15 percent of eligible staff.
   Thus there will be a yearly exodus in November, or total study leave will be considerably reduced,

3. The eligibility problem
   It is recommended that “some members of academic staff be provided with an opportunity to undertake special studies”. It should not be a right or entitlement, but be based on the “needs of the institution and the capacity of the staff member to make effective use of such an opportunity”.
   Who is to judge this “capacity”? Will only the campus operators obtain leave, and those with their nose to the teaching grindstone miss out?

Assistance and the length of leave
   “Unless there are exceptional circumstances any period of absence overseas from the university be not greater than six months...”, “The Working Party believes that an absence of up to six months by the member of staff from the other members of the family would not be unreasonable...” “Travel assistance grants may be made in respect of dependants only in those exceptional cases where the staff member’s period of absence is greater than six months.”

The average number of months taken by Monash academic staff on study leave in the years 1970-75 was 8.9 months (professors somewhat less, the others somewhat more). The proposed maximum of six months will significantly change this pattern.

Stay in Australia
   The working party is of the opinion that there is nowadays less need for staff to take their study leave overseas.

June, 1978

MONASH REPORTER
**Aust. Lit. – a lifetime of hoping for respect**

“After all, Alec, how would you like to see a child of yours graduate with a B.A. Hons. (Aust. Lit.)?”

We were pioneers but we were all amateurs

A. D. Hope

“I once spent my pocket money buying a volume of Adam Lindsay Gordon as a birthday present for my mother, so I could read it myself,” he recalled. When Hope reached university there was no Australian literature on the course.

“If our teachers ignored it, as undergraduates, we were aware of it and discovering it for ourselves.”

He said the universities’ attitude was exemplified by an anecdote he had been told about Henry Lawson and a young friend Berston. The latter lived in a cottage on the Sydney University campus and would be visited at night by Lawson. The two would sit down to read Australian authors to each other, sharing a few bottles.

“How apt, the genius emerging from the bush to make contact with the university student,” Hope commented.

**Lecture ‘invasion’**

The Commonwealth Literary Fund expanded its operations in the ‘30s and ‘40s in awarding grants to writers and publishers and “invading” the universities with Commonwealth Literary dollars.

Hope said that writers too were organising themselves into a more coherent force.

“Any member of the Fellowship of Australian Writers, formed toward the end of the 1920s, had done much to break down the “bleak isolation” of writers and improve their status and remuneration.

But it also acted as a more broadly based social club.

The Australian Society of Authors had emerged as a solely professional body, negotiating with other bodies to protect and advance its members’ professional standing.

Hope said that though the battle for Aust. Lit.’s respectability had been won, it was fast losing its momentum and that the “pickin’ plums out of the cake” approach would no longer do, he said.

He added that “it was a question of pride the Commonwealth Literary Fund lectures.

The universities remained unconvinced of the merits of Aust. Lit. throughout the ‘20s and ‘30s and it was only in the next decade they began to take it seriously by including a few Australian writers on the syllabus.

In 1968 the Canberra University College, then affiliated with Melbourne University, was the first degree-conferring institution to award a full unit B.A. in Australian Literature.

Hope had helped pioneer Aust. Lit. studies at the University College a number of years before but Melbourne’s Professorial Board had refused to allow the subjects to be credited towards a degree.

Hope said there were several reasons for the collapse of the opposition, firstly in Melbourne then other universities, by the 1950s.

There was a considerable body of Aust. Lit. by then, crashing one of the arguments against its being taught.

But Hope said there were trends and events in Australian society which had worked in the years before to make the climate less hostile.

Numerous literary magazines such as Squib and Meanjin which allowed wide and varied discussion among literary critics, theorists and practitioners, were making an impact.

**Unconvinced**

The universities remained unconvinced of the merits of Aust. Lit. throughout the ‘20s and ‘30s and it was only in the next decade they began to take it seriously by including a few Australian writers on the syllabus.

In 1968 the Canberra University College, then affiliated with Melbourne University, was the first degree-conferring institution to award a full unit B.A. in Australian Literature.

Hope had helped pioneer Aust. Lit. studies at the University College a number of years before but Melbourne’s Professorial Board had refused to allow the subjects to be credited towards a degree.

Hope said there were several reasons for the collapse of the opposition, firstly in Melbourne then other universities, by the 1950s.

There was a considerable body of Aust. Lit. by then, crashing one of the arguments against its being taught.

But Hope said there were trends and events in Australian society which had worked in the years before to make the climate less hostile.

Numerous literary magazines such as Squib and Meanjin which allowed wide and varied discussion among literary critics, theorists and practitioners, were making an impact.

**New approaches**

Hope said most of the early courses concentrated on individual writers set against their socio-economic background.

The term “picking plums out of the cake” approach would no longer do, he said.

“As our literature grows we must move toward studying it as a whole and in depth,” he said.

He said the result of the early literature “nationalists”, Hope said: “We were all pioneers but we were all amateurs. The universities should now give way to the professionals.”

He warned, however, against too narrow a specialisation.

**Did you hear the one about why Oz laughs?**

So what’s funny?

A good question, says an associate professor in History at Monash, Dr Ian Turner, who explored the topic of humor in Australian literature in a paper presented to the recent Association for the Study of Australian Literature conference.

Humor, it has been said, is what we find laughable. But we laugh in different ways and for different reasons.

On the one hand, there is the sort of humor that we call ‘sardonic’. It is the sort of humor that Dr Tumer explores the topic of humor in Australian literature in a paper presented to the recent Association for the Study of Australian Literature conference.

Dr Ian Turner

We laugh at the ludicrous, the ridiculous, the incongruous, at the shattering of our expectations about the proper ordering of the world.

Humor is derived from a juxtaposition which defies the normal ordering — hence a moustache on the Mona Lisa is amusing, as is a banana skin under the feet of a well-dressed, affluent, somewhat pompous gentleman.

Humor can be used to deride the inferiority of a culture and establish the superiority of our own; it can be a release from tension; it can provide the thrill of challenging taboos; and it can be an alternative to despair.

But while there is a universality in why people laugh, Dr Turner says humor has a culturally-specific dimension too.

What causes uproarious laughter in one culture can often produce frozen faces in another, even when they share a common language.

He says sardonic irony is the essence of Australian humor, comic exaggeration American, and facetiousness British.

One of the derivations of that sardonic irony is the hostility between those who claim a place in society by right of birth and those who claim a place by virtue of talent and native wit.

Dr Turner says Australians have a rare talent for cutting down tall poppies.

“We have two heroes in our culture — a bushranger and a racehorse. (Noting that Phar Lap’s heart and Ned Kelly’s skull have been preserved in Canberra.) Turner suggests it may have been more fitting for us to have preserved Ned Kelly’s heart and Phar Lap’s skull in our capital.)

Sardonic irony is also the product of a nation which has known much adversity, he says.

The dry, laconic response to the adversity of drought, flood, and fire is the essence of “bush” humor and, in the war setting, “digger” humor.

In contemporary Australian humor, Dr Turner identifies a type deriving from a distanced, fascinated disdain for our society — that of Barry Humphries, for example, and to some degree, David Williamson.

He says the humor of Barry Oakley, Monash’s writer-in-residence, is about failure. Oakley’s humor argues that failure comes from within. Man always over-reaches his potential and falls flat on his face.

“It is a humor without heroes. We are all products of a divine irony,” he says.

Dr Turner likens humor to a distorting mirror. “It reveals to us ourselves as no other medium can do.”

June, 1979

MONASH REPORTER

11
Shakespeare, Shaw...and Chekhov

More free music

The Monash music department will put on a series of free, weekly lunchtime concerts in the department's audiotorium on the 8th floor of the south wing of the Reuben Minyess Building.

The first of the ten concerts begins on Tuesday, June 6.

To enable people to come straight from 1 p.m., lectures, sandwiches will go on sale outside the auditorium before the concert begins at 1.10 p.m.

Organisers hope this feature will attract as many to the concerts as possible.

The organiser says that the concerts offer a wide range of music, both Western and non-Western, reflecting the teaching of the department.

As far as Western music is concerned, a variety of styles and instruments are included, ranging from medieval to electronic, and from solo guitar to string quartet, from solo clarinet to recorder.

A highlight of the series will be the concert by Ashok Roy, the Indian sarod player, on July 13.

The first concert on June 8 consists of classic and romantic music for four hands by Mozart, Brahms and Rachmaninoff.

The organiser hopes to see as many as possible at the concert. (They point out that the auditorium is easy to find: "it's the room with the 'red door'."

The full concert program is:

June 6-8: Piano recitals;
June 15: Music for Violin and Piano;
June 22: Recorder and Guitar Music;

For bookings contact: 3992.

JUNE DIARY

June 6-29:

Co-operative

The Australian Co-operative, for further information contact Monash Centre for Continuing Education, ext. 3718 (A.H. 541 3718).

JULY 6:

EXHIBITION: "The Art of Pre- and Post-War Goya and Durer", pres. by Monash Department of Visual Arts, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Asia Gallery, Menzies Building. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 2112.


MUSICAL COMEDY: "The Boy Friend", presented by Monash Musical Theatre Company. Nightly at 8 p.m. Adults $5.50, children $2.25. Saturday Club subscriptions still available for Blue Series only.

SATURDAY CLUB (Blue Series) - "The Boy Who Dared to Dream", 2 p.m. Asia Theatre. Admission: adults $3.50, children $2.25, Saturday Club subscriptions still available for Blue Series only.

CONCERT - "The Role of the National Aboriginal Council and the Council of Aboriginal Development", by Nessie Skuta, Pres. by Monash Centre for Research into Aboriginal Affairs. 1 p.m. Lecture Theatre B6. Admission free. Inquiries: Ms N. Knight, ext. 3438.

FORUM - "Literacy in a Multicultural Society", by Mrs Lorna Lippmann, Director for Community Relations (Vic.). Pres. by Monash Faculty of Arts, 11.15 a.m. Room 245, Education Building. Inquiries: ext. 3402.


FORUM - "The Dislocated Student: Transition from Primary to Secondary School", by Ms Anne Newman, Christ College, Oakleigh. Pres. by Centre for Educational Development. 11.30 a.m. Room 245, Education Building. Admission free. Inquiries: ext. 3402.

CONCERT - Melbourne Youth Music Council Annual Concerto Festival. Programs include the Melbourne Youth Orchestra conducted by John Hopkins, the Percy Grainger Orchestra conducted by Bruce Woodall and the Youth Orchestra conducted by in- stitutional soloists. 2 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults $2.50, students $1, pensioners will be guests.

25-30: WORKSHOP - "Psychodrama", five full days. For further information contact Monash Centre for Continuing Education, ext. 3718 (A.H. 541 3718).

19:


CONCERT - Melbourne Youth Music Council Annual Concerto Festival. Programs include the Melbourne Youth Orchestra conducted by John Hopkins, the Percy Grainger Orchestra conducted by Bruce Woodall and the Youth Orchestra conducted by institutional soloists. 2 p.m. RBH. Admission: adults $2.50, students $1, pensioners will be guests.

The next issue of Monash Reporter will be published in the first week of July, 1976.

Copy deadlines are Friday, June 23.

Contributions (letters, articles, photos) and suggestions should be addressed to the Monash Reporter, the information office, ground floor, University Office.